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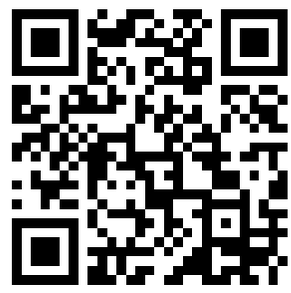

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# THE NEAR EAST.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 473.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Near East has claimed a large share of public attention during the past week. Mesopotamian affairs have been debated in both Houses of Parliament; the Turkish reply—or a Turkish reply—to the Peace terms has been presented by Damad Ferid Pasha, and the Greeks have begun very active operations against Kemal Pasha's forces in Asia Minor. The first of these subjects is dealt with in our leading article, and here we need only record some details of the debates. As to the second, the Peace terms, the Turks, true to their nature, appear to have been taken by surprise by the Allies' refusal to extend the period for the presentation of their reply; and the result is that at the time of writing Reshid Bey and Jemal Pasha are reported to be still on their way to Paris with a new Iradeh and the text of a reply different from that handed over by Damad Ferid in their absence. The Grand Vizier, however, declares that there can be no other reply than that which he has handed to the Conference.

The Turks' surprise is perhaps pardonable in view of the Peace Council's former record. What really matters, however, is what the reply contains; and, according to the information available at the time of writing, it is most improbable that its proposals will find acceptance by the Allies. As we anticipated, it refuses to abandon Smyrna or Thrace to the Greeks, but concedes the independence of Armenia and the Hejaz; as to the Straits, Turkey yields in principle, but asks for representation on the controlling body; and she asks also for representation on the Commissions to be appointed to delimit her new southern and eastern frontiers. In short, save as to Thrace and Smyrna, the Turkish Government are ready to give way in fact, but still hope to "save face" to a certain extent by securing representation on various commissions. On the other hand, unofficial Turkey, as represented by the Kemalists, shows no more readiness now than it has at any time of late to swallow the bitter draught.

There is nothing about all this to cause any surprise. What is surprising at the first blush is the Allies' way of meeting the difficulty that has arisen. According to a statement made by M. Venizelos, they have approved of Greece making war against "the anachronistic Ottoman Government and its corrupt, ignominious and bloody administration." The use of the expression "Ottoman Government" is rather puzzling, but, making allowances for natural emotion on the part of M. Venizelos, we may conclude that the Allies are looking to Greece to perform the greater part of the work involved in bringing the Nationalists to accept the Peace Treaty. The Greeks have accepted the task with alacrity—indeed, the proposal that it should be entrusted to them came from M. Venizelos—and have made a brilliantly successful beginning with it. M. Venizelos has informed M. Millerand that Greek military action in Asia Minor will not exceed the limits of the plans prepared at Hythe and Boulogne, and Greek military authorities declare that there is every reason to believe that the campaign will be over "in a few weeks."

The Greeks, unlike their big Allies, have acted swiftly and vigorously, and have been everywhere successful so far. Learning that Mustapha Kemal was concentrating a force between Akhissar (on the Smyrna-Panderma line) and Salikli (between Smyrna and Alashehr), they struck before his concentration was complete, and dealt him a most crushing blow, his losses in killed, wounded, and prisoners being estimated at nearly 8,000 men. So swift has been the advance of the victorious Greek forces that it would be useless to record details at this stage. The Nationalists appear to be ill-provided with guns and ammunition, and their leading thus far has proved a failure. The poor fight they have put up fully justifies our Constantinople Correspondent's estimate of their qualities, and though they may do better as the Greeks' lines of communication extend, the chance of their making any effective stand just yet seems a poor one. Reinforcements, both military and naval, are being sent out by France and Great Britain, apparently to cope with any trouble outside the zone marked out for the Greeks, and the Allies have destroyed all the fortifications on both sides of the Dardanelles. British naval forces have also occupied Mudania, on the Sea of Marmora.

The Mesopotamian debate in the House of Commons was disappointing. Mr. Asquith, in a vigorous speech, once more urged withdrawal, and expressed uneasiness regarding the number of troops required and the cost of administering the country; and Mr. Lloyd George, in a long and occasionally eloquent discourse, scored several debating points. But with all due respect to these distinguished politicians, they added very little to an understanding of the position. Indeed, the only really notable point in either speech was the Prime Minister's demonstration that our mandate was in due form, being in accordance with the article of the Peace Treaty that stipulates that the Mandatory shall be selected by the Allied Powers. Some of the later speakers, however, made some good points, perhaps the best being that of

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Sir J. D. Rees, who told the House that the Arabs would detest us if we should try to impose on them anything like Western civilisation. The average member may find it hard to believe, but the average Mesopotamian has no real regard for efficiency, especially when he has to pay taxes for it, and he would certainly echo the view expressed by the member for Nottingham.

A variation of the same view found expression in the debate in the Lords, when Lord Islington, who initiated the debate in an excellent speech, declared: "We are not asked to govern peoples; we are asked to teach them to govern themselves. It is most important, too, not to attempt in any rigid form to impose Western forms on Eastern peoples." Along those lines, we believe, may come true salvation for Mesopotamia. Lord Sydenham, Lord Lamington, and Viscount Goschen all supported the view that the Arabs should be given control of their own affairs as soon as possible, and all expressed the opinion that the present elaborate administration should cease. Lord Curzon, who put the Government point of view forward with his usual ability, explained that during the past half-year a committee had been considering how the representative institutions already existing in Mesopotamia could be developed, to form the nucleus of future self-government; and he assured the House that everything possible should be done in the way of consulting representative Arab opinion. In his opinion, the most that could be said against the present administration was that it was too efficient and too perfect. Our average Mesopotamian would probably retort that that was quite sufficient. Lord Curzon concluded by reminding his hearers that a sentimental desire to do the right thing by the native populations had caused us to withdraw from the Transvaal and from the Sudan; and he added that if we withdrew now from Mesopotamia he believed we should have to go back there.

In the course of a Ministerial statement which he made in the Italian Parliament on June 24, Signor Giolitti declared explicitly that the Government was not in favour of a protectorate over Albania, but wished to see that country independent. This declaration will doubtless give intense satisfaction to Albanians; but the satisfaction will be qualified by the announcement, made subsequently, that Italy cannot entirely withdraw while other nations continue to cast covetous eyes on Albanian territory. If, however, Italy contents herself with safeguarding Albania's independence, she may yet regain the popularity that she enjoyed among the Shkipetars some little time ago; but at present fierce fighting is reported to be taking place between Albanian and Italian troops in the neighbourhood of Tirana.

In the course of an eloquent and notable speech which he delivered in the French Chamber last week, M. Briand had some pointed things to say regarding the present situation in the Near East and the 1916 Agreement dealing with that region. Although deeply interesting, his views on the latter point do not call for notice here, inasmuch as they were largely devoted to a criticism of the French conduct of the negotiations and the agreements accepted by M. Clemenceau; but it is to be noted that M. Briand declared that in his opinion the concessions to Britain of Mosul oil interests should have been made a matter of discussion—that is, of course, of better bargaining—and that in view of France's moral interests there, Palestine ought never to have been abandoned. It will be interesting to observe what effect these declarations will have upon the people in this country, who, on the ground of economy, are demanding our withdrawal from Mesopotamia and a careful limitation of our liabilities in regard to Palestine.

But, because its criticisms applied to the conduct of the Allies as a whole, more important, from our point of view, was what M. Briand had to say upon the Turkish Treaty and the delay in its presentation. As to the latter point, he emphasised the view, which has been repeatedly put forward in these columns, that the procrastination has been disastrous, and that the attitude of the Turks is a natural outcome of keeping them so long in a state of suspense. The Allies, he said, had told the Turks, "Yes, you shall live," then, "No, you shall not live," and had thereby brought about the present situation in Asia Minor, where we are confronted by so-called brigand bands. Such bands, added M. Briand, if they were acting in similar circumstances in France, would be hailed by Frenchmen as patriots—and it is not without significance that the remark was greeted with "loud cheers." In the same circumstances, in England also Mustapha Kemal and his followers would be similarly acclaimed. Nevertheless, Frenchmen and Englishmen alike must recognise that, things having been allowed to drift into their present state of muddle, our Governments cannot let any considerations of the kind influence their policy at the present critical stage of affairs.

The Joint Committee of Lords and Commons is again hard at work on the details of the new Indian Constitution. The Committee is practically identical with that which sat last year, the only noticeable alteration being the inclusion of Lord Meston in place of the Duke of Northumberland, but the work is of a very different nature, and a glance at the voluminous draft regulations is sufficient to explain the lack of public interest manifested in the proceeedings. The Committee is examining these regulations in detail to make sure that they carry out the principles already formulated, a tedious but necessary undertaking which everyone will be glad to see completed, but which furnishes no spectacular interest for the general public. Judging from the drafts which we have seen, the Government of India have followed their instructions with almost meticulous care, and we can detect no sign of any attempt to whittle down the liberal measures decided on last year; the Committee's task is consequently facilitated, and should be completed in time for the new election machinery to be in working order in the autumn.

Meanwhile we have a timely reminder that in some respects the new constitution is likely to be even more cumbrous than the old. It will be remembered that last year the Cotton Committee proposed a scheme involving heavy expenditure in order to stimulate production, and suggested that part of the cost should be provided by a small cess on each bale of cotton exported or used in Indian mills. This last recommendation secured general approval, but, after a year's consideration, the Government have rejected it as incompatible with the new constitutional arrangements. The argument is perfectly sound, seeing that a cess would be "Imperial," while the work is to be "provincial," and the separation of central and provincial finance must be strictly carried out; but the provinces concerned will scarcely be in a position to undertake the necessary expenditure for some years to come, and the conclusion seems to be that the world must postpone the renewal of its rather tattered wardrobe until the revised financial arrangements are in working order in India. We hope the world will not mind.

The official announcement of the new Indian exchange policy, which we summarised last week, furnishes a curious example of the petulance from which disappointed bureaucrats are apt to suffer, but which they are very unwise to express. The recent fall in the value of the rupee was attributed to "lack of support from the export market." Do the authorities really suppose that the market has nothing to do but support their policy, and how have they supported that policy themselves? The Currency Committee relied on "the world shortage of raw material and foodstuffs" to tide over the period of transition—that is to say, they acted on the assumption that, among other resources, India would be able to export wheat: the Government prohibited export, and large stocks of wheat are now held up, waiting for the removal of the embargo. That action may have been necessary or it may not, but our point is only that the Government cannot have it both ways: to prohibit the export of a staple product, and then blame the market for not exporting, indicates, to say the least, a lack of administrative co-ordination of a kind with which we have become painfully familiar in this country.

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# THE WEEK AT HOME.

**The Way the Money Goes.**

The great campaign against Government extravagance has not achieved much except a week of rather dreary talk. Mr. Winston Churchill, it is true, has decided to keep the Army in khaki, and only the Household troops are to be re-clothed in the expensive red; on this matter Mr. Charles Palmer, who is shaping well as a parliamentarian, had the sense of the country with him on his criticism, and the Cabinet were wise in giving way.

On the expensive Ministry of Transport matters were rather different. The House of Commons dislikes Sir Eric Geddes, not so much because he knows his job, which is a venial sin even in a Cabinet Minister, but because he conveys the impression that the rest of the House are "mostly fools." It may be true, but it does not facilitate business. But Sir Eric had something to say on this occasion, and it was ridiculous for an Independent Liberal to stop him because the rule of the House forbade discussion of a matter requiring legislation in what is technically a Committee. These musty rules of procedure, which Mr. Lloyd George once compared to a dustbin, are exasperating when one wants to get business done; and although Captain Wedgwood Benn was technically right in his objection, his action has been widely resented. Captain Benn, by the way, who used to be one of the Liberal Whips before the war, is a young man with a future. He is one of the few remaining loyalists to Mr. Asquith, and his war record is admirable, and has quite wiped out the memory of the days when he used to be called "Buttons" or the "Boy Scout" because of his diminutive stature. He is personally a pleasant youth who has dabbled in journalism.

On Mesopotamia, which was the *pièce de resistance* of the Government's critics, Mr. Lloyd George had an easy case. Mr. Asquith was heavy and ineffective in his criticism, and the Cabinet made it clear that having gone there, they mean to stay there, and "hang the demnition expense," in Mr. Mantalini's words.

Meanwhile the critics of Mr. Chamberlain multiply, and the Federation of British Industries has announced that if the Chancellor of the Exchequer does not listen to reason—which is what the F.B.I. thinks—they will reserve full freedom of action; in much the same way Mr. Pickwick once took off his coat and announced that he was really about to begin.

The inevitable rumour has circulated that Mr. Chamberlain intends to resign—which one need not take very seriously as it is part of an anti-Austen Press propaganda—and some wise organs have even announced that his successor will probably be Sir Worthington Evans. Undoubtedly he would make an excellent Chancellor, for there is no more able man in a quiet way in politics at the moment than the member for Colchester; but it will not happen yet awhile.

**Labour in Conference.**

Labour has been holding a conference at Scarborough this week—the choice of locality suggesting that the wives and children of Labour members had a word in the arrangements. But while the babies were paddling in what we used to call the German Ocean, their parents swam boldly out into the treacherous sea of politics, which have also wrecked many a brave craft. There were occasional storms and squalls, and the extremists behaved like the priests of Baal, but on the whole the Conference showed admirable common-sense, and to that extent must have disappointed those who held that "Labour is unfit to govern."

A long discussion recognised that the Irish trouble was one that could not be covered by a phrase, and there seemed also some appreciation of the fact that both India and Egypt raised complex problems. But the real centre of interest was the debate on Bolshevism. Lenin's recent letter to the British workers has done more to discredit Bolshevism in this country than all the anti-Bolshevist propaganda of the Middle-Classes Union and similar bodies—this kind of spoon-fed opinion always fails of its expected effect. But what has had at least as much influence is the fact that the British Labour Delegation that went over to Russia has come back disillusioned. Even Mrs. Philip Snowden, a fluffy little lady who used to talk in the most surprisingly ferocious fashion, has had to admit that Bolshevism will not do in this country, after seeing the weed in its own soil; and it is said that the disgust of the other delegates at Bolshevism in practice is so profound that their comments have had to be sub-edited and bowdlerised before being printed (with the possibility of a printers' strike only just averted, one cannot run any risk with printers' morals in these days, and editors now keep their profanity for the domestic circle). There will be a good deal of noise about Bolshevism during the next year or two, no doubt, but its chance of conquering England, always small, has finally vanished with its rejection by Labour at Scarborough.

This moderation makes one believe that there was a good deal of truth in the remark recently made by a shrewd politician. He said: "One of these days Labour will come in and form a Government. We shall all prepare for a revolution, bank rates will go up and stocks down, old women of both sexes will double their insurances, and millionaires disguise themselves as agricultural labourers going out to the Canadian harvest. After a couple of years we shall find that Labour is respectable, and after five years we shall kick it out because it is so hopelessly conservative that only the fossils of the provinces will vote for anything so utterly old-fashioned."

We shall see. One thing is certain. The proceedings of Labour at Scarborough have undone a good deal of the ill-effect of the wild speeches earlier in the year, and it will not be surprising to find that by-elections will show an increased Labour poll during the next few months.

**The Week's Books.**

The most discussed book of the week is Mr. Conrad's "The Rescue" (Dent). Mr. Conrad now takes rank next to Hardy as the leading English novelist; his reputation has been slowly but solidly built, but his admirers are a steadily growing band. It is a pity that his books are not issued in a standard size and format for those who wish to purchase the complete set.

I well remember as a boy the first time I happened on Plato; so strange did the world he pictured seem that I wondered if I was standing on my head or my heels. But Plato is nothing to Professor Eddington's "Space, Time and Gravitation" (Cambridge University Press), which deals with the Einstein theory, the new geometry and the concept of "space-time," and concludes with a discussion, as amazing as it is brilliant, "on the nature of things." The author, who can make a joke at his own expense, rather unfairly (to himself) heads this last chapter with Hippolyta's remark, "This is the silliest stuff that ever I heard." He presumes on certain knowledge of mathematics in his readers, but otherwise there is nothing in the book that need deter "the ordinary four-dimensional man," and it will, I think, make clear to many the new concepts of science, which contain more paradoxes than any epigrammatist would dare to venture his reputation on.

Another useful book from the same publisher is Professor Sorley's "History of English Philosophy." It is a sound summary of the leading characteristics of English thinkers from Erigena to our own times, and in small compass it contains a mass of information. Most of these chapters were originally entombed in that dreary cemetery, the "Cambridge History of English Literature," and the author has done well to disinter his children from that learned necropolis.

Mention must be made of Mr. William O'Brien's "Evening Memories" (Maunsel), which is dedicated "to Ireland, old and young." Old Ireland thought Mr. O'Brien a proper revolutionary; young Ireland probably regards him as a thorough-going Conservative. However that may be, he has written an account of his life from his entry into the House of Commons in 1883. It is, of course, mainly for those with a personal interest in Irish politics during those now far-off years; it is a pity it does not tell the story of 1910-20, only hinting at secret documents and understandings

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which did not come off. Surely the time to tell the full truth about that period has come; the fact that, in Mr. O'Brien's view, it reflects little credit on Mr. Asquith and less on Mr. Lloyd George should be no reason in his eyes for the unwonted discretion. But Mr. O'Brien always looked a great deal wilder than he really is.

**Wimbledon and Henley.**

The Wimbledon tennis tournament has been a great success. It has been favoured by the weather, which was perfect last week, and the play was no less good. But at the moment of writing the real excitement is still to come, and then the sporting interest will shift to Henley. It is to be hoped, however, that the caterers for the up-river crowd will not profiteer quite so outrageously as they did a year ago. One expects to be stripped, but one still dislikes being skinned.

**Peterborough Centenary.**

Hard upon the celebration of the septcentenary of Salisbury Cathedral, which has just been signalised by special services, comes the anniversary of the founding of Peterborough, which will take a good many people to that city this week. Peterborough Cathedral was founded in 1118—the anniversary was delayed owing to the war—and it is thus a century older than Salisbury. The story goes that the Abbot of Peterborough was envious of the rising fame of Ely, some twenty miles away, and decided to build a still finer church than that magnificent (and, indeed, unique) foundation. So far as the west front is concerned, they certainly succeeded—the west front at Peterborough eclipses everything but Wells Cathedral; but of the rest of the church not quite so much can be said, and it remains unfinished to this day. It certainly does not equal Ely, its neighbour in the Fens.

**Mothers and Mysticism.**

Dean Inge has made another of his startling pronouncements—before the Mothers' Union, of all unlikely places in the world, which the uninitiated had hitherto supposed to be interested in maternal rather than metaphysical problems. After remarking that "hell was ignored and heaven lightly regarded" in these days, the Dean urged people "not to confound eternal life with mere survival." Eternal life "to which we may even now have access by clear thinking and high living"—is here and now. This is, of course, the pure doctrine of mysticism through the centuries, and the Dean is now its leading exponent in England. It is well that these things should be said, and this high standard of thought should be set—but one does a little wonder what the Mothers' Union made of it.

There has, however, been a quiet revival of mystic thought in England of late, partly due to the Dean's own Bampton Lectures twenty years back, and partly to the singularly beautiful writing of Miss Evelyn Underhill whose books have now passed through several editions. This is perhaps the best reply to those foolish bishops who are for ever telling us that the present age is materially-minded. One would say that it is less materialist than a great part of the eighteenth century, and certainly less than the vaunted Victorian age.

**The Bishops and Divorce.**

While the Dean was attending to the mothers, the bishops were attending to the wives, last week: practically the whole bench voted *en masse* against the Divorce Bill. But the honours of the debate were not with them—why is it that the Lords Spiritual are always so ineffective in Parliament?—but with the Lord Chancellor, who displayed an unexpected knowledge of St. Matthew, and with Lord Halifax. Speaking against the Bill, the latter Peer broke down with his own emotion; it was an affecting scene when the aged man remarked that "this was the last time he would address their lordships, as the sands of his life were running out." Lord Halifax has been a tower of strength to the ritualists, and there is nobody quite to take his place; it was of him that King Edward remarked:—

"If I were religious, I should be of Charley Wood's religion." The late King was perhaps best described by one of his intimates as "a genial pagan."

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, June 20.

**Essad Pasha.**

The assassination of Essad Pasha has produced consternation in Serbia, for when he was an enemy, as a Turkish officer, he was not a treacherous foe, and in the dark days of 1915, when the Serbian Army was dragging its way through its Slough of Despond, when the Austrian-paid Albanians were harassing the tormented army and pitiful stragglers, and the wild hillsmen were sniping tottering old women to rob them of their petty belongings, Essad maintained order in his country, and his gendarmes protected the Serbs and assured them a safe conduct. All the papers unite in saying that his death throws every Serb into mourning, especially those who reached Salonika, and knew his stalwart frame, and were accustomed to see his four-coloured flag flying outside his *konak*, a small, but true ally. As a true nationalist, Essad represented, in the eyes of the Serbs, the principle of "The Balkans for the Balkan peoples," a principle which might have well avoided all wars in the Balkans of the past century, except those of liberation from the Turk; for it was the interference of non-Balkan powers, such as Russia and Austria, that created the artificial and quite unnecessary national hatred between the Bulgars and the Serbs.

**Serbia, Albania and Fiume.**

The papers also linger with satisfaction on the reports of a successful rising of the Albanians, which the Belgrade press describes as an incident in the logical sequence of Italian military history. Even the staid commercial messenger, *Trgovinski Glasnik*, says that their patience is exhausted by the long-drawn-out Adriatic Question, of which the Albanian problem is one phase, and it is quite time for it to be taken out of the hands of the Conference, which has so lamentably shown its incompetence to deal with it, and to settle the matter direct with Italy, which would not take long.

In the same connection, considerable excitement has been provoked by unofficial accounts of an Italian raid on Sushak, and rumours of fighting there. This is unconfirmed, and there is no official news. The Serbs have had enough fighting to last them a long time, but the Adriatic Question has dragged out so long, and the Italians have conducted so provocative a policy, that the patience of the Yugoslavs is nearly exhausted. They would probably not be sorry to have an appeal to arms, for they are confident that it would be short and decisive.

**Meeting at Prague.**

The forthcoming great meeting of Sokols at Prague is naturally arousing much interest in Yugoslavia. The original deputation, which was to have been a thousand strong, has been materially reduced owing to difficulties of transport, but an important official delegation is going, headed by Dr. Ninchitch, Minister of Commerce, and M. Pribitchevitch, Minister of Education.

**Russian Refugees.**

The colony of refugees from Russia in Yugoslavia is now about 30,000 strong, and includes many officers and men from General Denikin's army, a large proportion of whom are wearing British uniforms supplied by our mission. It is disconcerting to see in the streets numbers of what appear to be British troops until the Russian cap-badge and epaulettes show the difference. The colony now has its own newspaper, the *Russkaya Gazeta*, which has almost every day a leading article attacking England with a venom and vindictiveness reminding one of the days of the Hymn of Hate. We are accused roundly of having organised and supported the Russian Revolution and then Bolshevism as a commercial adventure, of sacking and laying waste their country "from Archangel to Turkestan": it is maintained that we are the real authors of the civil war now raging, but that in the breasts both of Bolshevists and anti-Bolshevists there beats always a Russian heart, which has at least one thing in common, namely, hatred of perfidious Albion. Now, too much importance must not be attached to these vapourings, nor must it be imagined that representative Russians have any other sentiments towards us than friendship mingled with a good-natured contempt for our kaleidoscopic policy towards their country, and regret at our coquetting with the Bolshevists to-day. But what is important is the evidence that these outpourings are inspired from Berlin, and that in holding up Germany as a model of civilisation and natural friend of Russia we see that the beast has not been killed, but only scotched.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, June 12.

**The Greek Parliament.**

The sittings of the Parliament have been suspended, and will only be resumed on the day of the ratification of the Peace Treaty with Turkey, which will take place immediately after the signature. M. Venizelos himself will present the Peace Treaty to the Parliament.

**Eastern Thrace.**

The Greek occupation of Western Thrace is now complete, and the men are impatiently awaiting the order to advance into Eastern Thrace, which has been assigned to Greece as a result of the Conference of St. Remo. Public opinion here is not disposed to consider the defensive preparations of Jaffar Tayar as in any way serious, and General Leonardopoulos, who is in command of the 9th Greek Division, is quite confident that within a few hours his armies would overcome any resistance which the enemy might offer. Jaffar Tayar's army of defence consists of a few thousand Turks, the majority of whom were forcibly recruited, and who are assisted by a number of Bulgarian *Komitajis*. An attempt was made by the latter to blow up the railway bridge at Batoma; it was, however, frustrated by the timely arrival of Greek troops, which dispersed the *Komitajis*.

A good many Turks have already surrendered to the Greeks, declaring that they have had enough of the war, and do not wish to participate in any more fighting. About 100 surrendered a few days ago, and on being interrogated by the Greeks, stated that they had been prisoners of the British, and only just allowed to return to their homes when they were forced to join Jaffar Tayar's forces. According to information received from Adrianople, the latter has levied an imposition of 4,000 Ltqs. on the Jewish community of that town for the needs of the army. Strange to say, the Christian population there have not been, up to the present, requested to contribute.

**A Demonstration in Piræus.**

A big demonstration took place at Piræus for the purpose of offering a vote of thanks and expressing the gratitude of the people of that town to the four Great Powers for the recognition by the latter of Greece's national rights. M. Economidis, the President of the Greek Chamber of Commerce at Piræus, delivered a short speech, after which the demonstrators proceeded, cheering, to the Allied Consulates. The crowd finally broke up at the telegraph office, where the Mayor of Piræus, M. Panayotopoulos, telegraphed the vote of thanks to Messrs. Lloyd George, Millerand, Nitti, and President Wilson.

**Amnesty.**

Amnesty has been granted by Royal Decree to all those responsible for the well-known wild scenes of Athens in November, 1916. The amnesty does not embrace those who evaded justice by not giving themselves up before April 20, 1920. It also excludes all active and retired officers who, whilst in Germany, caused proclamations to be distributed amongst the Greek Army in Macedonia inciting the officers and men to desert. Amnesty

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has also been granted to all Moslems guilty of any offence committed in the region of Eastern Macedonia occupied by the Bulgarians during and after 1916.

ATHENS, May 29.

The voyage of King Alexander of Greece to Paris has given rise to a great deal of discussion and speculation both in Athenian society and in the Press; many and various are the reasons given for this journey, each individual or journal placing thereon the interpretation dictated by the interests of his particular party. Rumour was rife, and while it was originally variously stated that an important political mission was the object of this journey, and that the King was going to meet his father, the ex-King Constantine, so wild did these rumours become that M. Venizelos found it necessary to make a statement in the Chamber categorically denying the statements that King Alexander was engaged upon a political mission.

The King's departure was generally connected, in the minds of the Greek people, with the reports which have been current for some time past of his marriage to Mademoiselle Aspasia Manos, the daughter of the late General Manos, who was Master of the Horse to the deposed King Constantine, and who died some time since in Switzerland. Mlle. Manos left Athens a short time ago for Paris, accompanied by her mother. The *Eleftheros Typos*, which is the leading Liberal morning paper, created a considerable sensation by publishing in large type the following article, dated May 9-22nd:—

We are in a position to know that all the rumours current for some days past with regard to the objects and aims provoking the journey to Europe of H.M. the King, as well as those regarding his action during his stay there, lack all foundation.

His Majesty the King had for some time past expressed the wish to proceed to Europe, and more particularly to Paris, in order to meet Madame Aspasia Manos, who has been residing there for two months past, and to whom it had been indicated that she should leave Athens, after her having established herself in the Royal Palace during His Majesty's absence at Salonika and her expressed demands that she should remain at the Palace after His Majesty's return from that journey. The removal of Mlle. Manos was secured at the time through one of H.M.'s aides-de-camp, who was related to Mme. Manos.

The King's voyage to Europe is of a strictly family character, given that Mme. Aspasia Manos is the *wife* of His Majesty the King. As a matter of fact, as we are in a position to know, H.M. the King married Mlle. Aspasia Manos on the afternoon of November 5 of last year, in the house of her sister, Madame Zalacosta, the ceremony being performed by a certain priest, without, however, the license of the Metropolitan, and without the special license of the Minister of Justice, which the law demands in the case of Royal weddings. Consequently, Madame Manos is the "morganatic" wife of His Majesty the King.

With regard to the rumours regarding H.M.'s union with a Princess of one of the European reigning houses, these can be regarded as baseless for the present.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, June 12.

### Elections.

The results of the Transylvanian elections now published show that the party of General Averescu has secured 53 seats, with a majority of 11 over all the other parties together; but there are still some 20 seats for which lots are to be drawn because of an even count. The present position is that of the 343 members elected for the whole kingdom, 212 belong to the Government party, which has a total majority of 81. Only five Socialists and two Liberals have been elected in Transylvania, so that with the seven returned for the Old Kingdom there are only nine Liberals in the Chamber, as against 101 at the last elections; and one of the strongest men of the party, M. Vintila Bratiano (brother of the late Premier, Ionel Bratiano), has lost his seat, and has not been returned to the Chamber at all. How are the mighty fallen! For many years the Liberals have held almost undisputed sway, and the country no doubt owes much of its pre-war prosperity to their efforts, but from force of habit they had apparently come to regard the country too much as their own estate, and people have grown restive under their rule. Though now less powerful in the Chamber and in the Government, they are still a strong force in the country, for they include among their ranks many of the large industrial capitalists and bankers. The Transylvanian National Party, which was recently in power under Dr. Vaida-Voevod, supported by M. Iorga and Dr. Aurel Vlad, has only secured 24 seats, but all these important members have been returned. The Transylvanian Peasants' Party is represented by four members.

In the elections for the Senate the Government appears to be even stronger than in the Chamber. The final results for both Houses should be published by the middle of next week.

### Lessons in Roumanian for Bessarabian Soldiers.

Many Bessarabians, though of Roumanian origin, have so long been Russian subjects that they have had no opportunity of learning the Roumanian tongue. This is a very serious drawback to Bessarabian soldiers, especially when stationed in the Old Kingdom and Roumanian-speaking provinces, and the first step towards helping them has apparently been taken by a group of theology students, who on their own initiative have started classes in the Roumanian language at the barracks.

The language difficulty in the annexed provinces is one of the many problems to be solved in the organisation of Greater Roumania, as is suggested by a recent order from the "Caile Ferate Romane" that all correspondence with their head office must be conducted in Roumanian. This certainly is a consummation to be aimed at, but in the meantime most of the staff of the Transylvanian railways is still Hungarian!

### End of Strikes.

Great relief is generally expressed in the Press this week because agreement has been reached between the Government and the workmen in the various State factories and workshops, who have been on strike intermittently for nearly two months. The exact terms of the agreement have not been published, but the men returned under the pre-strike conditions. Almost 30,000 workmen took up their tools again on Wednesday, including the men from the Regie tobacco factory, the Government printing works, and the railway workshops. The stoppage of the latter was a particularly serious drawback in view of the urgent need for improvement in the transport conditions in Roumania.

It is variously suggested that the workmen have been persuaded of their patriotic duty to further production and thus assist in the reconstruction of the country, and that their leaders have seen in the result of the elections, by which a large majority has been returned on the side of public order, a sign that the moment is not propitious for gaining their ends by coercion, and that in any case the men themselves are thoroughly weary of the struggle and thankful to return to their regular employment. There is probably some truth in all these suggestions, and it must be hoped that, as mixed conciliation committees have been formed to settle disputes and differences that may arise, work will now be continued without interruption. Unfortunately, some of the conditions granted by the Government gave rise to a lively protest on the part of the men belonging to the "National Syn-

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dicate " who have *not* been on strike, and on the return of the strikers the former left their work in a body, and at some places the two parties came to blows. As a result of these disorders, and of the protest both of the " National Syndicate " and of the directors of several of the factories, the Government has now forbidden the formation of " Workmen's Councils " in the factories.

BUCHAREST, June 18.

**New Cabinet.**

General Averescu has now finally formed his new Cabinet as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Minister for Home Affairs ..... | M. ARGETOIANO |
| Minister for Foreign Affairs..... | M. TAKE IONESCO |
| Minister for Education ..... | M. P. NEGULESCO |
| Minister for Religion and Arts... | M. OCTAVIEN GOGA |
| Minister of Ways and Communications ..... | General VALEANO |
| Minister of Public Works..... | M. DEM GERCEANO |
| Minister of Finance ..... | M. N. TITULESCO |
| Minister of Agriculture and Domains..... | M. TH. COUDALBO |
| Minister of Labour..... | M. FRANCO-IASSY |
| Minister of Justice ..... | M. MATHIEU CANTACUZENE |
| Minister of War ..... | General RASHCANO |
| Minister of Industry and Commerce ..... | M. OCTAVIEN TAZLAUANU |
| Minister without portfolio..... | M. MOSCONY |
| Minister without portfolio (Bukovina)..... | M. LE BARON STARCEA |
| Minister without portfolio (Bessarabia) ..... | M. SERGE NITZE |
| Minister President of the Agrarian Committee ..... | M. C. GAROFLID |
| Under-Secretary of State for Reconstruction and Food Supply ..... | M. M. C. ATHANASIU |

It will be seen that two new Ministries have been formed, the Ministry of Public Works having been divided into Public Works and Ways and Communications, and the Ministry of Education and Religion into Education, and Religion and the Arts. The final results of the elections for the Senate have not yet been published.

**The Chamber.**

The exact construction of the Chamber of Deputies is as follows:—People's Party: 122 Old Kingdom, 6 Bukovina, 20 Bessarabia, 66 Ardeal; total, 214. Federation: 32 Old Kingdom, 2 Bessarabia; total, 34. Socialists: 10 Old Kingdom, 4 Bukovina, 5 Ardeal; total, 19. Democrats: 11 Old Kingdom, 2 Bessarabia, 1 Bukovina; total, 14. Liberals: 7 Old Kingdom, 2 Ardeal; total, 9. Bessarabian Peasants: 25 Bessarabia; total, 25. Transyl. National: 28 Ardeal; total, 28. Saxons and Swabians: 8 Ardeal; total, 8. Independents: 2 Bessarabia, 2 Ardeal; total, 4. Nistor Party: 1 Bukovina. Hebrews: 1 Bukovina. Ukrainians: 1 Bukovina. Germans; 1 Bukovina.. Transyl. Peasants: 8 Ardeal Grand total, 365.

Four seats are still to be ballotted for. The Chamber will be formally opened on June 20.

## TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, June 3.

**The Peace Treaty.**

Eshref Pasha and Arifi Bey arrived in Constantinople on May 30 with the text of the treaty, which was at once delivered to the Grand Vizier. The impression made by the actual text is said to be worse, if anything, than that made by the rough outline given in a telegram previously received from Tewfik Pasha. As was to be expected, the Ottoman Delegation in Paris has been instructed to request an extension, until July 11, of the period allotted for the consideration of the treaty. Now that the full details are known, the question repeated on all sides is: " Who is going to enforce it?" And the opinion seems to be gaining ground that extensive modifications will have to be introduced.

There are indications that numerous intrigues are proceeding in connection with the peace treaty, and not the least interesting of these is the effort made through the intermediary of a well-known French journalist to bring about a Turko-Greek *rapprochement*. This is a consummation devoutly to be desired, but the obstacles are unhappily insurmountable at present. It is also a " secret de polichinelle " that the Turks have not lost all hope of support from certain quarters further afield in return for economic concessions.

**Thrace.**

The Greeks proceeded with the occupation of Bulgarian Thrace, and reached Karagach on Saturday without meeting with any opposition worth mentioning. This, however, seems to have been in accordance with the plan of the Thracian Nationalists, who have wisely resolved to avoid anything that may bring them into conflict with the Great Powers, and refrained from attack on account of the French flag which was hoisted along the railway. The Nationalist commander has ordered a general mobilisation in Thrace, where it looks as if the first fruits of the " peace " treaty are about to be consecrated with a blood sacrifice. It is already reported that Bulgarian bands have commenced operations, and that a considerable number of the inhabitants of a Greek village in the Karabagh district were murdered during the Whitsuntide festivities.

The French forces, with the exception of two officers who are still in Karagach, have now entirely evacuated Thrace, and the French Commander, General Charpy, has returned to Constantinople. The strength of the Greek forces is understood to be three divisions, but no attempt has yet been made to occupy Turkish Thrace. The Greek Headquarters has been established at Urli, near Adrianople.

**The Nationalists.**

The sensation of the week has been the discovery of a plot to assassinate the Grand Vizier. Two emissaries were sent to Constantinople from Angora for the purpose of eliminating Damad Ferid Pasha and the leaders of the anti-Unionist movement by means of bombs and revolvers. A large number of officers and officials have been arrested for complicity in the affair, which appears to have been planned upon ambitious lines, for an attempt was to have been made to seize the administration at the same time as the Grand Vizier was to have been assassinated. For this purpose secret committees had been organised in various parts of the city, and were ready to act at a given signal. The interception of a letter by the police revealed the plot, and it really looks as if the Police, hitherto the most trusted instrument of the Unionists after the Army, had been purged of the Committee taint. At all events, if this had not been the case to a very great extent, there is little doubt that by this time Damad Ferid Pasha would have had something besides the peace treaty to think about. The whole affair reminds one of the *coup d'état* of 1913, when Nazim Pasha was murdered in cold blood by Enver or his hired assassins. The Nationalists may protest for ever that they are in no way connected with the Committee of Union and Progress, but the fact remains that their methods are identical.

With the cessation of the active prosecution of the Government campaign against the Nationalists, there is very little news from Anatolia, but the provincial Press is full of information concerning the Bolshevists, and it would appear that the Nationalists are fully expecting help from that direction. A recent issue of the *Haléimet Millie*, of Angora, published a wireless appeal of the Soviet Government to all Moslem countries to rise against the English " robbers," and promised to assist them in the struggle. The Turks were guaranteed an " honourable " peace, and the Anglo-Russian Treaties concerning Persia and Turkey that were concluded under the Tsarist régime were said to have been annulled. So now we know where we are!

On the other hand, it appears that the Caucasian Moslems are by no means satisfied with the Bolshevist Government that has been set up in Baku, for one of the first acts of the new administration was to release the peasants from capitalist tyranny by communising agriculture, for which purpose all farm stock and implements were decreed to be State property. The peasants strongly objected, but the final result is not yet clear.

**Cilicia.**

There is also very little news from Cilicia, beyond the bare fact of an armistice between the French and

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the Nationalists for a period of twenty days, and renewable at will. It is reported that Adana has been evacuated of the Armenian population; and if this is true, it is to be presumed that the Armenian question has been solved so far as Cilicia is concerned.

### Tweedledum and Tweedledee.

There has been a split in that singularly futile combination known as the Entente Libérale Party. Apparently the quarrel arose with regard to the peace treaty, Tweedledum being in favour of signing it without further palaver, while Tweedledee insisted upon the necessity of pressing for modifications. As the quarrel became acute, Tweedledee decided to form another party on his own, entitled "The Reformed Patriots' Party," and it is said that "Prince" Sabah ed Din is to be asked to become the president. But as nothing less than the Grand Vizierate would suit that exacting gentleman, it is hardly likely that he will accept—unless he has got tired of waiting for the bigger prize. It does not matter very much, in any case.

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CONSTANTINOPLE, May 24 (Delayed).

### The Peace Treaty.

The principal topic of conversation in all circles is the Peace Treaty, details of which were published early last week. The feeling in official circles is one of complete despair, and the utmost astonishment is expressed that the Entente, which has espoused the cause of national liberty, should propose to destroy every vestige of Turkish national independence. While it is more or less freely admitted that the Entente Powers are justified in instituting some form of control which would prevent a repetition of Turkey's past actions, the introduction of Greece into Asia Minor is regarded as the first step of a deliberate policy aiming at the complete elimination of Turkey as an independent nation. In European circles there is considerable sympathy with this point of view, and even among those who are anything but pro-Turkish the opinion prevails that the Treaty provides amply for the protection of non-Moslems without the establishment of Greek administration in the Smyrna district, which will inevitably be the cause of perpetual friction. The conditions attaching to the establishment of Greek influence in Anatolia are regarded as farcical, for there is very little doubt that conditions will be so manipulated that the result of a plebiscite will be a foregone conclusion.

The Nationalists have gained many adherents since the publication of the exact terms of peace, and there can be no doubt whatever that there will be active resistance. Unless the peace conditions are modified, the Allies will presumably have to enforce them; and in Entente circles generally the prospect of Allied forces being employed to enable the Greeks to obtain territory to which they have a very poor title is regarded with the deepest repugnance. This does not apply only to pro-Turkish circles, but even to those who have hitherto warmly espoused the cause of Greece. It is pointed out that the Greeks might, with an equal absence of title, claim Alexandria; and it is generally acknowledged that, once having secured a footing in Asia Minor, the Greeks will utilise it as a base for further territorial acquisitions and for the realisation of the *megala idéa*.

Among a certain section of Ottoman Greeks also there is little enthusiasm for the attribution to Greece of Smyrna. Provided they are assured of just treatment, they would rather remain Ottoman subjects, for the simple reason that they would not be liable for military service. Moreover, they have no illusions with regard to Athenian administration, and realise that it is difficult to foresee what would happen were M. Venizelos to disappear from the scene. In this respect there is one very significant fact. Were the ex-King Constantine to return to Athens, he would, it is stated, be received with open arms. It is not easy to understand exactly why this should be so, and it has, perhaps, only an indirect bearing upon the present subject, but it is mentioned as a hint to those who believe that Greece is the appanage of the Entente, or who have forgotten the events that occurred between August, 1914, and June 12, 1917, when Constantine at last was forced by the Entente to abdicate.

Finally, there is the effect which the enforcement of such conditions is likely to have upon the Moslem world. The question arises whether it is worth while risking an aggravation of the situation for the sake of the hypothetical advantages of establishing Greek administration over mixed populations among which there is at present a majority of Moslems. Greek protagonists, of course, dissect the statistics of the Moslem populations in order to show that there is a Turkish minority. Statistics are notoriously inconclusive; but even though it could be proved that there is a majority of Moslems and non-Moslems opposed to Turkish dominion, the number of Moslems who would vote in favour of Greek administration as an alternative to the continuance of Turkish rule would be negligible. Moreover, in both Eastern and in Western Thrace a not unimportant section of the Christian population would take the same view. But the main point is that, while most Moslems would tolerate, and a considerable number might actually favour, a British or French mandate in the contested territories, Moslems in general are strongly opposed to Greek dominion. Moslem races are proud of the military history of Islam, and while they acknowledge the superior prowess of the British and French, their contempt for the Greeks has increased during the war. It must also be remembered that, rightly or wrongly, Great Britain is debited with the full responsibility for the obnoxious clauses of the treaty.

The Government's attitude and that of its supporters is that it would be impossible to sign such a treaty. It is hoped that modifications may be obtained either as a result of an eleventh-hour reconsideration of the position by the Entente, or by an aggravation of the dissensions which, it is believed, exist between the Allies in spite of their present apparent unanimity. In the meanwhile operations against the Nationalists are stationary, and the prosecution of the campaign will depend entirely upon the degree, if any, of the modifications which the Allies may be disposed to accord.

On Friday a meeting was held in Stamboul to protest against the cession to Greece of Smyrna and Thrace. It was organised by the Entente Liberale Party, which is largely Anglophile and wholly anti-Unionist. The complete failure of the proceedings was due to this circumstance more than any other. Only about two thousand persons were present, and the speeches of Dr. Riza Tewfik, Mustapha Sabri Effendi, the former Sheikh ul Islam, and others who stated that active resistance would be useless, were listened to with the utmost indifference. Long before the speeches came to an end the crowd began to dissolve and the demonstration fizzled out pathetically. It was one more proof that there is only one party in Turkey which has any wide influence, and that the opposition to it is still, as in the past, of a futile and divided nature.

### The Nationalists.

Very little news is being received from Anatolia, where the Nationalists have established a strict censorship of all communications. It would appear, however, that the principal event of recent interest has been the aggravation of the situation in the Aintab and Urfa districts, where the French have had another somewhat serious setback. A French force in Urfa is reported to have been cut up, and another force which was sent to the relief of Aintab was driven right back to its base with heavy losses.

In Eastern Anatolia Kiazim Karabekir Pasha is said to be advancing into Armenia for the purpose of effecting a junction with a Bolshevist force; and although this news may be unduly exaggerated by Nationalist enthusiasts, it would appear to be true that an extensive movement in the Caucasus has been planned by the Turks in conjunction with the Azerbaijanis. How far they will succeed depends entirely upon the assistance they may receive from Moscow. It is too early yet to be able to judge with certainty the extent of that assistance, but it probably depends to a great extent upon the position in Western Russia.

The Nationalist Press in Anatolia continues to regale its readers with accounts of "revolutions" throughout the Islamic world and with stories of British perfidy. According to an account published in an Eski Shehir paper, the British commander of the forces which were withdrawn some little time ago from that town begged the Turks to allow him to retire unmolested, and the population of Eski Shehir, although they could have destroyed the British force at any moment, "allowed them to depart, and refrained from desecrating the sacred soil of the fatherland with the vile blood of that base nation."

While, on the one hand, the Government has slackened its efforts against the Nationalists, on the other hand it is reported that negotiations are in progress with a view to an understanding in order that the nation may present a united front at this critical hour of its history. There is, however, little likelihood of these negotiations coming to a successful conclusion, for the Nationalists would be satisfied with nothing less than the complete subordination of the Government to their policy; and, further, it is probable that, in the event of the Peace Treaty not being substantially modified, the Government will resign and the Nationalists will be left in full possession of the field.

In Thrace a Defence Association has been formed upon the same lines as the Nationalist Organisation in Anatolia, with which it is undoubtedly in communication. Jaffar Tayar Bey, the former Commander of the Adrianople garrison, is the prime mover in this organisation, and is trying hard to obtain the assistance of Bulgarian bands against a Greek advance into Thrace; but, according to all reports, the strength of the resistance to an advance of the Greek army will not amount to much.

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# SYRIA.

BEYROUT, June 11.

### A Franco-Arab Agreement?

A great sensation was lately produced by the publication in a Beyrout paper from its Damascus correspondent of the following terms of an agreement said to have been practically reached between General Gouraud and Emir Faisal. The author declared his information to have been obtained from an authoritative source:—(1) France acknowledges the kingship of Emir Faisal. (2) Troops are to be retained only in such numbers as shall be deemed absolutely indispensable in the circumstances. (3) The authority of Emir Faisal shall extend over both the Eastern and Western Zones, including Mount Lebanon. (4) The Lebanon shall continue to enjoy its old privileges, and will remain after the occupation as it was before the war. (5) A small strip of territory shall be annexed to it in the Western portion of the plain of the Beka'a. (6) Emir Faisal shall acknowledge the mandate of France over both the Eastern and Western Zones. (7) France will send to Syria advisers whose salaries are to be paid by the Syrian Government, but who will derive their authority directly from the French Government. These advisers may be replaced by others if this be deemed necessary by the Syrian Government, and after due agreement with the French Government. (8) A small territory of Palestine shall be ceded to Syria with the consent of Great Britain. (9) France shall have a wider control in the Lebanon than in the other zones. (10) France shall have the sole right among European Powers to develop the mineral wealth of Syria, establish factories, and exploit, in general, its economic resources.

The papers asked for an official *démenti* or confirmation of the news, and for two days, when there was no sign of the eagerly awaited communiqué, public feeling grew more tense. There was great excitement in the Lebanon, where, it is said, the Administrative Council held a special sitting and asked for explanations from the administrative Governor, who replied that he had no knowledge of the matter, but that he was communicating with the higher authorities at Beyrout. At last the tension was relieved, for the Press Bureau issued yesterday a communiqué declaring the correspondence from Damascus to be devoid of truth and a mere rumour. Wiseacres all the same still wish to see in this correspondence a sort of *ballon d'essai*.

Another interesting item of information, supplied by the same correspondent, and which, from its circumstantial character, seems to be authentic, is that the Italian Government had notified the appointment of an ambassador to the Royal Court at Damascus, and while further communications were awaited, the ambassador in question suddenly arrived, and presented his credentials to the King.

### The Question of Minorities.

The question of minorities embodied in the Constitution has been the subject of heated discussions in the Syrian Congress, and threatened at one time a rupture between the Christian and Moslem members. The Christian members showed on this occasion a solid and united front. In view of their intransigent attitude, the Congress decided at last to appoint a committee *ad hoc*. After an uninterrupted sitting of six hours, neither party could prevail upon the other, and the consequence was the withdrawal of the Syrian members from the last sitting of the Congress, as a protest against the majority's refusal to acknowledge the rights of the minority, on the plea that there is no question of majority or minority in Syria.

Finally the Christian members agreed to attend, and the Congress Hall was packed. The debate was resumed with redoubled heat. The Moslem speakers insisted on denying the discrimination between Christian or Moslem in Syria, saying that all were the children of the same fatherland, and there could, therefore, be no question of minority and majority. The Christian speakers, however, who are not ignorant of the real facts, and of the true character of the country and people, did not scruple to state plainly that there is a difference between Moslems and Christians. One of their leaders declared: "Standing before Europe, we, of course, put up a united front, and affirm that there is no question of minority and majority, and that we are all Syrian Arabs, children of one nation and one fatherland; but, among ourselves, we have to acknowledge the evident existence of a minority and majority, of a Christian and Moslem section. The Moslems expostulate that the Christians are responsible for the interference of foreigners in our affairs and in our country. The Christians, on the other hand, retort that it is the maltreatment that they have received at the hands of their Moslem neighbours which is the real cause of the interference of foreigners. This is our malady, and if we seek to cover it over, it may prove our undoing. Some of our brethren of the majority impute to us the love of functions, but if we insist on the allocation of Government posts to us, it is not for love of them, but rather for the protection of our rights, the rights of those we represent."

The Moslem majority having remained obdurate, one of the Christian members presented to the President a statement to the effect that the Christian members will withdraw from the Congress if their just claims are not granted. This produced a great commotion, and provoked the taunt that this threat was an act of betrayal. One of the Christian members then saved the situation by admitting that the statement was rather hastily presented, and by appealing to the higher sense of the majority to examine fairly and settle this question of the minorities, remarking that the eyes of all the people in Syria, and especially the Lebanon, are turned now on the Congress, and this question of minorities will be the chief test by which it shall be judged. He then tore up the minatory document as a sign of good faith on the part of the minority.

# CYPRUS.

June 5.

### The King's Birthday.

The anniversary of the birthday of His Majesty was celebrated in all the larger towns. At Nicosia a service was held in the English Church of St. Paul's, at which the Acting High Commissioner, judges, and officials were present, and services were also held in the Greek Cathedral and the Roman Catholic Church. The Exarch of the Archbishop officiated at the former, and the Mayor and Hellenic Consul were present. His Excellency inspected the police and presented decorations of the O.B.E. to Mr. E. McLaughlan, Mr. A. Merrifield, and M. G. Vasileios, late of the Forest Department, for services rendered to the military authorities. In the evening Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson gave a ball at Government House.

### Increase of Crime.

The police are having a busy time in all districts. At the Nicosia Assizes, which followed closely on the attempt to burn down the large cigarette manufactory of M. Vergopoulos, a Greek was convicted and sentenced to fifteen years with hard labour. Another was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for burglary at the house of a Government official, Mr. E. Heidenstan from which objects of antiquity valued at £200 were stolen. Burglaries and thefts of animals are frequent. At Limassol a gang of thieves has been at work.

### Education.

The need of providing for better salaries and also pensions for schoolmasters throughout Cyprus has become a pressing problem, admitting of no further delay. The Government is in consultation with leading men of the Greek and Turkish communities, and a measure is in course of preparation for the earliest possible consideration by the Council. A sum of £80,000 odd will be required to meet the estimated charges. It is proposed to raise the amount chiefly by direct taxation, through increased tithes and addition to taxes on real property, and by indirect levies on salt and tobacco.

### General News.

The month of Ramadan, the Moslem fast, began on May 19. The Armenians have been celebrating the anniversary of their Independence Day, and it is a happy circumstance that at one place, at any rate, this can be done. Island health in general is good. Medical inspection is carefully carried out on all vessels that arrive, and the precautions meet with general approval, as the *Gazette* shows that a danger zone encircles the island, since plague exists in Egypt and Asia Minor, plague and typhus in Greece, typhus in Turkey, and plague on the Syrian coast.

### Personalia.

Mr. J. R. Holmes, Puisne Judge, is granted three months' leave from May 27. He is retiring from the Bench after long service in Cyprus, having been previously in West Africa.

Mr. J. C. Macaskie is appointed to act as Puisne Judge.

Mr. B. Dickinson is gazetted to act as President of the District Court at Kyrenia.

Mr. C. Shellish is appointed an Inspector of Police on probation.

The O.B.E. has been conferred on Mr. W. J. Mackay, Chief Collector of Customs.

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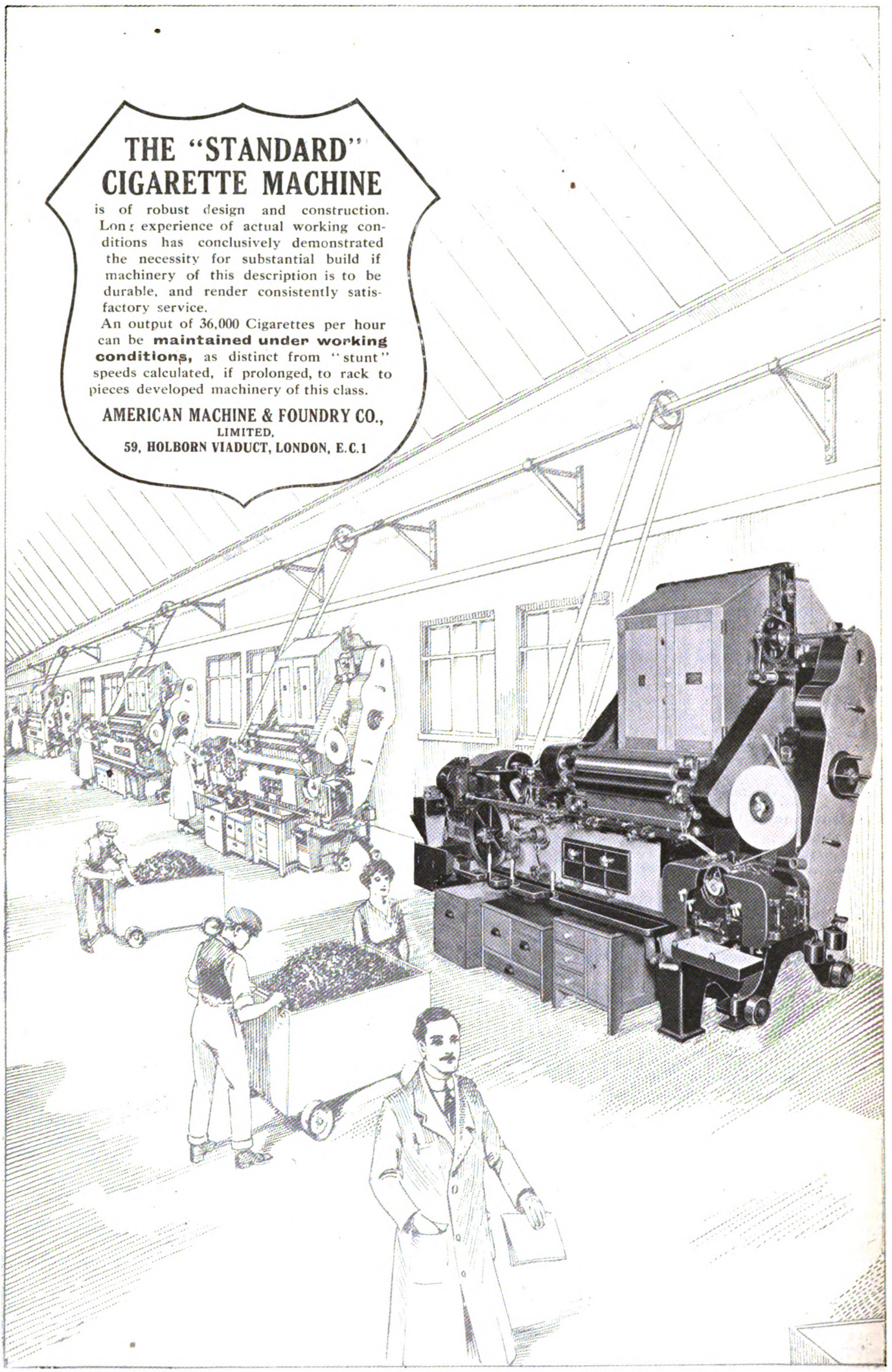

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

## SOME FACTS ABOUT ALBANIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Having travelled in the Near East, and, therefore, having some acquaintance with the dreadful treatment the Albanian people have suffered, I have long desired to do something towards helping these unfortunate people to secure at least the independence which was required as their right and guaranteed by the great Powers in 1913. To this end I wrote to Mr. Leo Fred Williams, of Boston, U.S.A., late Minister of the United States to Greece and Montenegro. He has replied by sending me a letter in which he gives his definite conclusions with regard to the general situation in Southern Albania. What he says I feel to be of such importance that I send you the following quotation from his letter, which is dated May 4:—

A massacre of a hundred or two Mohammedan Albanians in the church of Kodra by Greek troops had been publicly stated by the Commission of International Control on the authority of the officers of the Dutch Gendarmes who had dug up bodies and reported to the Commission on the matter. These statements were denied by the Greek Ambassador to Great Britain on the authority of the King.

I spent a week with Mr. Zographos, who was President of the so-called Provisional Government of Epirus, but got no satisfactory explanation of this massacre. It was plain that the killing was done by the so-called Epirotes, who were then fighting the Albanians beyond Argyrocastro. I went across the fighting lines, and was met by the Dutch Gendarmes and proceeded to Kodra. It had been stated to me in Argyrocastro that the Albanian peasants had been shut up in the Christian Church at Kodra, and were shot when they were attempting to escape. I directed my attention to this explanation. I found the church doors riddled with bullet holes, and outside these doors was a great number of cartridge shells, such as were used by the Greek military; as the marks of these bullets striking on the opposite wall were plain it was clear to me that while shepherds were huddled in the church and had barricaded the doors they were shot through the closed doors. I found, however, more definite evidence on the roof. It was claimed in Argyrocastro that the peasants had tried to escape through the roof. I found that there were two large breaches made in the roof of the church, and the earthen tiles were piled up in an orderly way at the side of these breaches. This made it clear to me that the roof had been opened on the outside by the soldiers, as had been stated to me by friends of the peasants. I decided that if the soldiers had shot from above, some evidences would be found in the church, and I searched for bullet-holes through the woodwork. I found several which passed through the woodwork in an exact line with the holes above, showing plainly that the soldiers had stationed themselves at these holes and shot down such of the peasants as they had not reached by shooting through the doors. The number killed, however, was not as large as stated: probably about sixty if my memory serves me.

I thus satisfied myself of the deliberate and atrocious character of this massacre. The second point is this: the troops that were then fighting the Albanians and called the "Epirote" troops were largely recruited from Athens, and were regular Greek soldiers. I know this beyond a peradventure, as Greek soldiers told me how they had been sent to Athens for additional men, and had taken them from the Greek forces at Athens to Epirus as ordered. The only excuse offered was that the atrocities were committed by the "Andartes," but on asking to have these irregulars pointed out to me among the troops there were, I believe, only two shown me whose costumes were not of the regular Greek soldier. Furthermore, the two men who were under arrest by Zographos and in prison at Argyrocastro I found to be Greeks when I visited them. I suppose that it is now generally accepted that the so-called Provisional Government under Zographos was merely a Greek movement to retain possession of Epirus after a formal movement of Greek troops out of that country had been ordered by the London Conference.

Mr. Williams strongly objects to the creating of a mandate over Albania by Italy. He says that would place the country absolutely under the control of the Italian Government. He thinks that every inch of territory defined by the London Conference of 1913 should be secured to Albania, and he adds: "Of course, in justice, much more of their territory should be restored to them." It is to be hoped that this will be the case, and that the League of Nations will see to it that this ancient people does not lose its independence.—I am, etc.,

(Miss) MAUD YANDELL.
of Louisville, Kentucky.

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123, Pall Mall, S.W.1, June 14.

## BULGARIAN PRISONERS IN GREECE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—It is most satisfactory to see that after the appeal from the Bulgarian hostages of war in Greek hands was published in the British Press the Greeks issued an official *communiqué* announcing the consent of their Government to release the (10,000) Bulgarian prisoners, with the exception of 600 of them, who are to be kept imprisoned so long as some 300 Greek "prisoners," now in Bulgaria, are not released.

It is to be hoped that the Greek Government will soon fulfil their promise, but, with regard to the 600 Bulgarians to be detained still against the 300 Greeks "in Bulgarian hands," may I be permitted to say that a great many of the latter are not military prisoners, but civilians, mainly widows or girls, who owing to the prevailing scarcity, migrated in 1917 from Kavalla, Drama, etc., into Central Bulgaria, where many of them have settled and married Bulgarians. Almost all of these now refuse to leave their homes and return to Eastern Macedonia, but prefer to stay with their Bulgarian husbands. In the number of those 300 are also many orphans who were charitably taken into Bulgarian families. Now the Greek Government insist on separating those children from the humane people who have cared so long for them.—I am, etc.,

A BULGARIAN IN ENGLAND.

# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

### Thrace.

In a recent letter to the *Times* a correspondent points out that if Greece has to maintain 50,000 men in Thrace—and he thinks the estimate not excessive—it will be difficult for her to reinforce the 90,000 Greeks now in Smyrna with another division. He goes on to say:—

The difficulties Greece is already encountering in Thrace seem almost unknown to the British public, but the French Press has published many particulars which Marshal Foch and Sir Henry Wilson have, of course, already taken into consideration. It may not yet be too late to restore the international administration—mainly French—which gave so much satisfaction to the people of Western Thrace that 84 communes out of 90 sent a petition to the San Remo Conference asking for a plebiscite under its control. International control could hardly be permanent, for a final settlement of the Thracian question can only be reached by an arrangement following in the main the lines of nationality (as ultimately proposed by President Wilson) and assuring to Bulgaria territorial access to the sea. But it would give time for a more impartial consideration of all claims.

He declares that the decision of the Supreme Council to give all Thrace to Greece had a deplorable effect on the Turkish and Bulgarian populations in Thrace, and continues:—

Informed of the intention of the Supreme Council to put aside the compromise, the President [of the United States] telegraphed his second proposal suggesting a division of the province on the lines of nationality. But this was also rejected. The action of the Council could only have been justified by the existence of an overwhelming Greek majority in Thrace; in any case it was premature in view of the precarious state of affairs in the Near East.

But is there such a majority? The Greek memorandum to the Conference gives the Hellenic population as 730,822; from this figure we must deduct 74,000 Asiatic Greeks (Sanjak of Scutari), whose inclusion in the "total for Thrace" is distinctly enigmatical; 405,000 (the Greek figure) for Constantinople, Rodosto, and Gallipoli, which are not in dispute, and some 60,000 Patriarchist Bulgarians, Vlachs, and Albanians, who are euphemistically described as Greeks. The Greek total thus falls below 200,000, while there are unquestionably 400,000 Christian and Moslem Bulgarians west of the Enos-Midia line which Bulgaria claims as the frontier accorded to her by Europe. The question as regards Western Thrace has been settled by the census recently held by the French authorities, which gives the Turkish population as 74,780, the Bulgarian (Christian and Moslem) as 65,940, and the Greek as 56,114, out of a total of 204,690.

### Greece and Turkey.

The *Evening Standard* of June 24 contains an article upon the recent decision to employ the Greek Army in Asia Minor. Of the attitude of the Near East towards this decision it says:—

The idea that the British Empire should hand over its troubles for Greece to deal with will strike the Near East with amazement. The Greek populations of Constantinople, Smyrna, and elsewhere will no doubt rejoice, for there is no people more easily fired by dreams of glory. The Greeks possess abounding confidence in themselves and have a great idea of their own powers in every way—intellectually, commercially, and from a military point of view. But, however much or otherwise their own good opinion of themselves may be justified, it certainly is not shared in anything like full measure by the various races which surround them or mix with them in the Near East. The Turks in particular have a hearty contempt for the Greeks. This, of course, is mere blind prejudice, because the Greeks

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in most ways—though not all—are infinitely superior to the Turks.—*Cela va sans dire.* But the fact remains: the Turk cannot take the Greek seriously. He has for too long been taught to regard him as a mere vassal.

It proceeds to comment upon the "unpopularity" of the Greek occupation of Smyrna, and concludes:—

Most people who know the Near East at all have already come to the conclusion that Greece was gathering more than she will be able to manage. M. Venizelos seems very confident about it all, but as far as one can make out Greece will soon be responsible for holding down a considerable portion of the Balkans (Thrace may be an awkward gift for the Greeks even yet) and a fair slice of Asia Minor. And if Britain feels that she is so preoccupied at the moment that she must call on Greek held to deal with an insurgent of the calibre of Mustapha Kemal Pasha—well, where shall we be if things go wrong, or even only moderately well, with Greek military plans? If the intention really is to hand over Constantinople as a reward in case of success, the Allies would be as foolish in offering it as the Greeks would be in taking it. It really seems for Britain a case of *noblesse oblige.* As the conquerors of the East it hardly seems possible for us to lean on a second-rate Power which already has its hands full. Greek dreams of Empire are very rosy just now, but they must not carry us away also.

## MUSICAL NOTES.

### BUSONI.

During the past week the greatest pianist in the world, Busoni, has been heard as conductor, composer, and pianist. At the Queen's Hall, on June 22, he appeared to conduct a suite of five pieces from his own opera, "Die Brautwahl" and Liszt's "Faust," and to play the pianoforte part of his "Indian Fantasy." In the first one was too busy trying to understand the music to notice the conducting; but from the Liszt it seemed that he was not easily able to obtain from the London Symphony Orchestra those intellectual subtleties in which he delights. However, he kept at a happy distance the Teutonic emotionalism in which Liszt's symphony is saturated. His "Bridal Quest" is to English ears extraordinary music: there is little that from the first hearing you can remember, but the general impression you can never forget. It seldom attracts the ear (the magnificent onrush of the last ("Joyous") section being the most notable exception), but it always keeps you thinking, and, moreover, pleased to think. I suppose it is Busoni's explanation of, or commentary upon, E. T. A. Hoffman's words, but as Byron said of Coleridge—"I wish to goodness he'd explain his explanations." There are so few minds in this generation able even partly to comprehend Busoni's genius, that without some better guide to the workings of his brain than the mere story of this opera most people are a little bewildered. That his is great music I cannot say. I should like to hear it many times again before giving a definite opinion. The chief impression that I received was that his opera, though packed with thought, has yet more thought behind the notes, and therefore unexpressed. I do not mean that his thoughts are incompletely expressed—if that were so his music, of course, would not be of great value—but that his intellectual so exceeds his emotional expression that (on a first hearing at any rate) the feeling that he has hidden moves, or rather that while he is making his characters act on first thoughts he himself is entertaining (but not expressing) second thoughts, never deserts one. The "Indian Fantasy," a strange and difficult work in which Mr. Julius Harrison conducted with cautious cleverness, is mainly remarkable for the orchestral effects which Busoni draws from the pianoforte. It is a demonstration of the composer's unique skill in pianoforte writing, but I am not certain that as music it ranks high. (Much credit, by-the-bye, is due to Mr. Harrison and the London Symphony Orchestra: not many of our conductors and orchestras would care to undertake this work, especially with the urgent composer at the pianoforte.)

At the Wigmore Hall, on June 26, Busoni gave a recital consisting of Bach's Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue, Chopin's Sonata in B minor, three of his own sonatinas, and the Brahms-Paganini Variations. Unquestionably he is the sovereign of pianists, and for some and the greatest composers, like Bach and Beethoven, he has now on his head a crown which no one will ever usurp. In Bach and Beethoven, indeed, that crown is rather a halo, for there is in his interpretations of these something so much above what the rest of humanity can do as to be almost unearthly. You may think you have heard the Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue played well, you may think you have heard it played perfectly (I have thought both things many times!), but until you have heard Busoni, you have never heard it played at all. The Brahms-Paganini Variations, in which his technique was simply amazing, were utterly magnificent; there are, in fact, no words fit to describe such playing as this. If Liszt were really a better player than Busoni (which I doubt), there is a good deal to be said for a musical Heaven in which some artists at least may foregather—provided, that is, that in addition to the tinkling cymbals and the rest of it, there is a pianoforte (which preferably should be an Erard). But that halo in Bach and others to which I have referred is more like two horns in his playing of Chopin. There is one thing that even Busoni will never persuade us is right, and that is to play a Chopin melody with a hard metallic touch. His exquisite colouring, largely obtained from a most wonderful use of the pedal, was a thing of which dreams are made; but there were times in the Sonata (and worse times in the eighth Nocturne, which he played as an encore) when the melody, instead of stealing like a whisper to the ear, came rending the air like a cry. If Chopin did not intend to soothe us in the middle section of the Funeral March or to ravish us in the Nocturne, then —— Busoni is right, and we are wrong. It sounds impertinence to suggest that Busoni is confusing his own intellectuality with Chopin's spirituality; but there must be some explanation to his Chopin. He might say, of course, that to talk of composers' "intentions" is mere rubbish, and that to claim for a particular piece a peculiar rendering is the narrowest form of insincerity—in which case we should bow, and, still disagreeing, go away pondering on the difference between greatness and infallibility.

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At the Queen's Hall, on June 21, the newly-formed Jewish Folk Music Society gave its inaugural concert. The object of this society is to continue the work of collecting Jewish folk-songs and religious melodies hitherto performed by the Society of Jewish Folk-Music in Petrograd and the Jewish Ethnographical Expedition. Its musical organiser is Mr. L. Saminsky, the director of the Tiflis Conservatoire of Music, who probably knows more about Jewish folk-song than anyone living. In the Anglo-Jewish community there is plenty both of taste and talent, and, guided by such an organiser, the society should have a most useful future. As Mr Saminsky pointed out in a short but excellent lecture before the concert, it is the religious melodies of the Jews, which are by far the most original and interesting, the chants of the Synagogue being absolutely unsullied by foreign music, whereas the ordinary domestic Jewish folk-song nearly always owes something to the music of the surrounding peoples. This fact was later in the evening exemplified. The most attractive songs given were "Rabbi Levi-Isaak's Prayer," sung by Mr. A. Riabin; "Rabbi Levi-Isaak's 'Kaddish,'" sung by Mr. M. Mirsky (both these songs being from Southern Russia and arranged by L. Saminsky), a quartet, "Ani Hadal" (from the Yemen), sung by Miss Anne Thursfield, Mrs. Israel Feldman, Mr. A. Riabin, and Mr. M. Mirsky, "Song of Little Esther" (from Lithuania), and "Rachelina" (Spanish), sung by Miss Anne Thursfield (who, incidentally, was easily the best artist of the evening). There is no doubt that the cultured Jewry of the West possesses vast musical potentialities, and although up to the present not much has been done by Jewish composers in this country, it is through such an organisation as the Jewish Folk-Music Society that they will have an opportunity of developing, and hence of incorporating their own folk music into compositions of universal importance and appeal.

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It was the fact that Mr. Eric Rice, whose efforts to make Chopin fashionable in dancing circles are well known, was assisting Miss Diana Lawrence in her first song recital, that attracted me to the Æolian Hall on June 15. Expectations were not exceeded. In three studies of Chopin Mr. Rice played many right notes, missed some, and hit a few wrong ones, but of interpretative ability there was no trace. There was a quite ingenuous mixture of Debussy and Ravel in some of his own compositions, and the voice of individuality was never heard. Of Miss Lawrence it can only be said that she has started too soon: if she will sing the "Londonderry Air"—one of the divinest tunes in the world—as if it had been conceived in a placid, sentimental suburb of London, she cannot expect unmingled praise. And whatever ability her accompanist, Mr. Michael Gilsenan, possessed was entirely overshadowed by his maddening practice of preluding a song with the most irritating and banal chords possible.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"MONS, ANZAC, AND KUT." By an M.P. (London: Edward Arnold, 14s. net.)

II.—"SAKUNTALA." By Kalidasa. A new version by Laurence Binyon. (London: Macmillan and Co. 7s. 6d. net).

## I.—MONS, ANZAC, AND KUT.

We cannot but think that the author of this fascinating book has quite needlessly handicapped himself by publishing it as "By an M.P." We have become somewhat too familiar with books by persons who seem to have made use of their status as representatives of the nation in order to pick up interesting staff jobs in various theatres of war. There is nothing of this kind in the book under review. Nor is this surprising when we know, as everyone now does, that our "M.P." is the representative of Yeovil, of whom so many stories, fast becoming legends, are told of his time at Oxford, whose intimate knowledge of Italy, Greece and the East (Near, Middle and Far) is well known to our readers. He was severely handicapped by a defective eyesight which would most effectually have prevented anyone less determined from taking part in the war at all. It is clear that it was none too easy for him to induce the authorities to overlook this defect or to take into account his numerous other qualifications. In fact, he whimsically tells us that the War Office, when told of his very unusual command of languages, merely said: "This must be an immoral man to know so many languages."

We first see Lieutenant Aubrey Herbert marching off to France with the Irish Guards on August 12, 1914. He is soon advancing towards Mons, and is then involved in the long retreat. "This whole retreat was curiously normal. Everybody got very sick of it, and all day long one was hearing officers and men saying how they wanted to turn and fight. I used to feel that myself, though, when one was told to do so and realised that we were unchaperoned by the French and faced by about two million Germans, it did something to cool one's pugnacity, and one received the subsequent order to retire in a temperate spirit." He had also plenty of opportunities of hearing very frankly expressed opinions about politicians. His fighting experiences on this occasion did not last long. On September 1, after a skirmish in which one of his fellow officers had been hit, he went to find him. He found him dead, but was himself wounded and taken prisoner. By the 11th the hospital where he was confined had been captured, and he was free again. On the 13th he was invalided home.

A bare month only, and yet the little picture he is able to give us, mainly from extracts from his diary, is a very vivid one, and brings out the spirit of the old Army and the mysterious unerpectedness of everything at the beginning of the campaign.

Our author was not long in getting passed fit, and we next find him in December, 1914, on his way to Egypt as an intelligence officer. His work involved much interviewing of prisoners. Some of the interned had had cruel luck. This is his story of an Albanian whose home had been in Montenegro:—"When the amiable Montengrins seized the land of the Albanians he had been beaten and cast out. Thence he had gone to Turkey, but the Albanians had been the first to attack the Turks, and were, indeed, the main cause of the ruin of the Ottoman Empire. So in Turkey he was bastinadoed and thrown into prison. Somehow he managed to escape, and arrived in Egypt. In Egypt he was arrested as a Turk, and again thrown into prison. In prison he was continually beaten by his fellow-prisoners, who were Turks, as an Albanian and an enemy of Islam." By April 25 he was landing on Gallipoli with the New Zealand troops, to which he had been attached. The following little touch brings home the terrible difficulties of that landing at Shrapnel Point. Our author remarked to a New Zealand officer: "Major, a soldier's first duty is to save his life for his country." The Major said: "I quite agree, but I don't see how it is to be done." With occasional short absences at Mudros, Tenedos, etc., and an enforced breather in Egypt, he was on Gallipoli till October, 1915. We have had many books on this campaign, and some of them have been very good. But this unpretending diary-narrative, avoiding picturesque writing, saying too little rather than too much of the horrors and incredible atmosphere of danger; deliciously human throughout, not forgetting to remind us at queer places of the natural beauty of the surroundings, seems to bring home the whole thing to one as nothing else has. His experiences, too, in the islands with their odd population of intensely doubtful neutrals, are specially interesting.

After some months of convalescence, our author was back again, this time as liaison and intelligence officer to Admiral Wemyss, Commander-in-Chief on the East Indian Station. This short spell of service took him to Mesopotamia in time to play a considerable personal part in the negotiations for the surrender of Kut, the details of which will be read with very great interest. Once more we have the vivid pictures of the country, its inhabitants, the combatants and the combat. Interspersed we find, as in the other sections of the book, illuminating little parentheses like this: "This campaign has taught me why we have been called *perfide Albion*. It's very simple. We embark upon a campaign without any forethought at all. Then, naturally, we get into extreme difficulties. After that we talk to the natives, telling them quite truthfully that we have got magnificent principles of truth, justice, tolerance, etc., that where the British Raj is all creeds are free. They like these principles so much that they forget to count our guns. Then, principles or no principles, we have got to retreat before a vastly superior force, and the people who have come in with us get strafed. Then they all say: '*Perfide Albion*,' though it's really nobody's fault—sometimes not even the fault of the Government."

We are glad to notice a hint that we may have a sequel to this delightful book in the shape of an account of Lieut.-Colonel Aubrey Herbert's experiences on the Adriatic Mission and in Italy. These should have a very special interest to readers of THE NEAR EAST, and we can only hope that they will not be too long delayed or be too discreetly edited.

C. S. W.

## II.—"IN THE REALMS OF GOLD."

This drama, written by Kalidasa in the fourth century, has been shortened and adapted for the modern stage by Mr. Kedar Nath Das Gupta. The English version, which is in blank verse, was acted in London in November of last year. There is an introductory essay by Sir Rabindranath Tagore, in which he explains the inner meaning of the lovely fairy-tale, and enlarges on Goethe's criticism—

> Would'st thou the young year's blossoms and the fruits of its decline,
> And all by which the soul is charmed, enraptured, feasted, fed,
> Would'st thou the Earth and Heaven itself in one sole name combine?
> I name thee, O Sakuntala! and all at once is said.

by showing how the first young love of Sakuntala and Dushyanta, the King of India, becomes, after misunderstanding and terrible sorrow, the complete and spiritual love of their reunion on the Golden Peak.

In a foreword, Mr. Binyon says that "fidelity to what is universal in Kalidasa has been sought for, rather than the reproduction of exotic beauties." His beautiful translation gives us the feeling that he is tiptoe-wary, holding his breath, and afraid of frightening away by even one wrong word the wonderful, elusive spirit that he holds captive just so long as the tale unfolds itself.

The actual scenes as they succeed one another are cunningly used to convey the emotions of the characters and to help in the telling of the story. The early love of Sakuntala and Dushyanta seems, for instance, actually to be expressed in terms of the trees, flowers, and wild creatures of the Forest Hermitage. It is made up of "Bird-song at morning and star-shine at night."

We feel that it is a real truth that Sakuntala utters when she speaks of the trees as "my silent leafy sisters."

Sir Rabindranath Tagore uses the comparison of Miranda with regard to Sakuntala's innocence and ignorance of life—but it was in the scene where the King, blinded by the spell cast upon him by the vengeful Durvasa, refuses to acknowledge or even recognise Sakuntala, that the thought of the women whom Shakespeare has created for us came most readily to the mind. The desperate tragedy of her feelings beneath her gentle, dignified words is so subtly and powerfully indicated.

Bound up with the drama of the development of love, which is at once simple and profound, we find two charming pictures of friendship. The close companionship of Sakuntala and the two girls, her friends, is described by the King:—

> What charm is in a friendship of one age,
> And all young; it is like a chime rung true.

The true anguish of tears of farewell sounds through their words when Sakuntala has set out for the Palace to claim her royal husband's recognition. There is also the friendship between Dushyanta and Mathavya, his companion and jester; in all their conversations we feel their very real mutual affection.

We should be deeply grateful to Mr. Binyon for having made it possible for us to encounter the deep truth of this ancient drama in a clothing of such right and exquisite words.

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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

## CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

**Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish Dates.**

| Gregorian (New Style). | Julian (Old Style). | — | Moslem. | Jewish. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1920. July | 1920. June. | | 1338. Shawal. | 5680. Tamuz. |
| 1 | 18 | Thursday ..... | 14 | 15 |
| 2 | 19 | Friday ..... | 15 | 16 |
| 3 | 20 | Saturday..... | 16 | 17 |
| 4 | 21 | Sunday ..... | 17 | 18 |
| 5 | 22 | Monday ..... | 18 | 19 |
| 6 | 23 | Tuesday ..... | 19 | 20 |
| 7 | 24 | Wednesday ..... | 20 | 21 |

Princess Marie of Roumania has arrived in Paris from Vichy.

Sultan Fuad left Cairo on June 24 for Alexandria, where he will spend the summer.

Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. Edward Strachey has returned to 27, Cadogan Gardens, from India.

The Greek Minister moves to-day from 25, Knightsbridge, to the new Legation, 51, Upper Brook Street.

M. Virgil Tilea, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London on June 25 for Bucharest, on leave.

Lord Allenby and staff have left Cairo for Alexandria, where they will remain for the summer season.

The King has given leave to Canon Arthur Jackson to wear the insignia of the Third Class of the Serbian Order of St. Sava.

The Dean of Rochester (Dr. John Storrs) has been delayed in his return from Jerusalem owing to inability to secure a berth.

The King of Roumania has conferred the Order of Michael the Brave (First Class) on Marshal Foch and Marshal Pétain.

Sir Stuart Fraser, upon relinquishing his appointment as Resident at Hyderabad, had the honour of being received by the King on June 25.

The King has given to Mr. Frank Hastings and to Mr. C. E. Fagan permission to wear the decorations conferred upon them by the King of Serbia.

The Rector of Sevenoaks (the Rev. John Rooker) is the new head of the London Jews' Society Mission in Jerusalem, and will leave for his new post some time in August.

Dr. Gray, formerly headmaster of Bradfield, has arrived in Bucharest, to advise the Minister of Public Instruction on the possibility of establishing English schools in Roumania.

Our Belgrade Correspondent states that Dr. R. Seton Watson ("Scotus Viator") has been splendidly received in the capital of Serbia, except by the Radical Party, which continues to attack him.

Having completed their course of anti-rabies treatment at the Pasteur Institute at Coonoor, states an Ootacamund (Madras) telegram, Sir George Lloyd, Governor of Bombay, and Lady Lloyd have left for Poona.

Sir Herbert Samuel is travelling viâ Rome, and has seen the Pope with the purpose of discussing matters connected with Palestine.

Sir Louis Bols, the head of the Military Administration in Palestine, held a farewell reception on June 22 at the Mount of Olives, when he received the heads of the Christian, Jewish, and Moslem communities. He left for England on June 29.

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post*, in a message dated June 24, states:—"The Count de Salis to-day conferred, in the name of the British Government, a British decoration upon Cardinal Camassei, late Patriarch of Jerusalem, for his services in the Holy Land. This is the only instance in which a British decoration has been given to a foreign Cardinal."

Authority has been granted by the King to Mr. Herbert Stanley Vaughan, Superintendent of His Majesty's Naval Victualling Yard, Malta, to wear the insignia of Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, which decoration has been conferred upon him by the President of the French Republic in recognition of valuable services rendered during the war.

On June 28, "Kossovo Day," the National Day of the Serbians, was commemorated at the Mansion House by a concert in aid of the Serbian Red Cross, under the special patronage of Queen Alexandra. It was presided over by the Lord Mayor. In the evening a "Kossovo Day" dinner was held at the Lyceum Club, presided over by Dr. Dickinson Berry.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The Governor-General in Council has sanctioned the creation of a temporary appointment of Fourth Additional Judicial Commissioner in the Central Provinces for eight months, with effect from July 1, and the appointment to that post of Mr. P. S Kotwal, barrister-at-law.

Mr. Charles Henry Harper, Chief Assistant Colonial Secretary, Gold Coast, has been appointed Chief Commissioner of Ashanti.

The appointment is also notified of Sir J. A. C. Bucknill, Chief Justice in the Straits Settlements, to be a Puisne Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Patna, in the place of Mr. Justice Atkinson (deceased).

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

A Consul, to superintend Czecho-Slovakian interests in India, has been appointed to Bombay.

The Indian Khalifate Delegation left London on June 24 for Paris, and later will proceed to Rome to place their case before the Italian Government.

Italian soldiers and civilians captured and held prisoners by rebel tribesmen in Tripoli on June 8 have been released, and have arrived safely at Azizia.

By Royal decree the Y.M.C.A. physical director in Greece has been made the head of the Department of Physical Education in the Greek Army.

Lord Robert Cecil has received from the Committee of the Albanian colony in Turkey a telegram of thanks for his efforts in the cause of Albanian unity.

Khan Khoiski, Azerbaijan Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Government which held office before the Bolshevist invasion, was murdered at Tiflis on June 24.

Sir Herbert Samuel, High Commissioner for Palestine, has contributed £100 to the Jewish war memorial fund, which has reached £138.000. It is proposed to raise £1,000,000.

The Government of India has decided to extend the Army of Occupation bonus, which ordinarily should cease in August, to British soldiers who have not elected to draw the new rupee rate of pay.

Six men found guilty of having placarded proclamations in Jerusalem have been sent by the British authorities to Malta, and forty others to Acre.

M. H. Charles Huszar, a former Hungarian Premier, has arrived in Paris, and will proceed to America in order to deal with the question of the Hungarian prisoners still in Siberia and Turkestan.

Greece has requested Bulgaria to send representatives to Salonika, to constitute a commission for the repatriation of prisoners. There are 348 Greeks still in Bulgaria and 9,548 Bulgarians in Greece.

King Ferdinand of Roumania, in opening Parliament, said its immediate task, apart from ratification of the treaties, was to pass the Budget and to establish peasant properties in the new provinces on the same basis as in the old kingdom.

The Roumanian Military Attaché has issued a summons to all Roumanian male citizens born in the year 1899, or in previous years, to report themselves to the Recruiting Committee, which will sit at his offices, 3, Marble Arch, on July 5, 7, and 9 next.

A Treaty of Peace has been signed between Georgia and Azerbaijan, whereby Georgia is to retain the Province of Tiflis and the Poly and Kram bridgeheads, and will continue to occupy the Zakatoly region, the fate of which will be decided later by a Commission composed of delegates from both Republics.

The Zionist Organisation informs us that a colony bearing the name of the veteran Zionist leader Dr. Max Nordau is to be established in Palestine. For this purpose a flag day is to be held in London on Sunday, July 4, when the streets will be paraded by an army of Jewish women in the national colours of blue and white. The flag day is under the auspices of the Jewish National Fund, established in 1901 for the purpose of acquiring land, which is to remain the inalienable property of the Jewish people. Contributions to this fund are received in the coins of all countries.

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## CENTRAL ASIAN SOCIETY.

### Annual Meeting and Lecture on Arabia.

The anniversary meeting of the Central Asian Society was held last Wednesday, Lord Carnock (Chairman) presiding. The Hon. Secretary (Lieut.-Col. A. C. Yate) read a most encouraging report for the past year. The Chairman and Hon. Secretary were reappointed. The Hon. Treasurer (Brig.-General A. C. Railward) retired, and was replaced by Sir Edward Denton. General Sir Edmund Barrow and Col. Sir Francis Younghusband were added to the list of Vice-Presidents, and Mr. St. J. B. Philby, Sir Morris de Bunsen, and Sir Reginald Wingate were elected Members of Council.

The Chairman said it was due to the unbounded energy of Colonel Yate that they been able to have so many interesting and instructive lectures during the past season, and were now fully engaged arranging a programme for the next one. The Council had contemplated increasing the members' subscriptions, but it was hoped to avoid this. The best way to avoid it would be to get new members, and he appealed to his hearers to do all they possibly could in this direction.

Afterwards Mr. St. J. B. Philby read an interesting paper on the economic and social conditions of Arabia. He said that a cardinal fact to bear in mind, when considering problems arising in the Arab world, was the existence of a great highway of human migration beginning in south-west Arabia and ending in the plains of Mesopotamia. The Arabs had a proverb that Yemen was the cradle of their race and Irak was its grave, and this was true. The migrations of the Arabs began in the southern highlands, and followed the Wadi Dawasir to Kharj in Central Arabia. There the route spread out in a fan shape to Mesopotamia on the one hand and Egypt on the other, with Palestine and Syria between. These radiations, together with the roads to Mecca and Medina on the one side and to Koweit on the other, constituted the commercial highways of Arabia. An evolution of the Arab race could be traced in its migration from the Yemen to Mesopotamia. In the south-west the people were still in small primitive tribes; about Kharj they began to be combined in larger communities. Beyond Kharj the race began to be tainted by foreign influences. There was a general movement by which the nomadic and Arab groups gradually left the Yemen farther behind them, and at last settled down as cultivators in the plains of Mesopotamia. It was to Arabia we should look for a population to cultivate Mesopotamia when it was developed. Inter-tribal fighting had been greatly reduced; if it could be stopped altogether, and at the same time infant mortality brought down to a reasonable figure, Arabia would have a surplus population to be provided for.

Among many other points mentioned in the course of a very lengthy address was the existence of a negroid element in Arabia. These people are the descendants of conquerors who came over from Abyssinia in pre-Islamic days, but their status now is that of a peasantry cultivating the lands of Bedouin owners—the Arab himself regarding agriculture as a servile occupation, and preferring to occupy himself with the breeding of camels or sheep. The most striking characteristic of Arabs anywhere, said Mr. Philby, is their love of liberty and independence. He was in Baghdad when the proclamation was made that Britain intended to establish a free Arab state, and was able to note its effects. If the Arabs had a free choice now, it would be for independence as against any domination, and if they had to submit to a foreign ruler they would prefer Turkey to Great Britain.

## TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

*The subjoined headings are those given in the official report*:—

MESOPOTAMIA: Oil Concessions.—British Forces. PEACE TREATIES: Bulgarian Prisoners of War.—Turkey. PALESTINE: High Commissioner. ADEN PROTECTORATE. ALBANIA: British Representative.—Chimara. INDIA: Railway Officials (Pensions).—Bombay (Residential Qualification).—Bengal Presidency (Legislative Assembly).—Brigadier-General Dyer.—Caliphate Delegation (Syad Hussein). (June 21.)

PERSIA: Anglo-Persian Agreement.—Tariff. MESOPOTAMIA: Mosul, Disturbances.—Administration (Arab Notables).—Administration. JERUSALEM DISTURBANCES. INDIA: Kut Prisoners (Officers' Allowances).—Afghan War, 1919. CILICIA (ARMISTICE). MALTA: Shipping Facilities.—Mail Deliveries. (June 22.)

INDIA: Coal Mines (Accidents).—Public Works Officers (Pay).—Punjab Disturbances.—Royal Indian Marine (Officers, Leave Pay).—Chaplains (Bonus and Leave).—Army Mechanical Transport. MESOPOTAMIA: Administration.—British Policy. PEACE TREATIES: Syria (The Emir Faisal).—Montenegro. MESOPOTAMIA: Statement by Prime Minister (June 23).

EGYPT (NILE PROJECTS COMMISSION). TURKEY (BOZANTI). LEAGUE OF NATIONS. Armenia. OIL (MESOPOTAMIA). MONTENEGRO. PEACE TREATIES: International Commissions.—Turkey.—Persia (Excavations). RUSSIA: Soviet Government and Persia (Peace Negotiations). TURKEY. (June 24.)

INDIA: General Dyer. (June 25.)


## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.



# WHERE TO STAY.

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**(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."**

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# THE NEAR EAST.

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THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1920.


## THE FUTURE OF MESOPOTAMIA.

Ministers have at last been compelled, or, as Lord Curzon prefers to put it, have graciously consented to break their silence with regard to the future of Mesopotamia, as they conceive it. The mandate for both Palestine and Mesopotamia was conferred at San Remo by the unanimous vote of the Allied Powers on Great Britain, and accepted by the British Government at the same time as the mandate for Syria was conferred upon and accepted by France. The mandate for Mesopotamia, to which our remarks to-day must be chiefly confined, was then drawn up in a provisional form, and—Lord Curzon bids us observe—spontaneously submitted to the Council of the League of Nations. Article I. of the Mandate provides for the framing of an Organic Statute in consultation with the people of Mesopotamia, and to that effect a native Government, with an Arab President at its head, is to be constituted, and a popular assembly representative of, and freely elected by, the people to be called into being as soon as Sir Percy Cox, who is on his way home from Teheran, returns to Baghdad to resume charge—as none could be more fitted to do—during the period of transition. Lord Curzon had no difficulty in disposing of Mr. Asquith's suggestion that we should withdraw definitely from the greater part of Mesopotamia, and merely hold Busreh, and the valley of the Shatt-el-Arab up to the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates at Kurna. Even if any natural frontier existed which could be drawn and held to suit Mr. Asquith's contention, this country cannot accept a mandate for Mesopotamia and then leave an embryonic native Government to shift for itself from the hour of its birth over vast territories in which we destroyed the only authority that, however evil its methods, had at least hitherto held them together until we sent the Turks packing. Not the least convincing of the arguments put forward by Ministers for the retention of Mosul was the desire unanimously expressed by the population to maintain, though in a new form, the close connection which had existed between them and Baghdad from the days at least of the Arab Khalifate. Mr. Lloyd George also whispered oil, but Lord Curzon never mentioned that inflammatory factor, and preferred to lay stress on the necessity of protecting the great plains of Mesopotamia against the incursions of such unruly neighbours as it has, unfortunately, pleased Providence to place in possession of the rugged mountains of Kurdistan. But it is useless to shirk the oil question. It is no secret that when the Sykes-Picot agreement was initiated, Mosul was assigned to the French zone, in order to avoid any ultimate contact anywhere between the spheres of British and of Russian influence as they were then respectively contemplated. With the collapse of Russia those considerations disappeared, and our French allies recognised that the frontiers which have now been drawn afford a more reasonable solution, as between us and them, of the military, political, and economic problem raised by the reorganisation of the Arab provinces released from Turkish rule. The French, however, not unnaturally, insisted that they must retain an interest in the oilfields of Mosul, which are relatively of more importance to them than to us, as France at present possesses an extremely small share of her own in the oil supplies of the world. Attempts are being made to create a prejudice amongst the masses against this part of the Anglo-French agreement by representing the exploitation of the Mesopotamian oilfields as ministering solely to capitalistic greed. But where, it may fairly be asked, would the great European industries be if opportunities were to be thrown away of opening up fresh supplies of a natural product that is growing every day more essential to the maintenance of many of our greatest industries?

With the programme unfolded by Ministers for the exercise of our mandatory powers in Mesopotamia, we are not, therefore, in the least disposed to quarrel, nor shall we stop to inquire how far the principles which inspire it can be reconciled with the policy we are pursuing in the discharge of similar mandatory powers in Palestine. We cannot, however, help regretting the tendency of Ministers to disguise the tremendous difficulties which this country must make up its mind to face in the execution of that programme for a very long time to come. The whole population of Mesopotamia falls short of three millions, and, except in the matter of language, is by no means homogeneous. It is perhaps the most backward of all the Arab populations rescued from the Turkish yoke. It is scattered over a very large and unsettled area. Revenue, though, as has already been shown, capable of considerable expansion under a vigorous and honest administration, must continue to be slender, until a large expenditure of capital and years of intelligent labour have begun to restore the land to its old fertility as one of the granaries of the world. The native elements out of which an autonomous government and an adequate civil administration are to be created are even more scanty than those out of which an indigenous force for the maintenance of public security—let alone the defence of the country against external aggression—can be raised. We do not in the least wish to see Mesopotamia "Indianised." But our difficulties will certainly not be diminished if we are precluded from drawing upon India for the assistance which an indigenous Government and administration—with or without "King" Abdullah—must need for a long period until they are able to stand on their own legs.

Similar considerations apply to the composition of the Army of Occupation. Its withdrawal cannot be at present even within distant sight, unless we are to risk not merely the total collapse of the whole structure we contemplate, but the wrecking of the very foundations on which we hope to erect it. The Army of Occupation—including a small portion still located in Persia—consists to-day of 13,500 British and 66,000 Indian troops. It is preposterous to imagine that such a force or even half that force can be maintained without drawing very largely upon India. In some quarters it is urged that aeroplanes and armed motors can supplant to a great extent the use of infantry. But armed motors would be quite useless for operations in the event of trouble with the hill people of Kurdistan, a region as rugged as the North-West frontier of India and in some respects even more difficult, and experience has already shown that the chiefly moral impression at first produced by aeroplanes over mountain fastnesses very soon wears off, whilst even in the plains of Mesopotamia the unparalleled heat that prevails there during the summer months substantially impairs their usefulness. The security of Mesopotamia and the prospect of establishing a stable order of things under an indigenous Government, and, therefore, of any material reduction of our Army of Occupation, must depend mainly on the restoration of peace throughout the whole region of the Near and Middle East, of which Mesopotamia is only one of the many component parts. Space does not allow us to pursue this point further than to state our conviction that all our most admirable plans with regard to Mesopotamia will be of no avail unless the Allies reduce Turkey to submission, and unless we can save Persia from the menace of Bolshevism which is gathering up against us there—as also in Turkey—all the fanatical elements of Pan-Islamism masquerading under the cloak of nationalism. Both the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs—and especially the former—seem to deal with Mesopotamia as if it could be regarded as sitting in a water-tight compartment of its own. They may find it convenient to do so for Parliamentary purposes, but, unless they recognise that a Mesopotamian settlement can only be achieved if and when a settlement of the whole Middle and Near East is achieved, they and the country will have a rude awakening.

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## ALBANIA AND THE POWERS.

**By Lieut.-Col. the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P.**

Most Englishmen who have been much in Italy end, if they do not begin, by loving the country and its kindly people. This affection is deeper in the case of those who, like the writer of this article, have had the honour of serving with the Italian troops during the war. An Italian who had friends both in Ireland and in England would probably find it painful to express himself frankly to an Englishman on British policy in Ireland. An Englishman finds the same difficulty in speaking of the fight between Italy and Albania. But it is not the Italian people; it is a section of Italian politicians, who are carrying on the worst traditions of the old world. The heart of the Italian people is not in the present war with Albania, for this war is a contradiction of every ideal for which Italy has fought in the Risorgimento. It does not even possess the ancient title-deeds that, while they cannot make imperialistic annexations just, can sometimes give them a venerable appearance.

Between Great Britain and Italy there is an old tradition of friendship; between England and liberty there has been a yet older alliance, that has weathered all storms until the Peace of Paris. General Botha is said to have characterised the Peace Conference as a thieves' kitchen. It is certain that, while we gained materially much that we had not fought for, as, for instance, the island of Nauru, we lost or had stolen from us the justice and freedom for which the mass of our people had fought. Oil and not ideals now dominates our policy. While we grasp at the oilfields of Mesopotamia, we can hardly lecture Italian politicians on the immorality of their attempt to obtain the mines and forests of Albania.

Great Britain, in the past, might have offered her friendly offices to put an end to bloodshed. To-day this course is not even urged upon the Government by the Press. Times have changed. Byron was not the only Englishman who fought for Greece (and, incidentally, Albania). David Urquhart's Manchester Committee of working men strove unceasingly for decency in foreign politics. The very heart of England was stirred by Garibaldi, and yet, to-day there is no voice raised to support the cause of this small country.

This, surely, is a truthful picture. Albania, with numerically the smallest population of the Balkans, is surrounded from the north, the east, and the south by enemies. She is at war with her great neighbour, Italy, but Albania has neither the fleet nor the aeroplanes with which to attack her enemy. She has only that gallant spirit with which Italy fought for the freedom of her own soil, some rusty guns and a few modern weapons that the enemies of Italy have supplied.

That, then, is the picture: a small country attacked upon all sides, but where, in similar circumstances, the Belgians were heroes, the Albanians are rebels; where Belgium is to receive compensation, Albania is to be partitioned. Even so, it might have been expected that this unequal struggle should have received some attention, but clamorous appeals are reserved for the gentleman who has a balance at the bank.

The proverb says that it is darkest before dawn, and the proverb may be right. The Italian people is generous and is opposed to the bullying of small peoples. It is also extremely clever. Putting aside the question of morality, the policy of annexing a hornets' nest is not intellectually convincing, and Italy has too many difficulties to wish to add to them. A country with her history must naturally be sensitive to the weakness of her own defences. It was this knowledge that drove her to claim the present northern frontier, and it is this knowledge that has made her desire to possess the harbour of Valona, which, in enemy hands, would constitute a grave danger to her defenceless coast. This difficulty is not insuperable. The Albanians have no fleet, and would readily agree to the neutralisation of their coast. If guarantees to this effect were given, Italy would be safe and free from the obligations that will fall upon her shoulders if she steps across the Adriatic.

The Albanians themselves have shown the way out. They have asked to have their independence recognised and to be placed under a mandate of the League of Nations. This is not the place to discuss that vexed question. It is sufficient to say here that, whatever the defects of the League may be at the present moment, it, and it alone, has the potential machinery to settle the Albanian question satisfactorily. It alone can extricate all the Great Powers involved—England, France and Italy—from their various dilemmas.

In the unlikely event that Italy decided to take up the rôle of Austria in the Balkans, she would be courting disaster. It is, on the other hand, difficult for her to retire from the present position without a loss of prestige that is more apparent than real. A mandate, under the League of Nations, assuring to Albania her independence and securing to her the resources of her own soil is no defeat of Italy, but would be a victory for those moral principles of which the Supreme Council have so often spoken cordially. Indications are not wanting that, with some observations, this may well be the opinion of Signor Giolitti.

## THE CASE OF RAHMI BEY.

Our attention has been drawn once more to the strange treatment of Rahmi Bey, formerly Vali of Smyrna, who is now confined in Malta. It may be remembered that we have referred to the case of this official on more than one occasion, and that numerous correspondents have expressed surprise and indignation that the kindness he showed to our fellow-countrymen, and to British subjects generally, during the war, should be rewarded in such strange wise. We have not space to go into details of the story here, but it is a fact, established on the evidence of trustworthy witnesses, that Rahmi Bey saved the lives of most, if not all, the British in Smyrna more than once; that in direct defiance of orders received from Constantinople he refused to send them to "unhealthy" places, mistaking or ignoring his instructions, at no little risk to himself; and that he showed British and French subjects extraordinary kindness in many other ways and on many occasions. We understand that he received a special letter of thanks from H.M. Ambassador in Athens for these things, and we know that many Englishmen speak of his fine qualities in terms of the highest praise and with obvious gratitude. It would be interesting, therefore, to know why Rahmi Bey is detained in Malta, where he is known to be extremely unhappy, instead of being either set at liberty unconditionally—which would surely be no great recognition of our debt to him!—or allowed to remove either to London or to Paris on parole, which would at least afford him a welcome change. We have heard one explanation of the mystery, but we hesitate to accept it, and, in any case, it is no excuse for such shabby treatment of a generous foe. If Smyrna was a disappointment to the British, or to certain British officials, Rahmi Bey was not to blame for that. For our own credit we have now to remember only his goodness to our countrymen in their hour of need; and we hope that the British Government will see to it that he is at least removed from Malta without further delay. To allow spite, whether personal or national, to stand in the way of right can only bring discredit on us.

## CYPRUS AND RHODES.

A Cyprus correspondent writes:

The "Cyprus question" is now coupled with that of Rhodes, the Greek advocates of "union" being now fully persuaded that, as an outcome of circumstances which the influence of M. Venizelos has done so much to bring about, the fate of the one island is bound up with that of the other. Some years ago it was "sister Crete," still under Ottoman rule, that was watched in much the same way. Articles in the local Greek Press now deal with the subject from a fresh point of view. It is now argued that England, who favours the growth of a strong Greece in view of changing distributions of sea power, as possibly affecting the balance of forces in the Mediterranean, cannot but give a lead to Italy in the direction hoped for. Italy, in this matter, waits on British policy, and would at once retire from Rhodes should Britain evacuate Cyprus. M. Venizelos is said to have mentioned, for some time past, a period of five years within which the change is likely to take place. The cession would be conditional upon stipulations that would safeguard British interests.

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## SOUTH-WEST ABYSSINIA.

On June 21, lecturing at the Æolian Hall before the Royal Geographical Society, Major L. F. I. Athill described a journey that he made through South-West Abyssinia and the British territory contiguous to it until he reached Mongalla, on the Nile. The occasion was to indicate to the Abyssinians where the boundary ran between their country and the British territory adjoining. Addis Abbaba, from where he started in January, he described as a fine place, founded by Menelik in 1892, and connected with the coast by a railway. The first geographical feature he encountered was the Hawash, one of several great Abyssinian rivers which never reach the sea. Where he crossed this river it runs through a rich, well-cultivated plain. It is spanned by two bridges: one of these, of iron, carries the railway previously mentioned. Leaving the Hawash and climbing up the watershed which divides it from the Omo, he found a very attractive country—a succession of parallel valleys running from north to south and separated by rounded spurs. On these spurs were the homesteads of the Gallas peasants, their huts rising through the rich cultivation. On the lower slopes were a great number of cattle with many varieties of horns. The Abyssinian herds are largely due to raiding, hence almost every kind of African cattle is represented in them. The Gallas farmers Major Athill described as very like English farmers; their chief desire is to have nothing to do with politics. The Abyssinians are only in the country as officials; they draw no pay, but work very hard, collecting dues for their overlord and intriguing to make money for themselves. One great form of intrigue is to get people involved in lawsuits, from which they can only escape by bribing the Abyssinian official.

Where Major Athill crossed the Omo he found it 300 ft. wide and 2 ft. deep, running between banks 20 ft. high, with flood marks almost to the top. He said this was one of the world's great wasted rivers. Its waters were not employed either for irrigation or for power; part of its course was still shrouded in mystery. It emptied into Lake Rudolf, and in connection with that lake made a fine artery from British East Africa to the richest part of Abyssinia.

Other places visited in the journey included Jimma, an autonomous province under a Moslem ruler. Major Athill described this as a most beautiful country, with streams full of fish, shady copses, and water meadows, so that it was hard to believe he was in Africa only a few degrees north of the Equator. The crops included maize, millet, barley, some wheat, lentils, and other legumes, and a sort of arrowroot. The country was better administered than the rest of Abyssinia.

Besides delimiting the frontier Major Athill explored part of the northern shores of Lake Rudolf; but when his task was completed the rains had fallen and made it impossible for him to return. The country to the west was the land in which the Abyssinian rivers are lost; in the wet season a swamp, in the dry season a land where water cannot be found even by digging in the beds of the rivers. But he was fortunate in being there just at the moment when the country was dry enough for travelling, while some pools of water yet remained. He set out on his journey, and travelled on until he met a small Sudanese force that had been sent to relieve him.

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The Zionist Organisation sends us the following information:—A Zionist Conference of exceptional importance will be opened on Monday, July 5, at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, E.C., and is expected to last two weeks. It will deal with practical questions relating to the revival of Palestine, and the principal subjects to be discussed will be large scale colonisation and the organisation of immigration. Some 200 delegates from all parts of the world will attend. One of the most important delegations comes from America and includes Mr. Justice Brandeis, of the United States Supreme Court, the Hon. Nathan Straus, the well-known philanthropist, who is subsequently going on to Palestine, and Mrs. Fels. Lord Rothschild is one of the English delegates.

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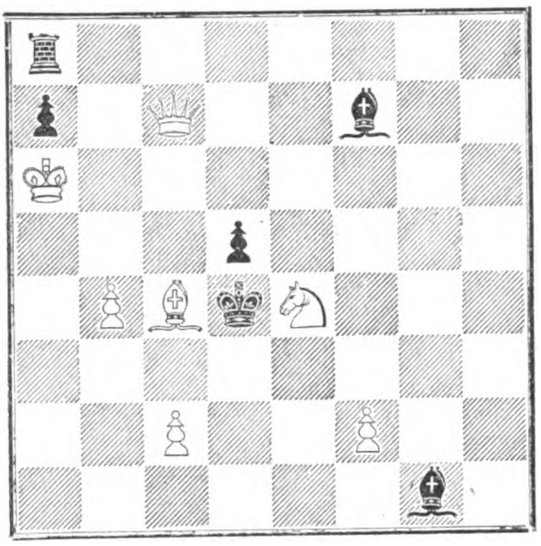
PROBLEM No. 21.

Black.



White.

White to mate in two.

The above problem, by Mr. Murray Marble, was awarded one of the prizes in a competition held by *La Strategie* in 1908.

The Veles (Uskub) tournament has been postponed till next year, while the Gothenburg Chess Congress has been postponed until August 1.

Mr. F. D. Yates, who holds the British championship, is now living in London, and will presumably take part in some of the chief events next winter.

The announcement by Dr. Emanuel Lasker in the Amsterdam *Telegraaf* that he has written to Señor Capablanca resigning the title of champion in his favour has been received by the chess world with great surprise. It was understood that a match was to take place between these masters next year, and there will be considerable regret at the abandonment of this contest. Dr. Lasker's action in designating his successor to the title, which he has held for twenty-six years, creates a precedent. No one, however, will question the right of the brilliant Cuban to the championship.

CABO-KANN.

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A huge Zionist demonstration will be held at the Albert Hall on Monday evening, July 12, when one of the speakers will be Mr. Balfour, who as the author of the famous Declaration of November 2, 1917, is sure to receive a rousing reception.

It is understood, says *The Times*, that the new postage stamps of the Kingdom of Hedjaz printed at the Sultan's own printing office at Jeddah are already in use. True to the prescripts of the Mohammedan faith their designs do not contain any imagery, but are composed, as before, of finely-wrought Arabesque ornamentations. Another notable new issue comes in the form of permanent postage stamps for Armenia, printed in Paris, with picturesque vignettes of Mount Ararat, a native ploughing, and an Armenian woman spinning.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

I learn that the Directorate of Industry and Commerce for Bessarabia desires to be placed in communication with United Kingdom manufacturers and merchants of (1) all kinds of machinery and accessories, together with the other necessary equipment for the manufacture of bricks, tiles, slates, pots, and other articles manufactured from fireclay or pottery clay; (2) machinery for making cements and super-phosphates; (3) coal-mining plant; and (4) plant for extracting salt from sea water. I trust that firms concerned will not be slow in taking advantage of this invitation, which should open up the way for permanent business. It should be noted that replies should be in French, and should be addressed to the Directoriatul de Industrii si Comertiu al Basarabiei, Chisinau.

***

From the details given by our Correspondent this week it will be seen that, as was feared, the recent rains in Greece have caused widespread damage to crops and vines in many districts. Climatic conditions in the Balkans this spring have been extremely favourable, and in Greece, as elsewhere, excellent crops were anticipated. There is now, unfortunately, no prospect of anything but an indifferent yield in the affected districts, as it is estimated that the damage to crops ranges from a loss of from 20 per cent. in Crete to one of 70 per cent. in certain districts of Aetolia and Acarnania. There will be much sympathy with Greece in this misfortune.

***

The latest statistics regarding the development of the French Protectorate of Morocco illustrate very clearly the remarkable character of the work accomplished by our ally in that country in the space of a few years. Last year the area under cultivation was about 6,000,000 acres, as against 2,500,000 acres in 1912. The growth of communications is even more striking. There were six miles of roads in 1912, but by 1919 there were 1,500 miles. Progress in railway construction has also been considerable, though naturally not in anything like the same proportion, and developments in this direction have been to a great extent postponed on account of the war. When the programme of construction has been carried out, however, Morocco will be admirably situated as regards transport facilities. The development of agriculture and the extension of communications have naturally brought a great expansion of commerce, exports rising from £2,680,000 in 1912 to £8,280,000 in 1919.

***

The position with regard to Roumania's crops is, I understand, fairly good. According to a report which has just arrived, there are only two districts in which the outlook appears to be at all unfavourable, this being due to drought, which affected the autumn sowings. Elsewhere the sowings are said to promise good crops. It is satisfactory to note a reference in the report to the great activity in the fields, indicating as it does the undertaking in earnest of the work of reconstruction. It is only by hard work that the adverse exchanges can be remedied, and the evidence to hand suggests that this lesson is now being vigorously applied.

***

I am informed that there is an apparent recrudescence in Smyrna and Constantinople of the kind of fraud associated with the exploits of the notorious "Black Band" before the war. The system is to send samples of goods to firms in this country and elsewhere, priced at most favourable rates, the terms of payment being 75 per cent. of the value against documents. Bills of lading bearing the name of a reputable shipping firm, of which they have had a number privately printed, are filled in in the ordinary way, insurances are effected, and the papers are sent to the consignee for payment of the 75 per cent. Of course, the goods are not consigned, and enquiries elicit the fact that the firm is non-existent. The obvious remedy against this kind of thing is for firms to assure themselves of the status of the firm sending samples before entering upon any transactions.

The visit to this country of representatives of the republic of Georgia for the purpose of promoting economic relations between the new State and Great Britain should afford further proof to the business community here—if such be needed—of the great scope now existing for British trade enterprise in the Near East. As in the case of so many other countries in that region, Georgia particularly desires to establish trade relations with Great Britain. Her main requirements include machinery for agriculture, tools, piece goods, and leather goods, and in return she is in a position to export great quantities of raw materials such as manganese ore, copper, iron ore, cotton, silk, and timber. The country, according to a recent report, now shows signs of progress and prosperity everywhere, and there is little question that in time it should be a most promising market.

***

The statistics of the shipping of different countries passing through the Suez Canal in 1919 make very interesting reading. The total net tonnage amounted to 16,013,000, of which the British total came to no less than 11,355,000 tons. Our nearest competitor was Japan with 1,449,000 tons, the next highest figure being 754,500 tons. In view of the fact that this was the first year after the war, the superiority of British shipping is extremely gratifying. But the fact must not be overlooked that there is still much ground to be covered before the pre-war position is regained, and that some competitors are now in a much stronger position than they were then.

***

According to information which has just reached me, Italian business men are evincing great interest in the development of Roumania's forests, and one of the leading Italian financiers is, I understand, negotiating with the Roumanian authorities for the acquisition of some of their principal forests. Whether any business is likely to result it is impossible to say, but it may be noted that our Roumanian Correspondent, in a despatch which will be found elsewhere in this issue, refers to the great reluctance of the country to grant concessions. In general, of course, that policy is sound, and the Roumanians are no doubt actuated by the fear that foreign undertakings may benefit unduly by the development of the country.

***

The report of the Egyptian Hotels, Limited, for the past year shows a considerable increase in profits at £58,736 as against £35,540 for the previous year. The available balance, after providing for the charges payable in London and Cairo, debenture interest, and depreciation, is £60,950, which it is proposed to utilise to pay a dividend of 5 per cent. on the preference shares, and one of 25 per cent. on the ordinary shares, to place to special reserve £15,000, and to carry forward £8,950.

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# Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

## GREECE.

Athens, June 11.

### Damage Caused by Rains.

It is now evident that the recent rains in Greece caused enormous damage to the cereal crops and vines in many districts, and the outlook is very gloomy indeed. In the province of Achæa and Elidos the entire vintage and crops of fruit have been destroyed. In one district alone the loss amounts to many millions of drachmæ. In the province of Arcadia the vintage and cereal crops have been ruined on an area of more than 5,000 stremmas.

In certain districts in Ætolia and Acarnania 70 per cent. of the crops have been totally destroyed. Thessaly has not suffered as heavily as the other districts, though the loss in the province of Carditsa and Tricala varies between 20 per cent. and 30 per cent. Hardly any damage was done in Larissa. In Eastern Macedonia the loss amounts to about 30 per cent. of the total production. The consequences of the rain in the islands are not very grave, with the exception of Crete, where at Candia more than 20 per cent. of the crops perished.

### Rainfall in Athens.

The Observatory of Athens has just published statistics of the rain which fell in Athens during the last two months, showing that there were eight rainy days in April and twelve in May. The rain during these two months has reached a height of 88.3 millimetres, which is about 14 millimetres more than the normal height for the whole summer season.

### More Paper Money.

A new banknote of 50 lepta has been issued by the Government. The value of the paper money issued represents five million drachmæ, and the size of each note is slightly larger than that of the existing 1-drachma note. On the one side there is an impression of Minerva carrying the Victory, whilst on the reverse there are three impressions of ancient Greek figures. These new notes, which were printed at M. Aspiotis' works in Corfu, will be put into circulation very shortly.

Athens, June 19.

### Increase in Price of Bread.

The Government has increased the price of bread by 40 lepta per oka for the first and by 20 lepta for the second quality. The existing stocks of flour in Greece will suffice for the supply of bread until the end of December. In view, however, of the world crisis in the production of cereals the Government is thinking of introducing very shortly a bread made of wheat and maize.

### Production of Olive Oil in Smyrna.

An abundance of olive oil is anticipated this year in the regions of Smyrna and Aivali. Dealers in oil have requested the Minister of Supplies to allow them to export certain quantities abroad. The Minister has, however, declined to grant any such permission. The exportation of olive oil from the island of Corfu has also been prohibited, in spite of the abundant production.

## ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, June 12.

### French Service to Danube Ports.

It has lately been advertised in the *Bulletin d'Information de l'Office Commercial Français* that the Frassinet Company have organised regular sailings between France and Roumania. The present arrangement is that a boat will sail once a fortnight from Marseilles, reaching the Danube in about ten days. The time-table is as follows: Marseilles (depart) Thursday; Genoa, Monday; Dardanelles, Saturday; Constantinople, Sunday; Bourgas, Monday; Varna, Wednesday; Sulina, Thursday; Galatz, Saturday; Braila (arrive), Saturday. The return journey is Braila, Wednesday; Galatz, Wednesday; Sulina, Thursday; Varna, Friday; Bourgas, Saturday; Constantinople, Sunday; Dardanelles, Tuesday; Genoa, Sunday; Marseilles (arrive), Tuesday.

### Petrol Production in 1920.

Up to the present only 215,000 tons of petrol have been produced in Roumania this year—that is to say, 53,000 tons less than for the corresponding period of last year. Of this 166,000 tons have been produced by the Prahova district, 27,000 tons in Dambovitza, 10,500 tons in Buzeu, and 10,600 tons in Bacau. The decrease in production has been due to constant strikes among the workmen.

### Outlook Promising.

The weather for the last few weeks has proved extremely favourable for the crops, and the peasants are still busy sowing late spring maize. There is, therefore, every hope that the export trade may before long be more freed, and as a natural consequence that the national currency will tend to rise steadily. It is rumoured that the first consignment of the locomotives ordered from America are already on their way, and an improvement in transport will be the first thing to advance the business of the country.

There is a strong prejudice in Roumania against allowing foreign capital to acquire any important interests in her wealth, and many offers of help towards reconstruction in exchange for certain concessions have been refused.

### Co-Operative Congress.

An important congress of the town co-operative societies was held on June 7 at the University, at which delegates were present from the Old Kingdom, Areal (Transylvania), Bucovina, and Bessarabia. M. Tranco-Iassy, the Minister of Labour, presided, and in the course of his speech emphasised the importance of these societies as a means of assisting in the economic reconstruction of the country. He promised the full support of the Government to the co-operative movement, and said he would endeavour to obtain an advance of capital from the National Bank.

Bucharest, June 18.

### Company for Oil Distribution.

One of the chief topics of this week is the formation of a private Roumanian company called the "Industria Romana de Petrol," to which a concession has been granted for five years by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce


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for the distribution of all oil products within the kingdom. This company has been formed by eight Roumanian engineers, each of whom has undertaken to contribute 12½ million lei, making a total capital of 100 million, of which 30 per cent. is to be deposited at once. This company will be under the control of the State, and a decree-law has just been published defining its rights. By this law all forms of petrol products necessary for home consumption, which have hitherto been distributed by private societies, will in future be distributed by the State by means of the above organisation under the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. All means of transport and all storage vessels —*i.e.*, conduits, cisterns, tank waggons, camions, etc., used for home distribution—are declared at the disposal of the State. Before the war the home distribution was organised by the Steaua Romana, which formed a subsidiary company called "Distributia" for this purpose. Both these companies, being run mainly on German capital, are now in liquidation, and all their distribution plant will become State property and will be put at the disposal of the new company in return for a corresponding value in shares. The difference between the old and new arrangement is that the "Distributia" was worked on co-operative lines and controlled in its working by the various companies who contributed petrol products for the home market, whereas the new company is entirely independent of the producing companies, and is in a position to make large profits at their expense.

There has been an epidemic of new companies under State control this week. Amongst others, a limited company has been formed for the organisation and financing of reconstruction work in the war-ravaged parts of the country. This ought to bring many benefits. Altogether the prospects for Roumania are looking bright at the moment. A strong, popular, and energetic Government has come into power, the weather has been most favourable for the coming grain crop, exports of grain, etc., are beginning again, though all State-controlled, and the value of the leu has risen by one-third within the last month.

## CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, June 9.

**The Weather.**

Summer has set in. There have been some more and unusually late storms. The torrents have come down in full flood. A gale uprooted olive and other trees in one locality: in another a shepherd was killed by lightning, and threshing floors were much damaged.

**Miscellaneous.**

In the hills large numbers of vines have been planted, the high prices being now realised for wines, spirits, and raisins being once more an incentive.

The sum of £1,250 has been voted from the surplus Locust Fund for the Famagusta harbour; and £1,250 for the railway.

NICOSIA, June 9.

Permission is said to have been given to applicants to export 12,000 goats. "Let them all go!" should be the wish of all friends of the forests and of arboriculture in the plains. But although an increase of the tax on these foes to vegetation is in contemplation, which may tend to reduce the numbers, it will be long before the goatherd's pipe will cease to enliven the solitudes of the hills and valleys. Indeed, at present there is a strong movement in favour of the goats by those interested in their protection. The Principal Forest Officer has been interviewed by several members of the Legislative Council, who are bearers of village petitions asking for extended grazings in the State forests. This may be partly due to the fact that villagers in various places are sensibly taking advantage of the law which enables them, by majority votes, to exclude flocks from the lands of their respective villages.

## INDIAN HIDES AND SKINS.

### Report of Imperial Institute Committee.

In 1916 the Secretary of State for India authorised the Committee for India of the Imperial Institute, of which Sir Charles McLeod is chairman, to conduct an inquiry into the possibilities of increasing the trade in Indian raw materials with the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the Empire. Special committees, including commercial experts, were formed to deal with various materials. The reports of these committees, which contain important information and recommendations regarding the extension of the industrial utilisation of Indian raw materials, are in course of publication as a series of volumes by Mr. John Murray.

The first volume, relating to Indian hides and skins, which has recently been issued, contains the reports of the Hides and Tanning Materials Committee on cowhides (kips), buffalo hides, and goat and sheep skins, and also a detailed account of the trade in Indian hides and skins. The most important of these products are kips and goat skins. Before the war the value of the annual exports of kips from India was about £4,000,000, whilst goat skins to the value of over £2,000,000 were annually exported, and in addition over £1,000,000 worth of tanned goat skins. The annual values of the buffalo hides and sheep skins exported from India before the war were about £1,500,000 and £900,000 respectively.

At one time a large proportion of the exports of raw Indian kips was tanned in this country, but subsequently both the tanning of the hides and the export trade from Calcutta gradually passed into German hands. In 1913-14 the value of the kips exported to Germany amounted to £2,000,000 and to Austria £750,000, whilst those shipped to this country had a value of only £63,000. The report deals with the measures necessary to recover this important trade and to keep it in British hands, and recommendations are made as to the necessary conditions for re-establishing the tanning of Indian kips on a large scale in this country. One of the principal recommendations was the imposition in India of an export duty on the kips, with a rebate to tanners within the British Empire, and this measure has since been adopted by the Government of India and is now in force. The committee also favour increased tannage in India.

Most of the goat skins exported from India are shipped to the United States, where they are tanned by the chrome process for the production of glacé kid, which is largely sent to this country. It is believed that a great extension of chrome tanning here and throughout the Empire is possible, as large quantities of raw goat skins are available in India and other British possessions. The fact that a preferential export duty on raw goat skins, similar to that on kips, has now been imposed by the Government of India should contribute to this end. Before the war goat skins tanned in India were largely shipped to London for disposal, but the leather was mostly utilised in foreign countries for the manufacture of fancy articles, which in turn came back to this country.

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# THE EGYPTIAN COTTON POSITION.—III.

*(continued)*

## THE PROSPECTIVE DEMAND.

**By John A. Todd, B.L.**

It remains to consider the financial factor in the problem. That again involves two questions. First, the capacity of Europe to finance their purchases from abroad, owing to the abnormal condition of the foreign exchanges; and, second, the capacity of England and America to provide the necessary internal finance to carry on the industry. On the first point recent movements have been on the whole favourable. The French exchange, though still about 100 per cent. below par, is not nearly so bad as it was a month ago, but some doubt is expressed as to whether this improvement is likely to be maintained. The German exchange also has shown an extraordinary recovery, but the permanence of the improvement is again rather questionable. On the whole, however, there seems reason to hope that we have seen the worst of the exchanges, and that although there may be a further fall in the autumn, it is not likely to reach the extraordinary figures of February last, when sterling was below $3.20.

But the new problem of internal finance has for the time being become almost the limiting factor in every industry. The financial authorities both of this country and America have apparently entered on a determined campaign to restrict credit in the hope of reducing the speculative element in the market and checking the rise of prices. The result has certainly been to reduce the upward tendency of the market in most commodities, and to produce substantial falls in the wholesale price of certain commodities, such as tin. Retail prices have also suffered a considerable check in many directions, but the principal effect of the new credit policy has been to produce a state of uncertainty and even anxiety among business men. This has given rise to the fear that we were on the verge of a big financial crisis, which would be the beginning of the great slump in all prices that everyone thought was bound to come after the war. The effect on the price of cotton has been very instructive. Egyptian has undergone a considerable decline, which, however, was overdue, for there is no doubt that the recent high prices were largely speculative. The decline, however, has been very irregular, and many people think it has not yet gone far enough, for Egyptian spot prices in Liverpool still stand at a premium of fully 140 per cent., over American, and it is noticeable that the premium in November futures is only 90 per cent. American, however, has withstood the pressure remarkably well, and it was this month actually higher than it was before the Bank rate was raised to 7 per cent. on April 15. The fact of the matter probably is that if it had not been for the financial depression American cotton would have been a great deal higher than it is to-day. That pressure, however, has shown distinct signs of modification in the last few days.

The real problem of the future price of American cotton is therefore a struggle between two forces. The actual position of supply and demand would certainly produce a much higher level of prices than the present, if it were not for the fear that financial stringency may produce a general restriction of demand in which cotton will be involved along with other commodities. It is a case of "pull devil, pull baker," and so far the results have been very evenly divided. In the writer's opinion the effect of the financial depression will only be permanent if it is so acute as to affect directly and seriously the purchasing power of the working classes of the world; and on that point it must be remembered that the purchasing power of the East depends very largely on the price of silver. The recent dramatic fall in the price of silver from 89½ in February to 44 last week, had probably as much to do with the dullness of the Manchester market as anything else. There is only one thing that will substantially and permanently bring down the price of raw cotton, and that is a change in the whole conditions of the world, which will seriously impoverish the working classes and cut down their effective consumption of cotton goods to something less than it was before the war. The alternative of an increased supply is unfortunately ruled out for some time to come by the limited supply of the raw material in prospect.

Here again, however, it must be noted that there is a long way between the price of raw cotton and the price of the finished goods which the public buy in the shops; and it is very probable that in view of the high profits which have been the rule all round the trade recently from spinning margins to retail prices, there may be room for a considerable reduction of retail prices, or of the intermediate prices of yarn and grey cloth, without seriously affecting the price of raw material. Here again, much depends on the extent to which retail prices have followed the extraordinary rise in the price of the raw material which took place during the past winter. So far as this country is concerned, it is doubtful whether the consumer has yet paid retail prices commensurate with the increased cost of the raw material at its maximum, especially in the case of Egyptian, and it may not be necessary for him to do so now.

To sum up, the position to-day is that the world's actual consumption of cotton goods is considerably in excess of the new production of raw cotton, and it can only be a question of time till the world's stocks of the raw material are so far reduced as to make the trade feel the pinch of the serious reduction of the supply throughout the war and since. On the other hand, the insistent character of the world's demand for cotton goods can only be effectively checked, either by the rise of prices to a prohibitive level, or else by a serious change in the position of the consumers of cotton throughout the world, which would in effect reduce their purchasing power within the limits of the restricted supply. In the concluding article next week the special position of the demand for Egyptian cotton will be dealt with.

## MUNICIPAL SHOPS AT CONSTANTINOPLE

A number of municipal shops have been established at Constantinople as a result of the contract arranged with a French company for the purpose of combating profiteering and high prices (says the British High Commissioner at Constantinople in a recent report). The prices at which essential foodstuffs, etc., are sold are below current market prices. It is hoped they will be further reduced when stocks can be replenished at regular intervals from France. Two shops have also been opened by the American Committee for Relief in the Near East. It was at one time hoped that their number could be increased, but it is understood that there is no possibility of this authority extending its activities further. With regard to the French enterprise mentioned above, it is understood that the promoters do not intend to advertise French produce only.

The Bank for Trade and Industry of Agram made a net profit for the past year of 1,292,935 kronen.

The Prague Company for Trade with the East intends to institute a steamship line to the Black Sea.


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

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

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# ENGINEERING.

### Aviation and Safety.

In regard to the impression which commonly obtains to the effect that aviation is still a more or less dangerous pastime it is interesting to note some facts obtainable from the latest returns. It appears that during 1919 there were established at least thirty air stations to which the public had access for flights. In the six months from May 1 to November 1 approximately 30,000 passengers were taken for joy and business rides, and during the whole of this time, and in connection with every one of these trips, not a single accident occurred. It must also be mentioned that the daily passenger-carrying service between this country and Paris has run now for over a year without the slightest hitch except such as have been due to extraordinary climatic conditions. In fact, it may be said without hesitation that so far as reliability and freedom from interruption are concerned, this service compares favourably with that of any coastal or ocean-going steamship service. I have just been informed that during the recent Peace Conference the aerial transport service, which everyone knew was running, carried no less than 700 passengers altogether without delay. In fact, the record says: "With perfect security and regularity."

When we consider that the aeroplane is capable of what can only be regarded as stupendous feats as regards output of power, reliability, and regularity of running, the prospects for civil aviation are really extraordinarily bright in spite of the clouding effect which official indifference has had. It is not in the nature of things that anything capable of carrying immense weights at immense heights at immense speeds should be relegated. Obviously a machine which can cross the Cordilleras at a height of over 20,000 ft. is rather more than a toy. Between Valparaiso and Santiago an aerial mail service has been in operation for some time, and I have yet to learn that it has suffered any interruption. American air services in particular have been marked by their regularity and reliability, and it is to be hoped that civil aviation in Great Britain is now about to receive that recognition which is its undoubted right.

### The "Glasgow" Tractor.

Some little time ago I had an opportunity of inspecting the "Glasgow" tractor and comparing it mentally with the dozens of different types of British, American, and Italian tractors it has been my fortune to inspect during the past three years. I may say at once that I have formed a very high opinion of the "Glasgow," which, by the way, is one of the many products of the British Motor Trading Corporation, Limited.

In design it is a three-wheeled vehicle which is noticeable in that it has a drive to all three wheels. This not only leads to the perfect utilisation of the power generated, but it ensures an adequate wheel-grip under all conditions. No matter whether the soil is sandy or clayey, wet or dry, the tractor may be relied upon to do its work in the best possible style. It has a four-cylinder engine of 4⅛ by 5¼ inches bore and stroke, and is rated at 25 horse-power, but it is, of course, capable of giving out a larger amount of power should it be required. The engine is fitted with a Pierce-type governor controlling the engine speed, and a combined system of forced feed and splash lubrication is adopted. The tank has a capacity of 14 gallons, and other features worthy of notice are the gilled tube radiator, the Halley carburettor, and the high-tension magneto. Two speeds and a reverse are provided, and on top gear a speed of five miles per hour is attainable. The tractor, I should judge, is particularly suited for work on bad ground and on steep hills.

## BULGARIAN CONTRACT FOR BRITISH FIRM.

Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, Ltd., of London Wall, E.C., the well-known firm of printers, engravers, stationers, etc., have recently secured, in open competition, an important contract from the Bulgarian Government for the printing of small value currency notes. This follows contracts recently received from Poland and Armenia.

For many years Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, Ltd., have been the accredited printers of bank notes to the Swiss, South American, and other foreign Governments, and are likewise the printers of British Treasury notes, Colonial bank notes, and postage stamps.

It may be recalled that an interesting amalgamation took place in October, 1919, wherein Messrs. Waterlow Brothers and Layton, Ltd., were incorporated in the above firm. This, with their own large resources, now places Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, Ltd., in the unique position of being in possession of the most complete and modern printing plant in the world, enabling them to cope more expeditiously with their rapidly-increasing business, the success of which is recognised the world over.

# INDIA'S COAL RESOURCES—I.

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

It is now nearly fifty years since the first attempt was made to estimate the coal resources of India, and while the development of the deposits is still in an early stage the available information is now considerably more precise. For commercial purposes the chief Indian fields are roughly classified into two classes; those in the second, being of inferior quality and high in percentage of ash, are at present mined only to a limited extent where the better quality is available. Mr. R. R. Simpson, Inspector of Mines in India, has recently attempted to estimate the quantity of first-class coal in the two chief fields of Bihar (Raniganj and Jharia), but a similar estimate is not available with regard to other coalfields, so although it is known that the total coal resources of the country are enormous it is impossible to form even a rough estimate as to the percentage of them which can be regarded as meeting present day requirements for a satisfactory steam coal.

Since the outbreak of the European war a great impetus has been given to the development of certain fields. Prior to 1914, of the total number of possible fields only 18 were being worked, of which three were responsible for 89 per cent. of the whole annual production.

There was a great increase in output during the war period, this being particularly marked in those fields situated in Bengal and Bihar and Orissa (where production amounts at the present time to about 95.52 per cent. of the total output). It was, however, fairly general, only five of the seventeen coalfields in British India failing to show a larger output. These were the important Raniganj (except that portion known as the Mugma area lying to the west of the Baraker river) and Giridih coalfields, the other three being small fields. The main increase was in the Jharia coalfield, and substantial increases have also taken place in the coalfields of the Central Provinces and the Bokaro-Ramgarh field.

There is an unlimited demand for the large proportion of slack made in the working of the various coalfields, and it is often sent long distances by railway and utilised for the extensive brick-burning industry. Owing, however, to economic measures in regard to fuel waste, and also to meet the large and increasing requirements for railway consumption, much attention has been devoted during the last few years to the possibilities of manufacturing coal briquettes. Briquetting processes are more or less dependent on certain binding materials, and a very great deal depends on the quality of the pitch or other admixture used, the most suitable containing about 54 per cent. of volatile, which, although perhaps more expensive in the first instance, will more than repay the first cost in the superior quality of the fuel turned out. In the manufacture of briquettes the drier the coal is the less the pitch required, and the better looking the briquette: the dirtier the coal the more pitch required to bind it. In India until the last few years, when a few installations of coke ovens and by-product plants were erected, briquette manufacturers have had to resort to some admixture other than pitch for binding purposes, as this commodity could only be obtained by importing it at considerable expense, thus making the cost prohibitive.

The cost of extraneous admixtures consequently enters largely into the question of the commercial possibility of the briquette as an economic fuel. The coal-bearing seams of India are not up to the standard of those in Great Britain, the best—those of Bengal—containing too many impurities for ordinary methods of treatment. Different seams produce varying qualities of coal with higher or lower calorific values (some of insignificant value), and if the slack production of varying qualities could be universally mixed together and a suitable volatile constituent attained for successful briquette manufacture the installation of suitable briquetting plants would not only prove a profitable colliery undertaking, but would go far to solve the fuel problem.

The whole of the output of the Khosi collieries in Baluchistan at the present time is being manufactured into briquettes, the high and costly ratio of 8 per cent. of pitch being used as a binding mixture. These briquettes are being consumed on the North Western Railway, which company operates collieries and a briquette factory at Dandot, Punjab, making satisfactory briquettes from Jammu coal with an admixture of 6 per cent. pitch.

The total production of coal for the whole of India for 1918 amounted to 19,847,039 metric tons from 719 operating mines, and the number of persons employed totalled 176,269 (109,561 underground, 66,708 above ground).

The production for 1913 amounted to 15,486,318 tons from 602 working mines, and the total number of employees both above and below ground was 133,042.

*(To be continued.)*

The directors of the Delhi Umballa Kalka Railway Company have declared an interim dividend for the half-year ended March 31 of 6 per cent. on the Ordinary stock, less tax at 4s. 9d. in the £, payable July 26.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended June 12 amounted to £7,295.

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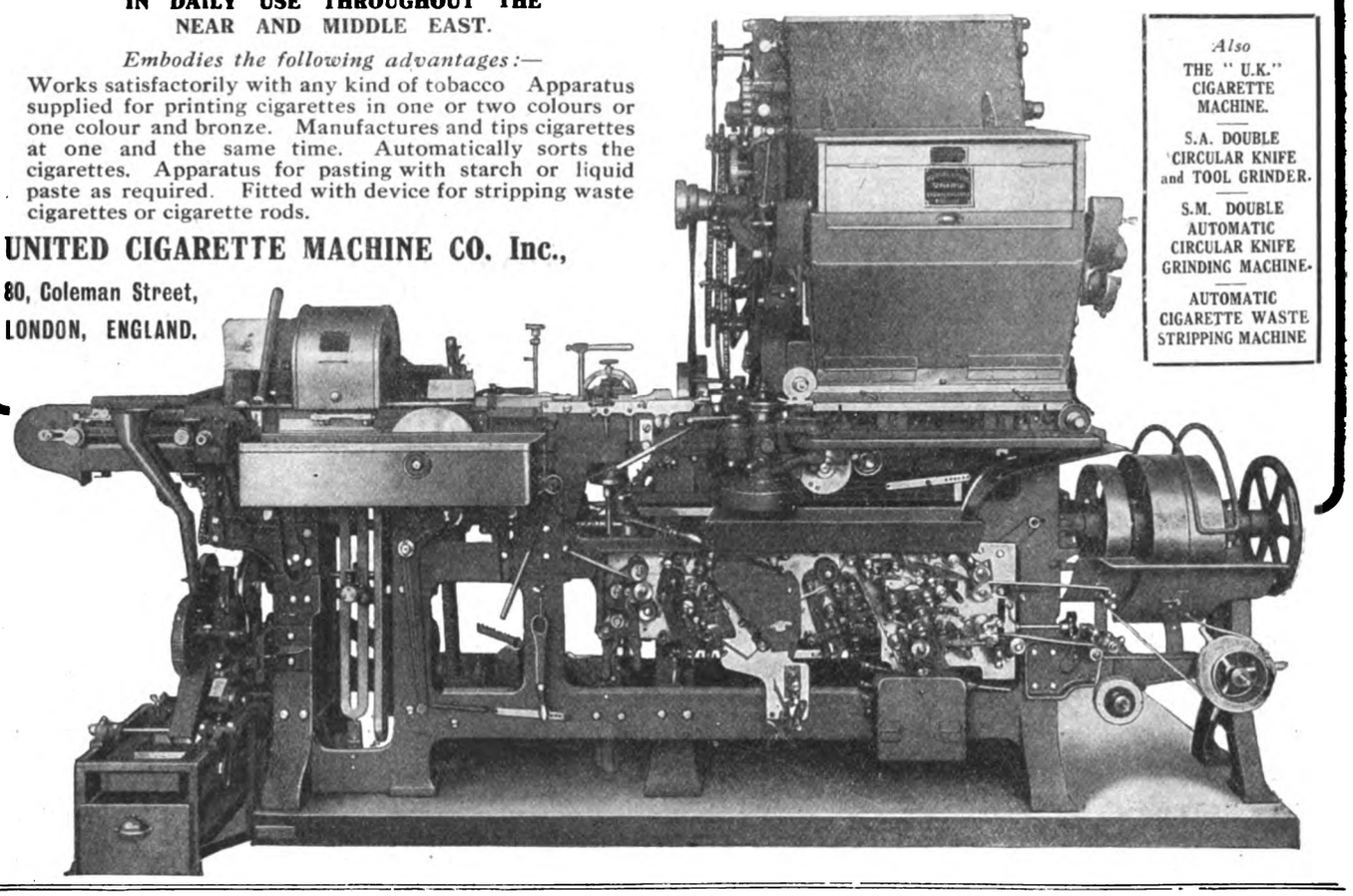

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## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

### Notes.

The trial trip took place on June 16 of the steel screw steamer Evros, built by Messrs. Craig, Taylor and Co., Limited, Stockton-on-Tees, to the order of Messrs. M. Embiricos, Limited, of London, for the National Steam Navigation Co., Limited, of Athens. The trials were entirely satisfactory. The dimensions of the vessel are 385 ft. by 51 ft. 4½ ins. by 34 ft. 9 ins., moulded to shelter deck. She is built of steel to the highest class in Lloyd's Registry, and has poop, bridge, and top-gallant forecastle; water ballast in double bottom, fore and aft, and in peaks; she is equipped with patent steam windlass, steam steering-gear, ten steam winches, electric light installations, wireless installation, and all the latest improvements. She has been built under the superintendence of Mr. L. S. Polychroniadis, consulting engineer, 88, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.

There was launched, on June 17, by Irvine's Shipbuilding and Drydocks Co., Limited, the steel screw steamer Dromore, built for the Johnston Line (Messrs. Furness, Withy and Co., Limited, managers) for their Danube trade. The vessel has been built to British Corporation classification, the dimensions being 372 ft. in length by 52 ft. beam extreme by 20 ft. 9 ins. depth moulded, carrying about 6,150 tons d.w., having poop, bridge, forecastle, with upper deck, and a tier of beams, stringers and ties at the main deck level for special trades, six bulkheads, five hatches, grain divisions throughout, and water ballast in cellular double-bottom and fore and aft peaks. The steamer is fitted with all the latest facilities for the rapid handling of cargo, including 10 steam winches, 15 steel derricks, etc., and electric light is fitted throughout.

On June 17 there was launched at the yard of Messrs. Wm. Gray and Co. (1918), Limited, the steel screw, geared turbine steamer City of Glasgow, which has been built for the Hall Line section of the Ellerman Lines, Limited, Liverpool. Her dimensions are: length overall, 406 ft. 9 ins.; breadth extreme, 54 ft. 2¾ ins.; depth, moulded, 31 ft. 5 ins., and she will be assigned to the highest class in Lloyd's Register. She has two decks laid, long poop, bridge and forecastle combined, and cruiser stern. Part of the 'tween decks is insulated for the carriage of perishable cargoes. The ship is fitted to meet the owners' special requirements for the trade in which she is intended to run. The ceremony of naming the steamer was performed by Miss Gray, daughter of Sir William C. Gray, Bart., chairman of the company.

The Ayrshire Dockyard Co., Limited, Irvine, N.B., launched on June 17 the single-screw steamer Clan McTaggart, which has been built for the Clan Line Steamers, Limited (Messrs. Cayzer, Irvine and Co., Limited). The dimensions of the vessel are length, 450 ft. B.P.; breadth, moulded, 57 ft. 6 ins.; depth, moulded, to awning deck, 37 ft. 6 ins., while her gross tonnage is, approximately, 6,600, and she has a d.w. carrying capacity of over 10,000 tons. The vessel has been specially designed for the rapid handling of cargo for the Clan Line Indian and general trade.

The Cie Generale Transatlantique is proceeding rapidly (says a Paris contemporary) to re-equip its services from Bordeaux to Morocco, which became disorganised by the stranding of the s.s. Venezuela.

### Forthcoming Sailings.

The Cunard Line s.s. Antinoe, for Piræus, Constantinople, and Galatz, will close for cargo at Antwerp on July 7 and at London on July 14.

The Ellerman Lines s.s. Belgravian, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on July 10.

The Papayanni Line s.s. Austrian, for Algiers, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on July 10.

The Prince Line s.s. Algerian Prince, for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Syrian coast ports, and Cyprus, will close for cargo at Manchester on July 7.

The Anchor Line s.s. Castalia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Liverpool on July 5.

The Bibby Line s.s. Gloucestershire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo on July 14.

The R.M.S.P. Co.s s.s. Straffa, for Morocco, will leave London on July 7.

The Harrison Line s.s. Astronomer, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Liverpool on July 8.

The Ellerman Line's s.s. Bosnian, for Patras, will leave Liverpool on July 19.


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**CASTALIA ABOUT JULY 7.**
**ELYSIA ABOUT JULY 31.**
**CIRCASSIA ABOUT AUGUST 7.**
**OLYMPIA ABOUT AUGUST 25.**

**ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LTD.,**
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## TRIPOLI TUNNY FISHING REVIVAL.

A revival of the tunny fishing industry is taking place at the present time (says H.M. Acting Consul-General at Tripoli). It began on a small scale last year, when a merchant had some fish salted for local consumption and for a small export in barrels to Italy. For the present season, which has now begun, a considerable establishment is being completed. Large nets have been put down and a considerable quantity of fish already caught. In due course there may be openings for British tins and machines, but probably not in the present season.

## LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

We have experienced another week of dragging demand, and there has not been the slightest indication of a revival of buying. In the circumstances, spinners and manufacturers have lost further ground and engagements continue to run down. At the moment it is a case of buyers not wanting to operate on any terms whatever, and if prices were broken it is doubtful whether the turnover would improve very much. It is suggested in some quarters that no real developments will take place until the holiday season of the year is over. Egyptian cotton prices have continued to fall. The Government has issued a decree providing for two contracts. It is not anticipated that this change will have any particular effect upon values. Crop advices remain healthy. There is some talk of a yield next season of 7,750,000 cantars, but it is too early for definite estimates to be put out. Egyptian yarns have continued to be purchased very sparingly. The holidays at Bolton have begun, and spinners are relieved by the stoppage of production. Shippers of piece goods to Egypt are meeting with rather better advices from the other side, it being stated clearances are improving in that there is less congestion amongst dealers. Fresh buying of importance, however, is not likely to take place just at present. India has sent forward a fair amount of inquiry, but there does not seem to have been any business of weight behind the demand. Quite early delivery can be obtained in dhooties and jaconets. China merchants still want to cancel contracts, but local manufacturers are not prepared to entertain such proposals. The business done for South America has been quite unimportant. Cloth prices continue to favour buyers, but there are no signs of any real break in rates. A very dull state of affairs has existed in home American yarns. Most producers have been easier to deal with. Export numbers have been in slack request for all outlets.

## OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for week ended May 22:—The sales this week on our market amount to fifty-four cases at 920 to 1.075 piastres per oke, as to strength and quality, which is equal to 17s. to 20s. per lb. c.i.f. The exchange to-day is 435 piastres for cheque per £1 sterling, and $0.89 for one Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are 1,665 cases, against 662 at same date last year.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for week ended June 12:—Our market was quiet this week, with sales of only four cases, viz., three current qualities, at 1,035 piastres per oke, and one Islamkeuy at 1.158 piastres. These prices are equivalent to 17s. 9d. and 21s. 6d. per lb. c.i.f. respectively. The exchange stands at 430 piastres per £1 sterling for cheque, and $0.91 for one Turkish pound. The arrivals are 1,715 cases, against 695 at same date last year.


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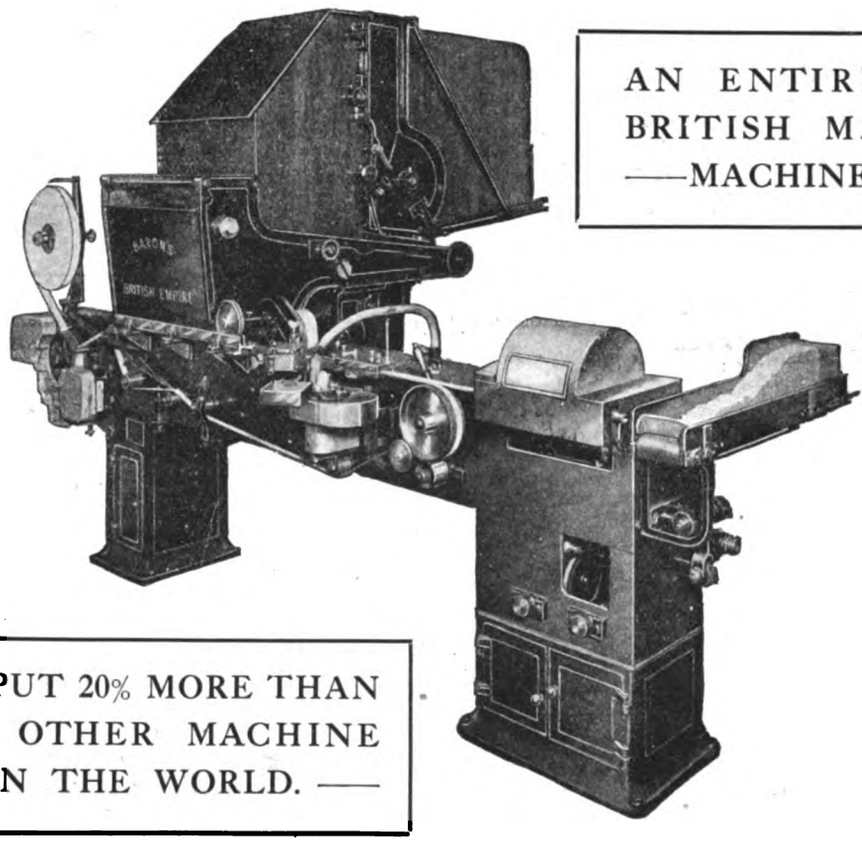


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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

**Dried Fruit.**

The demand for currants continues to increase, and consumption is evidently on the up grade. Fair business has been done in forward contracts for the new crop. Imports for the period January-May amounted to 12,018 tons, home consumption being 15,103 tons. Sultanas are in short supply, and are consequently very firm.

**Sugar.**

The tone of the free market has been a shade weaker in keeping with the decline in values in the American markets, but there has not been much in it, and the tendency on the whole is to firmness. West Indian crystallised is quoted 152s. to 155s., and American granulated and white Java remain at 160s. Home refined remains in good demand at the fixed rates.

**Coffee**

The spot market has been fairly steady. Costa Rica has been done at from 133s. to 165s., East Indian at 135s. to 170s., and West Indian at 127s. to 160s. Futures have been quiet, but steady. Quotations are:—September, 91s.; December, 87s. 6d.; March, 85s. 3d.

**Oilseeds.**

Indian linseed is firm at 39s. 6d., while La Plata has come to business at 36s. 6d. Rapeseed is practically unchanged, with Toria at 37s., bold Ferozepore at 36s. 6d., and brown Cawnpore at 33s. 6d. Cottonseed has been quiet, Bombay coming to business at 14s. and Egyptian at 18s. 3d.

**Oilcakes, etc.**

Supplies of cake are ample, and prices are very reasonable. Linseed oil closes strong at 79s. 6d. spot. Rape oil is weak, Egyptian crude being 67s. and deodorised 95s. Turpentine is weak, with American spot at 142s.

## SUDAN PRODUCE.

The following extracts are taken from the C.E.B. report for April:—

**Gum.**

The exports during April were as follows:—Via Port Sudan, 14,447 kilos of bleached, of the value of £E886; 1,290,594 kilos of hashab, of the value of £E65,921; and 15,489 kilos of talh, of the value of £E512; and via Halfa, 19,800 kilos of hashab, of the value of £E1,012.

Kordofan Province.—13,628 kantars were sold in El-Obeid market during April, as against 14,876 kantars during the same period last year, at an average price of £E1.615 per kantar of 100 rottles (45 kilos). Arrivals from Nahud were 7,009 kantars, as compared with 2,667 kantars of last year. The amount sold at Um Ruaba was 1,218 kantars, as against 2,815 kantars last year, the average price being £E1.550 per kantar. At Rahad 848 kantars were sold, as against 997 kantars for April last year, at prices ranging from £E1.680 to £E1.500 per kantar.

**Cotton.**

Red Sea Province.—Tokar: The cotton sold during the month in kantars of 315 rottles (unginned) is as follows:—10,783 kantars of first-class, 4,347 kantars of second-class, and 228 kantars of third-class. The total crop will probably amount to 48,000 kantars of 315 rottles (unginned).

Nuba Mountains Province.—A growing tendency is noticeable on the part of cultivators to grow cotton.

Berber Province.—The final cotton yields for April, in kantars of 315 rottles (unginned), at Zeidab are as follows:—The company, 6,069 kantars; water tenants, 1,405 kantars; Timerab, 674 and 26 kantars from the sakias. Total, 8,174 kantars; last year, 9,043 kantars.

**Dura and Dukhn.**

Kordofan Province.—The sales in El Obeid market in ardebs of 420 rottles (189 kilos) are as follows:—98 ardebs of dura at P.T.345 per ardeb (average); 189 ardebs of dukhn at P.T.345 per ardeb (average).

Blue Nile Province.—There was very little fluctuation throughout the month, the highest price being 2,680 m/ms., and the lowest price 2,518 m/ms. per ardeb of 300 rottles (135 kilos).

White Nile Province.—Dura is stated to be scarce at Getaina, but elsewhere there is dura in the markets.

Sennar Province.—In March, 672 tons of dura were exported by rail, and 474 tons in April.

Darfur Province.—The average price of dura in March was P.T.98 per ardeb.

**Wheat and Barley.**

Berber Province.—A small quantity of wheat and barley came on the market, and prices averaged at P.T.630 per ardeb of 400 rottles (180 kilos) and P.T.240 per ardeb of 315 rottles (142 kilos) respectively.

Sennar Province.—203 tons of sesame were exported by rail in March, and 111 tons in April.

Darfur Province.—All price of wheat averaged £E1.540 m/ms. per ardeb.

Halfa Province.—All crops are in. The wheat and barley crops have been exceptionally good. In some sagias in Sukkot district a yield of 5 ardebs of barley per feddan was obtained.

**Maize.**

Berber Province.—The price of maize is reported as P.T.367 per ardeb of 380 rottles (171 kilos).

## NEW COMPANIES IN GREECE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, June 19.

The following new companies have been formed in Greece since the beginning of 1920 up to date:—

1. The British-Hellenic Banking and Commercial Company (Soc. Anon.), with a capital of 1,000,000 drachmæ. This company was formed with the object of importing into Greece Canadian products.
2. The Industrial Company "Virmion," Athens, with a capital of 2,000,000 drachmæ.
3. The Tobacco and Cigarette Company "Tirnac," in Kavalla, with a capital of 1,000,000 drachmæ.
4. The Macedonian Steamship Company, Salonika, with a capital of 364,000 drachmæ.
5. The Commercial Club, Volo, with a capital of 55,000 drachmæ.
6. The "Amar" Bank, Salonika, with a capital of 1,000,000 drachmæ.
7. The Olive Oil Company of St. Maura, with a capital of 1,000,000 drachmæ.
8. The Company (Soc. Anon.) of Industrial Enterprises, Athens, with a capital of 800,000 drachmæ. The object of this company is the exploitation of various mines.
9. The "Kinoniki Proodos" (Social Progress), with a capital of 100,000 drachmæ. Head office at Limni, in Euboea.

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The directors of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Co. have declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax.

The Oilfields of Egypt, Ltd., announce that the field manager with his engineering staff have arrived on the company's territories on the Gulf of Suez, and are erecting camps.

Coupons on the Six per Cent. obligations and the Six per Cent. certificates, due July 1, of the Constantinople Telephone Company, are payable at the Imperial Ottoman Bank, 26, Throgmorton Street, E.C.

This week's Indian cable states:—Rain has fallen fairly generally in Bay Islands, Assam, Lower Burma, Orissa, Chota-Nagpur, Southern India, Central India, and Rajputana. Local elsewhere. General crop conditions good, but more rain required Assam and parts Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. Bombay cotton market dull. Fully good broach, July, Rs. 449. Piece-goods market very quiet. Calcutta jute market quiet. Hessians firm. Heavy goods firmer, with fair amount of business. Bank rate: Bengal and Bombay 6 per cent., Madras 8 per cent.

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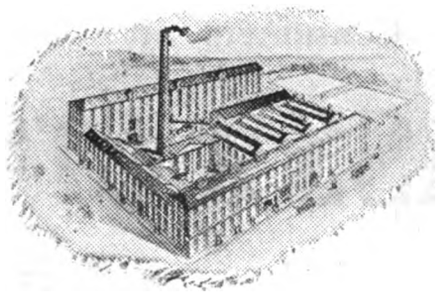
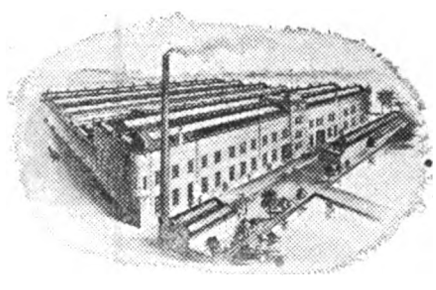
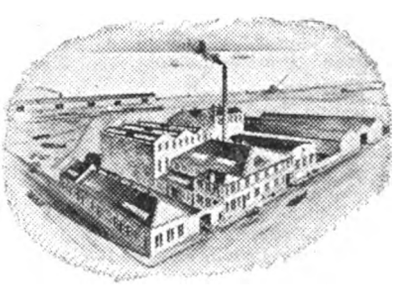

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# COMPANY MEETINGS.

## GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

### Record Gross Receipts.

The 141st half-yearly general meeting of the stockholders of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company was held on June 25 at the company's offices, 48, Copthall Avenue, London Wall, Sir Charles H. Armstrong (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that they had had a good half-year, the gross receipts having been over seven crores of rupees. The increase on the corresponding half-year, due largely to a very heavy passenger traffic, was equal to 9.63 per cent. The gross expenditure had increased by 9.43 per cent. to 4¼ crores of rupees, which was equal to 59.39 per cent. of the gross earnings, as compared with 59.50 per cent. in the corresponding period of 1919. For the whole year to March 31 their gross receipts had been nearly 13¾ crores of rupees, which was a record figure, and although just at the moment they were falling behind a little, he was hoping that if the monsoon was favourable that they would have a very large traffic to handle during the coming season. In the past ten years their coaching receipts had risen by 141 per cent., their goods earnings by 60 per cent., and their gross receipts from all sources by 87 per cent.; the total passenger earnings alone had increased by no less than 128 per cent. They received less now per mile for carrying a first-class passenger than they did ten years ago, but slightly more for a second-class passenger. The amount received per mile for carrying a third-class passenger had increased during the last two or three years, the numbers travelling having grown very rapidly, which showed, he thought, that the country was prospering and that the people generally were earning higher wages. As regarded merchandise, the number of tons lifted had increased during the ten years from 6⅞ million tons to 10⅞ million tons, an increase of over 60 per cent. Those figures showed steady progress, but the increases had been much more marked in the last three or four years than in the earlier period, and, as abnormal conditions owing to the war were now passing away, they might not be able to show quite the same expansion in the years to come, although they were now equipped to handle a very much larger traffic than they used to do. He would warn them, however, that their working expenses were rapidly increasing, and that was a factor that would affect their future prosperity. The point had been under consideration by the directors, and they were ready with proposals to meet it.

Turning to the year's results, the net amount receivable from India had been brought home at 2s. 1¼d. exchange, and had realised £85,115. out of which they were paying a dividend of 3 per cent., in addition to the guaranteed interest for the half-year at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum. They were also paying a bonus of 1 per cent. from money they had to put aside to meet a possible claim for excess profits duty in this country. That question had now been settled in their favour, and they were therefore able to make the bonus distribution. The dividend was the largest they had yet paid, but it was largely due to the higher exchange at which their share of surplus profits had been remitted, as the amount they actually received in India was less by 1¾ lakhs than in the previous year. They had decided to carry out a programme for the electrification of suburban services, and the scheme, when completed, was likely to be a great success. In conclusion, the Chairman said that the favourable results he had referred to were due entirely to the abnormal conditions brought about by the war, and the future seemed extremely uncertain, in view of the expenditure with which they were faced.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

## MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT.

### Dividend Increased.

The twelfth ordinary general meeting of the Mortgage Company of Egypt, Limited, was held on June 24 at the Cannon Street Hotel, Sir Henry Babington Smith, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.S.I. (the chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: In spite of the political troubles, the economic condition of Egypt is one of great prosperity. As you are aware, the cotton crop is all important. The crop of 1918-19 amounted to 4,821,000 cantars, and was purchased by the Government at the fixed price of 42 tallaris per cantar for the standard grade. For the crop of 1919 there was a free market. It amounted to 5,750,000 cantars, and, owing to the insistent demand both from America and Europe, accompanied by a considerable amount of speculation, the price at Alexandria rose to the unprecedented figure of 192½ tallaris in February last. During the months of February, March, and April the price remained above 135 tallaris, and it has since fallen to about 108 tallaris, and now stands between 120 and 130. This is still extremely high compared with the pre-war price, which varied between 15 and 20 tallaris per cantar. The price of other produce has also been high, and great wealth has poured into the country. The Financial Adviser in his note on the Budget of 1920-21, estimates Egypt's foreign investments, including the securities held on account of the bank note issue, during the period 1915-1919, at £E152,000,000. The deposits in the two principal banks have increased from 6½ to 35½ million pounds Egyptian, while the loans on mortgage of the four chief mortgage companies (including our own) have decreased from 40 to 28 millions. Another remarkable indication of prosperity is to be found in the trade returns. During the first quarter of the current year the imports amounted to £E20,500,000, and the exports to £E50,500,000. These figures, for one-quarter of this year, are not far short of those for the whole of last year.

Turning now to the position of the Mortgage Company of Egypt, the accounts speak for themselves, and show that the position is thoroughly satisfactory. The rise in the value of land has enabled us to sell practically the whole of the properties which we had been compelled to acquire, not only without loss, but at a considerable profit. In March, 1917, these properties stood in our balance-sheet at over £173,000—a figure large enough to cause us some anxiety. It has now been reduced to £1,219; and you will see on the other side of our balance-sheet an item of £91,756 for "profit on sales in suspense." This represents the excess of the sale price over the figure at which the properties stood in our books, but, as a part of the price is payable in instalments, and has therefore not actually been received in cash, we think it necessary to hold the profit in suspense and not to count it as realised until it is actually received. The instalments in arrear have been reduced to £111,158, as compared with £171,163 last year and £410,938 at March 31, 1916. Of these arrears, more than three-quarters fell due as recently as December, 1919, and January, 1920, and have probably already been recovered in great part.

In consequence of the agricultural prosperity of the country, the amount of our investment in mortgages has continued to decrease. A similar diminution has been experienced by the other companies doing mortgage business in Egypt, and we cannot be surprised at it. The result of this, together with the recovery of arrears and the sale of property, has been to increase largely our cash resources; and the board considered that these resources could not be better employed than in the purchase of our own debentures. Up to March 31 we had purchased debentures to a nominal value of £594,700 at a cost of £487,916. We have thus cancelled a debt that was ultimately repayable at par at a discount of £106,783. This has enabled us to write off the whole of the balance of the discount and expenses on the original issue of the debentures, amounting to £87,764, and to leave a balance of over £19,000 to the credit of the debenture redemption reserve account. The balance of the profit and loss account amounts to £117,488, as against £83,777 last year. The board are of opinion that this result justifies them proposing to pay a dividend of 12 per cent., as against 8 per cent. last year, on the amount paid up on the ordinary shares, and to place £20,000 to the general reserve. This leaves a sum of £17,489 to be added to the amount carried forward, bringing it up to £52,939. I should like to express our continued appreciation of the services rendered by the staff in Egypt. It must be a great satisfaction to them, as it is to us, to see that their efforts, combined with more favourable conditions, have brought the company into its present strong position

Brigadier General the Hon. Everard Baring, C.V.O., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

# COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

### Anglo-Bulgarian Oilfields.

The report of the Anglo-Bulgarian Oilfields for the period from July 1, 1918, to June 30, 1919, states that owing to the state of war existing for the past five years on the company's concession they have been unable to carry on active operations on the property. The whole of Thrace, in which the company's concession is situated, has now come under the Hellenic Government, with whom the directors are in direct communication, and they have every confidence that the titles will be confirmed. Since the Armistice a revival of interest in this district has come about, and a small portion of the company's rights has recently been sold to another company on satisfactory terms; negotiations are also being conducted to sell a further part of the area.

### Egyptian Hotels.

The report of the Egyptian Hotels, Limited, for the year ended April 30, 1920, states that after charging all expenses in connection with the working of the hotels, the profits of the hotels were £58,736 17s. 6d., as compared with £35.540 2s. 4d. for 1919. After providing for the charges payable in London and Cairo the accounts show a profit of £56,156 17s. 10d.; the balance of undivided profit brought forward from last account is £10,383 4s. 7d. —£66,540 2s. 5d. From this has to be deducted debenture interest, £2,379 10s. 11d.; depreciation of plant, fixtures, and fittings at hotels, £3,210 2s. 1d.—£5,589 13s., leaving an available balance of £60.950 9s. 5d. The directors recommend (1) the payment of a dividend of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference shares for the year to April 30, absorbing £5,750; (2) the payment of a dividend on the ordinary shares of 25 per cent. for the year, which will absorb £31,250; (3) to place to special reserve, £15,000—£52,000; leaving a balance to be carried forward of £8.950 9s. 5d. Since the close of the company's financial year the business of Shepheard's Hotel has been satisfactorily maintained. During the year the Ghezireh Palace Hotel, together with the greater part of the furniture and equipment, has been sold and the purchase money received. The transaction has been given effect to in the accounts now presented.

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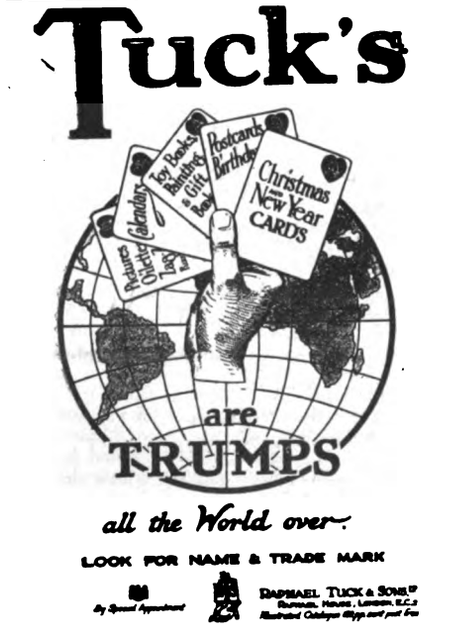
## "NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

| LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE. | Price June 21. | Price June 28. |
|---|---|---|
| **GOVERNMENT STOCKS.** | | |
| Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892 | 36 | 36 |
| Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907 | 51½ | 51½ |
| Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909 | 27 | 27 |
| City of Alexandria 4%, 1909 | 60 | 60 |
| Egyptian 4% Unified Debt | 69½ | 69 |
| Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890 | 57½ | 57½ |
| Greek 5%, 1861 | 55 | 58½ |
| Do. 5%, 1884 | 55 | 58½ |
| Do. 4% Rentes, 1889 | 39 | 41 |
| Do. 5% 1890 | 52xd | 53½ |
| Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893 | 49 | 52½ |
| Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902 | 44½ | 45½ |
| Do. 4% Loan, 1910 | 39 | 40 |
| Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) | 51 | 54½ |
| Do. 5% Currant | 91 | 91 |
| Montenegro 5% Loan | 68½ | 68½ |
| Persia 5% 1911 | 65 | 65 |
| Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913 | 35 | 35 |
| Serbian 4% Unified Bonds | — | — |
| Turkish 4% 1891 | 60½ | 60 |
| Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894 | 54½ | 54 |
| Do. 4% Unified | 34 | 34 |
| **BANKS.** | | |
| Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) | 4⅝ | 4⅝ |
| Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) | 5⅛ | 5⅛ |
| Do. 3½ Bonds Red. | 63 | 63 |
| Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red. | 65 | 65 |
| Bank of Abyssinia | 1⅛ | 1⅛ |
| Bank of Athens | 3⅞ | 4 |
| Bank of British West Africa | 5⅛ | 5⅛ |
| Bank of Roumania | 5⅞ | 5⅞ |
| British Trade Corporation | 8½ | 9 |
| Imperial Ottoman Bank | 9 | 9 |
| Imperial Bank of Persia | 7⅞ | 7⅞ |
| Ionian Bank, Limited | 5 | 6 |
| Land Bank of Egypt Ord. | 5⅛xd | 5⅛ |
| London County and Westminster | 14⅛ | 14⅛ |
| National Bank of Egypt | 19⅜ | 19⅜ |
| **LAND.** | | |
| Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) | 34/- | 35/- |
| Do. 6% Debs | 135 | 135 |
| Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt | 12/6 | 12/6 |
| Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment | 75/- | 75/- |
| Béhéra Co. | 16 | 16 |
| Do. Pref. | 3⅛ | 3⅛ |
| Building Lands of Egypt | 1½ | 1½ |
| Egyptian Consol 5/- | 2/10½ | 2/9 |
| Egyptian Delta Land and Invest. | 14/6 | 13/6 |
| Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs. | 73 | 73 |
| Do. Land and General Trust | 1/6 | 1/6 |
| Do. and Foreign Trust | 13/- | 13/- |
| Gharbieh Land Co. | 3½ | 3 |
| Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt | 29/- | 29/- |
| Do. 4½% Debs. Red. | 84½ | 84½ |
| Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red | 61½ | 61½ |
| Mortgage Co. of Egypt | 6½ | 6½ |
| Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red. | 75 | 75 |
| New Egyptian Co. | 33/-xd | 33/6 |
| Sidi Salem Co. | 2⅜ | 2½ |
| Sudan Plantations | 4 | 4⅛ |
| Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. | 4⅜ | 4⅜ |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | |
| Abyssinian Corp. | ⅛ | ⅛ |
| Alexandria Water Co. | 8½xd | 8½xd |
| Associated Cotton Ginners | 25/- | 25/- |
| Egyptian Hotels | 2½ | 2½ |
| Do. Markets Ord. | 1⅛ | 1⅛ |
| Do. do 5% Debs. Red. | 86⅜ | 86⅜ |
| Do. Salt and Soda Bearer | 2⅛ | 2⅛ |
| Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs. | 96⅜ | 96⅜ |
| Khediv al Mail Ord. | 5⅛ | 5⅛ |
| Do. Do. Prefs. | 3½ | 3½ |
| Levant Co. (fully paid) | 18/- | 17/9 |
| Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref | 18/- | 18/- |
| Suez Canal | — | — |
| **Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.** | | |
| Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series | 93 | 92⅜ |
| Chinese 4½% 1898 | 58 | 57⅜ |
| Do. 5% 1896 | 71½ | 71⅜ |
| Argentine 5% 1890 | 69⅜ | 73½ |
| Do. 5% 1907 | 81 | 80 |

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## TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—

**Egypt.**

*(The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.)*

Wrapping Paper.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 750 reams thick wrapping paper. July 8.

Iron Safes.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 180 iron safes. July 12.

Rails.—The Surveyor-General of Egypt, Giza (Mudiriya) invites tenders for the supply of cut rails in accordance with specification and conditions available at Survey Offices, Giza. Contractors are invited to put in their offers for any quantity available for immediate delivery or for delivery during the current financial year. Tenders should show quantity, weight per yard run, rate per ton of 1,000 kilos, period required for delivery, place of delivery, and any other details necessary. March 1, 1921.

H.M. Commercial Agent for Egypt has forwarded copies of the specification, conditions of tender, and tender form in connection with a call for tenders by the Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, for the supply and delivery of eight steel house barges for the Upper White Nile Division. Sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received by the Director-General, Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, up to noon on July 20. A provisional deposit of 2 per cent. or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent. of the value of the offer must accompany each tender. The above-mentioned copies of the specification, etc., may be consulted by British firms interested at the enquiry office of the Department of Overseas Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2 (L.).

The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the supply and delivery of the following:—Heel-balls, jute sacks (tenders due July 5); bits and chains (tenders due July 13). Tenders will remain open seven days. (L.)

Cotton Waste.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 200 metrical tons cotton waste (L).

Soap, Horse Brushes, Candlesticks, Lamps, etc.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the supply of palm oil soap (tenders returnable on July 6), candlesticks, lamps, and globes, horse brushes (tenders returnable on July 12). Tenders will remain open seven days. (L.)

**Roumania.**

The Roumanian Government invite tenders for the supply of the following military equipment:—16,000 outfits, each consisting of two shirts, two pairs drawers, two hand towels, two handkerchiefs, two pairs socks, one pair woollen gloves, one clothes brush, one boot brush, one overcoat, two jackets, two pairs of trousers, one military cap, one sweater, two pairs of boots, two pairs of puttees, one hood, two blouses, one blanket, one mattress cover, two pillowslips, and two sheets. Tenders should be submitted to His Majesty's Commercial Secretary, Bucharest.

**Morocco.**

Morocco.—His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Rabat has forwarded a copy of the specification and general conditions of contract for the supply of 25,000 oak sleepers or other timber of a similar nature to the Service des Chemins de Fer of the French Protectorate. The latest date for receipt of tenders is July 1. Copy of the specification and general conditions, which are in French, may be inspected upon application at the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

**Malta.**

The Council of Government invites tenders from British firms for the construction of a first-class shipbuilding and repairing yard.

## OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, Ltd.—Hurgada production for week ended June 20, 2,781 tons; last week, 2,909 tons.

## ON CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

Business has again been on a very restricted scale this week, and changes in prices are, generally speaking, of an unimportant character, except in Greek stocks, where there has been a persistent demand which has carried all the prices of the various loans to a higher level.

In Government stocks Egyptians have remained firm, the only alteration being a slight reduction in Unified to 69, and in the Turkish 4 per cent. 1891 and 3½ per cent. 1894 Loans to 60 and 54 respectively. In Greeks the 1881 and 1884 Loans have risen 3½ points to 58½, the Funding Loan a similar amount to 52½, and Rentes are 2 points up at 41. The 1890 Loan is 1½ points up at 53½, both the 1902 and 1910 Loans are 1 point up at 45½ and 40 respectively, and the 1914 Loan has been inquired for on a large scale and has risen 3½ points to 54½.

In Bank shares, Agricultural of Egypt show no change, but Nationals are ⅛ up at 19½. Land Banks are a trifle easier at 5½, but a feature has been the rise in Bank of Athens shares, which have advanced as much as 11-16ths to 4.

In Railways, Delta Lights are 1-16th firmer at 5 11-16ths, and Piræus Athens 3 per cent. Bonds have fallen rather smartly to 45.

In Land shares Aboukir are closing a good market to-night at 35s., a rise of 1s. Consolidated Lands are fractionally easier at 2s. 9d. Delta Lands have dropped 1s. to 13s. 6d. and Gharbiehs have gone back ¼ to 3. Sidi Salem and Union Foncière are both ⅛ lower at 2¼ and 4⅝ respectively. On the other hand, New Egyptians have improved 6d. to 33s. 6d., and Sudan Plantations are 1-16th firmer at 4 1-16th.

Amongst Miscellaneous descriptions the only change to record is a rise of 1-16th in Egyptian Salt and Soda to 2 9-16ths.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptian B are again lower, closing 6s. 6d. down at 2⅝, while Roumanians and Traians are both 3d. easier at 18s. 6d. and 7s. 3d. respectively.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97 7/16 |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 31·00-31·25 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 72·75 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·9⅜-1·9⅝ |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 165-170 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·9⅜-1·9⅝ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 415-430 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅔ | 3·96½-3 97¼ |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22 | 260-265 |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 27½ |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 47·75-48·10 |

The British Consul-General at Meshed reports that there would appear to be a good opportunity for the sale of cheap iron bedsteads, complete with strong spring mattresses, in Persia. He would be glad to receive catalogues from British manufacturers who are interested in that market.

H.M. Consul at Zagreb reports that there is at present an opportunity for British manufacturers of hotel equipment to supply the needs of that town, in which efforts are being made to meet the overcrowding by the erection of additional hotel accommodation.


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The Hellenic Society of Chemical Products and Manures, Athens.
The "Titan" Cement Co., Athens.
The Soap and Oil Works, "Charilaos & Canellopoulos," Athens.

BANKERS' REFERENCES:—

The London Joint City & Midland Bank, Ltd. (Foreign Dept.), London.
The American Express Co., New York.
The Bank of Industry, Athens.

*Reference can also be made to "THE NEAR EAST."*

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 479.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The two replies of Turkey to the draft of the Turkish Peace Treaty are understood to have differed very little from one another. The later one, handed in by Jemal Pasha and Reshid Bey, on June 30, asked that Lemnos, Imbros, and Tenedos, at the entrance to the Dardanelles, should be included in the zone of the Straits, instead of being handed to Greece. Constantinople, it seems, fears that Greece might make these islands over to Great Britain, or some other Power; and it desires that they should remain Ottoman territory in Allied occupation. Why any fear of the kind should exist is not quite clear. It now transpires that among the points raised by the Turkish reply is the future of Alexandretta. In the first reply, at any rate, this port was claimed by the Turks, who suggested that the southern frontier of Turkey should begin at Ras el-Baseit (just south of lat. 36 degs.), and run to Khanikin, on the Persian frontier, leaving Aleppo to Syria and Mosul to Mesopotamia, but taking in Nisibin, the present terminus of the great Baghdad line, for Turkey.

Probably there would be some justification for the boundary suggested, which would seem to make some effort to follow the existing division between Arab and Turk. Whatever may be the case to-day, or since the German development of the place affected its character, it is a fact that twenty years ago it was as difficult to find Arabic-speaking people in Alexandretta as it was to find Turkish-speaking people in, say, Hillah or Busreh. But the Turkish suggestion that "there is no ground for extending Armenian territory beyond the old Russo-Turkish frontier" is much less easy to support; and, in point of fact, it is unlikely to find any support at all outside Turkey. In connection with the question of frontiers, it is puzzling to find the Porte concerning itself with those of Kurdistan, Syria, and Mesopotamia, except in so far as its new (suggested) southern border is concerned. Turkey's interest in the Arabs of Syria and of Mesopotamia was never of a kind to lead us to suspect that she would spare much thought for them when she could no longer tax them, and her relations with the Kurds were, upon the whole, little more cordial.

The operations against the Turkish Nationalists continue to be pressed on vigorously; the Greeks have captured Panderma, and the region west of the Smyrna-Panderma line will very shortly be entirely clear of Nationalists, if it is not so already. At the end of last week it was reported that the Turks had captured Pergama and inflicted a heavy defeat on the Greeks in the neighbourhood; but the Greeks denied the report, and the capture of Kemer on July 2 indicated pretty clearly that the original report was baseless. The latest Greek *communiqués* available at the time of writing state that the advance "towards the interior of Asia Minor is still proceeding." The Turks are retiring on Brusa.

A deplorable incident is reported from Smyrna, where news was received on June 3 of a fight between Greek and Italian troops. The Greeks found that at a point between Smyrna and Aidin the Turkish Nationalists had penetrated the Italian line and were threatening the railroad. In view, therefore, of the necessity of keeping in touch with the Greek forces at Aidin the Greek General sent detachments to occupy some positions a little way inside the Italian lines. As the relations between the Greeks and Italians in this neighbourhood have for some time past been the reverse of cordial it is not surprising that rifles went off, and that several casualties on both sides are reported. At the same time it is clear that the Greek commander could not have acted otherwise; and the Allies will probably argue that if the Italians are unable to keep the Nationalists from "raids" that damage Allied property—the Smyrna-Aidin Railway is British owned—and threaten Allied troops, they had better withdraw their forces and leave the task to others.

Friends of Montenegro cannot regard the situation in that gallant little country with satisfaction, and not the least satisfactory thing about it is the difficulty of obtaining trustworthy information as to what is going on there, or the intentions of the Powers as to its future. Recently a deputation of Members of Parliament waited on the Prime Minister to ask him, in effect, to use his influence to obtain a chance for the Montenegrins to express freely their desires regarding their own future. Mr. Lloyd George received the deputation sympathetically, and promised to give their view his consideration; but he pointed out the difficulties of the case, and made it clear that a failure to see eye to eye on the part of the Allies in this matter was one of the worst hindrances to a settlement. Things were thus left very much where they were before: that is to say, in the air. They cannot, obviously, be left there indefinitely. Both parties in Montenegro—or, we ought to say, perhaps, both Montenegrin parties—would probably accept any arrangement, if they were convinced that it was in accordance with the will of the majority, freely expressed; and the Yugoslavs, also, who

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have shown the world what sacrifices they themselves are ready to make for the sake of liberty, would surely accept a decision so reached as soon as they were convinced that it expressed the true wish of their Montenegrin brethren.

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Federation appears to be inevitable sooner or later, and we suspect that if only the politicians would stand aside and leave the peoples free to exercise their own unfettered judgment, it would come sooner. The trouble is that so many people find muddy waters suit well their particular method of fishing, and the consequence is a state of affairs that is both bewildering and exasperating. We are informed, for instance, that the British Mission of Relief to Montenegro (of which the Lord Provost of Glasgow is chairman) has been unable to carry out its charitable work by reason of the action of Serbian officials. We have not space to go into the details of the case, but the bare fact is sufficiently disconcerting. The Belgrade Government may have very good reasons for acting as it is reported to have done. It may also have the authority of the Allies for so acting, and the majority of the Montenegrins may support its action. But, if so, it is a thousand pities that the situation has not been made clear to the world, which is at present utterly, and very naturally, puzzled by the whole business.

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It is too early to expect a definite result of the Milner Mission's labours, but it is announced that the Mission has already placed in the printer's hands a statement of policy agreed to before the Mission left Egypt; and, according to *The Times*, "it may be accepted that the Mission will recommend a measure of self-government for the Egyptians." In the meantime it is gratifying to learn that Zaghloul Pasha considers it probable that the negotiations now in progress between himself and Lord Milner will have a satisfactory ending. With the spirit of goodwill that is evident on both sides, it will be strange if he does not prove a true prophet.

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The Persian Prime Minister, Vossukh ed-Dowleh, has resigned, owing, it seems, to his inability to meet the Court's financial requirements and the difficulties of the situation in Northern Persia. His loss will be a severe one, and it is, unfortunately, impossible to escape the feeling that it might have been avoided if Great Britain had been more generous in the matter of help, if only of a financial character. The new Prime Minister is Mushir ed-Dowleh, who is forming a Cabinet which is expected to summon the Mejliss very shortly. That step will prove popular in Persia, and it is to be hoped that it will lead to an early improvement in the situation.

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Signor Giolitti has lost no time about putting his Albanian policy into effect. Negotiations carried on by Baron Aliotti, appointed special Italian Plenipotentiary in Albania, and the Albanian leaders have resulted in agreement along the line of Italian withdrawal from the country save from the island of Sassena, where Italy will construct naval defence works and a wireless station. As Albania has no fleet, and is unlikely to have one in the near future, the agreement would seem to be quite satisfactory from her point of view, and it would not be at all surprising to find Italo-Albanian relations speedily becoming extremely friendly once more.

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Sir Herbert Samuel landed at Jaffa on June 30, and, after an official welcome from the Jaffa municipality, proceeded to Jerusalem, where, on the Mount of Olives, Sir Louis Bols officially handed over to him as High Commissioner the government of the land. A few days ago, in the House of Lords, Earl Curzon said that there was now at the head of the Administration (in Palestine) "a judicially minded, sensible and experienced man," and that in the view of the Government "no more competent person could be found than Sir Herbert Samuel." That praise, we believe, is not at all too high for the new High Commissioner, and we sincerely hope that a gloomy prophecy quoted by Lord Curzon will prove false. It might be true, said Lord Curzon, that Sir Herbert would find himself in difficulties with regard to the Arabs, but a great authority on the country had prophesied that after he had been there six months he would be equally unpopular with the Jews. We decline to believe that there is any possibility of the Jews showing themselves such poor judges of ability and character.

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A definite stage on the long road of Indian educational reform is marked by the appointment of Mr. P. J. Hartog, C.I.E., to be Vice-Chancellor of the new University of Dacca. This institution is designed, in great measure, to relieve the pressure on Calcutta University, the monstrous size of which makes effective administration a practical impossibility; but Dacca is to be moulded from the outset on the modern lines to which Calcutta can attain only by degrees, and will itself in due course serve as a model for other parts of India, so that its first Vice-Chancellor will bear an exceptionally heavy responsibility. Mr. Hartog knows what is wanted, for he was a member of the Commission which reported last year, while his record as Academic Registrar of the University of London justifies the expectation that he will be successful in establishing the new ideals among the alert and industrious people of Eastern Bengal. His responsibilities will, as we have said, be great, but responsibility means opportunity to the right man, and he will enter on his duties with the cordial good wishes of all friends of India.

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It may be worth while to point out that this question of educational reform can no longer be regarded merely from an academic standpoint. The new constitution, which requires increased effort from almost all classes of Indians, makes specially heavy demands on the Universities. Hitherto they have been content to supply the country with able lawyers and astute politicians, and their output has on the whole served its purpose tolerably well: in the future they will have to provide upright administrators and sagacious statesmen, to supplement, and eventually to replace, the men from Oxford and Cambridge, whose services India has utilised for so long, and it does not require an expert to recognise that the whole machinery must be remodelled in order to meet this new demand. It is beside the argument to point to the small number of Indian statesmen who have come forward in the past; even under the old constitution there were not enough to go round, and now that every province will require a body of statesmen from among whom its Ministers and councillors may be chosen, it is obvious that the Universities must face the problem of supply and devote themselves to the task of making, not lawyers, but men.

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In this task the Calcutta University Commission have, in our judgment, pointed out the true line of advance, and it will be the privilege of Dacca to lead the way. We confess, however, that we are a little doubtful whether Calcutta will not remain too unwieldy for real efficiency even when the reforms now recommended have been carried out. Two, or even four, Universities will be but scanty provision for a province of the size of Bengal; the attractions of the great city will always give Calcutta a certain predominance, and, within reasonable limits, the more Universities the better for all. In the United Provinces, with practically the same population but a lower standard of literacy, Sir Harcourt Butler is working for five Universities now, with more to follow, and we do not think that a provision of one centre for nine million people can be called extravagant. Scotland, the home of Empire statesmen, has nearly ten times that number, and while it will be a long time before India can aspire to equal Scotland in this matter, the true conclusion seems to be that one great remedy for inefficient Universities is a steady policy of creating new foundations.

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Our anticipations of a rush for eastward passages next autumn are clearly going to be realised. It is now announced that the liners are already overbooked for September and October, normally the busiest months, and intending passengers have been urged to register at once for the few remaining berths in November and

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December. Simultaneously comes the news that fares are being substantially raised, the highest rate by the P. and O. to Bombay being altered from £68 to £90, and the others in proportion; apparently the change is not expected to stem the tide of travellers for pleasure, and it follows that the homeward rush next spring will be worse than ever, unless the increased cost, following on the fall in exchange, should operate to deter tired officials from taking leave at a time when freshness and energy are qualities particularly required in India.

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A new aspect of Indian politics is presented in the claim now being put forward for separate representation of the great body of religious mendicants. They have a stronger case than Western readers might suppose. In "the good old days" they were confidants and counsellors of rulers; at the present time they constitute perhaps the most powerful organ for the formulation and dissemination of the real public opinion of the country; and it is quite possible to argue that no Indian legislature can be truly representative which does not recognise the existence of this particular class. Apparently none of them will be able to vote, for persons who have no home and no worldly possessions are excluded from a franchise based on residence and property, and one cannot entirely refuse sympathy to their request for constituencies of their own. The practical difficulties in the way are, however, great, and it is not in the least likely that their claim will be granted at this stage: in the new India, as in the old, they will be a power behind the throne, and their immense popular influence will remain to perplex Indian Ministers as it has so often perplexed English administrators in the past.

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# THE WEEK AT HOME.

**Politics and Poison.**

Far more interest has been shown in a poisoning case in a remote Welsh village this week than in any political matter, and the public has gloated over every detail of what one of the papers rather incautiously called "the greatest murder mystery for fifty years." The case is still *sub judice*, and therefore comment is forbidden. It has often struck me that if the same rule prevailed in politics, and nobody was allowed to write about "the situation" until the facts had been thoroughly enquired into, political journalism would come to an untimely end; but the revolution would hurt the politicians far more than the journalists.

At Westminster the struggle between the business men and Mr. Austen Chamberlain continues. So far, the Chancellor of the Exchequer seems to have had rather the best of the deal, and he is sticking to his guns. His opponents' strategy has been faulty, but it seems to be improving, and if they learn to make the proper use of their weapons they will be a formidable foe. Up to the present their complaint has been that they, as a class, are overtaxed, and it has been badly received—the British public is never interested in other people's troubles, and it never believes that anybody who can still afford a decent tailor, a club, and a motor-car has anything much to grumble about. The business men wasted several weeks learning this elementary lesson, and I am not quite sure that they have learned it yet. After all, it is very natural, when one's own shoe pinches, to complain about the pain in one's toe, and to forget that other people, who only feel it at second-hand, so to speak, are not so immediately interested.

This is not the Achilles' heel of Mr. Chamberlain; and another attack on him, for expenditure in Mesopotamia and elsewhere, also failed, for the simple reason that the public is not at the moment in a Little England frame of mind, and they have no particular objection to spending a few millions in making the desert blossom like the rose. It is extravagance nearer home that moves them. No human being has yet succeeded in explaining why the Ministry of Munitions continues in existence: yet it runs away with thousands of pounds a week. The Labour Exchanges are admittedly useless, and their futility has been exposed at a recent official inquiry; but they continue to occupy valuable and expensive sites in every town, and presumably their staffs draw salaries for not finding workmen work.

The Government expenditure in these things should be cut down ruthlessly, but practically nothing has been done, and Mr. Chamberlain seems unable to get anything done. If the business men would concentrate on this point, and rub it in day after day they would soon reduce expenditure; and that in the long run will prove the only effective way of reducing taxation. As the income-tax people are just sending out their demands for the second instalment of the year's taxes the subject is one that comes home with peculiar force at the present moment.

The debates in the Commons this last week have not strengthened the Government. The Ministry of Transport, another of the new Departments, has been under discussion, and Sir Eric Geddes has not been very successful in its defence. He is personally unpopular, and the railways are also unpopular, owing to high fares and slow trains, and the public is quite ready to join in any criticism of the Geddes methods. I doubt if one person in a thousand has examined the figures, or if one in ten thousand understands them when examined; but the atmosphere is unfavourable to Governmental control of railways at the moment. Sir Eric may be fully justified in his defence, for he is a very able man, but he has certainly not succeeded in convincing the world that he is right. And in politics it is even more important for people to believe you are right than to be right.

**An Asquith Story.**

There is no limit to political malice. Because Mr. Asquith recovered something of his old tone in an attack on Sir Eric Geddes during the week, it has actually been rumoured that his speech was written for him by one of his daughters. I suppose somebody says these things originally as a joke, and the Tapers and Tadpoles, who have no sense of humour, and will swallow anything that is sufficiently improbable, repeat them as authoritative truth. The amazing thing is that credulous people in the clubs believe them. But, as a matter of fact, politicians will believe anything. I remember one day late in 1914, a Liberal M.P. happened to ask me one morning if there was any information as to what Lord Kitchener intended to say that afternoon in a speech he was announced to make in the House of Lords. The idea that anybody but Lord Kitchener himself would know what he intended to say was too much for my gravity; I laughed and said, "Probably he will announce the Government's policy on Welsh Disestablishment." A Welsh member, who shall be nameless, accosted me indignantly the same evening; he said angrily that he had cut a most important committee meeting to visit the Upper House, had waited there half an hour, "and the speech contained nothing but unpronounceable Russian and Polish names, and not a single word about Disestablishment."

**Westminster Abbey.**

The appeal of the Dean of Westminster for a quarter of a million sterling to restore Westminster Abbey startled the public early in the week. It instantly evoked a sympathetic response, for if there is one spot of earth that is sacred to Englishmen it is "the Abbey," and it gave one rather a shock to discover that the dilapidation was so serious. I visited the building during the week; it was crowded with sightseers, as usual, and although undeniably exquisite, one could not help wishing all the statues away; it is so hopelessly overstocked with bad sculpture that it is difficult to perceive the real beauty of the place. The whole interior seems to require rearrangement; I fancy, too, that the music, which is extremely well rendered, would be heard to better advantage were this done. As it is, the service is perhaps less impressive than that at St. Paul's, where choir and organ alike are almost equal to York Minster, the true Mecca of Anglican church music in these islands.

**A Church Conference.**

The High Churchmen, or, as they prefer to be called, the Anglo-Catholics, have been in conference this week. They have held several impressive services, and raised

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considerable sum of money for missionary and other enterprise. Their activities have been well received, and rather confirm the impression one gets from general conversation in various parts of the country that they are now definitely the leading party in the Church of England.

To all appearances the Enabling Bill which was passed last year will strengthen rather than diminish their power. It is true that it delegates a good deal of power, at least theoretically, to the laity, and the laity, on the whole, are less "High" than the clergy. But the bulk of the laity, which is moderate in its views, takes no part in Church matters, and the energetic minority, which is "High," will naturally obtain the power.

**Wimbledon and the Oval.**

Never was there seen such a string of notabilities as at Wimbledon last week for the tennis; their motor cars filled several of the usually quiet suburban streets, and a considerable number of folk blocked up a neighbouring railway pathway, where they secured something like a free view. I gather that the play was in some ways disappointing. But the boom in lawn-tennis certainly has not detracted from the following of cricket, for the whole of London appeared to turn up at Kennington Oval for Gentlemen v. Players on Saturday. The crush was so great that evening that it seemed more than probable these notes would be written from the casualty ward at a hospital.

**Seaside Sharks.**

I gather that seaside landladies, who have been opening their mouths very wide this season, are disappointed at the refusal of Londoners to sink the whole of their available capital in a month's jaunt to some local Pebblecombe. Their demands are really extortionate: a lady tells me that when hunting for rooms at a place on the East Coast, one remark that was made to her was, "Two guineas a room a week, and no cats, dogs, or babies allowed." The seaside caterers no doubt had a thin time during the war, but it is quite hopeless to recoup themselves at one fell swoop. Unless they learn wisdom, they will merely drive people to take their holidays abroad again, as before 1914. No doubt their aim is to make enough in three months to keep themselves in idleness the remaining nine. But that is an ideal impossible of achievement in these strenuous days.

**A Bank Clerks' Strike.**

A strike of bank clerks has been threatened in Scotland, and for the moment averted. Their life at the best must be intolerably monotonous; they have never been well paid, and one gathers that their war bonus has not kept pace with advancing prices. The immediate cause of the trouble has been the refusal of the bank employers to meet the clerks in a Whitley Council; precisely why this attitude has been assumed is not stated. The public sympathy seemed to be with the clerks, who have, as a matter of fact, another difficulty to contend with—the employment of women.

Women have done very well in the banks during the war, and some managers—who, perhaps, have more susceptible hearts than one usually suspects in a banker—want to keep them permanently. But the rank and file are emphatic in their opposition. Every woman in a bank means one man less, according to their argument; and in one great bank recently a large number were retrenched on account of male opposition. Of course, this has been happening, more or less, in every industry, and the prospects for women's employment for some time to come are far from bright. It is very hard on well-educated and efficient girls, but they are certainly suffering from the evil reputation acquired by the irresponsible "flapper" element during the war—young ladies who had not the least idea of the difference between a debit and a credit.

**The Week's Book.**

The only book of any interest I have chanced upon this week is "Economic Liberty" (Longmans), a series of essays which Mr. Harold Cox has reprinted from the *Edinburgh Review* and other periodicals. Reprinting one's work is always a rather severe test, for the articles of the week or month are not always those of the year, and journalists as well as ladies sometimes change their minds. But this does not apply to Mr. Cox, whose masculine clear-sightedness one may admire even when one disagrees with him. He has no belief in nationalisation, State enterprise, or Guild Socialism—I fancy he even suspects the wisdom of State education, since on a famous occasion, in evidence before a Royal Commission, he gave it as his opinion that beyond taxation and defence the State should only be allowed to look after the drains. "Under no conditions," he says here, "can State regulation ever take the place of the individual conscience: for the action of the State itself depends upon the impulses of the individuals who compose and guide it. For these reasons it is better to endure some evils that may result from the absence of regulations rather than lose the boons that liberty brings."

The whole book is well worth reading, and thoroughly justifies the high reputation held by Mr. Cox in economic and political controversy. Nobody else, in fact, holds quite the same position. Ten years ago everyone thought him rather old-fashioned, particularly the members of his own party in the House of Commons when he exposed the folly of their fads; but as the times change and Mr. Cox does not, we are beginning to think him up to date. We all steal his arguments when we want freedom for our own particular folly, and denounce him as a hopeless reactionary when we want protection for some other fad. But he is always consistent in his views; perhaps that is why the Liberal Party, to which he belongs (or belonged), has no particular use for him.

OCELLUS.

## TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

*The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—*

MONTENEGRO (RELIEF MISSION). PEACE TREATIES: Chimara. ANGLO-PERSIAN AGREEMENT. ASIA MINOR. TURKEY (GREEK OPERATIONS). MESOPOTAMIA: Oil.—Civil Administration. INDIA: Amritsar Disturbances. (June 28.)

PERSIA (SOVIET CONSUL). MESOPOTAMIA: Oil. ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY. (June 29.)

INDIA: Army, British Commissions.—Army and Marine Pensions.—Rice.—Civil Service Pensions.—Homeward Passages.—Export Duties.—Punjab Disturbances.—Disturbances, Calcutta.—General Dyer. MESOPOTAMIA: Housing and Railway Material.—Civil Expenditure and Revenue. TURKEY: Greek Operations. SYRIAN PORTS (GARRISON). INDIA: Disturbances (Inquiry and Convictions).—Prisoners of War, Germany (Army Officers).—Bengal (Canal and Harbour Scheme).—Waterways (Management and Improvement). MESOPOTAMIA. PERSIA (SOVIET TROOPS). (June 30.)

MESOPOTAMIA: Political and Trade Protection.—Oil.—Baghdad Railway. TURKEY: French and Italian Forces.—Greek Operations. CYPRUS: CEYLON (CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM). MESOPOTAMIA (CIVIL ADMINISTRATION). INDIA: Labour (Hours and Age Limit).—Flying Officers' Pay.—Coal Mines (Capital). AFGHANISTAN. TANGIER. MONTENEGRO (PASSPORTS). TURKEY: Seizure of Ships.—Poison Gas. (July 1.)

INDIA: British Troops (Pay).—Afghanistan (Bolshevist Propaganda). THRACE. (July 2.)

The Crimean Republic has issued a combined postage and revenue stamp of the value of 50 kopecs lithographed in large format, with a central device of a double eagle and shield charged with a Greek cross. This stamp is imperforate and printed in chocolate on orange tinted paper.

NISBET

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, June 14.

**The Latest Bomb.**

It is a common saying here that a man is not confirmed in his position as Premier of Egypt until he has had a bomb thrown at him. Tewfik Nessim Pasha is the fourth consecutive Prime Minister who has had this attention paid him, and the seventh Egyptian Minister who has been a target for explosive. Since September 22, 1918, when Sir Mohammed Said Pasha was bombed at Alexandria, up to and including the one thrown at Tewfik Nessim Pasha two days ago, seven bombs have been thrown, and it is a curious feature that each one has been a little more deadly than the last. Though the one thrown at Wahba Pasha some months ago set the back of the car on fire, and the one at Darwish Pasha a month ago killed a student, who is believed to have been the author of the outrage, the latest outrage has been the most successful of them all—from the assailant's point of view. It is true that the Premier was unhurt, but his chauffeur was seriously injured, and to-day's news of his condition merely is "that he is doing as well as can be expected."

**The Nile Projects Commission.**

On Thursday morning last the Nile Projects Commission concluded the hearing of the evidence concerning the physical data upon which the Nile Projects are based. As I have mentioned previously, the issue at the end was whether the incorrect figures published by the Public Works Department were given to the public in good or bad faith. Sir William Willcocks and Colonel Kennedy held that these incorrect figures had been published in an attempt to deceive the public; the defence replied that no motive was given for the alleged falsifications, that no motive could be imagined, and that in the rare instances where, with the abnormally reduced staff, small miscalculations had been made, these were honest mistakes. Chief interest during the final days centred in the protracted cross-examination of Sir Murdoch MacDonald by Sir William Willcocks and Colonel Kennedy. Feeling between the examiner and the examined was often high, and the crowning point came with the last question of Colonel Kennedy's:—

"Sir Murdoch, are you directly or indirectly financially interested in the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, for whom these projects have been designed?"

Sir Murdoch MacDonald: "No, and you are a scoundrel, sir, to ask such a question."

The Public Works employees immediately started to clap, and soon the whole attendance was applauding vigorously—to the disgust of Judge Booth, who informed the gathering that "people who wish to applaud must go outside."

Mr. Maxwell, who has been acting as counsel for the Public Works Department, in his summing up, submitted that though ample evidence had been called to prove that there was no question of dishonesty, people were apt to ask why such eminent men as the plaintiffs should bring such charges when they had nothing to gain and everything to lose. He laid stress on the fact, as it appeared to him, that the plaintiffs were actuated by motives of personal bias against Sir Murdoch MacDonald. The plaintiffs, in their summing up, directed the attention of the Commissioners to the admittedly incorrect figures, and also to the fact that the correct figures for the gauge-readings and Assouan Dam discharges had been in the private records of the Public Works Department. Decision was reserved.

**Politics in Egypt.**

Perusal of the vernacular Press in Egypt, always interesting, is unusually so at the present juncture, for there one can observe the diverse views which the Egyptians themselves hold upon the question of the visit of the Nationalist Delegation to London, and its possible consequences. *Al Mokattam*, one of the two big papers in Cairo, commends the move on the grounds that it is the best thing which could be done, and that the only regret is that it was not done sooner. *Al Watan*, the Coptic organ, and frankly opposed to the Nationalist delegation, professes to be sceptical as to the possibility of any official notice being taken of Saad Zaghloul Pasha and his companions. It also infers that even the members of the delegation themselves are not unanimous in the decision to visit London, and forecasts a split in the ranks of the Zaghloulists. But since this is obviously what *Al Watan* desires it may be taken that the wish is father to the thought. The other papers suspect some catch. Some of them, inspired by the extremists, are contending that as long as the delegation adheres to the terms of its mandate it cannot effect any reconciliation in London—which is only another way of putting the extremists' argument that "We will have no truck with the British." Naturally, the Egyptians as a whole are keenly interested in the trend of events, and official British circles have informed me that there is a growing feeling in favour of a settlement, though, on the other hand, prominent and well-informed Egyptians tell me that any settlement through the medium of the Nationalist delegation would be unacceptable to a large section of the natives simply because it would be made through men who are, in some quarters, unpopular. It is the old game of "personalities, not principles." It is not that the Egyptians want to rule themselves: rather, from the native standpoint, the question is whether Egypt shall be ruled by the Hibn-el-Watani or by the Zaghloulists!

**Another Imposing Funeral.**

Last week there was a repetition in Alexandria and Cairo of a funeral procession similar to the demonstrations arranged a month ago in honour of the students who were killed in the railway accident on the Austrian frontier. The funeral this time was those of Mohammed Farid Bey, late President of the Nationalist Party, who died some months ago in Germany. The body of the deceased politician was brought over on the s.s. Helouan, and on the arrival of the steamer at Alexandria the funeral committee, accompanied by the executive committee of the Nationalist Party, went on board and received the body, which was afterwards transported through immense crowds lining the principal streets. The ceremony was repeated the next day at Cairo, and though the crowds were not as large as those which paid homage to the dead students, they were large enough to obstruct all traffic from the station to Opera Square and Ataba-el-Khadra for most of the afternoon. Good order prevailed in both cities during the passing of the *cortège*.

**Technical Education in Egypt.**

A few days ago the committee appointed to consider ways and means to extend the system of technical education in Egypt, with particular reference to more advanced instruction in irrigation engineering, held its first meeting. It is felt that the present facilities for the instruction of the Egyptian youth in this branch of technical science are woefully inadequate, and the committee is busy inquiring into the systems abroad with the intention of making a report on the best way to bring the national technical schools here into line with those in other countries. For the moment, arrangements are being made for the extension of the school at Giza, and it is not improbable that some students will be sent abroad to complete their education and then return to assist in the development of the irrigation schemes which the Government is ready to start.

CAIRO, June 21.

**The End of the Fast.**

Yesterday was the last day of the feast of Bairam, which was celebrated throughout Egypt with the usual display of rejoicing. The relief felt by the Moslem community after the period of fasting was all the greater in that this year the month of Ramadam coincided with a very trying spell of extreme heat. During the latter

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part of the month some anxiety was felt as to the likelihood of a sporadic demonstration induced by the fervour prevalent during the Bairam feast. With Zaghloul concerting with Lord Milner in London and the native Press confessing itself uneasy as to the probable outcome of the negotiations, the agitators had a golden opportunity. They did manage to engineer a small demonstration at Alexandria yesterday morning, which gathered in strength as it wended its way through the main streets, but when nearing the Cairo station it was tactfully headed off by a posse of native policemen and soon dispersed for want of a definite objective. There is undoubtedly some misgiving among many Egyptians concerning the present trend of political events, in spite of the optimistic tone of the telegrams received from the Nationalist leader; but the fact that the recent critical period has passed without any untoward incidents seems to show that saner counsels are beginning to prevail.

**The Nile Projects Commission.**

For the past few days a rumour has been persistently circulated that the decision of the Nile Projects Commission had been taken and given. In fact, one well-known news agency went so far as to cable to London what purported to be a résumé of the Commission's findings. I have been in touch with members of the Commission and I am assured that no announcement will be made for at least two or three days yet. As by the time these lines appear in print the decision will have been made public, and the matter will, consequently, no longer be *sub judice*, I may be allowed here to anticipate the decision, vindicating the Department. Colonel Kennedy alienated the sympathy of the Commission, the witnesses, and the listeners by his method of conducting his case. Sir William Willcocks, on the other hand, gained wide sympathy by his obvious sincerity. Up to a certain point his contentions were right, and if he had contented himself with pointing out mistakes, and not asserting that these errors were in themselves proof positive of falsification, he would probably have succeeded. As it was, he charged Sir Murdoch MacDonald, the Adviser to the Public Works Ministry, with having falsified the records. Now, Sir Murdoch does not do the whole clerical work of his Department, and it is obvious that an extended series of falsifications would have needed the connivance of more than half of the Department's officials. And to suppose that such a state of affairs could exist would be absurd.

There has been so much public washing of dirty linen in a very much overheated atmosphere, that one would wish the announcement of the Commission's decision would put an end to what has proved to be a painful and regrettable controversy. It is anticipated, however, that echoes of the present proceedings will soon be heard in the criminal court, where an action for libel and defamation of character may be brought by Sir Murdoch MacDonald.

With regard to the projects themselves, I learn officially that work on these is to be proceeded with in the very near future, so that we may sum up the result of the recent unfortunate proceedings as an annoying delay in the execution of urgently needed public works and a lowering of British prestige in Egypt.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, June 19.

**A Demonstration in Favour of the Allies.**

An imposing demonstration took place in Athens last Sunday with a view to offering a vote of thanks to the governments and peoples of the Allied nations for the support they afforded Greece in the realization of her national aspirations. The place of rendezvous was Omonia Square, where the crowd began to concentrate at 6 p.m. Shortly after six the crowd became so dense that all traffic was temporarily suspended.

At 6.30 the demonstrators, displaying the flags of the Allied nations and accompanied by a military band playing the Allied national anthems, proceeded to the town hall, where the Mayor of Athens, M. Patsis, delivered a speech. After the conclusion of his speech the Mayor, with the organising committee, headed the demonstration and passed up Stadium Street to the British Legation, where the following vote of thanks was presented to the British Minister, Earl Granville:—

"The people of Athens, with the conviction that they are voicing the sentiments and opinion of all Greek people, have assembled to-day on the occasion of the liberation of Unredeemed Hellenism, and feel that it is their duty to express their unanimous and firm gratitude to the Allied Governments and people for the material and moral support which they so willingly afforded for the protection and realisation of the Greek rights. The people of Greece will always bear this in mind, and will remain faithful friends to those with whom they fought for humanity and civilisation.'

Earl Granville requested the Mayor to thank the people of Athens on his own behalf and that of the British Government, whereupon the demonstrators gave hearty cheers for Great Britain, whilst the band struck up "God Save the King."

Thence the crowd went first to the Legation of the United States of America and then to the French Legation, where similar votes of thanks were presented. At the latter Legation a committee representing the Greek volunteers who fought on the French front was received by the French Minister, M. de Billy. The crowd finally went on to the Italian Legation and then dispersed.

In spite of the fact that no political character whatsoever was given to the demonstration, there was a considerable amount of cheering for M. Venizelos after the Mayor's speech.

**A New Census.**

A Royal Decree has just been published in the Government *Gazette* ordering a general census of the population of Greece on December 18 and 19 (o.s.) simultaneously with that of all industrial undertakings in the country. The sum of 500,000 drs. has been voted for the expenses of this census.

The last census in Greece was taken in 1907, when the returns given were 2,631,952. In 1913, after the Balkan wars, an improvised census in the newly acquired territories was taken, this showing a population of 2,101,014. Officially the population of Greece to-day is, therefore, 4,732,966. In view of the large influx of refugees from Southern Russia and Asia Minor during the war, and the new territories assigned to Greece by the Peace terms, this new census should prove instructive and interesting, affording valuable information both from a social and political point of view.

June 26.

**Good News.**

The Athenians have been in a state of intense excitement since the beginning of the week. The splendid news that the High Council had at last decided to use the Greek Army to give the *coup de grâce* to the Sick Man of Europe, was known here long before M. Venizelos' official telegram to the Government had been received. Naturally, everybody is full of enthusiasm and quite confident that Greece will fully justify the Great Powers' faith in the capability of her army to cope with the situation, and compel the insolent, though vanquished Turk, to respect the Treaty. The two sections of the Press—Venizelist and Royalist—have, at least for the time being, ceased barking at one another, and point out that in these times the entire nation should forget its family troubles and unite against the common enemy.

At the time of writing, the news of the first successes of the advancing Hellenic troops is to hand, and, although the official *communiqués* are very terse indeed, the Athenians smile contentedly, as they know that there will very soon be none at all.

**A Council of Ministers.**

A Council of the Ministers was held on Wednesday (June 23) at the Ministry of Finance, under the presidency of M. Repoulis.

The following telegram, dispatched by M. Venizelos to General Paraskevopoulos, the Commander-in-Chief of the Greek Army, informing him of the decision of the Great Powers in connection with the proposed measures against Turkey, was read out:—

"The High Council has approved advance. . . . The successful issue of this undertaking will not only afford assistance to our Great Allies, but will, at the same time, raise our prestige and result in copious benefits by assuring the imposition of the peace terms on Turkey. I am certain that this undertaking will be carried out with the utmost dash and prudence. I wish to you and to the entire National Army the complete success which is, after all, guaranteed by the high spirits of the men and the efficiency of their leaders.—Venizelos."

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After discussing the military situation, which was considered exceptionally favourable, the Council of Ministers decided upon an immediate restoration of the Press Censorship, to be applied only in the case of purely miltary and war news. No decisions were taken as to whether the calling-up of certain classes of reserves would be necessary.

**The Moratorium on House Rents.**

The Union of House Proprietors has submitted a memorandum to the Minister of Justice, requesting a revision of the moratorium in force during 1915-1916 by 100 per cent. They likewise propose that in cases where the tenant sublets the house they, and not the latter, should reap the benefit of the increased rent. Only were the tenant to sublet the house furnished should he be entitled to the extra rent for his furniture. This memorandum will be dealt with by a special commission of the Ministry of Justice. Meanwhile there will not be any modification of the moratorium before the end of July next.

**Greek Flag Hoisted at Gumuldjina.**

The Greek flag was officially hoisted at Gumuldjina on the morning of June 22. The ceremony took place in great state in the presence of the civil and military authorities and practically the whole population of the little town. Greek troops, the Boy Scouts, and the schools were lined up outside the Governor's Palace.

The Government representative, M. Vamvakas, delivered a long speech, which he subsequently repeated in Turkish. After the ceremony a deputation of Turks visited M. Vamvakas on behalf of the Turkish element of the town, and declared that they will remain faithful to the new *régime*.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, June 23.

**Opening of Parliament.**

Parliament was opened for a short extraordinary session on Sunday, June 26, when the King read the Speech from the Throne. After expressing his conviction that the newly-elected legislative bodies would devote all their efforts to the furtherance of their country's interests, his Majesty referred with patriotic pride to the union of all Roumanians under one flag, and to the great task which lay before the new Parliament, of adapting the internal organisation of the country to its new conditions and to modern requirements. This, he said, was a task in which all Roumanians must collaborate, and which would take some time to accomplish. The chief business to be undertaken during the short coming session would include the ratification of the treaties of peace and of the decree-laws provisionally signed by him, the drawing up and balancing of the Budget, and the establishment on a systematic basis of the land distribution to the peasants in the new provinces. Until the opening of the autumn session commissions of each house would be occupied in drawing up, with the assistance of the Cabinet, such Bills as were necessary for the introduction of the far-reaching reforms required to meet the new conditions. After reading the Speech, his Majesty formally declared the Parliament open, and he and the Queen left the House.

The Opposition Press is full of adverse comment on the fact that no reference is made in the Speech to the foreign policy of the Government, especially as some apprehension is felt regarding the attitude the Government will adopt towards the suggestion of sending help to Poland in her struggle against the Bolshevists. Various contradictory reports have been published on the subject, but no official pronouncement has been made. It is stated, however, that the Polish Minister in Bucharest, in an interview with a Press representative, informed the latter that the Polish armies were not in need of help.

**A Short-lived Strike.**

Another strike, fortunately of short duration, took place last week. A Syndicalist workman at the Municipal Gas and Electricity Works struck one of the mechanics, and was in consequence suspended by the authorities till the case could be heard. The other Syndicalist workmen took the part of their comrade, and declared a strike the next morning, June 14. The President of the Council of Ministers (General Averescu) then issued the following order:—

(1) If by 5 p.m. to-day the workmen of the gas and electricity works have not returned to work a committee will be appointed to inquire into the cause of the cessation of work. (2) The committee will present its report to the Home Ministry on June 16, at 11 a.m. The strikers may be represented by a delegation of three workmen. (3) In the interval between to-day at 3 p.m. and taking of the decision on the 16th, no workmen will be admitted to the works who have not recommenced work by 5 p.m. to-day. (4) No wages will be paid on strike days on any consideration. (5) If the inquiry proves that the strike has been unjustified, and if the works have suffered any loss through the strike, this loss shall be made good by deductions from the wages of the strikers.

The works were at once put under a military guard, and 50 prisoners of war were brought in to take the place of the strikers, and at 1 p.m. all was in working order. At 5 p.m. a delegation of strikers called on the Minister of Labour, M. Trancu-Iassy, but were told that the Government could hold no negotiations with the strikers until work was resumed. At 7 p.m. the strikers returned to work. General Averescu is to be congratulated on the firm stand he took in this matter. He is evidently determined to put an end to these constant disorders.

**Miscellanea.**

Queen Mary and the Princesses Elizabeth and Ileana left Bucharest by the Simplon express on Monday morning (June 21) for Paris, where they will meet the Princess Marie.

On the same day, shortly before the Royal train started, an accident occurred at the railway station. A woman working among the sheds dropped the end of a cigarette in an underground store where some benzine was kept. An immediate explosion and fire ensued, which damaged the offices above the store and severely injured some of the clerks working there. The woman herself was killed.

A terrible explosion occurred last week at the Reshitsa coal mines (in the Banat). There are reported to be 173 dead and 30 severely wounded. A commission has left Bucharest to inquire into the cause of the disaster.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, June 12.

**A Frontier Incident.**

On the evening of June 3 a Greek force, consisting of four officers and 150 soldiers, attacked the Bulgarian posts south of Dara-Deré and attempted to disarm them, but without success. In the afternoon of the following day other Greek troops, with three officers and two machine guns, reinforced by *Andartis*, attempted to cross the frontier at Ortakeui, for the purpose, apparently, of carrying off sheep belonging to the frontier villages of Gaidohor and Drebishna. The Bulgarian post was attacked and driven off; but assistance soon arrived from the frontier station, and the Greeks were surrounded. No wounded are reported. The Bulgarian frontier guards are occupying their old positions.

The Bulgarian Government, informed of these incidents, addressed a note to the delegate of the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied troops in the East, protesting against these attempts at penetration into Bulgarian territory by Greek troops. The Government has asked for an inquiry.

**A Students' Demonstration.**

The students of both sexes from the Sofia Gymnasia last Sunday demonstrated before the foreign legations,

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with an appeal for the release of Bulgarian prisoners of war in Greece and Serbia. The procession lasted from 10 to 12.30, and it is estimated that 20,000 pupils took part in the demonstration. They carried black flags and placards with inscriptions in French and Bulgarian, and demonstrated in front of the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied troops and the British, Netherlands, French, Italian and American Legations. The Italian Minister received a delegation of the students, boys and girls, and replying to their representations, said that he had already taken steps, and would now take further steps for the repatriation of the Bulgarian prisoners; and he promised to do everything in his power to alleviate the sufferings of the Bulgarian children.

At the British Legation the delegation was kindly received, and a student, Petko Zlateff, made a touching appeal, speaking in English, begging the Minister to do everything possible for the liberation of their fathers and brothers, now prisoners in Greece and Serbia. Sir Herbert Dering, in replying, promised to forward the petition to the British Government, and added that the war had caused a series of misfortunes in all countries, and that he hoped for reconciliation between the nations in the near future. At the other legations the appeal was merely handed in, as the Ministers were absent.

**The Budget.**

At its sitting last Saturday, which was prolonged to midnight, the Budget project for six-twelfths was debated, and after a brilliant speech by the Finance Minister, M. Marko Turlakoff, was passed at its first reading.

**The Thracian Congress.**

Yesterday, in the Slavidinska Beseda Hall, a Congress of representatives from all parts of Thrace assembled. Over 100 delegates took part in the meeting, and the Congress elected as its President, M. Petko Tchorladjieff. Its sittings will last for three days.

**Greeks Search Bulgarian Courier.**

The Greek military authorities in Western Thrace have searched M. Fournedjieff, a Bulgarian Government official, who was on his way to Constantinople, where he has been appointed Financial Assistant of the Bulgarian representative. At the time he was provided with all the necessary documents authorising his journey. Part of the official correspondence, of which he was bearer, was retained. The Bulgarian Government is preparing a most energetic protest against this high-handed act of the Greeks.

The Bulgarian Government has addressed a Note to the representatives of the Entente Powers, urgently appealing to them to take measures to bring about a cessation of the persecution of Bulgarians in Thrace, and to put an end to frontier incidents.

**An Aeroplane Disaster.**

Yesterday morning, the members of the Cabinet and the deputies of the Agrarian groups attended some motor plough trials near Bajourishe village. An aeroplane which was flying over the district met with an accident, and crashed to the ground, killing two deputies, and mortally injuring M. Malakoff, foreign manager of the Agricultural Bank, who succumbed to his injuries shortly afterwards. The King was present at the scene of the disaster, as was also the Prime Minister, M. Stambolisky, who had a narrow escape from death, M. Liaptcheff, who was talking to him, drawing him away just in time.

## TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, June 15.

**Batoum.**

During the last few days rumour has once again been busy with stories of the impending evacuation of Batoum, and this time there is reason to believe that there is some foundation for the report. For some time past there have been exaggerated accounts of the Bolshevist forces in the Caucasus. It is possible that the British Government has been influenced by these stories on the one hand, and on the other by the readiness with which Krassin, the Bolshevist delegate in England, has agreed to almost every proposal that has been made. At this distance, it is, perhaps, impossible to obtain a correct impression of the latter circumstance, but in view of past experience of the value which the Bolshevists attach to promises in general, and in consideration of Krassin's history in particular, it is somewhat surprising that he should be received so affably.

With regard to the Bolshevist undertaking to discontinue the propaganda campaign in the Orient, it should be noted that on May 16 the Soviet Government sent a wireless telegram to the Great National Congress at Angora in which all the Moslems of the East and of Russia were called upon to unite against the British, who were described as "pillagers." The Turks were urged to resist the Peace Terms, and were promised the support of "the Soviet of the Great Russian Revolution." It is also of interest to note that the same announcement proclaimed the annulment of "the treaty concerning the forcible occupation of Constantinople, concluded by the former Tsarist Government of Russia."

The evacuation of Batoum, in any case, would mean the final abandonment of Armenia to her fate, moreover, our departure would be the signal for the commencement of a struggle between the Georgians and the Tartars for the possession of the all-important port, which would simply result in the establishment of Bolshevist dominion. The Caucasus would then become the base of operations against Persia, Mesopotamia, and perhaps Asia Minor, for Bolshevist guarantees to the contrary will not be worth the breath which will be used to express them. The cheapest and easiest way of fulfilling our obligations in regard to Persia, Mesopotamia, and Armenia, is to hold Batoum, which is not only a position that threatens an advance southwards from the Caucasus, but, so long as we hold it, would ensure the despatch of supplies to the Georgians and Armenians, both of whom are opposed to the Bolshevists.

**The Peace Negotiations.**

The hurried departure of the Grand Vizier has been construed in some quarters as an indication of the Government's resolve to sign the Treaty on the expiration of the stipulated period. But there can be no question of this; for counter proposals will certainly be submitted to the Peace Conference. In any case, whether the Grand Vizier signs or not will make very little practical difference, for his authority barely extends beyond the capital itself, and were it not for the Armies of Occupation, he could not hold power for an hour. It is useless to disguise the fact that the Nationalists are masters of the situation in Turkey so far as the government of the country is concerned; and, as I have repeatedly stated in previous letters, any peace terms that are not endorsed by the Nationalists can only be applied by force. It is for the Allies to make up their minds whether they are prepared to exert this force, but it must be remembered that Italy will not lift a finger to force Turkey to cede territory to Greece; the French have proved by their conduct of affairs in Cilicia just how far they are prepared to go; and we ourselves apparently find it difficult to hold Batoum.

The conditions with regard to the Straits Commission can only be enforced by an army strong enough to drive the Nationalists from the southern shores of the Marmora Sea, and to hold a line extending from the Ægean to the Black Sea. We are now holding the solitary port of Ismid, which is, at the present moment, being attacked by the National forces. There is nothing to prevent a raid upon Scutari, Haidar Pasha, or the Asiatic shore of the Bosphorus, if Mustapha Kemal took it into his head to make one. The details of the plot to assassinate the Grand Vizier proved that it is difficult to fix a limit to the audacity of the Nationalists; and the raid upon the aerodrome of Maltepe, within a stone's throw of Haidar Pasha, which resulted in the capture of three aeroplanes, proves that it is unwise to use the word "impossible" with regard to what may happen in this part of the world.

It is reported that negotiations have actually been commenced between the Turks and the Greeks for the purpose of discovering a *modus vivendi*. This, if the

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news be true, is certainly a step in the right direction, even though there may be little hope of a successful termination to the discussions.

**Thrace.**

There has been little news from Thrace, beyond reports of odd encounters between the Greek troops and Bulgarian bands. Jafar Tayar has decreed a general mobilisation, and is said to have about 50,000 men at his disposal. They are very poorly off for artillery, but rifles and small arms ammunition are said to be plentiful. There is no doubt that the Turks are being assisted by a number of Bulgarian *Komitajis*; but the Bulgarian Government has very good reasons for not wishing to offend the Allies in any way, and it is certain that it will do its best to prevent the activity of the bands. On the other hand, it will be very difficult to prevent the activities of the numerous emigrants from Macedonia and Thrace, and of the many officers who, having lost their employment by the reduction of the Bulgarian army, are disinclined for, or unable to find, other employment, and have become soldiers of fortune.

**The Nationalists.**

News from Anatolia is scarce, but there have been reports of feverish preparations for an offensive upon the Smyrna front. Great precautions are being taken to prevent the leakage of news; and since the cessation of the Government campaign against the Nationalists, the latter have instituted a reign of terror in Anatolia. Martial law has been established, and there have been numerous hangings, one of the most pitiful being that of a Major Hairi Bey, who held a command in the Government forces, and of his fifteen-year-old son. As has already been remarked, fighting is in progress with the British force under General Montague Bates, which is occupying Ismid; and rumour has it that there has been a determined attack, but this may be exaggerated. In any case, it will have to be a very determined attack to turn us out, for all precautions were taken long ago. It is more probable that the attack has been made for the purposes of advertisement; for the Nationalists will see to it that wild accounts are circulated in the capital and elsewhere, and they probably expect the Inter-Allied censorship to act with its usual want of perspicacity, and suppress all accounts in the Press.

**Cilicia.**

The Franco-Nationalist armistice seems to be surrounded with mystery, but according to trustworthy information from persons who have returned from the region in question, the French have evacuated the hinterland with the exception of the heights around Aintab, where a small force still remains. So far as can be gathered the Armenian population has mostly been left to the tender mercy of the Turks, and one knows only too well what that means. Hajin, which has been besieged for three months is still surrounded, and its fall is said to be imminent. In this event, the extermination of the population is certain, since their obstinate resistance has infuriated the besiegers. The situation could not very well be worse.

## TRANS-CAUCASIA.

TIFLIS, June 10.

**Storms.**

It never rains but it pours, and both climatically and politically poor Georgia has been undergoing stormy times. There is a local proverb to the effect that no sooner does one get rid of one sorrow than one is faced with another—and a worse. For a long time the most serious menace to the peace and quiet of the new Republic was the volunteer army. On several occasions, only Allied intervention prevented Denikin's troops from blundering down towards the south and involving Georgia in the Russian civil war. The danger passed, but a more evil one took its place. The Bolshevists occupied Vladikavkaz and the North Caucasus, and came to the very doors of Georgia. Soviet power was established in Azerbaijan, and there was a day when things looked very black—one might almost say, very red. Then came the news that the Bolshevist government had recognised Georgia's independence unconditionally, and that a peace agreement had been signed between the two parties. One breathed again, but the Azerbaijan-cum-Bolshevist troops launched an attack on Georgia from the East, and a new war commenced. Thanks to the successful resistance of the Georgian troops, who inflicted heavy losses on the enemy, the latter demanded an armistice, and now this week a peaceful settlement of the strife has been arranged.

**The Adjarians.**

But the troubles are not yet over. For a long time Turkish propaganda has been actively carried on in Adjaria, and Turkish arms have been secretly brought into the district. Gangs of bandits, composed of Turks, Russians, Armenians, and escaped gaol-birds, have been terrorising the country-side, and now there are open hostilities between the Adjarians and the Georgian soldiers. A few days ago the former captured 490 Georgian men and eleven officers, whose arms they seized. The British authorities in Batoum immediately demanded the release of the prisoners, but, so far, the men have not been freed, and the war is likely to develop seriously. There is little doubt but that the Georgians will be able to cope successfully with the rebels, only the orders issued by the British command that no Georgian troops must enter the Batoum Province will have to be altered before the Georgians can have a chance.

**"Soviet" Azerbaijan.**

As was only to be expected, the oil of Islam and watery Bolshevism have not been mixed successfully, and the Reds in Azerbaijan will have their hands very full indeed if they wish to check the growing discontent and the signs of revolt among the Mussulmans. Already the Tartars of Elisavetopol (Gandja) have risen against the new authorities. At first the revolt was successful, but the local Armenians—who, in their own words, would ally themselves with the devil himself, as long as he was against the Mussulmans—played the rôle of traitor, and went to the Bolshevists' assistance at an opportune moment. So the rising was put down, and reports to hand state that the Tartar losses total 10,000 against Soviet losses of 3,000. The violation of over a thousand Mussulman women by the Red soldiers may well rouse the whole Moslem world against them, and it is generally considered to be a mere matter of time before a rebellion on a great scale is brought about against the Russian "liberators."

**Baku.**

Meanwhile, passengers who have arrived from Baku have a dismal story to tell. The Bolshevists have commandeered all stores and sent them off to Russia. Even furniture from the Mussulman houses has been seized and exported. There is a serious food crisis, and the

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small quantities of eatables that still remain are almost prohibitively dear. Sugar, for instance—if one can find it—costs 800 roubles a pound, cheese 700 roubles, etc. Bread is sold to the workman at 5 roubles a pound, but many of the poor people, such as the street porters, who belong to no union, cannot buy at this price, and the distress and discontent are very great. Many speculators—and to a Bolshevist every *bourgeois* is a speculator—have been arrested and sent off to various parts of Russia on terms of forced labour. Perhaps the saddest news is that the British prisoners have been forced to clean the streets. . . .

**The Armenian Mandate.**

The refusal of the United States to accept the Armenian mandate and the Great Powers' perplexity regarding finding any other country sufficiently charitable and brave to take on the job, are not worrying "Independent" Armenia. *Au contraire*, the Armenian official Press seems very much relieved because a mandatory has not been found. *Nor-Ashkhatavor*, one of the Dashnaktzutun organs, writes: "The Allies, who accused their enemies of imperialism, were in need of a formula under which they could conceal their plundering-conquering aspirations. This formula has been called 'protectorate' or 'mandate.'" Then the paper goes on to say cheerfully that as the Allies have each cut off for themselves a dainty bit of Turkey, they cannot possibly digest Armenia as well. But they are anxious to give the mandate to someone in such a way that they themselves would always be assured of a pretext to get some profit. "With this object," says *Nor-Ashkhatavor*, referring to the more or less reliable telegraphic news we get from time to time, "the Entente proposes the mandate to the League of Nations, to Spain, Denmark, Sweden, and Holland—i.e., to such countries as themselves possibly need a mandatory." Finally, "If the Entente really wanted to help Armenia, it could have furnished her with munitions, clothes, and agricultural implements instead of mandatories. . . . . Under the name of 'mandate' new fetters of political and economical enslavement are being forged for the Armenian democracy, which must understand this and refuse the rulers sent to us by Europe." "Independence" in Armenia means being—well, independent."

## CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, June 5.

**Warnings to Emigrants.**

Although Egypt is now forbidden ground for destitute fortune-seekers from Cyprus, the desire to settle abroad, which has always been so strong, is still widespread. The Greek paper, *Phoné tes Kypron*, once more utters an earnest caution. It quotes from an Athens paper an account of a number of Greeks who, since the war, have hastened to America. These Argonauts found no golden fleece in the new Colchis of their dreams. After spending the savings of years, many of them have returned home, not a few having contracted fatal diseases, due to hardships and privations. The paper argues that it would be well if the Government, through the Medical Department, took the whole matter of emigration in hand.

## PALESTINE.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

**Sir H. Samuel's Appointment.**

It is natural that the news of the appointment of Sir Herbert Samuel as High Commissioner should have been received with mixed feelings, according to the varying estimates formed regarding the line he is likely to take when exercising the "mandate." There is no question as to his ability and clearness of vision, which have already been put to the test to some extent during his late mission. Many, however, cannot regard the choice as a wise one, in view of the conflict of races. There is much apprehension that serious friction will occur between Jews and Arabs. Zionist optimists, of course, hold, as Dr. Weizmann does, that one generation of mandatory control will bring about a capacity for autonomy on a democratic basis, as well as full and friendly co-operation of Jew and Arab, and toleration on the part of Moslems and all other creeds. In the still unsettled but vastly improved state of affairs, one thing is certain. It is devoutly hoped that there will be no undue or hasty interference with the machinery that is already working so well, under the able chief administrators who have held office, and which has achieved much towards reconstruction and orderly government. It has been very uphill work under extremely difficult circumstances, seeing that the Ottoman offices were swept clean of everything which the outgoing Turks could take away or destroy.

Sir Herbert Samuel is expected within the next fortnight. The departure of Sir Louis Bols will be very greatly regretted in all quarters.

**An Agricultural Show.**

An agricultural show held recently at Haifa was a success. There were many good exhibits of local products by both Jews and Arabs, and considerable interest was taken in the results. There is much room for improvement in market gardening, and this should be stimulated as the population increases and European tastes have to be satisfied.

**To Check Profiteering.**

An Ordinance to check profiteering, which has now been published, is generally welcomed. A measure to regulate prices is most necessary. A Central Food Board is constituted, which includes representatives from the Departments of Finance, of Law, and of Commerce and Industry. It is empowered to deal with all articles in common use by the public. As regards the provinces, the Military Governor in each of them, on the instruction of the Central Board, appoints a local committee, and the Governor or some officer appointed by him exercises summary jurisdiction, which is not subject to appeal. The Ordinance is to continue in force until December 31, 1920, and thereafter until the Chief Administrator shall declare that it will cease to have effect.

**Marriage Facilities.**

British subjects, and couples of whom one is British, can now be married in Jerusalem, under the Foreign Marriage Act, before the Military Governor of Jerusalem, a warrant having been granted under the hand of the Foreign Secretary. This is satisfactory, for there have been places under British administration where British subjects could not be married unless a vessel happened to arrive with a chaplain on board. In Cyprus, *e.g.*, British couples could not be married for years after the occupation for want of such warrant.

**Miscellaneous News.**

Captain Keith Roach has been appointed Public Custodian of Enemy property in Palestine.

Bedouin rovers still give trouble by small raids, as they see opportunities for plunder. Probably a system of flying patrols of mounted police may be found useful in coping with these marauders in some of the less protected parts.

It is hoped that before long archæological work on systematic lines, whether under British or American direction, may become possible. These should very soon lead to many interesting results in several areas, and replace illicit diggings.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### JEWS AND ARABS IN PALESTINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST"

Sir,—May I call your attention to the letter from a Jerusalem correspondent published in THE NEAR EAST of May 27. The whole letter is imbued with a biased anti-Jewish feeling, and, to say the least, it lacks all accuracy and fairness. The following passage may be quoted to prove my argument: "The recent rising has left a nasty feeling behind it, but people are beginning to realise that it was probably through the influence of certain foreign Jews of Anarcho-Bolshevist tendencies," etc.

The whole passage is so unbased and vague that one cannot help charging the writer with partiality and bias. Who are the people who are beginning to realise? Who are the certain foreign Jews of Anarcho-Bolshevist tendencies?

I would not enter into the rather complicated problem of Jews v. Bolshevists. Let me only emphasise that no Jew is foreign or alien to this country, and that the reputation of the Jewish nation as a law-abiding nation derives its origin from the Jewish tradition in force since the very beginning of the Dispersion, which orders: "that an order of the Government is law." There are no Jews of Anarcho-Bolshevist tendencies in Palestine. If there are any Jews of free tendencies at all, they are all obedient and law-abiding. Whatever the political platform may be of the various parties and papers in Palestine, however they may dissent from each other regarding the various questions involved in Jewish colonisation, they all unite in one important point: From all pulpits they preach the cultivation of friendly relations with the Arabs.

As a native Jew who has come in official contact with many leading Arabs of Government offices, and who knows their language and mentality, let me add that Palestinean Arabs would never attempt to promote anti-Semitism in this country were it not for some ringleaders who were allowed to start a poisonous anti-Jewish campaign.—I am, etc.,

ISAAC A. ABBADY.

Doar Hayom Office,
Jerusalem, June 17.

[We cannot admit that the writer of the letter referred to by Mr. Abbady is biased or shows any "anti-Jewish feeling," but as Mr. Abbady "cannot help" charging him with partiality and bias it would be useless to pursue the

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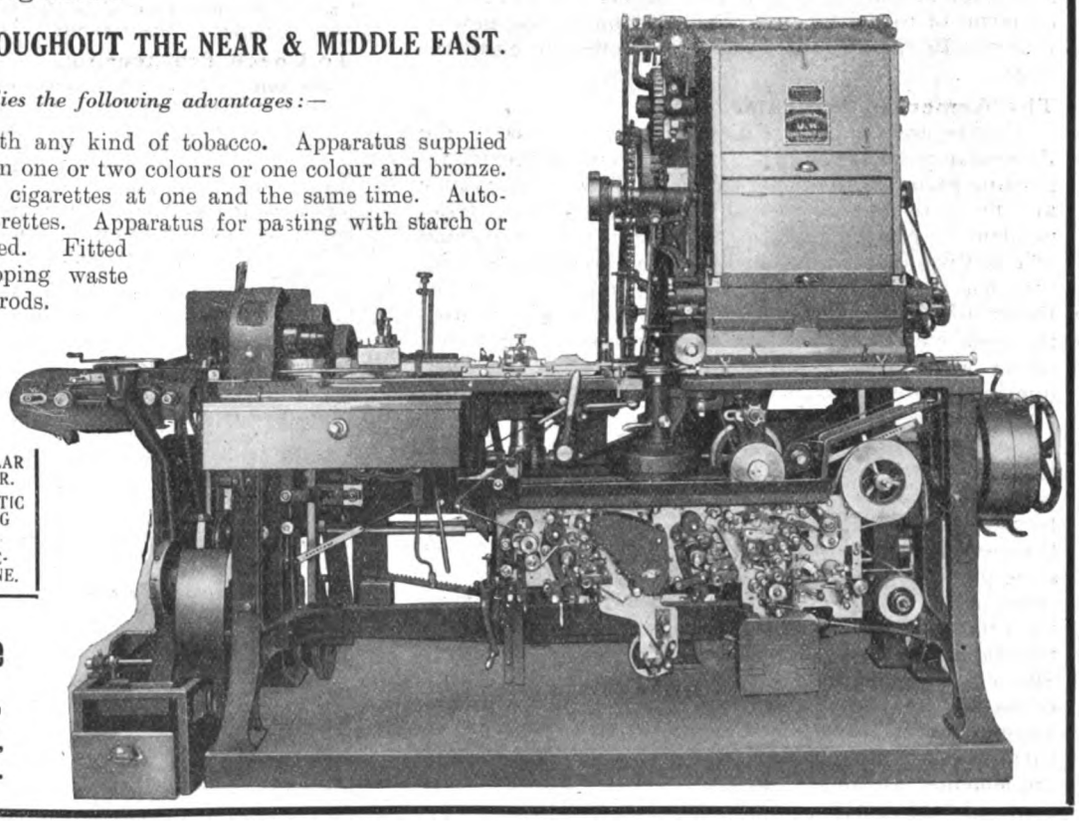

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subject. As to the character of some of the Jewish immigrants into Palestine and the effect of their conduct upon other residents, we have the evidence of an unimpeachable witness in the Bishop in Jerusalem (as published in THE NEAR EAST of June 24), and of numerous other witnesses. The law-abiding character of the Jews and their other excellent qualities were not in any way impugned by our Correspondent.—ED.]

## UNION WITH EASTERN CHRISTENDOM.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Recent events have brought us of the Church of England into very much closer relations with the Eastern churches, and it would be, we believe, good both for us and for them, that our closer relations should be developed into mutual understanding and, if it may be, inter-communion. The Archbishop has appointed a committee of a weighty character to supervise all our relations with our Eastern fellow-Christians, and this committee, of which I have the honour to be chairman, is doing a great deal of profitable work, and has much more that it can do, especially in view of the approaching visit of an eminent Orthodox Metropolitan and other ecclesiastical persons, who have been appointed at Constantinople (at the suggestion of our Archbishop) to confer with our Lambeth Conference. Only we are held up by lack of funds.

The Church of England Central Fund is at present sadly inadequate. It cannot finance us. We are in this anomalous position—we have not only to give our services gratuitously but to find our funds. We have appointed our secretary, and we must pay him and the modest office expenses, and we must at once prepare to entertain the Eastern delegation sent at the Archbishop's request. For such purposes we need £1,000 this year: we can afterwards hope to get on barely with £700 a year. We have received from societies and a few other sources about £280 for this year only. But we feel that there is a number of people, some of whom have means, who are really deeply interested in our relations with the Eastern churches, and I am asking the hospitality of your columns at the request of our committee in order to beg of them to help us out of our difficulties by sending as much as they can spare for this object without delay, to either our treasurer, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Samuel Hoare, Bart., C.M.G., or our secretary, the Rev. H. J. Fynes-Clinton, in either case at 27, Finsbury Square, E.C.2, our present office.

I earnestly beg the friends of our cause to be generous and prompt, otherwise our situation is desperate.—I am, etc.,

CHARLES GORE.

Eastern Churches Committee,
6, Margaret Street, W.1, June 28.

## THE OCCUPATION OF THRACE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—With reference to a certain statement which has appeared profusely in the Press, in which the British public is informed that the Bulgarians of Western Thrace swarm into their Mother country flying in terror of the Greek "invasion" and its "consequences," may I refer you to the Bulgarian journal *Zora*, of June 3, in which the following has been published:—"The Association of the Bulgarian Journalists have, along with other European pressmen in Mustapha Pasha, visited the Bulgarians who are coming back from Thrace, where they had established themselves since 1913, and which the Bulgarian Press call the refugees of Thrace. M. Nigris, the correspondent of the *Gazette de Lausanne*, was amongst the foreign pressmen."

In the *Messager d'Athènes*, of June 18, a telegram, dated the 17th, from Gumuljina, says that 200 Bulgarian families, who had left Derbent (Sutli district) for Mustapha before the Greek advance into Thrace, are now asking the Greek authorities to allow them to return. Many other Bulgarian families return to their homes (which they had left owing to the instigation of the Bulgarian comitadjis). On the other hand, I have read that the nomadic Bulgarian shepherds have assured M. Vamvakas (the Greek Governor p.i.) of their loyalty to the Greek Government.—I am, etc., THEODORE D. MOSCONAS.

32, Oxford Street, Manchester.
July 1.

The Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post* writes (July 2):—At the gala performance given at the Opéra yesterday for the production of the Queen of Roumania's fantasy, "The Lily of Life," on behalf of Roumanian charities, the Queen was present, accompanied by her daughters and Marshal Pétain. Among the audience were the British Ambassador and Lady Derby, most of the other Ambassadors and Ministers, Madame la Maréchale Foch, the Dowager Duchesse de Rohan, the Duc and Duchesse de Talleyrand, the Grand Duke Dmitri, and many other well-known people. The play consists largely of singing and dancing, and is full of fantasy and poetic charm. The story concerns a young prince who comes seeking his sweetheart, and falls ill at the moment the wedding should take place. He is apparently dying when his bride learns from a book that there exists a miraculous lily, of Life, that may save her lover. She searches the world for the wonderful flower, which she finds and carries to the prince, who recovers his health. Loïe Fuller's dancing pupils made the stage a fairyland, and music by Debussy, Moussorgsky, Rimsky-Korsakoff, Grieg, and Mendelssohn added to the charm of the piece. "The Lily of Life" is to be played throughout Europe and America for the benefit of the Roumanian and Belgian wounded.

# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

### Palestine.

In *Palestine* of June 19 there is an article entitled "The New Order," which is a commentary upon the statement of policy issued by Sir Herbert Samuel, the High Commissioner for Palestine. Incidentally, it makes the following reply to those critics of Zionism who believe that Great Britain is to bear the cost of economic reconstruction of the Jewish National Home:—

In so far as improvements are carried out by the Government of Palestine they will have to be paid for out of the revenues of Palestine. In so far as they are to be carried out by private enterprise, or by the organised Jewish people, then again no charge will fall upon the British Exchequer. Indeed, it is precisely because Palestine is to become the Jewish National Home that the British Exchequer will be relieved of the cost of developing the country, since the Jewish people will supply what otherwise would have had to come from the British taxpayer. It may be objected that Great Britain will still have to pay for the garrison in Palestine. To that there are two answers. In the first place, Great Britain would have to garrison Palestine even if there were no question of Palestine becoming the Jewish National Home. It would be utterly impracticable for Great Britain to evacuate Palestine and utterly impracticable to stay there without an adequate force upon which she could rely to maintain British authority and interests. The second answer is that the Jewish National Home alone provides a guarantee that the British garrison in Palestine will be reduced to its minimum, that in the future Palestine will be able to assume responsibility for her own defence, and that if a crisis should arise a Jewish Palestine side by side with the other self-governing Dominions will take her share of the common burden. The British garrison will not be needed for the maintenance of internal order. That will be secured by a local gendarmerie, paid out of local funds and involving no charge upon the British Exchequer. As the colonisation of the frontiers develops, the colonists will increasingly provide for the defence of their own borders, and the Palestinian garrison can be correspondingly reduced. It may be convenient, in the future, as in the past, to station a portion of the Egyptian garrison in Palestine because of the healthiness of Palestine. But a clear distinction will have to be drawn between the two bodies of troops, and what stands to the credit of Egypt must not be attributed to Palestine. That will be an easy enough matter, for the Palestine High Commissioner will be Commander-in-Chief of the Palestine garrison, and what forces are under his control will be indicated.

### Syria.

In the issue for June 15 of *Correspondance d'Orient*, Dr. George-Samné writes upon "The Syrian Dilemma." He comments upon the present sufferings of Syria, and describes the origin of the trouble thus:—

It is to be found in the violence done to this country, of which a united policy was the ideal, and which unheard of intrigues, tolerated by a maladroit diplomacy, have mutilated frightfully. The separation of Palestine—a mad, arbitrary act—is one cause of the moral trouble; and the installation of a tyrannical and retrograde regime in the hinterland is at once the cause of moral trouble and material disorder. Damascus governed by Faisal is a veritable nest of disease of which the ramifications spread far, and the poison of which ravages almost throughout Asia Minor. France gravely suffers the effects of this evil which is not of her making, and in which she has done wrong only in allowing it to develop through feebleness and through her too great willingness to make concessions to her Allies.

He proceeds to an examination of the Algerian and Moroccan questions, which, he says, are not parallel with the Syrian problem. There appear to be two solutions, he states, between which France must choose:—

Either wholly to renounce the mandate which has been conferred upon her, to abandon Syria to anarchy, and to take no further interest in the future of the East; or to oblige Faisal, either by persuasion or by violence, to conduct himself as a civilized man, or to return to his true home which it were better he had never left.

The first solution Dr. Samné finds impossible: "the retreat of France would be a crime against humanity." Of the second he says:—

It is necessary, therefore, to take up a clear and definite attitude towards Faisal. It is necessary to persuade him to modify his policy, or, rather, it is necessary to persuade England, whose creature he is, to order him imperatively to show himself worthy of the throne of which he has judged himself worthy, if he does not wish to be expelled from his kingship *by Europe*.

He concludes by describing methods of taking action against the Emir Faisal.

### Articles to Note

"The Turkish Treaty," by H. Charles Woods; "Spain's Position in Morocco," by A Student of Foreign Affairs; and "The Hunter Report and Amritsar," by Stanley Rice, in the *Fortnightly Review* (July).

"Reflections on the Hunter Report," by Sir O'Moore Creagh, V.C., G.C.B., in the *Nineteenth Century* (July).

"The Indian Peril," by Major-General Sir George Younghusband, K.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., C.B., in the *New World* (July).

"The Mad Mullah from British Somaliland," by D. J. Jardine, in *Blackwood's* (July).

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## MUSICAL NOTES.

Sincerity in art is perhaps an exaggerated virtue, but it has its uses, and though I would not charge Miss Dorothea Webb, who gave a vocal recital at the Æolian Hall on June 23, with it on all occasions, there was something a little heroic in the undaunted way in which she fought her way through a consistently dreary programme. Some classical songs by Beethoven, Schubert, and Schumann were given very well, with the exception of "Gretchen am Spinnrade," in which the spinning-wheel went at so slow a pace that the dear Gretchen ought to have been accused of malingering. (As a matter of fact, she was, of course, heart-sick; but that was no excuse for shirking her work.) Miss Webb was excellent in a fine song, "The Night-Piece," by Ernest Walker; but she was disappointing in Martin Shaw's "Summer," emphasising rather the hot stillness than the full-stop-less movement of Christina Rossetti's verse. The second part of her programme echoed the gloom of the first; but though the first song—an extraordinary folk-song from the Appalachians about a mother killing her children with a pen-knife—plunged us even more deeply in sorrow, we passed through the various stages of "Death" and "Sleep" to the happy and beautiful "Si Bella Mercede" of Leonardo Vinci ,and "La Belle Francoise." Miss Webb sings well: she is an artist of temperament, though that temperament as yet has not sufficient sides. Her subdued passion and sense of tragedy are beautiful things, but to complete her career she needs vim and fire, and above all the simple attribute of jollity.

An almost entire contrast to the above singer was provided by Miss Anne Thursfield, whose song recital was at the Wigmore Hall on June 24. She is an absolute mistress of the light, frolicsome touch, and her tone colour is finely developed in every direction. Her French songs are an utter joy, so pure and fresh is her diction in this language. Four songs by Arnold Bax, in which she was accompanied with rare sympathy by the composer, failed, with the exception of the "Shieling Song," to convince, because in Bax's misty imagination the vision of the song has not sufficiently crystallised, and the expression is therefore rather amorphous. In perfect songs by Rachmaninoff and Gretchaninow, which were sung in Russian, Miss Thursfield sang most finely; we have heard these songs so many times in French or in English that we knew where to look for the coloured beauties, and we found them there most surely. In all that she did Miss Thursfield showed herself to be one of the most artistic singers before the English public. It was rather unfortunate that she chose to do the fashionable thing in concluding her programme with "Madam Noy," a witchery song by Mr. Arthur Bliss, for voice, flute, clarinet, bassoon, viola, double-bass, and harp. The music was a most obvious commentary upon the plain words, and was far below the standard of what Miss Thursfield had previously sung.

---

To a singer the prospect of age must be dreadful. For, whereas those who are skilled in the use of a tangible instrument may reasonably hope to exercise their skill until they die, those who use only the vocal instrument have at the end of their life a bleak period of enforced inactivity. Now it must be very difficult for the singers to know when that bleak period should begin. In judging of those who know not when to stop, one ought to be duly forgiving; and although Madame Calvé, who gave a recital at the Queen's Hall on June 25, certainly does not come within this category, I shall always regret very much that I did not hear her when she could sing. Her personality, vivacity, technique—in fact, all the things that age cannot wither, remain to her, but the elasticity, the freshness, and the pure conviction of her voice seem gone for ever. It cannot be denied that she still has immense skill, and a kind of undiscerning sincerity — I have never heard Bizet's "Habanera" done as magnificently as she did it, nor have I heard such trashy ballads as Ralph Burnham's sung with so much apparent sincerity—but her future lies in the past. Her gestures are superb, but even they were not compensation for the lack of music in many of the songs she sang. Quite deservedly she is a favourite; but why, oh why, will "favourites" think it right to sing as encores "Quand tu chantes" and "Comin' Through the Rye"? As an offset to the record of such dismal facts as these, it must be added that at this concert Mr. Harold Samuel and M. Louis Fleury accomplished some splendid playing in Bach's sonata in B minor for flute and pianoforte. M. Fleury plays the flute as well as any one I know, and Mr. Samuel's Bach is now a matter for attention, respect, and agreement.

If Madame Calvé be near the end of her singing history, it is at the other end of the art that one must place Princess Obolensky-Yourievsky, who appeared for the first time before an English public at the Queen's Hall on June 25. It is rather difficult to know what allowance to make for her nervousness; but greater confidence will give her many things which on this occasion she did not appear to possess, and will remove (as I doubtfully hope) as many unpleasant things—general thinness of voice and *vibrato* tone, for example. Her choice of songs was wondrous, her second group, which consisted of two songs by H. Bemberg and two by Isidore de Lara, being particularly undistinguished. She was assisted by M. Montoriol Tarres and Mr. Murray Davey. M. Montoriol Tarres, who is a Spanish pianist of some fame, is a dashing, but by no means an ostentatious player; his Chopin was quite straightforward, but in a dance of Grandos he performed with an unexpected restraint that made it extremely enjoyable. Mr. Murray Davey, who is a fine, hearty bass, consterned me by behaving like a music-hall artist. In something called "Jogging Along," written by H. Samuel, he gave us the unique sight of seeing him try a gag that one had previously thought was confined to Mr. Whit Cunliffe and his compeers. But possibly his performance seemed worse than it was (or than the fashionable occasion demanded), owing to the appalling number of crashingly wrong notes that resounded from the fingers of the accompanist, Mr. Aylmer Buesst.

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In Mlle. Odette St. Lys, who appeared at the Æolian Hall on June 30 in her Yvette Guilbert repertoire, I was extremely disappointed. There was no life in her interpretations, her gestures were mechanical, and her voice was often out of tune. Most of the French songs which she sang with string quartet accompaniment (chiefly 17th and 18th century) are very delightful compositions, but of their charm she needlessly robbed them. The situation was, however, not entirely lost, for the London String Quartet played Waldo Warner's "Fantaisie"—a consolation for which one was duly grateful.

---

On June 30 Mr. Samuel Dushkin, the young Russian violinist, who is much favoured by the discerning, gave his last recital this season at the Wigmore Hall. He commenced with César Franck's Sonata in A major. To this work, which does not quite suit his quiet, intellectual style, Mr. Dushkin brought a clean and balanced interpretation, which, however, was not shared with his accompanist, Mr. O'Connor Morris. Mr. Morris is a fast improving pianist, but he overdid his side of the Sonata, and with anyone less cool than Mr. Dushkin, might have produced a forcing of tone. As it was, the pianoforte in the climaxes generally had the first and the last word. Mr. Dushkin has a positive genius for eighteenth century music, for both the playing and the finding of it. At this concert he brought forward an unknown (to me) concerto by Benda, with string quartet accompaniment. It was played perfectly, but I did not discover many distinctive notes in it. More or less naturally, it was charming, but in the content of it there appeared to be little that could not have been turned out by any composer of the period. In a Menuet of Gaspard Friz and a Sicilienne and Ritournelle of Rebel the violinist was at his best, which indeed is perfection. It was with quite rare insight that he played a Sephardic Chant (a Hebrew Folk-song); and just to show that he can do (though he does not often choose to do) such things, he played with the utmost ease Paganini's Caprice (No 20). In Mr. Dushkin's playing there is nothing false; every note has its value, but it is always in proportion and in place. He has a refinement, a dignity, and a scholarly sense of leisure that are not common in violinists nowadays, and he is, therefore, one of the few who never fail both to please and to charm.

ANDANTE.

## THE SITUATION IN MESOPOTAMIA.

The following *communiqué* (dated July 2), regarding the situation in Mesopotamia, has been received from the India Office:—

Suitable punishment was meted out to the town of Tel Afar, the houses of those primarily responsible for the murders were destroyed, and other measures were taken with a view to preventing a repetition of similar outrages. Since the abortive attacks on our lines of communication were repulsed on June 10, only one minor attack has been made, without casualties to either side. The usual celebrations to mark the end of Ramadan passed off quietly throughout the country.

The Divisional Councils of Baghdad and Diwaniyah and other centres have passed resolutions definitely dissociating themselves from the demand and attitude of the extreme party in Baghdad. Unrest at Kerbella, where extremists have been liberally financed apparently from Turkey, reached a point at which it became necessary to arrest the ringleaders, whose aim appears to have been the creation of anarchy now and restoration of Turkish sovereignty later on. Certain arrests have also been made at Hillah. These arrests have been welcomed unanimously by the principal chiefs of the tribes and by all members of the Hillah Divisional Council.

Revenue is coming in satisfactorily, and public order is being most satisfactorily maintained. Elsewhere in Mesopotamia all is quiet.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"MARVELLOUS MESOPOTAMIA: THE WORLD'S WONDERLAND." By J. T. Parfit, M.A. (S. W. Partridge and Co. 6s. net).

II.—"DALMATIA AND THE JUGOSLAV MOVEMENT." By Count Louis Voinovitch. (London: George Allen and Unwin. Ltd. 10s. 6d. net).

III.—"AMRITSAR AND OUR DUTY TO INDIA." By B. G. Horniman (London: Fisher, Unwin. 6s. net.)
"INDIAN NATIONALISM: ITS ORIGIN, HISTORY, AND IDEALS." By K. M. Pannikar and an Englishman. (London: The Faith Press. 2s. net.)

## I.—MESOPOTAMIA.

During the war Canon Parfit did good service by lecturing upon Mesopotamia and on German schemes in the Near East, and his lectures and pamphlets served to draw public attention to a theatre of the war that was little known in England, and apt to be neglected by the Government in spite of fine promises. In this book he covers the same ground once more, but the addition of material gathered since the Armistice brings it up to date, and though it is inclined to be scrappy, it is distinctly interesting. It does not, however, go very deep, and the author sometimes gives us the impression that he is inclined to base too wide conclusions upon insufficient evidence. Thus, in his first chapter his conclusions regarding the possibilities of Mesopotamia in the way of cotton growing are, to say the least, premature; and after having heard distinguished authorities discussing the "salting" of the plains, its causes, and the chances of curing the evil, we are not sure that the question is quite so simple as it is here represented to be.

These things, however, are by no means fatal blemishes in a book the appeal of which is obviously of the popular kind, and if any readers are induced by Canon Parfitt to make further investigations into the problems of Mesopotamia, they will owe the author a debt of gratitude. In any case, they will find much to interest them in the author's description of the land as it is to-day, of its ancient monuments, its sacred cities (past and present) and its fascinating inhabitants. The descriptions of the Battle of Shaiba and of the Siege of Kut are of some historic value. But for our part we must admit that we have found the sections dealing with the German schemings in connection with the Baghdad Railway and the Persian Gulf far the best things in the book. The record of Great Britain in the Gulf is one that we may well be proud of, and we are glad that Canon Parfit has devoted so much space to it, although it lies outside his title, strictly speaking. The German attempts to gain a footing, first at Lingah and then at Bahrein, and to get the better of Sheikh Mubarek of Koweit, are described at some length, and the contrast between British and German methods of advancing the cause of civilisation is well brought out in the process.

There are many good tales in the book. The one we like best is that of certain holy men at Bushire who were told by the British India Agent that a steamer by which they wished to travel would arrive at six o'clock the following morning. They reproved the Agent for omitting to say "Inshallah" ("Please God"), and he accepted the rebuke, but warned them none the less to be punctual. "So on the following morning they were sitting on the beach at dawn, when, sure enough, at six o'clock the mail steamer arrived four miles from the shore at its customary anchorage. "There it is," said the Agent; "I told you it would be here." "Wonderful! Wonderful!" exclaimed the holy men. "This cannot be the work of God; it is the doings of the English."

There are many good illustrations in the book, but the maps, especially that showing the overland routes through Aleppo (p. 14), are on too small a scale to be of real use.

## II.—DALMATIA.

Dalmatia is a little country, with little over half-a-million inhabitants, but its situation on the eastern shore of the Adriatic, confined between the sea and the Dinaric Alps to a narrow strip of coast and hilly land, has given it an importance quite out of proportion to its population in the history of the Near East. For centuries it has been a bridge between Europe and the Balkans and all that lies behind them, and the fact that the best Adriatic ports have been on the Eastern shore, while its numerous islands and inlets have made its coast line a constant potential danger to any Power desiring the mastery of the Adriatic Sea, has been the direct cause of numerous wars and quarrels which have continued to the present day.

There is plenty of room for a history of Dalmatia. But it is not to be found in this book. The author, a patriotic and learned Dalmatian, has clearly the knowledge and reading to enable him to have written the history which we should have liked to see. But what he has written is merely propaganda. There was good reason for the book when it originally appeared, in French and Italian, in 1917. But the whole object of the book is to prove and insist on the essential Slavism of Dalmatia. This was not clear in 1917, but is now generally recognised, even by the Italians, and to bring out a work on such a subject in 1920 resembles the flogging of a dead horse. The work is carried out in far too rhetorical, one-sided, and incoherent a manner to be of any permanent interest. The way in which the author keeps leaping from date to date and back again is merely baffling to the would-be student, and the summary of early history is almost unreadable. We can only hope that Count Louis Voinovitch will avail himself of the period of peace and quiet which we trust is in store for Dalmatia to divest himself of partisanship and rhetoric, to continue his studies, and to give us an impartial and consecutive history of his beloved and beautiful land.

A word should be said for the production of the book, which reflects the greatest credit on its publishers, though we should have liked to see this labour devoted to something of more real value.

C. S.-W.

## III.—INDIAN POLITICS.

We notice these two books together for the simple reason that we cannot recommend either of them to the student of Indian politics, the views they express having been expounded with more ability in various works published during the last year or so. The only novelty we have found is in the illustrations to Mr. Horniman's book; he has been able to reproduce photographs of the infliction of punishments under martial law, and surely no better testimony could be given to the essential mildness of that régime in the Punjab than that the use of a camera was possible.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Life Beyond the Veil." Spirit messages received and set down. By the Rev. G. Vale Owen. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Limited, 6s. net.)

"Four Blind Mice." By C. C. Lowis. (London: The Bodley Head. 7s. net.)

"The Duchess of Siona." By Ernest Goodwin. (London: W. Collins, Sons and Co., Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"With the Serbs in Macedonia." By Douglas Walshe. With numerous illustrations. (London: John Lane. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Eastern Question and its Solution." By Morris Jastrow, Jnr. (Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Co. 6s. net.)

"Discovery in Greek Lands: A Sketch of the Principal Excavations and Discoveries of the Last Fifty Years." By F. H. Marshall. (Cambridge: University Press. 8s. 6d. net.)

"Currencies After the War: A Survey of Conditions in Various Countries." Compiled under the auspices of the International Secretariat of the League of Nations. (London: Harrison and Sons. 7s. 6d. net.)

"From the Gulf to the Caspian, 1916-1919: The 33rd M.A.C. Abroad." (Llandrindod Wells: "The Wells" Advertising Agency.)

"India in Conflict." By P. N. F. Young, M.A., and Agnes Ferrers. (London: S.P.C.K. 3s. 6d. net.)

"An Outline of the Religious Literature of India." (The Religious Quest of India Series.) By J. N. Farquhar, M.A., D.Litt. (London: Oxford University Press. 18s. net.)

"Life and Work of Sir Jagadis C. Bose. M.A., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S., C.I.E., C.S.I." By Patrick Geddes. With portraits and illustrations. (London: Longmans Green and Co. 16s. net.)

"Indian Trade Enquiry: Reports on Hides and Skins." (London: John Murray. 6s. net.)

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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

## CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

**Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish Dates.**

| Gregorian (New Style). | Julian (Old Style). | — | Moslem. | Jewish. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1920. July | 1920. June. | | 1338. Shawal. | 5680. Tamuz. |
| 8 | 25 | Thursday ..... | 21 | 22 |
| 9 | 26 | Friday ..... | 22 | 23 |
| 10 | 27 | Saturday..... | 23 | 24 |
| 11 | 28 | **Sunday** ..... | 24 | 25 |
| 12 | 29 | Monday ..... | 25 | 26 |
| 13 | 30 | Tuesday ..... | 26 | 27 |
| 14 | July 1 | Wednesday ..... | 27 | 28 |

Lord Plumer left Corfu on June 29 for Sicily and Malta.

The Greek Metropolitan of Constantinople has arrived in London.

Princess George Bibesco arrived in London on June 30 from Paris.

Sir Herbert Samuel, the new High Commissioner, arrived in Jerusalem on June 30.

His Highness Nasir-el-Mulk, late Regent of Persia, left London on July 1 for Paris.

Lord Allenby has contracted a slight chill, after bathing, and on medical advice is keeping to his bed.

M. Gennadius, the Honorary Greek Minister, and Mme. Gennadius have left town for Bournemouth.

Admiral Sir Ernest Troubridge, chairman of the International Danube Commission, left London on July 1 for Budapest.

The degree of D.D. Honoris Causa is to be conferred by the University of Cambridge upon the Bishop of Calcutta, Metropolitan of India.

Brigadier-General R. Worgan, of the 20th Deccan Horse, has been gazetted Military Secretary to the Prince of Wales during his visit to India.

Professor Nedjib Hindie, formerly Professor of Arabic at King's College, has arrived at 5, Ashburn Place, S.W., from Constantinople and Cairo.

Capt. Hamilton Fish Armstrong, lately American Military Attaché at Belgrade, Serbia, will make his home in New York at 128, East 36th Street.

On the occasion of his departure, Sir L. J. Bols, Chief Administrator of Palestine, was entertained by the American colony at Jerusalem on June 30.

A garden party was given by Lord and Lady Derby at the British Embassy in Paris on July 3 in honour of the Queen of Roumania. A large and brilliant company was present.

Professor Seton Watson, the editor of the *New Europe*, who is on a short visit to Roumania, received a warm welcome from the members of the Government at Bucharest on June 28.

Queen Marie of Roumania and her two daughters were present at Verdun on July 6, when Prince Ghika, the Roumanian Ambassador to France, decorated the city with the Roumanian Military Medal for Valour.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—Mr. du Boulay, the Auditor, is proceeding on leave to England. Mr. W. Francis, Government Analyst, has accepted an appointment in British Guiana, and will leave shortly.

### SUDAN CIVIL SERVICE.

The following gentlemen have been selected as probationers for the Sudan Civil Service:—

A. J. Arkell, M.C., Major C. L. Armstrong, D.S.O., M.C., S. G. Budgett, Major C. G. Davies, M.C., Captain G. F. Ellenberger, M.C., Captain J. A. de C. Hamilton, M.C., J. M. Humphry, M.C., F. D. Kingdon, M.C., Major R. C. Mayall, D.S.O., M.C., Captain J. W. E. Miller, Major D. E. Randall, M.C., C. H. L. Skeet, Capt. R. J. P. Wyatt, M.C.

At the Conference of the British Medical Association, which met at Cambridge on July 1, Dr. J. B. Christopherson, in a demonstration before the Tropical Diseases Section, spoke of bilharzea, which has been described as the new plague of Egypt.

Lady Roper Parkington, hon. treasurer of the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund, continues seriously ill, and unable to attend to correspondence; but letters addressed to her at Claridge's Hotel, W., will be forwarded, and receive prompt attention.

Mr. L. Pilichowski, the Jewish artist, is promoting a scheme whereby Palestine may become the home of some of the best of the world's art treasures. He proposes to issue a manifesto inviting gifts of pictures, sculpture, ancient books, and relics for exhibition at Jerusalem.

The English Zionist Federation is organising a demonstration to celebrate the acceptance by Great Britain of the mandate for Palestine as the Jewish National Home. The demonstration will be held at the Royal Albert Hall, on July 12, at 7.45 p.m., and amongst those who have promised to address the meeting are Mr. Balfour, the Marquis of Crewe and Lord Robert Cecil.

The King has granted unrestricted permission to Mr. Lancelot Edward Barrington-Ward, F.R.C.S., to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of St. Sava, conferred upon him by the King of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in recognition of the services which he rendered to the Serbian sick and wounded under the auspices of the Serbian Relief Fund during the late war.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (June 23):—Among the British officers who have been recently decorated by the King of Roumania are:—General Sir W. N. Congreve, Crown of Roumania, with swords; Major-General Sir G. F. Gorringe, Star of Roumania (Grand Officier); and Lieut.-Colonel Beor (Oxford School of Aviation), Star of Roumania (Officier), and several others.

The first of two open-air performances, initiated by the Union of East and West, of the Indian play "The Hero and the Nymph" was given on July 3 by the Indian Art and Dramatic Society in the garden of Lord Leverhulme's house at Hampstead. The play was written in the Fourth Century by Kalidasa, described by some as "the Shakespeare of India," and has been adapted from the original Sanskrit and translations by Mr. Kedar Nath Das Gupta, hon. organiser of the Union.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The appointment of Lord d'Abernon, G.C.M.G., to be His Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Berlin is officially confirmed. Our readers will remember that Lord d'Abernon has held the position, among others, of Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, and of Governor of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Constantinople.

Mr. Philip Joseph Hartog, C.I.E., M.A., B.Sc., Academic Registrar of the University of London, has been offered, and has accepted, the appointment of Vice-Chancellor of the new University of Dacca, in Bengal. The appointment is made by the Governor-General of India in Council in accordance with the terms of the Dacca University Act recently passed in the Indian Legislative Council.

## OBITUARY.

### SIR ALEXANDER BAIRD.

(From Our Cairo Correspondent.)

The local British community has during the past week been plunged into mourning by the death of Sir Alexander Baird, Bart., which occurred at his beautiful residence at Mataria on June 20. The deceased gentleman, who counted his friends among every class, creed and nationality in Egypt, has long been looked upon as the unofficial head of the British community in this country, where for over forty years he has played a prominent part in social and public life. He first came to Egypt as a young man and an invalid, and even in those early days rendered valuable services to the country by his work for the relief of the starving peoples of Upper Egypt in the famine year of 1879. In the following year he again visited Egypt with his family, when his kindness and hospitality made him the central figure in the then small British community. It was then that Sir Alexander decided to make Egypt his home, and since that time he has grown in the

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esteem and affection of his fellow-countrymen. Intimate with most of the great personalities in the political arena during the past forty years, the friend of three Khedives and two Sultans, of Nubar and Riza, of Burton, of Gordon, and of hosts of others of all nationalities and every shade of opinion, he was justly regarded as an authority on all matters Egyptian. His opinion was frequently sought by those in power, his long experience of the country and his sincere interest in its welfare rendering his advice on difficult and delicate questions invaluable. His charity was boundless, and many have reason to remember him as a generous friend in need, while to a brother Scot in want he never turned a deaf ear. He was the soul of hospitality, and made a perfect host. A brilliant raconteur with an excellent memory, he had a delightful fund of anecdotes ranging over forty years of Egyptian life and touching upon many well-known figures in the past history of the country who to-day are but names. Until the end Sir Alexander Baird retained his boundless vitality, though to those who were in close touch with him it was obvious that he had never recovered from the blow he sustained last year in the death of his daughter Miss Nina Baird, which followed closely upon a rather serious accident to himself. His death at the present juncture is a great loss not only to the British community in Egypt but to the country in general.

### MADAME ANNA RAFFI.

A correspondent writes of Madame Raffi, whose death we recently recorded:—For over a quarter of a century Madame Raffi had resided in London, and devoted all her time and energies to the publication of the works of her husband. In all twenty-four volumes, including historical novels, ethnographical stories, and poetical pieces were published. She was an ardent patriot, and followed with a deep interest the varying developments of the Armenian question. Her great learning was accompanied by a real gift of eloquence. We have vivid recollections of the great impression created by Madame Raffi when addressing large audiences on subjects connected with her country. Her house in London was for many years the Mecca of Armenians and sympathisers with Armenia, who on her death hastened to send tributes to her memory and attended the funeral in large numbers.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

At a meeting held at the Connaught Rooms on July 3, it was decided to open a fund to erect a memorial at Amritsar.

The American cruiser Chattanooga left Malta on Saturday for Constantinople, where she will fly the flag of Rear-Admiral Bristol.

It is officially stated that the Egyptian Government has delegated three officials to attend the Allied Housing Conference in London.

When the Yugoslav Prince Regent, accompanied by M. Vesnitch (the Prime Minister), arrived at Laibach he received an enthusiastic greeting.

It is unofficially stated that the Sultan of Egypt will spend August cruising in the Mediterranean in his yacht Mahroussa, which is expected at Alexandria from Glasgow.

Owing to reports of cholera among Indian pilgrims about to leave Bombay, the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior recommends intending Egyptian pilgrims to postpone their pilgrimage till next year.

The Armenians have succeeded in recapturing the town of Kulpi, which has been in the hands of the Turks since August, 1919. Kulpi is about 50 miles south west of Erivan, and possesses large salt mines.

The Bulgarian Parliament has passed a law for Labour conscription in Bulgaria, the object being the economic reconstruction of the country. Both men and women will be compelled to work, Moslem women excepted.

Said Molah, the Turkish Under Secretary of State for Justice, has resigned, says a Constantinople telegram. It is believed that he was constrained to take this step by his colleagues for having acted in opposition to the rest of the Cabinet.

Moscow reports that Ulsh-Imirsky, a member of the Turkish Bolshevist Party, and the representative of the Anatolian Revolutionary Government, has arrived in Kazan for the celebration in honour of the establishment of the Kazan Tartar Republic.

German newspapers publish a telegram from Sofia stating that the theatre at Philippopolis has been blown up by a bomb. About 150 bodies were buried under the debris. It is presumed that the outrage was directed against M. Stamboliski, the Prime Minister.

## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

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THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1920.


## "PRO AND ANTI" IN THE NEAR EAST.

In Europe it has long been a tradition that we are of all the nations the most commercially minded, and our friends are generally politely silent when we assure them that our foreign policy, far from being actuated by sordid considerations, is almost invariably inspired by lofty ideals. Since our protestations on these occasions fail to carry conviction, one sometimes questions whether it would not be better, perhaps, if we accepted the role assigned to us, and unblushingly preaching the gospel of commerce, made "Business is business" our text. In the many attempts made by the statesmen of Europe to find a working solution for the Eastern question one notices that they invariably made the meeting half-way of local prejudice in its religious, racial, and historical aspects their first care. May not this perhaps explain their many failures? For the convinced the *via media* is necessarily unattractive, and it seems futile to expect the support of people who feel strongly about anything for schemes which are based on compromise, however attractive such may be to others, whose ostensible toleration is only too often the measure of their lack of faith. Perhaps it is not even now too late to abandon our old policy of attempting to get each of the nations of the Near East either to abandon a portion of its territorial claims, to give up a little of its religious faith, or to forget a part of its national history, in order to soothe the prejudices of its neighbours. Why not instead preach the gospel of commercialism, which denies that the satisfaction of racial, religious, or national aggrandisement can ever make for the greatest happiness of the greatest number, a thing only attainable by devotion to trade, agriculture, and the arts, made manifest by individual effort in all those fields of human activity? Race has necessarily an enormous claim on the people of Eastern Europe, the memory of the sufferings of all the nations formerly enslaved by the Turks being in any case too recent to enable them to view life in its cosmopolitan aspect; neither is it desirable that they should; but when one considers how closely many of them are allied by blood and language one is apt to discover merits in pan-Slavism not discernible when it was an active force operating against our interests. Nationality is an excellent thing, no doubt, but even its protagonists in the Allied councils are beginning to realise that it can be overdone, and the disposition of sections of the public in this and other countries to throw themselves furiously into propaganda movements for popularising particular races and nations, while not wholly undesirable, is unhesitatingly to be condemned when it makes for the growth of what for want of a better name we will call the "pro and anti" spirit. When a man tells one, for instance, that he is a convinced pro-Serb one suspects he is in reality an anti-Bulgar and vice-versa. It should be made clear to him that in the new Europe the perpetuation of racial antagonisms is of all things the least to be desired. While we desire that the claims of nationality should everywhere be allowed the freest scope, we feel that the war would have been fought in vain if this should be made the excuse for perpetuating the antagonistic rivalry of neighbouring peoples to which the origin of half the international conflicts in the past can be traced. In the delimitation of international boundaries it is unavoidable that occasionally small communities should find themselves cut off from their compatriots, for where can we find a frontier that has not been traced across debatable ground? "Emigrate or make the best of it" seems the only alternative to offer these unlucky people, but the onus of convincing them that no material or spiritual sacrifice is necessarily required of them by their assignment to foreign rule rests with the Government which has accepted responsibility for their protection. A little healthy competition in the business of Government between the nations of the Near East would go far towards reconciling to their lot these separated, but not necessarily denaturalised, communities.

In Eastern Europe the final disappearance of Turkish rule has to a great extent eliminated the curse of religious antagonism from among the people. Even under Hapsburg rule the Mohammedans of Bosnia and Hertzegovina had little to complain of, and they are not likely to fare worse under the government of Yugoslavia. Indeed, in all the countries liberated from the Turkish yoke in the last fifty years the followers of the Prophet have been free to practise their religion without let or hindrance from the State or their Christian neighbours. There are still plenty of Mohammedans in South-Eastern Europe, but, none of them happening to be oppressed, half the world is unaware of their existence. Neither can the Turks themselves be charged with religious intolerance anywhere except in Armenia in recent years, and while in the past their passion for killing Christians revived with every insurrection of the oppressed against their authority, in normal times the attitude of the Sultan's Government was tolerant towards the religious beliefs of his Christian subjects. In the circumstances it is much to be regretted that attempts should have been made in certain quarters not only to give a religious character to the war, but also to introduce the religious element into the peace discussions. In Europe Christians of every known variety fought against their co-religionists, and did not disdain the help of "Jews, Turks, and infidels," to say nothing of Hindus, Buddhists, and even simple negro idolators, in their fratricidal combats, neither in the East could anything remotely suggestive of a crusade be discovered in the Allied operations against the Turks in Palestine. The mere fact that the conquered territory, the Holy Land of Christianity, should be now in process of reconstruction as a "national home" for the Jews suffices to dispose of this crusade theory, which, oddly enough, is favoured by a few misguided Christians as well as by those deluded Mohammedans who think they have discovered in the war against Turkey a subtle Christian plot for the undermining of Islam. The latter seem to have forgotten the Sultan's Christian Allies as completely as the former have overlooked the great services rendered to the Allied cause by the Mohammedans of India, Arabia, and North Africa. Anti-Semitism is still a force to be reckoned with on the Continent, and one suspects that the persistent rumours of the infection of the Zionist movement with an anti-Christian virus may possibly be traced to its underground activities, but it behoves the Zionists to realise that they are treading on very dangerous ground, and that it would be fatal to their prospects to allow their forward party to force the pace at the present juncture. Protestant thought is so largely inspired by the Old Testament that in many countries the return of the Jews to Palestine makes a great appeal to the religious imagination; but in the Catholic and Orthodox countries this is far from being the case, especially in the latter, where the unfortunate association of so many Jewish officials of the Bolshevist Government with the persecution of the Russian Church has undoubtedly tended to revive anti-Semitic feeling. Here, again, commercialism seems to offer the best means for avoiding possible trouble. If the Zionists made the development of Palestine their first care, and concentrated all their energies on the building up of its industry, commerce, and agriculture, they would go far towards removing the age-long prejudice against their venerable race.

If in the new world we are permitted to indulge in the luxury of crusades, we might do worse than start with one directed against the paralysing power of racial and religious prejudice, which still hampers the movement.

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forward of the young nations. Even if we cannot expect all the people in the countries concerned to see eye to eye with us in the matter, we may at least hope to persuade some of the well-meaning enthusiasts in this country who devote their energies to partizan propagandism in the interests of particular nations and creeds that they are really doing an ill service to their friends, while at the same time hampering the work of their fellow countrymen whose efforts to make peace a reality in the Near East demand their support. The military reputation of all the nations of the Near East is established for all time. Their past achievements in war while ministering to their own self-respect have caused them to be respected all the world over. It now remains for them to prove their capacity in the peaceful walks of life, and those who claim to be their friends could not better demonstrate the reality of their friendship than by assisting them in their efforts to develop their trade and industry. In the matter of our relations with the Eastern peoples, if we took more care to bear in mind that religion constitutes in effect the dividing-line between East and West, we perhaps should be more chary of expressing opinions calculated to raise in the Mohammedan mind the suspicion that we harboured designs against the power of Islam. Our would-be crusaders should realise that even if their talk passes unnoticed in their own country, it is taken quite seriously in the East, and accounts for not a little of the troubles at present affecting it.

## THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN GREECE.

(From a Correspondent.)

The re-enforcement of martial law in Greece has served as a reminder to the outside world that that country is still far from being at peace with itself. If the two most potent factors to-day in Greek politics had to be named it would probably not be wide of the mark to select revenge and fear, and it is not easy to see how their hold on the politicians is to be relaxed. The shadow of the last months of 1916 lies heavily on the land. Each party incriminates the other in trying to exculpate itself, and the fact remains that of both Venizelists and anti-Venizelists a considerable number have experienced the bitterness of prison life. It is from their ranks that the Extremists are recruited, and these call the political tune, while the unfortunate country, whose interests are often forgotten in the personal vendetta, pays the piper. Hanging and decapitation are pleasantly threatened on all sides, while no one stops to remember—least of all to remind the protagonists—that, after all, both parties are Greeks, and have not the excuse of a difference of nationality, which makes even the infinitely worse situation in Ireland more tolerable than the rancour and blood-thirstiness that characterise Greek politics. On each side the threats of the obscurest journalist are taken *au pied de la lettre*, and are cited as embodying the considered programme of the Government or the Opposition, as the case may be. The Press can find no other subject to discuss. In the one section the changes are rung on the tyranny and oppression of the Government; on the other, the political opponents of the Prime Minister are charged with harbouring every nefarious design against the personal safety of the Government and the security of the State. Mistakes on both sides provide the basis of these incriminations, and apparently there is no one connected with the Press of either party capable of appreciating or profiting by gradual changes in public opinion. The truth is that moderation is claiming many adherents, and there can be little doubt that the chief moderate is M. Venizelos. He has, however, been away from the country for some eighteen months; he must necessarily rely upon other interpretations than his own for his reading of the political psychology or his countrymen, and it may still be some time before he can make his influence felt on the situation at home.

It is not without interest to take each party's estimate of the other, and to examine whether and to what extent it runs wide of the facts. For practical purposes we may regard Greece as divided into two camps—Government, or Liberal Party, and Opposition, the latter a coalition body united for the time being under an executive of sixteen members. Under the Opposition umbrella a variety of types has gathered. There are those to whom M. Venizelos's advent to power has meant political disappointment, if not effacement; there are those who enjoyed and hoped to enjoy the personal favour of the Court, and who attribute to the political interference of M. Venizelos what is an inevitable phase in the social evolution of modern Greece; some have been roped in by reports of the sufferings or experiences of deportees, or those kept for months or years in gaol as political offenders; others, again, have been antagonised against the present régime by the contemplation of administrative shortcomings. According to the reason for their belonging to the Opposition, the ground of attack selected by individuals varies, but the general indictment may be grouped under a few heads—that M. Venizelos's Government has remained in power without constitutional authority, prolonging by its own decisions a Parliament, already once dissolved and revived, whose constitutional existence expired some time ago; that the maintenance of martial law and its method of application are "tyrannical"; that the administrative record of the Government in M. Venizelos's absence is demoralising to the country; that the present régime has been imposed on Greece without reference to the wishes of the Greek people, and on the strength of the interference of foreign Powers.

Everyone familiar with political controversy in any country will recognise the arguments that the events of the war have given to the Greek Opposition, and will know precisely what weight attaches to them in the face of the compelling circumstances of the time. A more delicate question is the application of martial law; here, as in the matter of administrative efficiency, an English observer, even if he had the material with which to form an opinion, must necessarily be at a disadvantage, as there can be no agreement as to the standard on which the judgment is to be based. What is evident is that the Opposition will make no allowances; both in regard to the treatment of one's opponents and administrative efficiency it would seem to insist upon a certain excellence without adducing any evidence that it has itself reached that standard in the past or is capable of reaching it in the future. But the great mistake made by the Opposition is its challenge of the existing régime on the ground that it runs counter to the wishes of the Greek people. It seemed to expect that for the sake of the *beaux yeux* of his opponents M. Venizelos would commit political suicide by allowing them to weight the scales against him in any way that they might choose. They were to stump the constituencies for the return of ex-King Constantine, using whatever arguments they thought fit, regardless of past factors, international or domestic considerations and future consequences. No Government could have tolerated such a situation, and it argued a singular lack of political sagacity on the part of the Greek Opposition that it seriously imagined that it could carry out such a programme. By throwing down the Constantine gauntlet it put itself out of court, and

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to

KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN

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gave an opening for the reimposition of martial law. It has now recognised its mistake, and there has been a slump in Constantine stock since M. Venizelos took his strong stand in the Chamber on the recognition of the *status quo*. But the Opposition has impaled itself on the horns of a dilemma as to how to abandon the Constantine question without abandoning its stand on the constitutional question, which requires the Venizelist régime to be submitted to the vote of the people.

The Government, on its side, had at first no reason to suppose that the rod in pickle which the Opposition was storing up for it would be found to produce results different in any way from the events of the first week of December, 1916. It could claim, therefore, to be fighting not only for its existence as a political entity, but for the individual heads of its members. As time passed, however, although there may have been little, if any, diminution of bitterness, the feeling has spread among all sections of the people—a few journalists excepted—that battle, murder, and sudden death are becoming out of date features of Balkan politics.

It is just at this point that a little toleration on each side might work wonders, and it was a genuine disappointment to many that, when a meeting between M. Venizelos and two representatives of the Opposition had been arranged, and the three had actually come together, they should have separated after a few minutes because neither side would accept responsibility for having been the first to propose the meeting. The ground is thus left clear again for the Press of both parties, and the Government organs seem unable or unwilling to realise that the logic of events has been too strong for the Constantinists. If a tolerably easy avenue of withdrawal offered itself many would avail themselves of it eagerly, and the result would be comparative peacefulness of mind for the country as a whole in place of the existing uneasiness and misgivings.

Without this measure of toleration what is to be the outcome of the present situation? It is not easy to see. The Government is hopeful, and as it must have fuller information at its disposal than anyone else, its view must command attention. It is not prepared to credit its opponents with any numerical strength; the opposition may include a certain number of names of note; but when the voting test is applied a signal victory is anticipated. Everything, therefore, turns on the elections, which have been postponed on the ground that Greece is still at war, in view of the military operations in Thrace and Asia Minor. If the Greek Government were to accept the rôle of the Allies' agent in dealing with Mustapha Kemal in the fastnesses of Anatolia the state of war might conceivably continue for years; but, failing that, it is supposed to be the Government's intention to hold elections in September or October, at once, as the scene is in the Balkans, the opposition question the genuineness of the elections-to-be. On this subject the foreign observer is obviously at a disadvantage. If he tries to analyse the fears or insinuations of the opposition, he will generally find that they resolve themselves into a belief based on past history, that in outlying districts electors known to be anti-Venizelist may be intimidated or forcibly prevented by gendarmes or officials from recording their votes. It is admitted that in the chief centres the opportunity for malpractices of this nature is reduced to a minimum, and that the electoral law provides satisfactory arrangements for the impartial exercise of the vote. Under such conditions any preliminary expressions of alarm are likely to be construed as an admission of a weak cause. On the other hand it is open to the Government in power, in view of the importance of these elections, to take whatever steps may seem good to it to disarm all possible criticism of the impartiality under which the poll is carried out. A Government, as sure of its position as M. Venizelos's claims to be, can afford to lay all its cards upon the table in this matter; for it is essential to the future welfare of the country that all contentions which seriously threaten to sap the vitality of the country should be laid to rest as soon as possible.

It is to be hoped, therefore, that the elections will take place not later than September, that they will be conducted in a manner that precludes any possibility of challenge, and that the result will make for the harmony of Greece and her whole-hearted concentration on the all-important work that lies to hand. So far there would seem to be little appreciation of the responsibilities and duties attaching to the large increase of territory which Greece has obtained as a result of the war. The mere administrative obligations are a severe tax on a small country, and these become infinitely greater when a large proportion of the administrative capacity of the nation is still in prison, or, at least, still *en retrait*. Belief in the genius and statesmanship of M. Venizelos is widespread, and it is significant of it that many people are prepared to see him, when he has time to resume his hold of things, cut the Gordian knot by calling on the more reasonable of his political opponents to resume their places in the Greek official world, in order that the country may make its fullest and its best effort at a critical stage in its modern history.

## CHESS.

Here is another game from this year's Murton Cup Tournament. White receives two moves:—

| White. | Black. | White. | Black. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 P—K4 | | 22 P—B3 | Kt—B4 |
| 2 P—Q4 | P—QB3 (1) | 23 B x Kt | P x B |
| 3 QKt—B3 | P—Q4 | 24 K—B2(6) | P—B5 |
| 4 Kt—B3 | B—Kt5 | 25 R—Q6(7) | QR—Q |
| 5 B—K2 | P—K3 | 26 R—Q3 | R x R |
| 6 0—0 | B—Kt5 | 27 R x R | R—Kt |
| 7 Kt—K5 | B x B | 28 K—K2 | R—Kt7 |
| 8 Q x B | P x P | 29 K—Q2 | R x P |
| 9 Q—Kt4 | P—KKt3 | 30 R x KP | R—R3 |
| 10 Q x P | Kt—Q2 | 31 R—B6 | R—Kt3 |
| 11 Q—B3 (2) | Q—B3 | 32 R x P | P—R4 |
| 12 Q—Kt3 (3) | Kt x Kt | 33 R—K4 | K—B2 |
| 13 Q x Kt | Q x Q | 34 R—K3 | K—K3 |
| 14 P x Q | B x Kt | 35 R—R3 | R—R3 |
| 15 P x B | Kt—K2 | 36 P—B4 | K—B4 |
| 16 R—Kt (4) | P—Kt3 | 37 K—K3 | P—R4 |
| 17 B—Kt5 | Kt—Q4 | 38 P—R3(8) | P—R5 |
| 18 P—B4 | Kt—B6 | 39 K—B3 | P—QR5 |
| 19 R—Kt3 | Kt—K5 | 40 R—Q3 | P—Kt4(9) |
| 20 B—K3 (5) | 0—0 | 41 P x P | P—R6 |
| 21 R—Q | P—B4 | 42 R—Q | R—R6 |

and wins

(1) Probably the best defence against these odds.

(2) Premature. White was not yet in a position to attack, though having slightly the stronger position. Kt—B4, threatening B—B4, followed by QR—Q, was the proper line. B—Q2 and QR—Q, or P—QR3, would also have been good enough.

(3) B—Kt5 was better than the text move; then if 12 . . . Q x Q; 13, Kt x Q with a good game.

(4) The object of this move was to block a flight square, for the Kt should he, as White anticipated, come to Q4 and B6. The manœuvre was completely successful.

(5) And now the Kt has no way of escape.

(6) P—B4 would have been much better. Black took immediate advantage of the failure to play this by occupying the square himself.

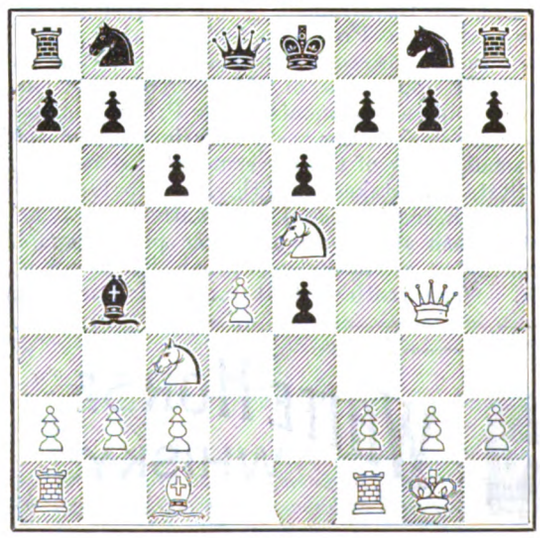
(7) K—K2 was indicated. K6 could be occupied at any time.

(8) K—B3 should have been played. Then if P—R5; 39, P—Kt4 (ch.), P x P; 40, P x P, P—Kt4; 41, R—Q3, P x P.; 42, P x P, and must win.

(9) A rejoinder entirely overlooked.

Position after White's 9th move, Q-Kt4.

Black.



White.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The rains which have so adversely affected the crop outlook in Greece seem to have been very general throughout the Balkans, and it is to be feared that in practically every region there the optimistic crop forecasts will now have to be materially revised. In Roumania the rains have been particularly severe in some districts. Our Correspondent reports that in one district whole villages have been inundated, and many acres of crops completely destroyed; and he points out that a continuance of the rains would have a very serious effect on the coming harvest. From Bulgaria also comes the report of severe storms, and our Correspondent states that considerable damage has been caused to crops and fruit trees generally.

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The commercial event of the week has been the announcement that an influential British syndicate, consisting of representatives of leading financial and shipping companies, has completed negotiations for the acquisition of interests in the navigation companies trading in the Danube. Sir Frederick W. Lewis, chairman of Furness, Withy, and Co., Ltd., is the chairman of the syndicate, which includes Mr. H. A. Cox, a partner of Cox and Co., and a director of Cox and Co. (France), Ltd., Sir Eric Hambro, K.B.E., of C. J. Hambro and Son, Earl Grey, a director of the British Bank of Northern Commerce and of Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson, Ltd., and Mr. C. C. Barrie, C.B.E., M.P., of Charles Barrie and Sons, shipowners, Dundee. Messrs. Furness, Withy, and Co., Ltd., who are interested in trade with the Danube through the Johnston Line, will have the management of the undertaking.

***

It is recognised that the disorganisation of transport resulting from the war ranks second only to the lack of credits abroad among the factors which have retarded any great improvement in the economic conditions of Central Europe, and the syndicate has been formed with the object of ameliorating the position by the provision of adequate transport facilities on the great trade routes of Central Europe. Of the excellence of the project there can be no doubt, and those responsible are to be most heartily congratulated on a very notable enterprise, which, besides being calculated to further the immediate aim in the best possible way, cannot fail to have a most beneficial influence on the efforts now being made to extend the sphere of British trade endeavour in the regions served by the Danube, and in particular in the Near Eastern countries.

***

Attention is directed to the opportunities for general trade with Persia in a recent Consular report from Meshed. There appear to be possibilities, it is stated, of a large import trade at this centre, and it is suggested that a British firm of general exporters with a large capital and a strong organisation should open an import warehouse at Meshed and keep it stocked with a succession of fresh goods, which, under good management, would be cleared soon after arrival. At present the custom is to import commodities in small quantities, and the result is that each transaction involves separate arrangements for transport, and it has often happened that goods, owing to transport difficulties and delays, have arrived after the sale season for them is passed. Also many goods for which there would be an excellent demand are not imported, either because their existence is unknown or because the Persian merchants do not know how to get into touch with British manufacturers nor how to arrange shipments from United Kingdom ports.

***

The disorganisation of the world's currencies is one of the most vital effects of the war, and one for which the remedy has proved extremely difficult to find. The whole position is dealt with in "Currencies After the War," which has just been published for the League of Nations by Messrs. Harrison and Sons. It is explained in the preface to this very able work that, in view of the importance of the economic problems arising out of disorganised currencies in many of the principal countries of the world, the Economic and Financial Section of the League of Nations Secretariat thought it well to collect information on the subject in order that the Assembly of the League might have material available as a basis for discussion. The statistical information is now somewhat out of date, but that in no way detracts from the value of the work in giving a detailed impression of the enormous extent of the problem with which the world is confronted. It remains to be added that the intention of the authors "has been to present an objective statement of facts on which future policy must doubtless be based, but not in any way to criticise existing policies or to suggest the lines upon which future policies should be framed."

***

The need for the establishment of an Anglo-Bulgarian Bank is emphasised by a correspondent who points out that such an institution is an outstanding desideratum for the development of British economic relations with Bulgaria, as it would enormously facilitate trading transactions. In this, as in so many other cases, we shall be in the position of following our competitors. Italian and French banking interests in Bulgaria are at the present time being considerably extended by the acquisition of the interests of the Germans and Austrians in the banks formerly controlled by them. Italy's trade with Bulgaria has benefited very greatly, I understand, as the result of increased banking facilities, and there is no doubt that in future competition this country will suffer materially, if it is not as well situated as its rivals.

***

An interesting project is now on foot with regard to the development of British interests in the Roumanian oil industry. Elsewhere in this issue will be found details of the formation of the Phœnix Oil and Transport Company with a capital of £1,050,000. This company has been formed, it is understood, with the object of absorbing a number of important Roumanian oil undertakings, among them the Trajan-Roumanian and the Anglo-Roumanian companies. A circular issued to the shareholders of these companies will be found on another page, the gist of which is that shareholders are afforded the opportunity of exchanging their present shares for a holding in the new company on a basis of two shares for one. The Phœnix Oil and Transport Co., which has been formed under very influential auspices, is most favourably situated for commencing operations at once, and the proposed absorption is in the circumstances one which should commend itself to the shareholders of the companies mentioned.

***

The results obtained by the Assam Oil Company in 1919 were not so favourable as in the preceding year. There was a decrease in working profits of £6,600, and though this was counter balanced to some extent by an increased profit on exchange, there was a decrease in the net profits of £4,100, the figures being £81,700 as compared with £85,800 for 1918, and £89,800 for 1917, which was the company's record year. The dividends on the ordinary and participating preference shares are again 8 per cent., and £35,000 is allocated to depreciation and reserve as against £25,000, but the carry forward is considerably smaller at £17,100 as against £28,300.

COMMENTATOR.


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# Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

## EGYPT.

PORT SAID, June 16.

**Shipping News.**

During the last fortnight we have had through the Canal some very large ships, notably the "Berlin" and the "Zeppelin," which are both being used now to relieve the congestion of the passenger traffic from India. Two other still larger ships have been through—the "President Grant" and the "America"—both being run as United States Army transports, and carrying Czecho-Slovak troops from Vladivostock to Trieste.

The "America," which is 24,250 tons gross, is the largest ship that has ever been through the Canal. She was accompanied by the two powerful tugs belonging to the Canal Company, and great credit is due to all concerned that she should have made the safe and quick passage that she did.

Two wooden steamers have lately been into port. They were built in America, to the order of the Australian Government, who, as they did not want them immediately, leased them to an American firm. They have now been definitely taken over by the Commonwealth, and are now on their way out to Australia. Their performances are not such as to lead one to expect that wooden ship building, at any rate for steamers, will experience a renaissance. They are of about 2,900 gross tonnage, and carry about 3,600 tons of cargo. Their twin engines are of the ordinary steam reciprocating type. American papers to hand comment adversely on the wooden ship building that was carried on during the war. The wood used was "green," consequently they are about as tight as orange boxes, and only two or three have ever put to sea.

**Greek Banking Enterprise.**

The Bank of Athens has recently opened a branch in the town, with M. Papadakis as manager. With the increased trade between Egypt and Greece, it will no doubt meet a need of the mercantile community.

CAIRO, June 21.

**The Economic Situation.**

The local commercial community, composed of members of divers nationalities, is naturally more keenly interested in the economic situation than in political potentialities. Frequently one affects the other, but for the moment it can be assumed that both factors locally are entirely independent of one another. Business all over Egypt has quietened. The "slump," as the term is usually understood, has not arrived, but there is a feeling that it may arrive at any time. In consequence, most firms are cutting down expenses, with all that that policy implies. Many firms—chiefly Levantine—are endeavouring to repudiate obligations on the score that they are unable to pay. This is literally true in some instances, but in the vast majority of cases the merchants have ordered goods which are now lying on the docks at Alexandria, for which no immediate market is available, and for which the eventual prices will in all likelihood be less than the cost price in the country of manufacture. Hence, various devices are being resorted to in an endeavour to shirk responsibility.

**Congestion at the Docks.**

The sight of the docks at Alexandria at the present time is one that cannot easily be forgotten. I was in the commercial capital yesterday, and I took advantage of the opportunity to inspect the wharves. On what seemed interminable spaces, huge consignments of goods of every conceivable nature are awaiting transference. One could imagine that there had been a city fire, and that all the stock of the warehouses had been bundled thither. A well-known French merchant whom I met assured me that before our eyes lay £E8,000,000 worth of goods. I would not like to quote that figure authoritatively, or even half of it, but at the very least there is between two and three million pounds' worth of merchandise held up there in the sun. That glut is the reason for the caution observed in business circles. A country such as this cannot carry a deadweight like that without losing some of its buoyancy. Except for this caution the effect, so far, is not apparent. But what may not be in store for us in the near future!

## GREECE.

ATHENS, June 26.

**Commercial Outlook.**

A meeting was held at the Greek Chamber of Commerce in Athens for the purpose of discussing the commercial situation from a general point of view, and particularly the reasons which have caused the deadlock in all business transactions. The President of the Chamber of Commerce, M. Charilaos, who addressed the meeting, proposed that a congratulatory telegram should be sent by the members to M. Venizelos and to the Commander-in-Chief of the Hellenic Forces on the occasion of the excellent news which had just been received. This proposal met with great enthusiasm.

Reviewing the general situation, M. Charilaos stated that all current rumours to the effect that they were on the verge of a world financial crisis were without foundation. The deadlock in business, he observed, was due to the decrease in demand as a result of the campaign carried out by the consumers against the dearness of living.

Referring to the commercial situation in Greece, he pointed out that the recent falling off of business should be attributed to the existing shortage of money. Despite the recent issue of 300 million drachmæ, there was still a shortage of money, and no further decline in the value of the drachma was apparent. He then spoke of the merchants in the provinces, who made very few purchases from Athens, stating that consumption in the various provincial centres had decreased considerably. Finally, he drew the members' attention to the fact that the goods actually in Greece were sold at 10 per cent. less than they could be obtained from the sources of production. This fact was due to the fluctuation of the exchange and particularly to the decline of the drachma.


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M. S. Loverdos, manager of the Popular Bank, referring to the complaints of the merchants resulting from the withdrawal of facilities by the banks, explained that this was necessary in view of the general deadlock in Europe. The withdrawal of facilities by the banks was a precautionary measure in case of a world crisis.

M. Inglesis, editor of the *Journal de la Bourse*, advised the merchants not to be in a hurry to sell their goods, as these would fetch much higher prices later on. He also criticised very strongly the attitude of the banks in affording no facilities whatsoever to the merchants. Although moneys deposited in the various banks to-day amounted to nearly two and a half billions, only 600 millions had been placed at the disposal of commerce.

A further meeting of the Chamber of Commerce will be held very shortly.

### Remittances Abroad.

The following figures are given by the Chamber of Commerce at Piræus with regard to remittances abroad in connection with orders placed for various goods for the Piræus market during the month of May:—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| French francs ..... | 4,468,068 | Pesetas ..... | 1,155,159 |
| Pounds sterling..... | 223,033 | Belgian francs ..... | 505,512 |
| Dollars ..... | 1,362,977 | Marks ..... | 2,189,792 |
| Swiss francs ..... | 1,595,730 | Drachmæ ..... | 32,867 |
| Florins ..... | 85,789 | Swedish coronas ... | 1,235 |
| Liras ..... | 1,229,483 | Egyptian pounds ... | 5,200 |

The total sum of moneys remitted abroad during May has reached, on an average, 28,999,159.35 drachmæ, this bing 8,910,039 drachmæ less than the amount exported during the month of April.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, June 23.

### The I.R.D.P.

The agitation against the I.R.D.P. (Industria Romana de Petrol), the new society formed and confirmed by decree-law for the control of the home distribution of petrol, appears to have died down, perhaps because it is confidently hoped that the Parliament will modify the decree before ratifying it. I understand that part of the capital deposited by each of the engineer directors of the society has been collected by subscriptions from foremen and clerks in some of the petrol companies, and there is some talk of including also clerks in the Government offices.

### New Oil Company.

The prospectus of a new Roumanian oil company has appeared this week. It is called the "Generala Petrolifera," and has a capital of 60 million lei in shares of 500 lei each. 50,000 of these are offered for public subscription between June 21 and 30. The list of directors includes the names of Prince Barbu Stirbey and M. C. R. Manolescu-Ramniceanu, president of the board of directors of the Banque Générale du Pays Roumain (formerly the German "Banca Generala," now reconstituted with Roumanian capital).

### Concessions for Mines, etc.

Another decree-law published last week brings under the direct control of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce all concessions of rights for the exploitation of minerals, petroleum, ozocherite, asphalt, etc. It further provides that all such concessions granted in the new provinces since August 27, 1916, must now be submitted for revision to the above Ministry.

### Aid to Village Co-operatives.

In order to assist the village co-operative societies to procure the agricultural machinery and implements of which they are sorely in need, the Government has passed a decree authorising them to export 15,000 wagons of maize, millet, and oats, in exchange for which they can contract for the import of the machinery and implements they require. At the same time, the Minister of Finance has been authorised to negotiate a loan of 50,000,000 lei with the Banca Nationala, which sum is to be placed at the disposal of the head office of the co-operatives for the financing of these transactions, the loan to be covered by the sale of the imported machinery, etc.

### Crops Damaged by Storms.

During the last three weeks there have been extremely heavy rains in several districts of Roumania. For days the main railway line was so damaged by floods at the Olt River that traffic was completely stopped, and the Simplon express was obliged to take the route by Predeal. In the Campina district whole villages have been inundated, and many people and cattle drowned. The mountain streams were converted into deep torrents, which carried with them all kinds of debris and dead bodies of horses and cattle. Many acres of crops have been completely destroyed, and if these heavy rains continue it is to be feared that the effect upon the coming harvest will be very serious.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, June 12.

### Disastrous Rains.

During the last few days heavy rains have fallen throughout the country. In some parts the rainfall has been torrential, and has been accompanied by severe hailstorms, and considerable damage has been caused to crops and fruit trees. Some towns had rain for hours, and the rivers rose above the bridges, inundating the houses. At Provadie the floods were very bad, and some of the weaker buildings collapsed. The inhabitants took refuge on the neighbouring heights, and help was sent to them from Varna. In this district great damage was done to the crops, while all the food stores in the town were carried away by the waters.

## TRANS-CAUCASIA.

TIFLIS, June 10.

### Destruction of Georgian Crops.

The winter was one of the most severe experienced for many years. There followed the disastrous earthquake which destroyed Gori and forty-seven villages in the surrounding country; and now that the rainy season has come we have had terrific storms of rain and hail that have played havoc with the crops, especially in the Kakhetia district. In the whole of Kakhetia the hail damaged from twenty up to forty per cent. of the crops by the end of May. Enormous hailstones devastated vineyards, fields, vegetable gardens, and forests in the neighbourhood of the villages of Napareouli, Saniore, Artana, Nicolaevka, Pshaveli, and Shakriani. The crops in the three first-named districts are entirely ruined. There will be no grapes in the whole of the region. This—in one of the chief wine districts of Georgia—is nothing less than a national calamity.


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# THE EGYPTIAN COTTON POSITION.—IV.

## THE DEMAND FOR EGYPTIAN.

**By John A. Todd, B.L.**

In the previous article the writer dealt with the conditions affecting the general demand for cotton, and particularly the effect of the financial uncertainty which during the last month or two has been dominating all markets. The next question is how far these conditions have affected the special market for Egyptian cotton; but before going on to deal with that question it is necessary to review briefly the conditions which gave rise to that special market, and how it has been affected by the war.

The special market for Egyptian cotton is the result of its peculiar qualities of length, fineness, and strength, and the many special uses for which these qualities make it adaptable. The first of these uses, namely sewing cotton, is still one of the most important; but the development of this trade was quickly followed by the discovery of many other uses to which fine Egyptian cotton could be put, such as aeroplane wings and motor-car tyres, and the production of goods of a quality and finish such as it had never been possible to get before out of cotton, e.g., by mercerising. At first this process was thought to be applicable only to Egyptian cotton, but the scarcity and high price of Egyptian, especially after the 1909 crop failure, compelled the spinners to try long staple American cotton, with surprising success. The result was that before the war the premium of Egyptian over American had fallen as low as 20 per cent. It remained comparatively low during the first two years of the war, but early in 1917, for some reason which the writer has never been able to get fully explained, it again rose very rapidly, and established a new record with a premium of 110 per cent. in April, as against the previous record of 102 per cent. in the same month of 1910. The premium, however, had fallen very substantially (to 37 per cent) before the Government control of the crop came on in August, 1918, and the history of the premium during that year of control has already been dealt with by the writer in these columns.* On the removal of control it soared again until, as stated in the first article of this series, it reached 219 per cent. in May of this year.

It is difficult to get complete statistics of the disposition of the Egyptian crop. For some years before the war the International Federation statistics had included fairly complete figures of the spindleage and consumption, from which could be calculated the probable total consumption of Egyptian throughout the world, and its allocation. The results of such a calculation are given in the first two columns of the following table, which gives an idea of the relative consumption in different parts of the world:—

Egyptian on the Continent. By lumping the whole of the Continental exports together this element of error is considerably reduced; but it still applies to the exports to England, a good deal of which must have been reshipped to the Continent or America.

Making allowance for this, the export figures given in the table show clearly what has happened during the war. The Continental takings have, of course, diminished very seriously owing to the blockade of the enemy countries, while those of England have barely maintained the pre-war average. In the case of the American takings it is possible to supplement the Alexandria export figures by others from American sources, which give the total imports and actual consumption of Egyptian in America for each season, and these figures are given in the last two lines of the table. It is not possible to compare these with the Alexandria figures of exports, with which (quite apart from the different bale weight) they do not tally exactly. That is not at all surprising, but what is interesting is that whichever set of statistics be taken they all show the same general result. The American consumption of Egyptian cotton, after rising sharply during the first two years of the war, declined again steadily in the last three years; but during the first nine months of the current season it has already risen to figures about 50 per cent. in excess of the highest figure touched for the whole season during the war, and about 200 per cent. in excess of the pre-war figures. It is probable that the total imports of Egyptian cotton during the current season will be close on 350,000 Egyptian bales.

The reasons for this are now well known. Quite apart from its increased use for aeroplane fabric, the use of Egyptian cotton in America for motor-car tyre fabric has developed during the war, and especially since the Armistice, to an entirely unprecedented extent. Until a few months ago there seemed to be no limit to this demand, and, as a matter of fact, the development of the motor-car industry in America was being limited by the difficulty of getting enough fabric to make the tyres.

It is here that it becomes so difficult to estimate the probable effect of the financial restriction on the demand. There is no doubt that financial conditions in America are seriously affecting the demand for new cars: but the opinion may be hazarded that the restriction will be rather in the way of stopping further expansion than of an actual reduction of the output. Many of the big tyre manufacturers had been contemplating still larger extensions, and these proposals have in most cases been suspended owing to the present financial uncertainty. But even if no more new cars were made than would take the place of the existing cars as they wear out, the number of pleasure cars alone in the States at the beginning of this year (7½ millions) would maintain a demand for tyre fabric sufficient to take up as much cotton as the States have been using during the past year. It would, therefore, not be safe to expect any reduction of the American tyre demand unless things go a great deal worse than they have done yet, or unless the high

| Country. | 1912-13. International Feder'n. | | Exports. (Alexandria General Produce Association.) | | | | | | | 1/3/20. Spindles Internat. Federation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Spindles. | Consumption. | 1913-14. | 1914-15. | 1915-16. | 1916-17. | 1917-18. | 1918-19. | To 4/6/20. | |
| | Seasons | beginning | September | 1: — In | bales of | about | 750 lb. | —000's | omitted | |
| United Kingdom | 55,653 | 392 | 432 | 379 | 356 | 346 | 504 | 460 | 324 | 57,333 |
| Continent | 43,855 | 380 | 421 | 258 | 162 | 129 | 112 | 138 | 120 | 40,000 |
| Japan, etc. | 12,440 | 30 | 26 | 21 | 26 | 21 | 23 | 25 | — | 13,766 |
| U.S.A. | 31,505 | 201 | 91 | 174 | 184 | 135 | 76 | 95 | 244 | 34,739 |
| | American | figures | (bureau | of the | census). | In equiva | lent 500 lb. | bales | | To 30/4/20 |
| ,, Imports | — | 191 | 137 | 252 | 351 | 200 | 115 | 100 | 456 | |
| ,, Consumption | — | 201 | 151 | 181 | 269 | 259 | 136 | 126 | — | 34,346 (active) |
| Seasons beginning | | September 1. | | | August 1. | | | | | |

It will be seen that the United Kingdom and the Continent were pretty nearly equal in volume of consumption; but the average quality was much lower in the case of the Confinent, because Russia and Austria used large quantities of very low grade Egyptian cotton, which they were able to import cheaply on account of the short sea passage from Egypt to Adriatic and Black Sea ports. The only other important user was the United States, whose consumption was only about half that of Great Britain or the Continent.

During the war the only figures available are the statistics of exports from Alexandria. These are, however, somewhat misleading, because they only give the first destination of the consignment, so that, for example, the statistics show no Egyptian cotton at all sent to Switzerland, which is, as a matter of fact, one of the most important consumers of

price of Egyptian forces the American tyre makers to use a smaller proportion of Egyptian in their tyres. This can be done, and the fact that the prospects of the American staple crop seem to have improved substantially within the last few weeks will certainly encourage the attempt. On the other hand, there is a possible new development of the tyre demand in the use of heavy pneumatic tyres for motor wagons. That development is hardly out of its infancy yet but if it should prove a success it will certainly produce a very serious situation.

As for the demand for tyre fabric for the rest of the world, it has certainly not reached its maximum, and although the increase may be temporarily checked, it can only be a question of time till Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia begin once more to want cars and tyres in something like pre-war numbers.

(*Continued on page 63.*)

* The article appeared in THE NEAR EAST of January 29.

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# THE "STANDARD" CIGARETTE MACHINE

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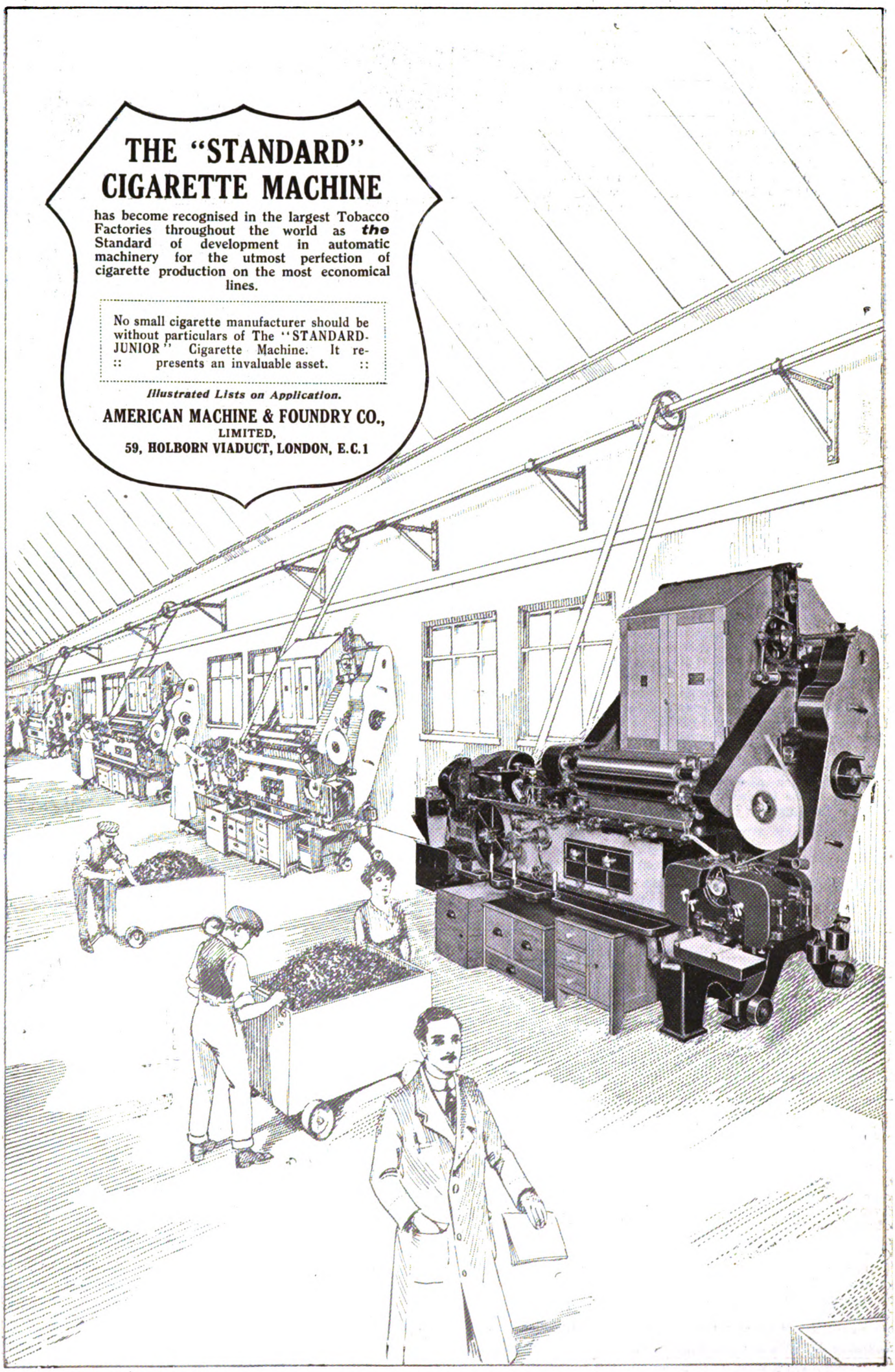


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But in the meantime, what has happened to the old uses of Egyptian cotton for purposes other than tyre fabric? As will be seen from the table, British imports for the nine months of this season are about on the same scale as in pre-war years, but as we have no figures for re-exports available, it is difficult to say how much we have actually been consuming. It seems reasonable to suppose, however, that the high prices of the past winter must have substantially restricted the use of Egyptian cotton in this country for every purpose where anything else could possibly be substituted. Unfortunately, substitution has been rendered very difficult by the fact that American staple cotton, which is the only possible substitute, has been if anything almost dearer relatively than Egyptian. Had the maximum prices been maintained long enough to necessitate their being passed on to the consumers in the retail prices of fine cotton goods, it is not easy to say what the effect on demand would have been. As it is, there seems to be a good deal of evidence that the retail consumer is protesting in the most effective way against the rise of prices by doing without to a certain extent. This tendency has no doubt assisted the speculative break in Egyptian prices, and it is very difficult to say whether that break has yet gone far enough. On this point a continuation for the month of June of the table given in the first article of this series throws some light. The premium of American over Egyptian for November futures in Liverpool fell during the last week of June as low as 79 per cent., but rose sharply again at the end of that week to 95 per cent.

To sum up, the position is that we are faced with a very short supply of American cotton, say about seventy per cent. of the pre-war supply, while the Egyptian crop is likely to be about up to pre-war figures. At the same time, while the demand for American cotton is certainly no less than it was before the war, that for Egyptian has been very largely increased by the growing demand for tyre fabric. The effect of these opposing forces on the relative prices of American and Egyptian cotton will require very close watching.

Two points of detail may be added. The new Government tax of 1¾ dol. per kantar on all cotton ginned after August 1, 1920, may have the effect of adding about a penny per lb. to the export prices if the growers succeed in passing it on to the consumer. Again, the new form of contract in Alexandria, which has just received Government sanction, will restrict deliveries under the present contract from January, 1921, onwards, to Sakel only. A new contract for Ashmouni also comes into force from October next, against which alone not only Ashmouni and Zagora, the true Upper Egyptian cotton, but also Affifi, Assili, Nubari, and Pillion, will be tenderable. This may produce some disturbance of the prices of futures, which will depend on the extent to which the acreage under Sakel in the Delta is reduced by the competition of the other shorter staple varieties.

## YUGOSLAVIA'S COAL RESOURCES

### Production in 1919.

The following interesting survey of the coal siuation in Yugoslavia, furnished by the Director of the Department of Mines, Belgrade, appeared in a recent issue of *Novi Zivot*.

It is not generally known that the country is rich in coal deposits, and has a considerable number of coal mines whose output under normal conditions would not only meet its own requirements, but would give a surplus for export to neighbouring states. Nevertheless, it must not be forgotten that the country does not produce coal suitable for the production of coke, and on that account the country is obliged to import this class of coal, and also coke to meet the needs of the metal and other industries.

In consequence of the European war, the workings as well as labour conditions in the mines have been considerably modified. On evacuating Serbia the enemy destroyed the greater part of the working plant and flooded the mines. At the outset, upon the re-occupation of the country, manual labour was unprocurable in Serbia, and much time was required to reorganise labour with demobilised men and miners from other parts of the kingdom. Great difficulty has been experienced in procuring machinery, etc., a quantity of which has been furnished by the Committee of the "War Booty Commission" from the loot which the enemy had collected for removal, but had to leave on his hurried retreat. A credit of three million dinars has been allocated to assist in the reorganisation of the mines, and in order to ensure a more intensive output, a credit of 50 million kronen has been allocated for the purchase of material required for operating the new mines at Mostar, Bukinje and Ugljevik.

Despite all the difficulties, the production during the second quarter of 1919 would have almost reached the pre-war output had the mines been able to have had adequate facilities for the transport of the coal. For example, the daily output in Bosnia-Herzegovina was 320 wagons, but the Railway Administration could only place 240 wagons per day and often less at the disposal of the mines, so that production had to be reduced, and the stocks at the pit-head awaiting transport were estimated at 3,000 wagons at a time when the country was experiencing a serious shortage of coal.

On the Senje line, transport, in the absence of engines, is very considerably reduced, notwithstanding the fact that the line serves the Senje and neighbouring mines exclusively. The owners of the Sissevats and Resava mines have each a stock of 200 wagon loads (*i.e.*, 2,000 tons) which cannot be moved for lack of transport, and they are obliged to suspend production although these mines are capable of a daily output of 20 wagons (*i.e.*, 200 tons). Even the State-owned mines of Senje are in no better position; they can produce 60 wagon loads a day, but only 10 wagons can be moved daily. Similarly for lack of transport the mines of Bogovina, on the Parachin-Zayechar line, have to restrict production. The four mines mentioned, which are capable of a daily output of 156 wagon loads of brown coal of good quality, can only transport 30 wagons daily in view of the scarcity of locomotives. It is clear, therefore, that the solution of the coal crisis is dependent on the railways being placed in a position to supply sufficient rolling stock to ensure normal coal transport.

The total production of coal in 1919 in the entire kingdom was 2,494,000 metric tons, whilst in 1913 the total output of the provinces, which to-day comprises the S.H.S. kingdom, was 3,487,432 metric tons. The 1919 production was accordingly 30 per cent. less than before the war.

The coal production in the several provinces was:—

| | 1919. In Metric Tons. | 1913. In Metric Tons. |
|---|---|---|
| Bosnia-Herzegovina | 674,930 | 800,000 |
| Serbia | 103,730 | 311,365 |
| Croatia and Slavonia | 251,293 | 205,000 |
| Slovenia | 1,153,339 | 1,471,067 |
| Baranja (Petchoui) | 310,767 | 700,000 |
| | 2,494,058 | 3,487,432 |

It is anticipated that the production for 1920 will be generally more favourable than last year, but this is conditional upon a very decided improvement being effected in transport conditions. According to the returns for January, 1920, the output in the different provinces as compared with that of January, 1919 was:—

| | January, 1919. In Metric Tons. | January, 1920. In Metric Tons. |
|---|---|---|
| Baranja (Petchoui) | 39,536 | 40,614 |
| Serbia | 5,300 | 15,497 |
| Bosnia-Herzegovina | 49,246 | 70,214 |
| Croatia and Slavonia | 20,000 | 27,840 |
| Slovenia | 96,150 | 104,860 |
| | 210,232 | 259.025 |

It will thus be seen that the coal output in January, 1920, indicates an excess of 50,000 metric tons over that of January, 1919, and a deficit of about the same amount on pre-war production. This deficit could be more than made up in the next few months provided transport is improved. The new mines of Uglyevik Mostar and Bukinje in Bosnia Herzegovina, Reichenburg (Rajhenburg), and Huda Yama in Slovenia, and Gorievnitsa in Serbia, are capable of yielding during the year a considerable quantity of coal, so that the figures of the pre-war production are likely to be increased.

The exhortation to increase production and export which is universally applicable at the present time requires in this case to be coupled with practical measures for financing and providing the supply of material urgently necessary for the re-establishment of railway communications and national industries in the Serb, Croat, Slovene State.


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## ENGINEERING.

### Synthetic Cast Iron.

The process of making synthetic cast-iron from steel scrap represents a considerable advance in metallurgical science. For some time past it has been known that the recarburisation of steel scrap was possible where the electric furnace was adopted as a medium, but it does not seem that engineers generally recognised the possibilities of the process or considered it probable that it would ever be adopted on a commercial scale. The war made startling changes in methods of working, and one of the most interesting was that of the actual commercial application of the synthetic process of reducing cast-iron in order to facilitate the production of semi steel shells.

A high authority has said that the general economy of the process, combined with its simplicity, renders it highly probable that while synthetic cast-iron found a wide field of application during the war, owing to the large production of steel turnings derived from the manufacture of shells, it will find no less a field in producing material with steel-like qualities required for mechanical parts.

The inventor of the process said recently that the novelty of its manufacture consists in carburising iron and steel scrap, more particularly turnings, by melting these materials in the presence of carbon, which is introduced simultaneously with them in the electric furnace, which is plainly indicated as best fulfilling all the conditions required for the carrying out of the process. He pointed out that only a process of continuous carburisation, effected during the course of melting a mixture of steel turnings and carbon could conduce to a method which should be economical as well as efficient of producing synthetic cast-iron with a commercial future capable of development. He said that in an electric furnace charged with steel turnings mixed with carbon the carburisation is not only absolutely controlled by the known reactions of the substances present, but it should be noted as an important economic advantage that the combination of the carbon with the iron begins in the upper parts of the charge long before actual fusion. Cementation intervenes from a temperature of 650 degrees upward, and becomes more rapid in proportion as the temperature rises owing to the descent of the charge as the process continues.

It is interesting to note that carburisation of the iron takes place subsequently by the contact between the solid carbon and the partially carburised metal in the course of melting, and becomes complete on full melting, the temperature of which is determined by the nature of the iron, so that casts can readily be obtained in the electric furnace at temperatures of between 1,200 and 1,300 degrees centigrade. Mr. C. A. Keller pointed out that the mixture of steel turnings and carbon, possessing in itself very high conductivity rendered it necessary in the electric furnace to use so low a potential that higher currents than those ordinarily in use could be employed. On the other hand, he said, it would be a pity to employ electric fusion without profiting by the metallurgical advantages involved in order to effect the removal of all sulphur present. The iron obtained in the presence of a sufficiently basic slag, which combines with the small amount of silica introduced, will contain practically all the substances contained in the charge, except the sulphur. There will be no increase in the silicon, and the carbon in the charge will be used up solely in carburisation without any appreciable intervention of the silica. White cast-iron can thus readily be obtained with ordinary steel turnings. With turnings containing 0.44 per cent. of silicon, 0.55 per cent. of manganese, and 0.07 per cent. of sulphur a white cast iron of the following composition was obtained: Carbon, 3.55 per cent.; silicon, 0.52 per cent.; manganese, 0.48 per cent., and faint traces of sulphur. In his view, control of the percentages of silicon and other elements becomes easy in this process; for example, extra silicon will result from introducing more silica into the charge along with a correspondingly larger proportion of carbon for reducing purposes. The percentage of silica in the slag will vary according to the percentage of silicon in the iron. The whole subject possesses more than ordinary interest, and it would seem that here is a direction in which further research work might profitably be carried out.

### Forthcoming Exhibition.

An interesting and fairly representative exhibition of motor lorries, road rollers, concrete mills, and road making and repairing materials will be held during September at The Hague, the occasion being the meeting of the First Netherlands Congress. The offices of the exhibition will be at 18, Park Street, The Hague, and all British engineers desirous of visiting or of exhibiting some of their products should get in touch with the secretary. The object of the exhibition is to provide as complete a representation as possible of the progress made during recent years in the means of transport and in road construction and repair.

### A New Light Car.

I am informed that Messrs. Douglas Motors, Ltd., the well-known motor cycle building firm of Kingswood, near Bristol, have just completed all arrangements in connection with their purchase of the immense new works at Yate which belonged to the Government, and which were used for carrying out repairs to aircraft. Yate is only about twelve miles from Bristol, and the factory buildings are most conveniently situated in every respect for business. My information is to the effect that the firm intend to carry out the manufacture of the new Douglas 10-h.p. light car at Yate, and as there is a large aerodrome attached to the works, I presume that a private testing track will be laid down. I await full particulars of this new light car with some interest.

### The Bristol "Pullman."

I have just received some interesting details of the Bristol "Pullman" from my friend Mr. H. White Smith, of the Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd. During actual flight this machine has registered a speed of 134 miles per hour, and has a cruising speed of 100 miles per hour with engines at little more than half-throttle. In "taking-off," the amount of run, after the engines were opened out, was less than 180 yards, and a similar space was sufficient for the run after landing. The climbing powers of these machines are exceptionally good, and the reliability of the Pullman is beyond question. There is, further, little or no liability to break down through any conceivable engine trouble, as the machine is fitted with four engines, any two of which are sufficient to maintain flying speed.

I hear good things of the Bristol three-seater Coupé touring aeroplane, which is a machine calculated to make a very real appeal for commercial users. I know that this type is already in use by the Instone Air Line for its service between London, Paris, and other European centres, and I hear that in practice it has been found to be reliable, efficient, and economical. The fitting of the coupé to the Bristol three-seater touring plane adds greatly to the comfort of the passengers, and at the same time its stream line design is such as does not interfere in any way with the speed or the evolutions of the machine. This company, it may be added, is exhibiting at the International Aero Exhibition at Olympia, which commences this week.

### Producer-Gas Lorries.

Many attempts, some of which have proved more successful than was anticipated, have been made to place a producer-gas-driven lorry on the road. There is no doubt that from a theoretical standpoint such a vehicle should be not only economical but highly efficient, and it is to be hoped that past failures will not deter experimentalists from pursuing their efforts still further. It was pointed out recently that whereas one ton of coal burned directly in a furnace with a boiler of ordinary design would only propel a 5-ton commercial vehicle 160 miles, the same amount of fuel gasified would yield in the shape of gas and coal sufficient source of power to give a road mileage of 685, or, roughly, four times the distance.

### A New Mechanical Horn.

A new mechanical horn which is in every way a thoroughly mechanical production has just been brought to my notice. It becomes increasingly evident that in the present condition of our roads, and with the number of careless and unskilled road users one meets, perfect safety should be the first consideration of the motorist. To ensure this, it goes without saying that an adequate means of giving a warning signal is an absolute necessity on every car. The horn referred to is certainly one of the best and most effective yet brought to my notice, and so far as warning is concerned, it gives a deep, penetrating note which cannot be disregarded.

(*Continued on page 67.*)

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The horn is turned out with every wearing part made from specially prepared and hardened steel, guaranteed to withstand the hardest possible usage, and I see no reason why, with ordinary care, one of these instruments should not last for years. I note that particular attention has evidently been paid to the striking wheel and diaphragm, which are constructed in such a way as to give thorough and satisfactory service. In fact, as regards this, the makers consider it no exaggeration to say that the mechanical details of this horn will outlast all other parts of the car. The plunger is absolutely rust-proof, and is so constructed that it cannot rattle, no matter at how high a speed the car may be travelling. It responds with certainty to the slightest touch, and the operator is able to modulate the volume of sound to the urgency of his need. The tone is quite distinct and rises above all traffic noises, whilst the warning carries a long distance. The weight of the horn is only a fraction over 2½ lb.

**C.A.V. Magneto.**

The remarkable reliability of the C.A.V. magnetos was again demonstrated during the important motor-cycling events which took place in the Isle of Man last week. A Norton secured second place in the classic senior race, with seven others in close formation behind; whilst in the flying kilometre for machines entered in the big race, Nortons again scored, being first and third in the class, and second in the open event, a Singer, C.A.V.-equipped, being third. Messrs. C. A. Vandervell have every reason to be proud of these results in the most strenuous motor-cycling competitions of the year.

**Industrial Rubber.**

Speaking on the subject of "Rubber for Industrial Purposes" recently, Mr. C. E. Alsopp, at the Technical College, Bradford, enumerated the many uses to which rubber is put to-day in industry. From an engineering point of view rubber is one of the most useful products known, and it is certain that our automobile industry would not have developed so fast or so far had it not been for the suitability of rubber for tyres. Vulcanite is another form of rubber which is largely used by engineers. Mr. Alsopp dealt in detail with the early discovery and cultivation of the rubber plant, and said that whilst the production of wild rubber was stationary, that of plantation rubber was steadily increasing. About 90 per cent. of the world's total production of plantation rubber is handled by British companies, and about 83 per cent. is obtained from British territories.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

This week's Indian cable states:—Rainfall has been fairly general, but scanty in Sind and Western Punjab and in a belt across India, comprising Bombay Deccan, Hyderabad, and Madras, Circars. Monsoon rainfall defective nearly everywhere, but distribution satisfactory. Both monsoon currents weak at present. General crop conditions good, but more rain required in parts of North-Western India, Punjab, Mysore, Hyderabad, and Bombay Deccan. Pyinmana-Magwe railway seventeen miles by Burma Railways, and Vijapur-Ransipur extension of Kalol-Vijapur Railway fourteen miles by Baroda Darbar, sanctioned. Bombay cotton market steady. Fully good Broach July, Rs.451-8As. Piece goods market not encouraging, with desultory demand and nominal rates. Calcutta jute market quiet. Hessians firm, with good business done, but tending to become quieter. Heavy goods steady, with strong demand for cornsacks. Substantial business done in shellac during past week, with spot price of T.N. ranging to Rs.225. No change in Bank Rates.

## OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended June 19:—The sales this week on our market amount to 17 cases selected manufacturing qualities at 19s. per lb. c.i.f. The exchange to-day is piastres 420 per pound sterling for cheque on London and 0.93 dollars for one Turkish pound. The arrivals are 1,730 cases against 695 at same date last year.

The Levant Company (Greece), Ltd., have acquired the business of Messrs. the Whittall Saltiel Company, Ltd.

A Reuter's telegram states that the Bank of Madras has declared a dividend of 12 per cent., with a special bonus of 4 per cent.

Bank of British West Africa, Ltd.—Final dividend to March 31, 6 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, less income-tax.

## THE MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT OF TOBACCO FACTORIES.

(From a Correspondent.)

After the introduction of tobacco to Europe by Christopher Columbus, smoking in any form remained for a long time a luxury of the rich, and it was not until the last few decades that indulgence in the habit has been within the reach of all. This revolution has been made possible by the introduction of the same factor that has been responsible for most of the developments of the nineteenth century—machinery, which has placed the tobacco industry in the leading position it now occupies. Without the use of machinery it is no exaggeration to say that four-fifths of the people addicted to the "weed" in one form or another would have to go without, as their requirements could only be satisfied by armies of workpeople.

The remarkable strides made have been entirely due to the invention and perfection of automatic machinery, which can justly be regarded as the product of marvellous mechanical ingenuity, for in spite of the varied and delicate operations necessarily involved in the making of a cigar or cigarette, the terms "intricate" or "complicated" could hardly be justifiably applied to the machine which automatically produces highly finished cigarettes from a reel of cigarette paper and bulk tobacco at a rate of 36,000 per hour, or that which turns out 480 cigars an hour from tobacco leaves.

It is generally recognised that, in view of the highly sensitive nature of the tobacco plant, the less the leaves come in contact with human hands the better, in addition to which, of course, there is the question of purity (a point to which responsible tobacco manufacturers attach the utmost importance), and it speaks volumes for the high degree of perfection attained in present-day tobacco machinery that "man-handling" is practically non-existent, and every precaution is taken to avoid every risk of tobacco being contaminated and tainted by contact with oil from bearings, etc., or other extraneous matters.

The tobacco industry has now been brought to a fine art—or perhaps it would be more appropriate to term it a science, for certainly no known scientific subject needs more consideration and care than the rearing of the tobacco plant, the lengthy preparations for its ultimate purpose and subsequent manufacture into the finished article ready for the consumer. A period of about five years elapses between the planting of the seed and the manufacture of the product into cigarettes, etc., and during all this time unremitting care is necessary to retain and improve the natural fragrance of the leaves and bring them into proper condition for smoking, this end being assisted by periodical treatment in one type of machine or another.

It is the final process, no doubt, that is of most interest to smokers—the actual production of cigarettes. The various operations are surprisingly simple. The tobacco, already "shredded," is put into a container, technically termed a "hopper," placed above the machine, whence internal rollers regulate the "feed" to a smaller "hopper" situated below, and from which the required quantity of tobacco falls upon, and is carried along by, the cigarette paper. Passing along both paper and tobacco enter the larger end of an elongated cone-shaped tube, and as it proceeds through one side of the paper is wrapped round the tobacco leaving the other edge projecting upwards for treatment by the "automatic paster," which deposits a very small quantity of special paste. Continuing further this pasted edge encounters a shaped block, which wraps it round the cigarettes. The seam is then sealed and dried by means of an electric or mechanical drying device. There is then a long paper-enveloped tobacco "rod," and the only remaining operation is the cutting off of the cigarettes to the predetermined length. This is performed by a high-speed circular knife, ground to razor-edge keenness, and operated vertically and horizontally by cams and levers in unison with the rate of egress of the "rod." The finished cigarettes are then ejected into the "catcher" at the rate of ten per second.

A highly interesting feature of a machine such as that described is the printing device which stamps the name or trade-mark (or both), invariably found on cigarettes of every type and quality, often in two colours. This forms an integral part of the machine, and consists of small dies located on rollers adjusted according to the length of the cigarette being made, and where a two-colour design is to be printed, in register one with the other. The cigarette paper strip passes under these dies in its passage from the roll to the "hopper." Another adjunct frequently encountered in this highly developed machine is an automatic device for affixing gold, cork, or paraffin tips.

A branch of the Eastern Bank was opened on July 1 at Bahrein, in the Persian Gulf.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—Dividend on cumulative preference shares for the year to March 31 of 5½ per cent.

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## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

There was launched at Scotstoun, on June 30, from the west yard of Messrs. Barclay, Curle and Co., Ltd., the steel twin-screw steamer Mundra, built for the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. The vessel is constructed to the highest class of Lloyd's Registry, and is of the following dimensions:—Length 450 ft., breadth 58 ft., depth 35 ft. 6 ins., with a gross tonnage of 8,000, and a d.w. capacity of 11,250 tons. The vessel is fully equipped with winches, and has electric lighting and steam heating throughout; she will also possess an installation of wireless telegraphy. The machinery consists of two sets of triple-expansion engines, taking steam from four boilers of sufficient power to ensure a sea speed of 13½ knots.

The Cunard Line celebrated its eightieth anniversary on July 4. On July 4, 1840, the company owned four ships, totalling 4,616 tons; in 1920, in addition to the existing mammoth liners Aquitania, Caronia, and Carmania, and other famous ships, the company have either building or completing for service a tonnage of a quarter of a million. In 1840 there were three ports of call; to-day there are eighty.

### Forthcoming Sailings.

The Cunard Line s.s. Pavia, for Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Glasgow on July 9, Manchester on July 17, and at Liverpool on July 22.

The Cunard Line s.s. Antinoe, for Piræus, Constantinople, and Galatz, will close for cargo in London on July 14.

The Moss Line s.s. Amasis, for Gibraltar, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo on July 30.

The Ellerman Line s.s. Belgravian, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on July 10.

The Papayanni Line (Ellerman Lines, Ltd.) s.s. Bosnian, for Malta and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on July 17.

The Papayanni Line (Ellerman Lines, Ltd.) s.s. Austrian, for Algiers, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo on July 10.

The Johnston Line s.s. Venice, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on July 9.

The Johnston Line s.s. Wingate, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila, will leave Liverpool on July 17.

The Anchor Line s.s. Elysia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Glasgow on July 10, and at Liverpool on July 22.

The Bibby Line s.s. Gloucestershire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on July 14.

The Henderson Line s.s. Amarapoora, for Rangoon, will close for cargo at Glasgow on July 19, and at Birkenhead on July 28.

The Clan Line s.s. North Sands, for Bombay and Persian Gulf, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on July 13.

The Harrison Line s.s. Tactician, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Liverpool on July 24.

In the list of "Forthcoming Sailings" inserted in THE NEAR EAST of June 24, Constantinople was given amongst the ports of call of the Johnston Line s.s. Cranmore. It should, of course, have been Constantza.

The receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended June 10 amounted to £E10,340, making the total for the year £E80,239. For the corresponding period of 1919, the receipts amounted to £E7,619, and the total to £E24,162.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended June 19 amounted to £6,622.


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## COMPANY MEETING.

### EGYPTIAN HOTELS.

The twenty-third annual general meeting of the Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., was held on June 30 at the registered offices of the company, 11, Ironmonger Lane, E.C., the Right Hon. Lord Claud Hamilton, P.C. (the chairman) presiding.

The notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report having been read,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—From the accounts which the directors have put before you for the year ended April 30 last you will have seen that the results of the year's working have been satisfactory. The profits shown are the highest recorded since the formation of the company. During the past year your directors received an offer for the purchase of the Ghezireh Palace Hotel and lands not previously sold, and after considerable negotiations decided to realise the properties, together with some of the contents of the hotel. The remainder of the hotel equipment has been taken over by Shepheard's Hotel at the valuation shown in the accounts. The whole of the purchase price has been received, and effect has been given to the transactions in the accounts before you. I desire to point out to you that as a result of this realisation the whole of the debenture loan and advances, which at the close of the 1919 accounts were £55,538 17s. 2d. and £17,500 respectively, have been paid off. The item of £47,610 10s. 3d. shown under the heading of "suspense account for sums received in respect of land sold and not conveyed to the purchaser" will be liquidated by the reduction of the "freehold and leasehold land and buildings" account as and when conveyances of land are called for.

With regard to the accounts, I have little to add to the directors' report attached thereto. The plant, fixtures, and fittings have been consistently depreciated. The stock on hand has been valued by the hotel manager, and proper reserve has been made for any doubtful debts included in the sundry debtors.

The balance of profits shown by the accounts is £50,557 4s. 10d., which, with £10,383 4s. 7d. brought forward from last year, leaves a balance to be dealt with of £60,950 9s. 5d., and the directors recommend (1) the payment of a dividend of 5 per cent. for the year on the preference shares, (2) the payment of a dividend of 25 per cent. for the year on the ordinary shares, (3) the placing to a special reserve of £15,000. If these recommendations are approved, the balance to be carried forward to next year will be £8,950 9s. 5d. In conclusion, the warm thanks of the board and of the shareholders are due to the members of the local board, to the management and hotel staff, for the success which has been achieved. I now **move**: "That the directors' report and accounts for the year ended April 30, 1920 as submitted to the shareholders, be received and adopted."

Mr. Charles Baehler seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then moved: "That a dividend of 5 per cent. on the preference shares for the year ended April 30, 1920, be and the same is hereby declared payable on and after July 15, 1920."

Mr. H. M. Snow, M.V.O., seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman next moved: "That a dividend of 25 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended April 30, 1920, be and the same is hereby declared payable on and after July 15, 1920."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Baehler, and was carried unanimously.

The retiring director (Lord Claud Hamilton) and the auditors (Messrs. Turquand Youngs and Co.) were re-elected, and a vote of thanks having been accorded to the chairman, the proceedings terminated.

## NEAR EAST MARKETS.

### LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

**Dried Fruit.**

The market for currants has continued to harden as a result of the increasing demand. Stocks of lower grade fruit are now very small. Considerable business has been done in futures at advanced rates. Sultanas have been in good demand, but supplies are lacking.

**Sugar.**

A quiet tone has characterised the free market. West Indian crystallised has been done at from 140s. to 185s., and American granulated and white Java have been steady at 160s. Home refined has continued in good demand at the controlled prices.

**Coffee.**

The market has been quiet, and prices have been lower. The futures market has been very dull. Quotations are:—July, 85s.; September, 80s.; December, 72s. 6d.; March, 69s.

**Oilseeds.**

Indian linseed is 2s. 9d. lower at 36s. 9d., while La Plata has declined to 34s. 6d. Rapeseed has been a dull feature, with Toria 3s. lower at 34s. Cottonseed has been quiet, with Bombay at 12s. and Egyptian at 18s. 6d.

**Oilcakes, etc.**

Supplies of oilcakes are ample to meet requirements, and the tone is generally easy. Oils have been rather dull. Linseed oil has come to business at 75s., while refined rape oil has been done at 85s. Turpentine has been weak, but has firmed up to 140s.

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## COMPULSORY LABOUR IN BULGARIA.

The Department of Overseas Trade has issued the following communiqué:—

The Bulgarian Government seems fully alive to the necessity of devoting its chief energies to the economic restoration of the country, and with this object in view a law has been passed for the introduction of compulsory labour. By this measure the Government hopes to rely on an organised body of men, able to cope with any national emergency, and who would remain at work despite any efforts of extremists to induce them to revolt. The Bill is also calculated to assist Bulgaria in raising more rapidly the amount of the war indemnity by increasing the production and revenue of the country.

The Bill has for its aim the training of the youth of the country to fulfil their obligations as useful citizens, irrespective of their social and material position. It is intended to engender in the young that devotion to public affairs and love of physical labour which are necessary to a nation anxious to reorganise itself on a sound basis.

The objects of the Bill are, broadly speaking:—1, to prepare the young for practical life; 2, to organise and thereby increase the productive power of the State; 3, to socialise the source of wealth and human labour; 4, to assist the country to emerge from the critical state to which it has been brought by the war.

## PROPOSED ROUMANIAN OIL MERGER.

A circular issued by the directors of the Traian-Roumanian and Anglo-Roumanian Oil Companies states:—

In view of the difficulty of obtaining adequate working capital and the desirability of combining with large interests, the directors submit for approval the following proposal, which has been put before them by an influential group in London, who wish to come into Roumania with the object of developing a large oil industry under British control, and who are willing to give this company the benefit of their organisation and large working capital provided they can obtain 51 per cent. of the shares of this company.

The new company is to have a capital of not exceeding £2,050,000, divided into 2,000,000 shares of £1 each, which will be entitled to 75 per cent. of the profits, and 1,000,000 shares of 1s. each, carrying 25 per cent. of the profits. The purchasers guarantee that £500,000 shall be subscribed in cash, thus forming a substantial working capital for the enterprise. The directors have entered into an agreement with the purchasers, defining the basis on which it is proposed that the new company shall obtain control of this company's shares, as follows:—

Not less than 51 per cent. of the issued shares of the company must be deposited with an accompanying bank transfer, to be exchanged for fully paid shares in the new company in the ratio of one fully paid £1 share in the new company for two fully paid £1 shares held. The new company to appoint a board of directors to include one director of this company. The retiring directors will receive as compensation the amount of one year's salary or fees as directors, to be satisfied by the issue to them of shares. Arrangements are to be made for the settlement of the outstanding liabilities in London, which amount to about £10,000.

The company is at the present time without funds, and will be unable to repair the wells or adequately develop the property without a considerable amount of new capital. The board has endeavoured to secure further funds, but has been unable to obtain the substantial sums required on anything like reasonable terms. After careful consideration of the scheme, the directors have decided, in view of the large amount of working capital to be provided and the very powerful group who will control the new company, to accept the proposal and to recommend it for the shareholders' approval.


# IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

**Capital - £10,000,000**
**Paid-up - £5,000,000**

## GENERAL COMMITTEE.

**LONDON.**

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E. C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

**PARIS.**

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
J. BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
HENRI HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

## London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.
Assistant Manager: W. P. SHEPPARD.

**PARIS:** 7, Rue Meyerbeer.
**MANCHESTER:** 25, Pall Mall.
**MARSEILLES:** 41-43, Rue Grignan.

**CONSTANTINOPLE.**
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

**EGYPT.** Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.
**PALESTINE.** Jerusalem. Jaffa.
**CYPRUS.** Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.
**SYRIA.** Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.

**SALONICA. TUNIS. AFRICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.**
(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

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

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.


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## NEW COMPANIES.

**Phœnix Oil and Transport.**

The Phœnix Oil and Transport Company, Ltd., has been registered with a capital of £1,050,000 in 1,000,000 shares of £1 each and 1,000,000 shares of 1s. each. Objects: To search for, win, refine, and deal in oils, shale, minerals, natural gas and minerals, and to own oil tank and other ships, etc. The subscribers are: Petroleum and Industrial Trust, 54, New Broad Street, E.C., 1,000,000 1s. shares; A. H. Farley, 127, Ferme Park Road, N.8, company director, one £1 share; A. Lidgett, Brookside, Beckenham, newspaper proprietor, one £1 share; A. M. Fletcher, 36, Warwick Gardens, W.14, chartered secretary, one £1 share; W. Masterson, Granby Court, 88, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, oil expert, one £1 share; W. H. W. Lacey, Pembroke, Epping, company director, one £1 share; A. J. Pegg, 54, New Broad Street, E.C. company secretary, one £1 share; W. H. O. Jackson, 54, New Broad Street, E.C., accountant, one £1 share. The directors are not yet appointed

## TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—

**Egypt.**

*(The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.)*

Iron Safes.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 180 iron safes. July 12.

Rails.—The Surveyor-General of Egypt, Giza (Mudiriya) invites tenders for the supply of cut rails in accordance with specification and conditions available at Survey Offices, Giza. Contractors are invited to put in their offers for any quantity available for immediate delivery or for delivery during the current financial year. Tenders should show quantity, weight per yard run, rate per ton of 1,000 kilos, period required for delivery, place of delivery, and any other details necessary. March 1, 1921.

H.M. Commercial Agent for Egypt has forwarded copies of the specification, conditions of tender, and tender form in connection with a call for tenders by the Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, for the supply and delivery of eight steel house barges for the Upper White Nile Division. Sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received by the Director-General, Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, up to noon on July 20. A provisional deposit of 2 per cent. or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent. of the value of the offer must accompany each tender. The above-mentioned copies of the specification, etc., may be consulted by British firms interested at the enquiry office of the Department of Overseas Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2 (L.).

Cotton Waste.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 200 metrical tons cotton waste. August 9. (L.)

Uniforms.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for Bedford cord pantaloons, khaki drill infantry and artillery frocks. Tenders will be received up to first post on Monday, July 26, and will remain open for 14 days. (L.)

**Malta.**

The Council of Government invites tenders from British firms for the construction of a first-class shipbuilding and repairing yard.

**India.**

Iron Pipes.—The Madras Corporation invites tenders for the supply and delivery of about 220 tons of cast-iron spigot and socket pipes, with special castings, sluice-valves, etc. September 8.

Steel Rails, etc.—The East Indian Railway invites tenders for the supply of steel rails, fishplates, and fishbolts. July 14.

Rails, Fishplates, etc.—The India Office invites tenders for the supply of (1) rails and fishplates, (2) dog-spikes, (3) fishbolts. July 16.

## ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

There has been very little doing this week in Egyptian securities, but Greek Government bonds have again been an active and improving market. Egyptian Unifieds are closing ¼ lower at 68¾, which is also the extent of the decline in the 3½ per cent. Prefs. Greek 1881 and 1884 Loans have recovered a great part of their dividend at 57 xd., the 1890 Loan is half a point up at 54, and Funding is a point higher at 53 xd. The 1902 Railway Loan has recovered the whole of its dividend at 45½ xd.

Bank of Athens shares have continued in strong demand round 4; Egyptian Bank shares are quite unaltered, excepting Land Banks, which are nominally ⅛ down at 5. Bank of Abyssinia have lost a similar fraction at 1⅜, and Imperial Ottoman Banks are ¼ lower at 8¾.

Among Land shares, there has been some little business in Aboukirs, Delta Lands and New Egyptians, but without altering the respective prices. Sudan Plantations close a better market and are 3-16 up at4¼, but, on the other hand, Union Foncières have dropped ⅛ to 4½.

In Miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Waters are nominally ¼ down at 8, and Morum's have dropped 6d. to 17s. 6d.

In Oil shares the feature has been the rise of 7-16ths in Anglo-Egyptian B to 3 1-16th.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97 5/16-97 7/16 |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 31·40-31·80 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 67-50-69 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·9½-1·9¾ |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 160-165 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·9½-1·9¾ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 400-420 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅜ | 3·94¼-3·94½ |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 45·35-45·80 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22 | 260-265 |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 27 |

## LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

There has not been any important change in the market since a week ago. Demand has continued very poor, and spinners and manufacturers, owing to lack of support, have lost further ground. No producer at the moment is selling the output of his machinery, and the immediate future causes some anxiety. It is believed, however, that before very long a change in the conditions will take place, as there is no appearance of the consuming outlets of the world being over-supplied in cotton goods. Egyptian cotton prices, on the whole, have been rather steadier, but the trade demand continues poor. Crop reports remain favourable There has not been any move towards increased activity in Egyptian yarns. There is a remarkable variation in prices when tested. The American cotton crop continues to improve, and the recent official reports may be described as bearish. Inquiry in piece goods for Egypt and the Near East generally has not been quite so dead as a week or two ago, but offers have been on a low basis, and in the way of fresh business nothing tangible has taken place. Advices generally from India and China have been rather better. Freer operations, however, are held back by the unfavourable exchange situation. Comparatively little has been done for South America. Some sellers have reported a fair amount of demand for West African outlets. Burnley manufacturers have welcomed the annual holiday, and many firms have extended the usual stoppage. A very slack feeling has prevailed in American yarns. Producers to sell have had to give way in price. Very few bids in export numbers have been received.


# BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

Telegrams: "TRABANQUE, LONDON."

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.)
13 AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telephones: LONDON WALL, 2947-2948.

**CAPITAL.**

**Authorised, £10,000,000. | Subscribed and Paid up, £2,000,000.**

*Governor*, The Lord Faringdon. *Deputy Governor*, Sir Henry Babington Smith, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.S.I.

*Manager*, A. G. M. Dickson.

*London Manager*, P. C. West. *Secretary*, G. de B. Brounlie.

The Corporation is prepared to assist in the development of the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and offers exceptional financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their export and import trade.

It has Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world, and transacts Banking business of every description.

It invites enquiries, and will endeavour, where necessary, to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

*Branches* BATOUM. BELGRADE. DANZIG.

*Affiliated Companies:* THE NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY, Constantinople and Branches

THE TRADE INDEMNITY CO., LTD. *(Established for the assistance of British Trade by the Insurance of Accounts.*


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# "NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

| LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE. | Price June 28. | Price July 5. |
|---|---|---|
| **GOVERNMENT STOCKS.** | | |
| Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892 | 36 | 36 |
| Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907 | 51½ | 51½ |
| Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909 | 27 | 27 |
| City of Alexandria 4%, 1909 | 60 | 60 |
| Egyptian 4% Unified Debt | 69 | 68⅞ |
| Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890 | 57½ | 57½ |
| Greek 5%, 1881 | 58½ | 57xd |
| Do. 5%, 1884 | 58½ | 57xd |
| Do. 4% Rentes, 1889 | 41 | 41 |
| Do. 5% 1890 | 53½ | 54 |
| Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893 | 52½ | 53xd |
| Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902 | 45½ | 45½xd |
| Do. 4% Loan, 1910 | 40 | 40 |
| Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) | 54½ | 54½ |
| Do. 5% Currant | 91 | 91 |
| Montenegro 5% Loan | 68½ | 68½ |
| Persia 5% 1911 | 65 | 64 |
| Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913 | 35 | 36 |
| Serbian 4% Unified Bonds | — | — |
| Turkish 4% 1891 | 60 | 60 |
| Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894 | 54 | 54 |
| Do. 4% Unified | 34 | 34 |
| **BANKS.** | | |
| Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) | 4⅝ | 4⅝ |
| Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) | 5⅛ | 5⅛ |
| Do. 3½ Bonds Red. | 63 | 63 |
| Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red. | 65 | 65 |
| Bank of Abyssinia | 1½ | 1⅜ |
| Bank of Athens | 4 | 4 |
| Bank of British West Africa | 5⅛ | 5⅛ |
| Bank of Roumania | 5⅛ | 5⅛ |
| British Trade Corporation | 9 | 9 |
| Imperial Ottoman Bank | 9 | 8¾ |
| Imperial Bank of Persia | 7⅞ | 7⅞ |
| Ionian Bank, Limited | 5 | 5 |
| Land Bank of Egypt Ord. | 5⅜ | 5 |
| London County and Westminster | 14⅛ | 14⅛ |
| National Bank of Egypt | 19½ | 19½ |
| **RAILWAYS.** | | |
| Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer | 5⅛ | 5⅝ |
| Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord. | 9 | 9 |
| Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref. | 10 | 10 |
| Do. Do. 4% Debs. | 34 | 34 |
| Do Do. 5% 2nd Debs. | 27 | 27 |
| Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry. | 29½ | 29½ |
| Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½% | 66½ | 65½ |
| Do. Do. 3% Bonds | 45 | 50¾ |
| **LAND.** | | |
| Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) | 35/- | 35/- |
| Do. 6% Debs | 135 | 135 |
| Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt | 12/6 | 12/6 |
| Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment | 75/- | 75/- |
| Béhéra Co. | 16 | 16 |
| Do. Pref. | 3½ | 3½ |
| Building Lands of Egypt | 1½ | 1½ |
| Egyptian Consol 5/- | 2/9 | 2/9 |
| Egyptian Delta Land and Invest. | 13/6 | 13/6 |
| Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs. | 75 | 75 |
| Do. Land and General Trust | 1/6 | 1/6 |
| Do. and Foreign Trust | 13/- | 13/- |
| Gharbieh Land Co. | 3 | 3 |
| Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt | 29/- | 29/- |
| Do. 4½% Debs. Red. | 84½ | 84½ |
| Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red | 61½ | 61½ |
| Mortgage Co. of Egypt | 6½ | 6½ |
| Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red. | 75 | 75 |
| New Egyptian Co. | 33/6 | 33/6 |
| Sidi Salem Co. | 2½ | 2½ |
| Sudan Plantations | 4⅛ | 4½ |
| Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. | 4⅜ | 4½ |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | |
| Abyssinian Corp. | ⅛ | ⅛ |
| Alexandria Water Co. | 8½xd | 8 |
| Associated Cotton Ginners | 25/- | 25/- |
| Egyptian Hotels | 2½ | 2½ |
| Do. Markets Ord. | 1⅛ | 1⅛ |
| Do. do 5% Debs. Red. | 86½ | 86½ |
| Do. Salt and Soda Bearer | 2⅛ | 2⅛ |
| Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs. | 96⅜ | 96⅜ |
| Khediv al Mail Ord. | 5⅛ | 5⅛ |
| Do. Do. Prefs. | 3½ | 3½ |
| Levant Co. (fully paid) | 17/9 | 18/- |
| Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref | 18/- | 17/6 |
| Suez Canal | — | — |
| **Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.** | | |
| Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series | 92⅜ | 94⅜ |
| Chinese 4½% 1898 | 57⅜ | 57½ |
| Do. 5% 1896 | 71⅜ | 71⅜ |
| Argentine 5% 1890 | 73¼ | 70¾ |
| Do. 5% 1907 | 80 | 80 |
| **OIL.** | | |
| Algerian | 3/3 | 3/6 |
| Anglo-Bulgarian | 8/7½ | 8/7½ |
| Anglo-Egyptian B | £3 | 3⅛ |
| Anglo-Persian Pref. | 22/3 | 22/6 |
| Do. 5% Debs. | 81½ | 80½ |
| Anglo-Roumanian | 6/11½ | 7/3 |
| Cyprus Oil Trust | 4/- | 3/10½ |
| Maisel's Petroleum Trust | 14/- | 10/7½ |
| Roumanian | 17/9 | 18/9 |
| Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs. | 100 | 100 |
| Suez | 5/6 | 5/9 |
| Traian (Roumanian) | 7/- | 7/6 |

The Assam-Bengal Railway Co. announces that the Secretary for India has informed the board that he does not intend to exercise his powers under Clause 92 of the contract with the company of determining the company's contract next year.

# "NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

*(Continued.)*

| BRUSSELS BOURSE. | Price June 19. | Price July 3. |
|---|---|---|
| Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs. | 425 | 397·50 |
| Do. do. Priv. | 620 | 576·50 |
| Do. do. Cap. | 425 | 444·50 |
| Do. do. Div. | 350 | 400 |
| Anglo-Belgian Co. | 40·50 | 39·50 |
| Cairo Electric Railways Cap. | 230·50 | 225 |
| Do. do. Div. | 310 | 300·50 |
| Caisse Hypothécaire Act | 475 | 477.50 |
| Do. do. (10 eme p.b.) | 70 | 64·75 |
| Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½% Debs. | 350 | 355·50 |
| Do. do. Priv. | 492·50 | 490 |
| Do. do. Div. | 184 | 184 |
| Compagnie Immobilière Deb. | 373 | 375 |
| Do. do. Cap. | 184·75 | 161·25 |
| Do. do Fond. | 245 | 258·75 |
| Enterprise and Development Cap. | 239·59 | 230 |
| Do. do. Div. | 122·50 | 120·50 |
| Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte) Priv. | — | — |
| Do. do. Ord. | 497·50 | 497·50 |
| Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap. | 210 | 205 |
| Do. do. Div. | 100 | 125 |
| Salonika-Constantinople Railway | 250 | 230 |
| Salonika-Monastir Railway | 150 | 200 |
| Smyrna-Cassaba Railway 4%, 1894 | 150 | 150 |
| Do. do. 4%, 1895 | 150 | 150 |
| Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv. | 115 | 115 |
| Do. do. Div. | 185 | 160 |
| Tramways du Caire Priv. | 440 | 450 |
| Do. do. Jouiss. | 691·25 | 691 25 |
| Travaux Publics du Caire Priv. | 272·50 | 272·50 |
| Do. do. Ord. | — | — |
| Do. do. Div. | 40 | 40 |

# INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

**INDIAN FUNDS.**

| Interest Due. | Name. | June 21. | July 2. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc. | India 3½% Stock,* 1931 | 57 | 55⅝ |
| Various dates.. | Do. Rupee Paper 3½% | 60 | 52 |

* Redeemable.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **CORPORATION STOCKS.** | | | |
| Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959 | | 83½ | 83½ |
| Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1903-10, 1939-40 | | 65 | 65 |
| Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938 | | 66¼ | 63 |
| **BANKS.** | | | |
| Chartered of India | | 75⅜ | 75½ |
| Eastern | | 6¾ | 6¾ |
| Mercantile of India A. | | 26 | 26 |
| National of India | | 50½ | 50⅝ |
| **MINES.** | | | |
| Balaghat Gold Mining | | 8/4½ | 8/7½ |
| Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref. | | 13/4½ | 14/- |
| Burma Corp. | | 9⅞ | 9⅜ |
| Burma Ruby Mines Ord. | | 5/- | 21/- |
| Champion Reef Gold | | 2/9 | 2/7½ |
| Mysore Gold Mining | | 15/9 | 14/4½ |
| Nundydroog | | 11/6 | 11/3 |
| Ooregum Gold Mining Ord. | | 14/2½ | 14/4½ |
| Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf. | | 19,4½ | 21/- |
| Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.) | | 24/3 | 24/3 |
| **OIL.** | | | |
| Assam Oil | | 33/9 | 33/9 |
| Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref. | | 36/3 | 36/3 |
| Brit. Burmah | | 2⅛ | 95 |
| Burmah Oil Co. Ord. | | 17½ | 15⅝ |
| Do. 6% Cum. Pref. | | 18/9 | 18 9 |
| Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref. | | 9⅛ | 9⅛ |
| **RAILWAYS.** | | | |
| Assam Bengal | | 54 | 53½ |
| Bengal and N.-Western Ord. | | 124 | 123 |
| Do 3½% Cum. Pref. | | 48 | 49 |
| Bengal-Nagpur | | 102 | 103½ |
| Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India | | 100 | 100 |
| Burma Railways | | 103 | 98½ |
| Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb. | | — | — |
| E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953 | | 11⅛ | 11⅛ |
| East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957 | | 11½ | 11½ |
| Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948 | | 10⅜ | 10⅜ |
| Madras and S. Mahratta | | 107 | 102 |
| Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord. | | 121 | 121 |
| Nizam's Guaranteed State | | 71⅜ | 68 |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | | |
| Bengal Iron and Steel Ord. | | 52/3 | 52/9 |
| Do. 6% Cum. Pref. | | 19/10½ | 19/6 |
| P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P. | | 77 | 75½ |
| Do. Deferred | | 420 | 431½ |
| **TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.** | | | |
| Assam Co. | | 59½ | 57½ |
| Bengal United Tea Ord. | | 15⅞ | 15⅞ |
| British Indian Tea Ord. | | 7⅛ | 7⅛ |
| Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord. | | 15 | 15 |
| Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord. | | 9/6¾ | 9/6¾ |
| Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. | | 51/3 | 53/9 |
| Consolidated Estates | | 39/6 | 40/- |
| Darjeeling Co. | | 21/6 | 16/3 |
| Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. | | 39/6 | 37/9 |
| Dooars Tea Ord. | | 50/- | 48/- |
| Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. | | 17/10½ | 17/9 |
| Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est. | | 32/6 | 32/6 |
| Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber | | 29/9 | 29/6 |
| Hewagam Rubber Co. | | 20/- | 21/- |
| Jhanzie Tea Association | | 9 | 9⅛ |
| Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. | | 17⅜ | 17⅜ |
| Kepitigalla Rubber Estates | | 14/6 | 15/- |
| Lanka Plantations Ord. | | 22/6 | 22/6 |
| Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord. | | 21/3 | 21/3 |
| Malayalam Rub. and Produce | | 38/6 | 37,6 |
| Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. | | 12⅜ | 12⅜ |
| P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates | | 26/6 | 28/9 |

# STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

| | May 29. Rs. | June 4. Rs. |
|---|---|---|
| **GOVERNMENT LOANS.** | | |
| 3½% Government Paper | 59 | 59 |
| 4% Government Paper, 1916-17 | 74 | 74 |
| **BANKS.** | | |
| Alliance Bank of Simla | 300 | 300 |
| Bank of Bengal | 1730 | 1730 |
| Bank of Bombay | 2175 | 2130 |
| Bank of Madras | 1650 | 1650 |
| Bank of India | 146 | 148 |
| Tata Industrial Bank | 52¾ | 51 |
| **COAL.** | | |
| Baraboni | 17½ | 16½ |
| Bengal | 810 | 778ex |
| Burrakur | 48½ | 47¾ |
| East Indian | 38⅜ | 38½ |
| Equitable | 48¼ | 48 |
| Pench Valley | 335 | 335 |
| Raneegunge | 70 | 70 |
| Standard | 80 | 80 |
| **COTTON.** | | |
| Bengal Nagpur | 550ex | 550ex |
| Bombay Dyeing, etc. | 3180 | 3385 |
| Bowreah | 1300 | 1300 |
| Buckingham | 2500 | 2500 |
| Carnatic | 1200 | 1200 |
| Cawnpore | 195ex | 195ex |
| Century | 1115 | 1120 |
| Central India | 4580 | 4550 |
| | 2290 | 2275 |
| Elgin | 167½ | 167½ex |
| Gold Mohur | 400 | 400 |
| | 200 | 200 |
| Khatau Makanji | 725ex | 725 |
| Muir | 350 | 325 |
| New Ring | 1175 | 1150 |
| Phœnix | 1040 | 950 |
| Svadeshi | 4620 | 4620 |
| **JUTE.** | | |
| Alliance | 710 | 715 |
| Barnagore | 150ex | 150ex |
| Budge Budge | 6 8½ | 660 |
| Clive | 300ex | 302ex |
| Dalhousie | 510 | 510 |
| Delta | 660 | 660 |
| Fort Gloster | 1100 | 1085 |
| Gourepore | 1290 | 1290 |
| Howrah | 46 | 45½ |
| Kamarhatty | 983 | 995 |
| Kanknarrah | 775 | 775 |
| Khardah | 583 | 583 |
| Kinnison | 1170 | 1120 |
| National | 422 | 422 |
| Standard | 676 | 676 |
| Union | 810ex | 830 |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | |
| Bengal Paper Mills | 110 | 110 |
| Bengal Timber Trading | 865 | 865 |
| Burn and Co. | 300 | 300 |
| Carew and Co. | 118 | 118 |
| Cawnpore Sugar | 450 | — |
| Cawnpore Woollen | 150 | 150 |
| Champaran Sugar | 440ex | 440 |
| Howrah Oil Mills | 38 | 38 |
| India General Steam | 130 | 130 |
| Indian Iron and Steel | 140 | 140 |
| | 92 | 90 |
| Marshall Sons and Co. | 11⅜ | 12 |
| Titaghur Paper | 414 | 453 |

# ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

PRICES ON JUNE 25.

| | |
|---|---|
| Agricultural Bank of Egypt | £4⅛ex. |
| " " " Fond. | £370ex. |
| Alexandria Water Co., Ltd. | £8½ex. |
| Anglo-American Nile Steam | £4⅛ |
| Assoc. Cotton Ginners | £1⅜ |
| Banque d'Orient | Fr. 99 |
| Béhéra Ord. | L.E. 16 |
| " Priv. | £3⅝ |
| Bonded Stores | £14⅛ |
| Brasseries d'Egypte Priv. | Fr. 190 |
| Building Lands of Egypt | £4⅞ |
| Cairo Heliopolis Railway | £120 |
| Cassa di Sconto | Fr. 89 |
| " " Priv. | Fr 117 |
| Ciments d'Egypte Priv. | Fr. 58 |
| " " Div. | Fr. 30 |
| Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte | £1⅛ |
| Consolidated Land | P.T. 13 |
| Crédit Foncier Egyptien | Fr. 604 |
| " Fondateur | 7900 |
| " 1886 Oblig. | 385 |
| " 1903 " | 268 |
| " 1911 " | 269 |
| Crown Brewery Priv. | Fr. 240 |
| " " Div. | Fr. 223 |
| Eaux du Caire Capital | Fr. 85 |
| " " Jouissance | Fr. 117½ |
| Egypt and Levant S.S. Ord. | 30/6 |
| Egyptian Delta Light Railways | £5⅜ |
| Filature Nationale d'Egypte | £19⅛ |
| Frig. orifique d'Egypte | L.E. 2⅜ |
| Gabbari Lands | L.E. ⅛ |
| Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. | £6⅛ |
| Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv. | 108/- |
| " " " Ord. | £3½ |
| Kom Ombo Ste. Ane. de Wadi | £8 |
| " " Nouvelles | £8 |
| " " Fondateur | £77 |
| Land Bank of Egypt Actions | £5⅜ |
| " " Parts de Fond. | £46½ |
| Lots Turcs | Fr. 74 |
| Menzaleh Canal Navigation | P.T. 338 |
| Nungovich Hotels | £9½ |
| Ramleh Railway | £27 |
| Salt and Soda | 51/7½ |
| Tram d'Alexandrie Priv. | Fr. 60 |
| " " Div. | Fr. 83 |
| Union Foncière d'Egypte | £4⅛ |
| Upper Egypt Hotels | £1⅛ |
| Urbaines and Rurales | £3⅛ |

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 480.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, JULY 15, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The terms of the Allies' reply to the Note presented by the Turkish delegates are understood to have been decided upon at a meeting of the Conference held on Sunday, and it is anticipated that the reply will be presented on Saturday. According to all indications, any hopes of substantial modifications of the Treaty that the Turks may have entertained are doomed to disappointment, though one or two concessions on points of detail will doubtless be made. It remains to be seen whether the Turks will actually sign, and whether, if Constantinople yields to the inevitable at once, the rest of Turkey will follow suit. The fortunes of the Kemalists have not of late been of a kind to encourage them to further resistance: and though some of the more determined among them may prefer to hold out, and may even succeed in carrying on a kind of guerilla warfare for some time to come, it looks as if they have already lost the active support of very many Turks. Their opposition has, in fact, proved far less formidable than it was generally anticipated it would do, and they have received a blow from which they are not likely to recover, unless help reaches them very soon from the East.

The most important event in the Greek operations against the Nationalists has been the capture of Brusa. This was preceded by the occupation of Mudania by a British naval force, on July 6; and at the same time another British landing party occupied Ghemlik. At the latter place there was no pretence at opposition, while at Mudania the Nationalists made but a feeble show of resistance, but sniping of the landing parties necessitated a slight bombardment by our ships. As Brusa was brought within range of our naval guns by the capture of Mudania, its retention by the Nationalists would have argued more courage than sense: and they evacuated it, handing over the administration of the town to the Christian inhabitants. On June 8, the place was occupied by the Greeks, after only an hour's fighting against the Nationalists, who numbered between 3,000 and 4,000, and had taken up a position west of the town, but failed to hold their trenches.

The Greek Army is to be heartily congratulated upon its performance. The Nationalists' numbers have evidently been over-estimated, and they appear to have been very short of guns and war material generally. But even so, it was natural to expect that they would make a big effort to save Brusa, a place full of great associations for the Osmanlis. Instead of this, their opposition seems to have collapsed in the most extraordinary fashion, and though they may yet prove to the world that the old, fighting, dogged spirit of the Turk still survives in them, the possibility looks rather remote. The fact is, no doubt, that the Turkish peasant, who formerly made such a magnificent soldier when led by the right type of officer, is now heartily sick of the war, and has no faith in the "Young" Turks; while the Nationalist leaders are reported to have fallen out among themselves, and some of them are said to have been killed by the Turkish peasants whom they had sought to bend to their own purposes. If the Turks are, naturally, depressed, the Greeks are, equally naturally, exultant. As M. Venizelos remarked last week, to a special correspondent of the *Morning Post*, the Greek Army had accomplished in ten days what he had undertaken it would do in fifteen, and what some competent authorities considered it was impossible to perform at all. In the same interview, M. Venizelos stated that the Greek army had nowhere overstepped the line which the Allied command asked it to occupy, thus acting as the Allies' mandatory: and two days later (July 7) he was reported to have "informed the Allies that the Greek military operations having attained their objective had stopped" that afternoon.

During the past three or four days reports emanating from various centres have been finding their way into the Press, to the effect that Bulgaria has been secretly mobilising troops on the Greek frontier, and has been supplying war materials to Jaafar Tayar and the Turks in Eastern Thrace. Such reports can serve no good purpose, and although everyone acquainted with the facts will dismiss them as merely the products of Balkan "nerves," they may do harm in ill-informed quarters. As we have pointed out before, they reflect seriously upon the Allied representatives, military and otherwise, in the Near East, whose duty it is to see that nothing of the kind suggested in the reports referred to shall actually take place, and who, if anything of the kind should be done, would be guilty either of gross carelessness in not preventing it or of gross dishonesty in permitting it.

Any fresh disturbance in the Balkans would be a disaster not only for the Balkan countries, but for Europe and the world at large; and the authors of tendentious reports such as those referred to above are taking on themselves a very grave responsibility in setting them loose. The Bulgarian Government, through

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M. Stambolisky, the Prime Minister, have declared their intention of loyally carrying out the conditions of the Treaty they have signed; and for the sake of the world's peace, if for no other reason, their assurances should be accepted, at any rate until they can be proved worthless. Of course, the Bulgarians do not attempt to disguise the fact that they regard the Treaty as harsh, and that they hope, by legitimate means, to bring about some modifications of the San Remo decisions regarding Thrace: an official *communiqué* just issued in contradiction of the false reports with which we are dealing, admits this quite frankly, and the Bulgarians point of view finds eloquent expression in an article, from the pen of one of their best friends, and one of the leading authorities on the Balkans, which we publish on another page. But to work openly for an object is one thing; to attempt to secure it by breaking one's pledges is another. Bulgaria, we believe, is determined to "play the game," and those who misrepresent her are doing a disservice to the cause of Peace.

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The British community in Constantinople has suffered misfortune in losing part of the building of the High School for Boys, which, as described elsewhere, has been burned in one of those fires that so frequently break out, often inexplicably, in and among the older buildings of the city. The school, as we have had occasion to remark before, is one of which the British community has good reason to be proud, and we hope that the loss will very soon be made good and the destroyed building be replaced by one more modern and larger. That the school committee will do its best we feel sure, but our countrymen in Turkey have been through trying times, and they can hardly be as well placed now to make good the damage as they would have been before the war. The case would seem to be one in which the British Government might very well step in and help. In view of the strong recommendations on the subject of supporting British educational establishments abroad made recently by the Foreign Office Committee which examined the question, such assistance would surely be warranted. That it would be welcomed is not to be doubted, and if it could be given without any long delay in the giving, the good deed would be all the better.

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The King's message to the people of Palestine should help to reassure those who fear that the rights of the non-Jewish population are imperilled by the new order of things. In it His Majesty says: "I desire to assure you of the absolute impartiality with which the duties of the Mandatory Power will be carried out and of the determination of my Government to respect the rights of every race and every creed represented among you"; and after referring to the measures to "secure the gradual establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people," the message adds that: "These measures will not in any way affect the civil or religious rights or diminish the prosperity of the general population of Palestine." Those are distinct promises, and, given by the King, they should carry peace to the doubters; and we share His Majesty's confidence, expressed in the message, that the High Commissioner will "whole-heartedly and effectively carry out these principles."

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Fresh trouble is reported from Mesopotamia, this time south of Baghdad, in the purely Arab region. Apparently it arose in connection with the imprisonment of a minor sheikh who had been found guilty of inciting to rebellion. A band of tribesmen attacked the Government prison at Rumeita [Query: Rumetha?] and released the sheikh. Then the telegraph and railway lines were cut in several places; a train of reinforcements from Busreh reached Samawa on June 3, but a second train was attacked and had to return to Busreh; and an aeroplane reconnaissance shows that considerable damage has been done to the railway. All this is quite unpleasant, but it was exactly what had to be expected, and it certainly does not justify the sensational treatment accorded it by a section of the Press. To talk of the "isolation of the British garrison at Baghdad" while the river is open is simply foolish.

The young Egyptian who on June 12 attempted to assassinate Tewfik Nessim Pasha, the Prime Minister, has paid the full penalty for his crime, having been executed on July 8. He is the first of seven or eight would-be assassins of Ministers thus to suffer, and it is to be hoped that the substitution of strict justice for the leniency that was shown in earlier cases will put an end to these cowardly attempts. At the present time, when negotiations of the utmost importance for the future of Egypt are in progress, it would be thought that even the extremest of the Extremists would realise that such attempts could do nothing but harm to the Egyptian cause; but, unfortunately, recent events lead us to fear that Egypt is cursed with an unusually high percentage of *exaltés*, upon whose conduct it is impossible to calculate with any certainty.

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The new Persian Cabinet—which is now complete—has troubles enough to tax its abilities fully. What is described in one Teheran correspondent's message as "a Bolshevist mob" has landed at Meshad-i-Sar, in Mazanderan, and Bolshevist forces are growing elsewhere, notably in the Sarakhs region, where the situation is said to be serious. The newcomers are meeting with stiff opposition from the Persians, and a message from Teheran states that Kutchik Khan and his Soviet friends have fallen out with one another; but on the whole the gain seems to be with the Bolshevists, and in one case, at least, an entire gendarmerie post has gone over to them. In the circumstances it is distinctly unfortunate that the British troops have had to be withdrawn from Batoum, for in this way another point, and an important one, will be found to have been given away to the "Reds."

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Some interesting details concerning the trouble last winter in the Southern Sudan are given in a note contributed to *The Times* by a correspondent. According to him, the Aliabs particularly objected to the durra tax, chiefly because they feared that they would have to carry in the grain themselves, but also because it would necessitate their bartering their cattle to secure the requisite quantities; and the correspondent points out that their hatred of carrying is justified by their physical unfitness for the work. They are fishermen and cattle-breeders; and they have never been under effective control, for when hard pressed they have retired into the recesses of the Sudd, where no strangers could follow them. Given these facts, it is evident that the collection of an unpopular tax was likely to be no easy business. Unfortunately, matters were not improved by the absence of a white Inspector, while the black Inspector who was on the scene is described as "an unfortunate choice." He is alleged to have bullied and cheated the Aliabs, and to have offended grossly their ideas regarding women. These conditions conspired to drive the tribesmen into a state of revolt, and thus began the trouble.

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If these things are as represented, it is impossible to avoid agreeing with the view that the rising was due to bad management. It is also stated that the disaster that overtook the Equatorial troops was due to their lack of proper arms: that their rifles were out of date, and they had no machine guns. This is unpleasant reading, but fortunately such things are in the nature of novelties as far as the Sudan is concerned, and we shall almost certainly be right in attributing them to conditions brought about by the war. The moral would seem to be—though the school of Paget, M.P., would not agree with us—to avoid placing black inspectors in positions where they can do any serious harm, and to endeavour so to adjust methods of tax-collecting that the minimum of inconvenience shall be inflicted upon the native taxpayer—who has not yet, presumably, learnt the docility of his British brother in misfortune. The Sudan Civil Service has been severely taxed by the war, and in all probability Khartoum has had to turn the blind eye to many shortcomings that would not have passed unnoticed in pre-war days. We may confidently expect that with the return of more normal conditions and the strengthening, numerically, of the Civil Service, the Sudan will very quickly recover its enviable reputation for doing things well, if not always in orthodox fashion,

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# THE WEEK AT HOME.

**The Dyer Debate.**

The House of Commons is never at its best on India, for although quite a number of members know where India is, their knowledge is seldom more precise. The Dyer debate was, however, below even the usual average, with the single exception of Mr. Winston Churchill's speech, which was quite excellent. Mr. Montagu struck the wrong note throughout, and rasped everybody's nerves; even his supporters admitted that there was some justification for those who say he will have to go. But the matter of Sir Edward Carson's speech was also quite extraordinarily poor; its manner, of course, redeemed it a little. The rest of the speakers were not worth listening to, and to do the House justice it did not listen to them.

Leaving principle on one side, the debate did the Government no good, and it was the consciousness of that fact, at least as much as the excellence of their ethical standard which made the Independent Liberals so jubilant. There were some delightful comments on the differences between Coalition Liberal and Coalition Unionist, and the possibility of using Mr. Montagu as a wedge to divide the two wings of the Government, which made one wonder whether the Tapers and Tadpoles cared a jot about Amritsar or General Dyer. But the Lobby aspect of high political questions always makes one feel cynical; if the recording angel (who is not a Member of Parliament) collects evidence from the lobbies and smoking-rooms of the House, few politicians will escape damnation. Perhaps few deserve to escape.

Mr. Montagu's future is rather doubtful. Five years ago, as Mr. Asquith's favourite young politician, and a man with evident gifts of no mean order, anything seemed within his grasp. But his old Liberal colleagues have not forgiven him for deserting the Asquithian ship in 1917, and his Unionist colleagues have detested his policy and his methods ever since. He is becoming an increasingly lonely figure, and he appears to be conscious of the fact; nor is he a man, like Burke or Gladstone, who seems the greater the more solitary he is.

**The Vicious Circle Again.**

The increase of rents, and the forthcoming increase of railway rates, has again started the vicious circle of rising prices and wages. The miners, as usual, are the first in the field, with a demand for a reduction in the price of coal and another increase of wages; the return of Mr. Smillie—who has been ill for some weeks—has at once been followed by a revival of agitation, hints of direct action, and the inevitable veiled threats of revolution. On the other hand, Mr. J. H. Thomas, of the railwaymen, has made a courageous speech, in which he warns his followers, and incidentally Labour as a whole, that bad times are ahead, and that a break is bound to come. The railway position, however, is a complicated one.

**Railways and Fares.**

The annual deficit on the railways is £54,500,000 It is calculated that this will be wiped out by increasing passenger fares and foods rates 25 per cent.—an increase which Sir Eric Geddes assured the House of Commons last autumn was "unthinkable," but which now seems to be regarded as inevitable. On the present volume of traffic it is reckoned that this all-round increase would bring in £57 millions, but, allowing for a diminution of traffic from increased rates, it is assumed that the £54½ millions will be about covered by the extra 25 per cent.

I am not an authority on these matters, but, personally, I doubt it. With the abolition of all cheap tickets, and ordinary railway fares everywhere nearly doubled, railway travelling for pleasure has practically ceased; it costs too much.

The railwayman's difficulty is that it is still not a criminal offence for passengers to stop at home, and a good many people are taking that remedy. It happens that this last week I have been in a good many main-line trains in various parts of the country, and although it is nearly the height of the holiday season, most of the trains have been more than half-empty, although they were running at popular hours, and from what used to be popular seaside and country places to London.

The Londoner who used to make a day trip from London to Brighton for half-a-crown now finds that the ordinary third return costs about twelve shillings; he therefore gets on the top of the motor-bus and goes to Epsom, walks across the Downs to Leatherhead or Box Hill, and takes the motor-bus back to Clapham Common, with his half-crown. If he has more money, he buys a motor-cycle, and is entirely independent of trains.

Even business men, and particularly commercial travellers, who rarely bothered about train fare in the old days of cheap travel, now do more of their business by post, and rearrange their journeys to reduce travelling expenses as much as possible, and the additional 25 per cent. will make them still more exigent on this point. I am not a prophet, but I predict that in a year's time there will be another deficit and another crisis on the railways, simply because the public have silently revolted from the burden.

**The Empress Eugenie.**

The ex-Empress Eugenie, who survived Napoleon III. nearly half-a-century, had become almost a figure of legend in and around Farnborough, and even before the war she seemed recognisably a link with an earlier world. For years past she had hardly been seen in public, and her retired life had left her nothing more than a name—perhaps hardly even that—to the younger generation.

**"Jacky Fisher."**

If Lord Fisher had lived a few months longer he would have been eighty. But he never gave one the impression of being an old man; he seemed still to have a fair amount of physical vigour, and his mental vigour was prodigious to the last. If he did not actually love controversy for its own sake, like Mr. Lloyd George, he never disliked the idea of a fight, and he seemed sometimes to enjoy trailing his coat for others to tread on.

But he was a very great man—even to his egoism, which was enormous. He was not unique in foreseeing the war ten years before it started, for many others did that; but he had not only the courage of his convictions, but also the opportunity to carry them out, in his reorganisation of the Fleet. How the changes were hated in the Service clubs ten years ago, in the days when the Navy was divided into Fisherites and anti-Fisherites! Fisher seemed rather to enjoy his unpopularity, and I do not think he was seriously annoyed even when Mayfair drawing-rooms credited him with Cinghali ancestry and called him a "half-caste" behind his back. It was a silly and a malicious story, for his parentage was fully set out in "Who's Who," but it was extraordinary how widely it was credited.

**Dante Celebrations.**

Six centuries ago next year Dante died, and London University intends to commemorate the event by lectures and the issue of a memorial volume. The precise connection between Dante and the University has not been ascertained, but it needs no great excuse to justify a love of the Florentine, and no doubt many other people and institutions will celebrate the occasion in one way or another. If one may judge by the amount of Dante literature published before the war, the vogue of the "Divine Comedy" was still growing in this country, and one remembers that it was even filmed—at least the "Inferno" was.

The fever for celebrating centenaries seems to be breaking out pretty badly again, and we may get a renewal of pageantry in due course. The tercentenary of the "Mayflower" is being celebrated on and off all through the summer; fortunately nobody has noticed that this year is the quatercentenary of Luther's burning of the Papal Bull, which is usually accepted as the beginning of the Reformation. We may be as Protestant as ever—one sometimes doubts it—but it is only the High Churchman who emphasises the fact that the Reformation was "made in Germany."

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**Cricket and the Climate.**

The British climate has been in a disgustingly bad temper this last week. It has rained horribly every day. Ladies deplore ruined costumes and men regret that it has ruined cricket. The University match at Lord's was a farce. On the first two days not a ball could be bowled; on the third day a beginning was made—the M.C.C. ground dries quickly since the new drainage scheme was completed—but although an extra day was played, the match was unfinished, and it was anybody's game at the end. Eton v. Harrow, which produced an exciting match, was a little more fortunate, but the sky was dull and threatening most of the time.

All over the country matches were unfinished and abandoned, and the usual prophets of evil have assured us that the summer is over, and we must expect three months' wet. As a matter of fact, July is often a wet month, but this year we have a deficiency of rainfall to make up from February and March, and things usually even out in the long run. But rarely have I seen London look more clean, or Londoners more depressed, than on Tuesday evening, when it had rained forty-eight hours with only a few minutes' interval.

**The Public Schools.**

It is amazing how the public schools have recovered their prestige of recent years. They have been holding their speech and prize days recently, and almost every headmaster has commented on the fact that there were more applications for admission than vacancies, that for five years or more they could take no new boys, and in one case that it would soon be necessary to enter a boy almost on the day he was born if one wants him educated at that particular foundation. Yet the fees have been put up everywhere, every middle-aged man one meets grumbles that he cannot possibly afford the expense, and the reformers rage as of old over the absurd curriculum which instructs budding accountants and solicitors in the niceties of Ovid and Juvenal, and leaves them innocent of mathematics. So great is the prosperity of the public schools at the moment that it would not be surprising if some new foundations were established.

**The Week's Books.**

"The Social and Industrial History of Scotland," by James Mackinnon (Blackie), is a useful little book as far as it goes, which is not very far. It stops in 1707, when, as every impartial Scot will admit, the real history of Scotland begins. But this book, by its sketch of social conditions in the north, will a little help to correct the very natural belief of Englishmen that prior to the Union the main industry of Scotland was the murder of its kings.

"Fundamentals in Sexual Ethics," by Dr. S. Herbert, M.D. (Black), is a survey by a thoughtful medical man of the sex question in its relation to the individual and to society. The usual fault of these books is to make one feel that the abnormal is really the normal, and that the ordinary decent man and woman does not exist; it is probably the natural consequence of doctors seeing only abnormal cases. This book, fortunately, seems to avoid the temptation, and it strikes me as very well done.

A strange chance, which tempts this weary reviewer once again to believe in the beneficence of Providence, has brought into my hands two successive novels which held me spellbound from the first page to the last. The first of these was "The Ivory Trail" (Constable), by Talbot Mundy, one of the best stories of hair-breadth escapes and palpitating adventure that has ever come my way. It has the breath of the tropics in it, and it pulses with life.

The second book is also full of adventure, but it has a deeper meaning; it is "Mare Nostrum" (Constable), by Ibañez, the great Spanish novelist, whose vogue increases every month. "Mare Nostrum" is the Mediterranean, and taking the ordinary incidents of the submarine war and a German spy woman, Señor Ibañez constructs a great and moving drama. It impresses me more than his previous work, "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse"; it strikes me as a book that will live.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, June 28.

**The Vogue of Alexandria.**

Since I wrote last, the seat of government has been transferred to Alexandria, where the Sultan, his Ministers, and the High Commissioner have established themselves in their summer quarters. Cairo, in these dog-days, is practically deserted, whilst Alexandria presents a scene of considerable animation. So many people have been prevented from leaving for Europe this year, owing to the scarcity of steamship accommodation and the exorbitant rates charged by the companies, that they have perforce to spend their holidays at Alexandria-by-the-Sea. H.H. the Sultan is expected to leave shortly on a yachting cruise in the Mediterranean, but the date has not yet been announced.

It has been stated in the local Press that Viscount Allenby will leave for Europe on July 15. This, however, I am in a position to contradict. His Excellency is proceeding shortly to Palestine in order to confer with the new High Commissioner there, and will very soon afterwards go on leave to England, whence it is not expected he will return to Egypt.

**The Latest Nile Projects Sensation.**

Though the interim report of the Nile Projects Commission has not yet been issued, the publication of the shorthand notes of the evidence has enabled most people to anticipate the inevitable verdict: that there has been no falsification of the data upon which the projects were based. If anybody had entertained any doubts as to what the decision was going to be, the announcement on Monday last that proceedings for criminal libel and the publication of seditious matter had been instituted against Sir William Willcocks and Lieut.-Col. Kennedy, wrote plainly enough for those who run to read that the legal adviser to the Government had considered that Sir Murdoch MacDonald, in particular, and the officials of the Public Works Ministry, in general, had been completely exonerated. It is expected that there will be sensational developments, but I am inclined to think that such a tendency will be entirely absent until the final stages of the case have been reached. Mr. Preston, the Crown Prosecutor, will prosecute; Mr. Perrott will defend Sir William Willcocks.

The preliminary hearing of the criminal action comes on before the British Provincial Court on July 2.

July 2.

During the last three days the Nile Projects affair has advanced another stage. Lieut.-Col. Kennedy and Sir William Willcocks were committed for trial this morning by Mr. A. B. Geary, the British Consul, who presided as magistrate over the Provincial Court. Mr. Preston, as Crown Prosecutor, had no difficulty in making out a *prima facie* case, though a rather interesting argument arose between the Crown Prosecutor and Mr. Perrott, Counsel for Sir William, as to whether the matter complained of in the charge could be regarded as "seditious matter." The charge against Sir William Willcocks is that—

On divers occasions since the month of December, 1919, he did maliciously publish a defamatory libel on Sir Murdoch MacDonald, Under Secretary of State, Public Works Department, Egyptian Government, contained in a pamphlet on the Nile Projects, and more particularly contained on page 22 of the said pamphlet, the said libel being subsequently confirmed and repeated by a further pamphlet, also published by the said William Willcocks, contrary to Section 5 of the Libel Act, 1843 (6 and 7 Vict., c. 26). Further, that he did print, publish, and offer for sale the publications above referred to containing seditious matter, contrary to Section 76 of the Ottoman Order in Council, 1910, and the Egypt Order in Council, 1915.

The charge against Lieut.-Col. Kennedy was, to all intents and purposes, the same. Section 76 of the Ottoman Order-in-Council, which has been brought into line with the political situation in Egypt, says, in effect, that any person uttering or publishing or causing to be published any statement which may create a tumult or cause excitement between H.B.M.'s Government and its subjects or between the Egyptian Government and its subjects shall be liable to a fine or imprisonment or deportation or the two former penalties. The Crown Prosecutor held that as the matter complained of reflected not only on the Adviser to the Ministry of Public Works, but on the Irrigation Department, and therefore on the Egyptian Government as a whole, it was calculated to cause excitement between the Egyptian Government and its subjects. Mr. Perrott submitted that a charge against an official of the Government could not be interpreted as "seditious matter." Eventually the magistrate decided that there was sufficient evidence before him to commit the accused for trial on this as well as on the first charge. Both accused were therefore committed. Counsel for the accused requested that a note be taken of their request for the postponement of the trial till the winter, not only because counsel were leaving in the near future for their summer holidays, but because Sir William Willcocks obviously was not well enough to stand the stress of another long case at the moment; and because witnesses were required from England and Australia. The Crown Prosecutor stated that he would not hamper the defence by insisting on an immediate hearing of the case.

**Nile Projects Commission's Report.**

The interim report of the Nile Projects Commission has just been issued. It is dated June 24, but has since been under consideration by the Council of Ministers, who have attached a note of their own. In the report, the Commission state that they are unanimously of opinion that there has been no falsification or intentional suppression of records, nor any fraudulent manipulation of data or gauges by Sir Murdoch MacDonald, or by anyone else. They add:

We have studied the projects as described in 'Nile Control' and have considered the criticisms of them which have been submitted, and we recommend that, considered from a strictly engineering point of view, the White Nile Dam, the Gezira Irrigation Scheme, and Blue Nile (Sennar) Dam, and the Nag Hamcadi Barrage should be carried out at once. In our final report we will consider at length the observations made by us in Egypt and the Sudan, the character and extent of the existing hydrographic and other engineering data relevant to the complete utilisation of the waters of the Nile, the securing of additional data for detailed planning of construction works, the criticisms received of both observed and deduced data, including an examination of the evidence given on oath, the suggestions and criticisms of an engineering character, the allocation of water, and the costs of investigation and conservation works as between Egypt and the Sudan, and the possibilities and limitations of administrative agency necessitated by the joint use of a stream by two administrative units.

It is noteworthy that the present report approves of the projects merely "from an engineering point of view." As will be seen, there are many other aspects of the case to be dealt with in the final report, which, I understand, is to be ready in London about the end of August.

The Council of Ministers, in its Note, says that it—

Decides to associate itself with the Minister of Public Works in congratulating the Adviser and the staff of the Ministry of Public Works, who have worked with him on the preparation of the Nile Projects, on the proof of the falseness of the accusations brought against them. As regards the approval of the works involved in the said projects, works which the Commission has found to be appropriate and useful and which they consider should be undertaken, the Council decides, for the moment, to open the credit necessary for the preparation and carrying out of the works on the White Nile and at Nag Hamadi for a period of three months only, pending the presentation within this period of the final report of the Commission.

**Prominent Nationalist Arrested.**

Abdul Rahman Fahmy Bey, secretary of the Cairo Committee of the Nationalist Delegation, was arrested yesterday morning and imprisoned in the Kasr-el-Nil barracks. Inquiry in official circles as to the reason elicited the cryptic reply that "this action has been taken on the grounds of public security." There is a persistent rumour here that the gentleman has been implicated in certain recent notable happenings, which have been reported in THE NEAR EAST. His arrest cannot be regarded as an indication that there is any stronger agitation locally than has hitherto been

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suspected. All attention is centred on the negotiations in London. The Egyptians are becoming much more optimistic. In these pourparlers they see the official recognition of the Egyptian delegation, which to them seems to be tantamount to official recognition of the claim for independence. With that irresponsibility which may be regarded as one of their most delightful traits they have suddenly regenerated their lost faith in the justice of the British Empire, and are daily convincing themselves that such a magnanimous authority will grant their hearts' desire.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, June 25.

### Visit of Crown Prince to Zagreb.

H.R.H. the Crown Prince Regent, with several Ministers, has paid a visit to Zagreb this week. The Croat crowds must have been interested to see the person of their new Sovereign, who symbolises the unity of the people and the heroism of his warrior-people, whose sufferings he shared through the horrors of Albania and the disease-ridden crags and plains of Macedonia. The papers are full of glowing accounts of an enthusiastic reception. The *Balkan* has taken the opportunity to make a suggestion which, we believe, has not before appeared in print in this country. After showing how Rome has taken the place of perfidious Vienna in their foreign political horizon, the writer points out how the outside enemy binds all branches of the people into closer unity, so that the House of Karageorgevitch, risen from the people over which it rules, now reigns from the Triglav to Guevgelije, from Rijeka almost to Vidin, where the three branches of the Yugoslav people are now free. The only parts which remain unfree are the 400,000 or thereabouts Slovenes handed over to Italy, and—the Bulgars! For, continues the writer, the Bulgars have not yet emancipated themselves from foreign influences in still having a German dynasty. Still they await the day when the Bulgars shall have expiated their crimes of 1913 and as in 1915-18, whence they too will enter the great union and form a Yugoslav Empire which shall be complete and self-supporting, free from any dream of expansion, all their brethren free and united.

### M. Krsta Tsitsvaritch.

The *Belgradski Dnevnik* is a paper of pronounced democratic and socialistic leanings. It pours forth so much vituperation upon the Radicals that the Press describe the editor as suffering from "journalistic dysentery," but the daily leading article is always interesting reading, showing that the writer is a man of culture and unusually wide reading, especially of history. In an article upon the new era which has now dawned for his people —for M. Krsta Tsitsvaritch is essentially a patriot —he writes that up to the date of the Serajevo murders, Serbia played an insignificant rôle in Europe, being entirely absorbed with its preparations for the great part which it was destined to play on the world's stage, but that Printsip's bullet opened a new vista and a new era for the whole Yugoslav people. The heroism of the people has brought untold glory to them in the field and the realisation of their dreams. Will they now be competent to play a worthy part in the history of civilisation? Tsitsvaritch, like a very good Serb, is profoundly convinced that his people will rise to the occasion, and be a great civilising power in the East of Europe, and that in civilisation and in culture in the widest and best sense of that ill-used word become a great European nation. "Till now we have struggled for our bare existence; now that existence is assured; now we can devote ourselves to ideals; the era of nationalism is finished; that of humanity now begins."

### Dr. Seton Watson.

Dr. Seton Watson, after an enthusiastic reception at Zagreb, where the Croats showed their gratitude for his championship of their cause by granting him the honorary decree of doctor of their University, and by entertaining him at a round of dinners and concerts, has been spending a week or ten days at Belgrade. For reasons of their own the Radical Press have been but frigidly polite, as we have seen in a past letter, though their facts are usually wrong. But the rest of the Press and public men generally gave "Scotus Viator" the welcome which he deserved. The Mayor and Town Council gave a dinner in his honour, at which the Prime Minister, Dr. Vesnitch, was present, as also Dr. Ninchitch, Minister of Commerce, Dr. Stoyanovitch, Minister of Finance, and many other prominent men.

### Newspapers Again.

The newspaper lock-out is over, and on Saturday the papers once more appeared separately in their old form, but with the price raised to half a dinar on account of the tremendous rise in the cost of paper. Before the war this used to cost them 40 paras a kilo, and last summer 5 dinars, but during the lock-out it has jumped to 9 and even 9½ dinars a kilo. So now if one wants a comprehensive view of the daily Press it is necessary to buy half a dozen papers or more at half a dinar, and wade through them all, while during the lock-out the combined *Belgradska Shtampa* gave everything for half a dinar, in concise form it is true, but this was hardly an evil, and it was convenient as well as amusing to read two sides of a slanging match in one and the same column.

### Danube Navigation Commission.

The Yugoslav delegate to the International Danube Navigation Commission sitting at Paris is M. Mihailo Ristitch, former Minister at Rome. Serbs are watching the proceedings very anxiously, for it is believed that the Commission will require them to hand over the enemy craft which they took as booty. The Government will certainly resist this demand with all its might. Many a time since the armistice have the Serbs been able to complain bitterly, and with justification, that what they lose is Serbian, but what they get belongs to the Allies.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, July 3.

### General Paraskevopoulos' Proclamation.

The following proclamation, written both in Greek and Turkish, was posted up outside the churches, mosques, schools, and market places of the recently-occupied regions in Asia Minor:—

"The Hellenic Army has been invited by the High Council of the Conference to advance into the interior of this country in order to disperse the National Organizations of Mustapha Kemal, to establish order, and to ensure the security of all the inhabitants without distinction of race or religion. The advance of the Greek Army does not aim at any conquest. The fate and régime of these regions will be definitely decided by the peace treaty which will be signed between the Allied Powers and the Ottoman Government. The partisans of Mustapha Kemal are not only rebels opposing the decisions of the victorious Allies, but are enemies of their own country by rebelling against their Sultan. They have unlawfully and forcibly recruited the male population, levied taxes, and terrorised the peaceful inhabitants of large and fertile provinces of Anatolia. The occupation for over a year of Smyrna and its hinterland has afforded ample

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proof of the respect which the Greek authorities have shown for the rights of the population without making any racial or religious distinctions whatsoever. In spite of the difficult conditions with which the authorities were confronted, they were able to ensure order with equality and justice for everybody.

"A similar attitude will be adopted by the Hellenic Army in this case. The life, honour, and the property of all the inhabitants of whatsoever race or religion will be sacred to us. The Ottoman administrative, police, judiciary, financial and communal authorities, with the exception of the military, will remain at their posts as hitherto. Those who have in any way co-operated with Mustapha Kemal must fear nothing, provided they discontinue any future co-operation and understanding with the National Organizations and respect the orders of the Greek Army. This applies to those of the civil population who have hitherto been Mustapha Kemal's followers.

"On the other hand, I insist on entire obedience to my orders and to those of the Commanders of the Army of Occupation, and I demand that all creeds and classes live peacefully together and abstain from any unlawful act. Any infringement of this will, without distinction of race or religion, be immediately and severely dealt with in accordance with the Martial Law regulations. The clemency shown in many instances by the Greek authorities during the last year cannot continue under the present circumstances. Those, therefore, arrested on a charge of offence against the Army or Public Order will be tried by court martial and shot forthwith."

**The Calling Up of the 1905 Class.**

A Royal decree has just been published in the *Gazette*, ordering the calling up of the 1905 class which had not been called up during the last mobilisation. This was decided upon by the Government after consulting the Premier and General Paraskevopoulos, the Greek Commander-in-Chief. The 1905 class, i.e., men thirty-six years old, will not be sent to the theatre of operations, but will be employed exclusively for home service, replacing all the troops actually in Old Greece, which will proceed to the Smyrna region. The Government has likewise called up the infantry reserve officers of the 1915 class, and the artillery reserve officers of the 1914 class.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, June 29.

**The Political Situation.**

Parliament has spent the greater part of its first week's sittings in discussing the validity of a number of the elections. From the Opposition benches many accusations were brought of irregular procedure during the polling in the country districts, and it was claimed that in some cases voters were coerced into supporting the Government. The discussions degenerated occasionally into mere personal abuse of certain deputies and ended in an uproar, the President having the greatest difficulty in restoring order. It was daily urged by several deputies on both sides of the Chamber that valuable time was being wasted over these useless personal attacks. So far practically all the objections seem to have been voted down, and it is to be hoped that the Chamber will now settle down to discuss some of the important measures awaiting its attention. It is understood that one of its first measures will be to reduce the emoluments of the Deputies—which at the present moment are on a very generous scale, far beyond what the country can afford to pay.

Meanwhile the Opposition deputies are discussing how they are to pursue their campaign against the Averescu Government; and have apparently decided to form an Opposition *bloc*. The Democratic Federation is considering the advisability of a partial fusion with the Transylvanian Nationalists and Peasants and the Bessarabian Peasants, but it seems doubtful whether the Transylvanian Nationalists at least will receive their overtures with favour. Until the question of fusion is decided, a sort of *bloc* has been formed by the above-mentioned parties, which will have a numerical strength in the Chamber of 95 members. It would appear that this *bloc* has determined upon a campaign of obstruction against the Government: and a suggestion has emanated from them that the chief of each Opposition group should make a declaration to the effect that in his opinion the present Chamber is not representative of the will of the people. This does not bode well for the usefulness or permanence of the present Parliament, but so far the Opposition has not agreed as to the course to be adopted.

Dr. Seton Watson, who is visiting Bucharest this week, was present at the meeting of the Chamber yesterday afternoon (June 28). He received a most hearty welcome, and after the President, M. Goga and M. Vaida-Voevod had spoken in terms of the warmest appreciation of his services to the Roumanian cause, the whole House stood up and gave him a long cheer.

**Date of Coronation.**

The Council of Ministers discussed last week for the first time the arrangements to be made for the Coronation of their Majesties. It was decided that the ceremony should take place next September, but the exact date was not fixed.

In the Senate, on Saturday, Archbishop Nifon voiced an appeal for the voting of Government relief to the peasants in the districts of Tulcea and Constantza, who have suffered very heavily from successive enemy occupations during the war. This suggestion was left over for consideration.

The Minister of Public Works, in reply to a question, promised that the agrarian and religious questions in the Banat should be dealt with during the present session.

**Regie Factory.**

Still no week passes without trouble among the workers. Last week a regrettable incident occurred at the Regie factory, on the outskirts of Bucharest. According to the first reports circulated—which, fortunately, were absurdly exaggerated—there was a strike of the workwomen, the soldiers were called out, and there was a large number of casualties. On the strength of this report, the more extreme Socialist workmen held a mass meeting for the purpose of advocating a general strike; the trams stopped, and the printers ceased work for some hours. In the meantime, however, an inquiry was made, and the real facts were communicated to this meeting in time to prevent the adoption of such extreme measures. A Parliamentary Committee was then appointed to inquire into the cause of the disturbance, and on June 28 it presented its report to the Chamber. The Committee established that the first report brought to the Chamber was inexact; an incident had occurred between some of the workwomen and the foreman of the factory, M. Roman Constantinescu. The factory guard was called out to restore order, but no shot was fired, and there were no wounded, though some twenty of the women bore traces of blows. The Committee recommended that the following measures should be taken:—

(1) That a Workmen's Council should be formed in accordance with the Ministerial decision.

(2) That the workmen should be formally prohibited from engaging in politics during working hours.

(3) That the foreman, M. Roman Constantinescu, should be transferred; and

(4) That an inquiry into the conduct of Capitain

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Velico (of the guard) should be proceeded with (so as to establish whether it was by his order that the women were struck).

The workmen declared that they were satisfied with their conditions, but wanted a change in the administration. The leaders of the workmen gave a formal promise that the work should not be interrupted. Finally, the Committee recommended that the 70 workwomen condemned to punishment should be pardoned. After a short discussion the report was adopted and all the recommendations of the Committee accepted. Let us hope that this augurs well for the future of the Regie factory. For the last six months Bucharest has constantly been short of cigarettes owing to the repeated strikes there.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, June 21.

**The Housing Problem.**

With the influx of Russian refugees and the continuous streaming over the Bulgarian frontiers of the thousands of Thracian refugees, whom this country is obliged to feed and lodge, the hotels and private houses, especially here in Sofia, are overcrowded. Many newcomers have to pass two or three days at the railway stations and cafés before the Housing Committee can find them a room. The Ministry of the Interior is going to use the quarters of the Royal Guards, which is now occupied only by a squadron, as a civil dwelling, and transfer the soldiers to the barracks of the 1st Cavalry. Besides this, the barracks of the heavy artillery, behind the military school, the summer camp, and the cadets' school at Knajevo, are being repaired and converted into a habitation for the houseless people. Likewise some of the benevolent institutions, as that of orphans from the war, and that for the deaf, dumb, and blind, will be transferred into the provinces or the convents. The War Ministry will evacuate all the buildings occupied by the staffs of the various regiments, and transfer them to Orhanic, where they will occupy the capacious barracks of the 16th Infantry Regiment.

On the other hand, the committee charged with the administration of the new project for the alleviation of the housing crisis has decided to convert all the big cafés and taverns in the capital into ordinary dwelling places or Government buildings. The rents are increased by between 150 per cent. and 200 per cent. The compulsory construction of new houses is anticipated. All the banks, joint-stock companies, and rich people from the provinces wishing to live in Sofia, are obliged to build their own habitations.

**The Retained Bulgarian Locomotives.**

The Bulgarian Government has addresesd a note to the French authorities in the Orient requesting them to urge the Greek authorities in Thrace to return the Bulgarian State railway locomotives retained at Adrianople. These engines maintained the provisional service of Western Thrace during the French administration of this province.

**Parliamentary Holidays.**

Because of the approaching harvest and because many of the deputies are farmers, the Chamber, after passing the 6/12ths the Budget, and other urgent bills, will, at the beginning of July, adjourn for a month's vacation.

**The Delegation to Prague.**

Last Friday morning the Prime Minister, M. Stambolisky, sent off the Bulgarian delegation on their way to Prague in order to assist in that city's celebration of the Festival of the "Sokols." The delegation is headed by M. Tzanko Bakaloff, the Minister of Public Works, as representative of the Bulgarian Government, and the newly-appointed Bulgarian diplomatic representative, Professor Stephan Balemezoff. The Premier returned here in the evening by motor-car.

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## TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, June 27.

**Greek Operations in the Smyrna Area.**

The rapid advance of the Greek army against the Nationalist forces in the Smyrna area is likely to have very far-reaching effects; for this time it is a straight fight between Turk and Greek. It is too early yet to comment upon the fighting, for the details are insufficient, but it is safe to say that the real fighting will begin when the Greeks advance beyond the area served by the railway. The wiping out of the Turkish XIII. Army Corps must have been a very severe blow for the Nationalists, and the effect upon their *moral* will be damaging. The initial success of the Greek army bears out reports to the effect that the Nationalist forces possess very few efficient officers, and that there is no real unity of command.

It is certainly surprising that after the wanton attack upon the British forces at Ismid by the Nationalists the Sublime Porte should consider itself justified in protesting to the Allies against the advance of the Greeks in the Smyrna region. It was officially announced that this advance had been sanctioned as a direct consequence of the attack upon our troops, and it must have been obvious that sooner or later British patience would be exhausted. The Ismid affair was the culmination of a long series of outrages and insults to which the British have been subjected for nearly a year, and against which there have been practically no reprisals. Even the best friends of the Turks now realise that the folly of the Nationalists has ruined their last chances of obtaining any amelioration of what practically amounts to a death sentence. One can only repeat Talaat's remark to Javid when the latter made excited comments upon the Black Sea episode that precipitated war in October, 1914: "It is Fate."

**The Peace Treaty.**

The Sublime Porte, relying perhaps upon Italian assurances, seems to have been unable to realise that the Allies meant what they said when they refused to wait any longer than June 26 for the Turkish reply. Although it takes at least six days in the ordinary way to get to Paris from Constantinople, the text of the reply was not ready until Monday or Tuesday, and Reshid Bey only left on Thursday, June 24, in a British warship. He expects to be in Paris on the 29th; and in the meanwhile the Grand Vizier, who, by the way, is not empowered to sign the treaty on his own responsibility, has been instructed to give a provisional reply, and to explain that the details will be submitted to the Conference as soon as the other delegates arrive. As a matter of fact, in view of the present state of affairs, the signature of the Treaty makes very little difference. The Sublime Porte will be powerless to carry out its terms, for the authority of the central Government extends no further than the immediate vicinity of the capital.

The text of the Turkish reply will probably be in print long before this letter, and, as will be seen, it is on the whole fairly submissive except with regard to the cession of Thrace and Smyrna to the Greeks. Since the Allies are apparently resolved not to modify the territorial clauses, the Peace Delegation will only waste time by insisting. After all, the Nationalists, who dominate the nation, have refused to listen to any other argument than that of the sword; so it is the sword that will have to decide.

**The Nationalists.**

According to the latest reports from Anatolia, the Nationalists are for the most part in a desperate mood. The Greek advance has been the signal for the wildest rumours, which have apparently been launched for the purpose of comfort, but their very nature is an indication of a feeling of hopelessness. It is said, for instance, that a large Bolshevist army has reached Trebizond!

(*Continued on p. 83.*)

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In certain circles among the Nationalists where a little common sense still exists, it has long been felt that they are fighting a losing battle.

The Nationalist Press continues to fulminate against the British, and to hold out the most fantastic prospects of Bolshevist assistance. At the same time, however, it is not impossible that the National Forces will continue to retire to the east of Anatolia, and there make one last desperate effort to break through to Azerbaijan. Everything, of course, depends upon the extent of the Greek success. In the meantime, M. Maissa, the Italian High Commissioner, has informed the Sublime Porte that Italy, having no troops in the zone allotted to her, will not partake in the military operations. The French, however, have notified their intention of occupying Samsun, but whether this would be the base of an advance into the interior is not known.

**A British Demonstration.**

Admiral de Robeck, with a squadron of dreadnoughts, paid visits to Mudania and Ghemlik during the week. A landing was made at Mudania, and there was a brush with the Nationalists on the outskirts of the town, when four men were wounded, and a midshipman was killed. There was no landing at Ghemlik, because it would have involved the destruction of the Greek quarter by the Turks, who had previously removed their own women and children to the hills. A communication was made to the Governor of the town, however, and its terms were such that it is not likely that there will be any trouble in Ghemlik this year.

## MESOPOTAMIA.

BAGHDAD, May 30.

**The Shah's Visit.**

The visit of the Shah of Persia to Mesopotamia has just concluded, his Majesty having returned to Persia on Friday. The earlier stages of the visit were remarkably successful, but the later were unfortunately marred by the serious indisposition of his Majesty, which prevented him from carrying out the whole of his programme. He has been accustomed to the temperate climatic conditions of Teheran in the winter and the hill resorts near his capital in the summer, and it is hardly surprising that after his winter in Europe he should find the extreme heat of a Mesopotamian May very trying.

The Government of India had placed the R.I.M.S. Lawrence at the Shah's disposal for the journey from Aden, where he disembarked from the new P. and O. steamer Narkunda. The Lawrence called at Bushire and Mohammerah on the way to Busreh. At Mohammerah the Shah was lavishly entertained by the Sheikh, and among the events of his twenty-four hours' stay there was the presentation of an address from the British commercial community. At Busreh, where he disembarked on the 20th, his Majesty was welcomed by Sir Arnold Wilson (who had gone there from Baghdad by aeroplane), and General Nepean, the G.O.C., River Area. The Shatt-el-Arab at Busreh was resplendent with decorations, every one of the great number and variety of craft that congregate in that now busy port, as well as the houses on the banks, being dressed with flags and bunting. The Shah was entertained to dinner at the Makina Club, where a number of leading Arab residents of Busreh, as well as British officers, were presented to him.

The same night he left by special train for Baghdad, where he arrived at 6 p.m. the next day. There was a gathering of British officers and ladies and Baghdad notables in the station enclosure, and a big crowd of the populace outside, and his Majesty was welcomed by Sir Aylmer Haldane and Sir Arnold Wilson (the latter having returned to Baghdad by aeroplane earlier in the day). He inspected a guard of honour drawn up near the train, and then, with his suite, accompanied by the G.O.C.-in-Chief and the Civil Commissioner, drove in motor-cars to the residence prepared for him in the building until recently used as the Civil Hospital, on the right bank of the river. Lieut.-Col. Balfour, the Military Governor, and other officers riding, and a cavalry escort completed an imposing procession, which proceeded through decorated streets full of interested crowds. About an hour after his arrival, a deputation of notables of all the local communities of Baghdad waited upon him at his residence, and welcomed him cordially and respectfully to the city. There was a brilliant display of fireworks at night.

**At Kazimain,—**

The next day the Shah went on pilgrimage to Kazimain, proceeding there in the G.O.C.'s launch. The town was splendidly decorated for the occasion, a fine triumphal arch and a gorgeous display of beautiful carpets for a considerable distance in the road approaching the shrine, being particularly notable features of the decorations. After spending some time at the shrine, where he was received by the Ulema, his Majesty went to a specially prepared *Diwan Khana*, in which an address of welcome, enclosed in a golden casket—an artistic specimen of Kazimain work—was presented to him on behalf of the townspeople. On Saturday evening the Shah was present at a reception given by the Persian Consul-General, H.E. Seghat-ul-Mulk.

**—Kerbella and Nejef.**

On the Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday his Majesty was absent from Baghdad on pilgrimage to the holy cities of Kerbella and Nejef, to which he went by motor-car. At both places he was received by representatives of the Ulema, and addresses of welcome were presented by the townspeople. His Majesty also paid a visit to the shrine at Kufa. It was while motoring from Kerbella to Nejef on Monday morning that the Shah was first seriously overcome by the heat, and after his arrival at Nejef it became evident that his Majesty was suffering from a mild attack of heat stroke. It was afterwards announced that he would have to cancel the remainder of the engagements of his tour, and the next evening, instead of returning to Baghdad by motor-car viâ Kerbella, as had been planned, he motored to Hillah, whence he came on here by special train.

On various occasions his Majesty took the opportunity of expressing his high gratification at the cordiality with which he was everywhere received, and at the admirable arrangements made for his visit, and the smoothness of their working.

His Majesty and suite left by special train for Quraitu on Thursday night, and thence journeyed by motor-car to his capital.

**—A Political Faction.**

A comprehensive summary of the Peace Treaty presented to the Turkish delegates at Paris on May 10 was published here just over a week ago, cable and other delays causing its late appearance. So far as this country is concerned it contains no surprise. Its publication appears, however, to have been the signal for a vigorous renewal of the agitation on the part of the small political faction I referred to in my last letter, whose intrigues might on this occasion have led to serious trouble but for prompt and effective action on the part of the authorities. There is, inevitably, a good deal of religious exaltation here during Ramadan, as people's nerves are apt to be upset by the purely physical effect of their fasting from sunrise to sunset. These conditions the intriguers endeavoured to use for their own political ends. An official *communiqué* that was published gives the following account of what happened:—

On the evening of Monday, May 24, equal to the 6th Ramadan, slight disturbances occurred in Baghdad. It appears that one Isa, an employee of the Waqf Department, delivered an inflammatory speech at Haidar Khana Mosque on the previous evening, in consequence of which it was considered necessary in the interests of law and order to arrest him. This was accordingly done. Certain evilly disposed persons, on the pretext of securing the release of Isa, gathered in the above mosque and elsewhere, and sent messages to people at large to collect with arms with a view to causing trouble. On receipt of this information the authorities in the town took special steps for the maintenance of order, and we are glad to be able to report that these were entirely successful. An armoured car, which had accidentally damaged a wheel, was attacked in New Street, near Haidar Khana Mosque. It fired a few shots in reply. All in the street quickly ran away, and it is not known whether any casualties were caused. Several respectable Arab residents of Baghdad were also molested, and stones were thrown at passers-by.

At the same time an official warning was given in the following terms:—

The grant of the Mandate to Great Britain involves in the words of Article 22 of the League of Nations "responsibility for the well-being and development of the people of Mesopotamia," and the first duty of the administration in this connection is the maintenance of order. The Government will not fail to take necessary steps to this end, and they who think that senseless disturbances and appeals to the ignorance of the people by confusing religion and politics will deter the British Government from prosecuting the high task to which it has set its hand, are not only mistaken, but are the greatest enemies to the country to which they belong, and the people for whom they profess to speak.

It is the first incident of its kind during upwards of three years of British occupation of Baghdad. The city was disturbed only for a few hours, and rapidly assumed its normal appearance.

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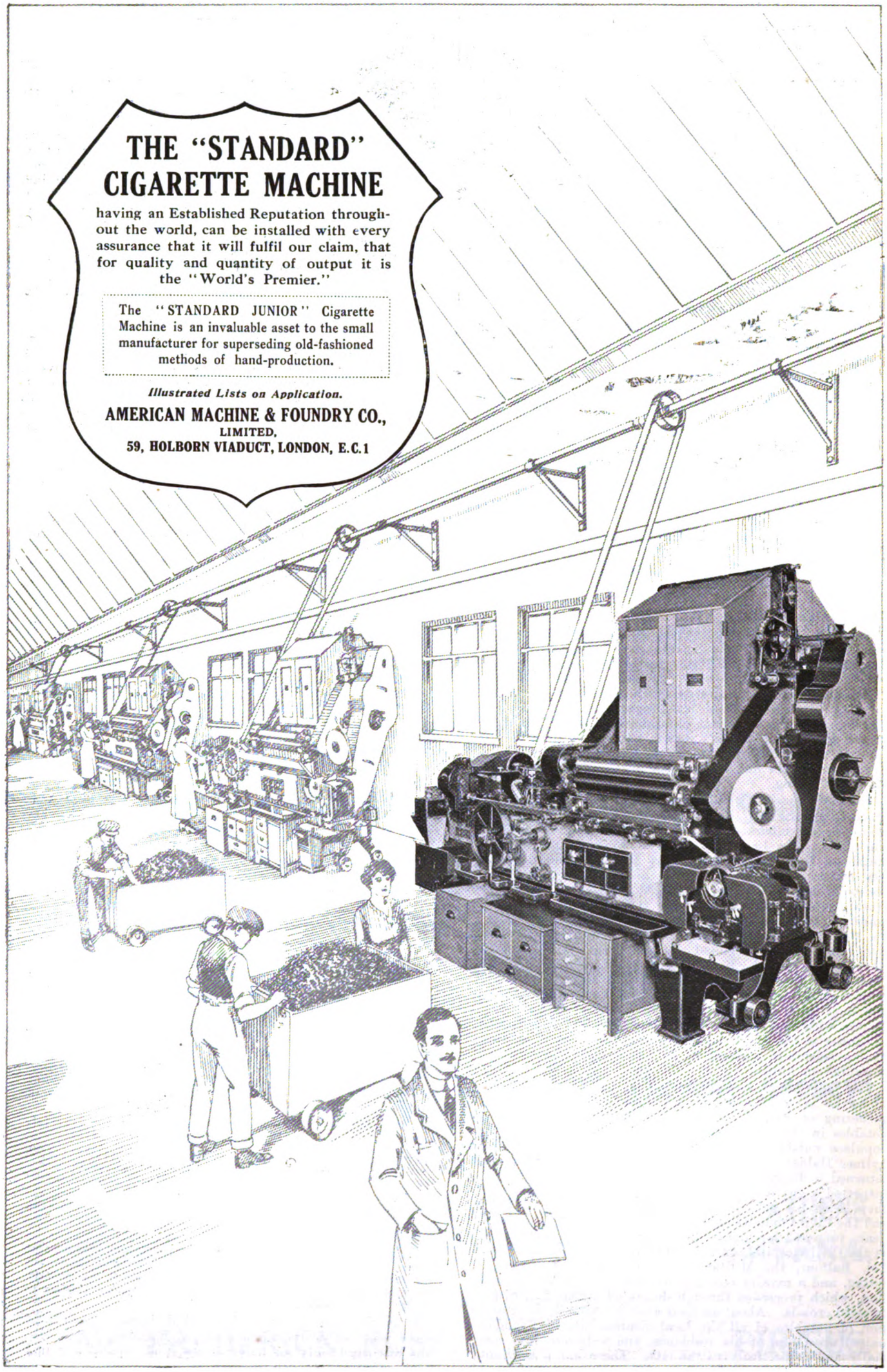


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# CORRESPONDENCE.

## THE THANKS OF THE ALBANIANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The following telegram has lately been sent from Constantinople to Lord Robert Cecil, and he has consented to its publication:—

The Albanian colony in Turkey, composed of some hundred thousands, the majority of whom have been forced to leave their native land on account of the atrocities committed by neighbouring countries who are in occupation of their homes, emboldened by the motion which the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the House of Commons under the presidency of your Excellency voted on May 4, 1920, is encouraged to express its profound gratitude and to entreat your Excellency to continue to remember their national cause, which is the most just. The unity of Albania can only be secured by the return to the mother country of the parts occupied by the Serbs and the Greeks on the north-east and south, and by allowing no other Powers to occupy any points on the sea coast of Albania. The Albanians, who have been able to preserve their national existence for centuries by continuous war, expect from noble England a benevolent and efficacious support during the critical moments when their fate will be decided, and they assure your Excellency that the gratitude they feel towards such noble Englishmen as yourself, especially since they see the interest shown for their cause, will be unalterable and eternal.

The Committee of the Albanian Colony, Turkia.

I am, etc.,
M. E. DURHAM,
Hon. Sec. Anglo-Albanian Society.

## MORAL PORT SAID.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In the name of several of the English residents of this town. I thank you and your Port Said Correspondent for the paragraph appearing under this head in your issue of the 17th inst. The report of the Rev. J. H. Bateson is so grossly extravagant and exaggerated as to amount to an untruth, and for him to have found the element of truth on which it is based is certainly no credit to his calling; as your correspondent states, he must have spent all his time ashore in the search.

It is to be hoped that your paragraph has been copied by the papers which published the Rev. J. H. Bateson's scandalous statement, so that the relations and friends of the members of H.M. Forces which passed through Port Said may be reassured; your Correspondent could have gone further than saying that this town compares favourably with any other place in the *East*, by adding every Continental port and those of the United Kingdom of equal size!—I am, etc.,

A RESIDENT OF NEARLY 21 YEARS' STANDING.

Port Said, 30/6/1920.

## THE OCCUPATION OF THRACE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of July 8 you publish a letter from Mr. Theodore D. Mosconas, from Manchester, in which, for the sake of giving correct information to the British public, he tries to deny the fact that many thousands of the Bulgarians living in Western Thrace previous to the recent Greek occupation fled away into Bulgaria through fear before the advancing Greek troops. In order to prove his statement this Greek gentleman gives us a quotation of the Bulgarian journal *Zora* of June 3:—

"The Association of the Bulgarian Journalists have, along with other European pressmen in Mustapha Pasha, visited the Bulgarians who are coming back from Thrace, where they had established themselves since 1913, and which the Bulgarian Press call the refugees of Thrace. . . ."

I have before me a copy of that very same *Zora* of June 3 (which I hold at the disposal of your readers), and there is no such communication whatsoever to be found in it; nor any other even slightly resembling it.

May I be allowed to express my profound indignation at this most unscrupulous way of fabricating fallacious quotations with which Mr. Theodore Mosconas aims to "enlighten" the readers of THE NEAR EAST.—I am, etc.,

A BULGARIAN IN ENGLAND.

The military hospital at Citta Vecchia, Malta, is to be reopened, and the Y.M.C.A. club in that city is making provision for the recreation of the patients. While the hospital has been closed, fortnightly expeditions to this ancient city have been arranged for convalescents from the R.N. hospital in Valetta and sailors from ships calling at the harbour.

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# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

### Zionism.

The *Yale Review* for April contains an article on "The Injustice of Zionism," written by Mr. E. B. Reed. He begins by defining Zionism, or rather by "reducing it to its simplest terms": it is "an organised movement to make of Palestine (an Arab country) a Jewish state or commonwealth." He proceeds to examine the two claims, historical and biological, which are used to justify Zionism, and then dismisses both of them. The attitude of the present inhabitants of Palestine is put forward, together with a refutation of the Zionists' account of that attitude. He devotes some space to the economic side of the problem, finally calling the Zionist demand for special privilege in this respect "preposterous." But, he says, "apart from the political and economic injustice of Zionism, there is another question whose serious aspect the American cannot understand because he is tolerant both by education and conviction. In Palestine the question of religion—or what is called religion—is all-important. Rightly or wrongly, it is feared that a Jewish State, despite promises to the contrary, will eventually seek to recover its historic landmarks, the places where Jewish history was made." He then enumerates some of these places—such as Jacob's Well at Nablus, the Temple area at Jerusalem, and the cave of Machpelah at Hebron—places which, he says, "mean so much in Jewish history and tradition," and "are and will be centres of resistance to Zionism." His conclusion is:—

To sum up the whole matter, Zionism does not offer a just settlement of the Palestine question. That can never be reached by simply hearing one party, whether it be Jewish, Christian, or Moslem. The fate of this country is not a matter for Zionism to settle, for it affects the whole world. Three great historic religions turn to this small land; for, though small, it is too large for any one race or religion to lay claim to it. If the Jews once fought for it, so did crusading Christians, and the soldiers of Saladin. It must be a land whose destiny is decided and whose future is won by its own people. It must be assisted to work out its own salvation; it should not be forced to accept a society, a culture, a government thrust upon it from without. Peace and justice are the great desire of that land which itself has been the desire of all nations. Surely the world will see that peace and justice are granted her.

### Greece and Turkey.

The *Saturday Review* of June 19 contains an article upon "The Turkish Danger." After bluntly stating that the Turkish Treaty is unworkable, it says:—

No one who knows the stubborn nature of the Ottoman can believe that he will yield his "renowned home-lands" without a struggle. The struggle, indeed, has already begun, and it is likely to continue indefinitely and remain a constant menace to the peace of the world in general, and our own interest in the Near East in particular, until an arrangement can be reached with the Nationalists. The difficulties in the way of such an arrangement are, and always have been, very great. We are not inclined to condemn the San Remo Treaty in its entirety, for its framers, by keeping Constantinople for the Turks, have left some hope for the rehabilitation of that race. But, while making every allowance for the claim of the Greeks to protect their own subjects in a semi-barbarous country, it is obvious that the Treaty, stripped of diplomatic adornments, such as the Ottoman suzerainty of Smyrna, stands nakedly hostile to the Turks, and friendly to the Greeks. And the point should be noted that the Greeks who have been living in Turkey throughout the war are not, in the main, disposed to be friendly to a Hellenic régime in Asia. Not all the eloquence of M. Venizelos can disguise this fact. When Greek meets Greek in Smyrna or Constantinople, a quarrel occurs. And when Greek meets Turk, there is bloodshed. The Greeks have no business in Asia. Their military prowess is doubtful, and their financial integrity not proven. Their own co-religionists mistrust them, and the Mahomedans hate them. It was unwise, therefore, apart from all question of equity, to give Greece so large a share in the spoils of Turkey. However, having made the San Remo peace, we must ensue. Unworkable or not, we cannot alter its essential features at the present time: all we can do is to realise some of the difficulties of the situation, and hope that the unrest that will certainly arise will be localised by the gendarmerie which is shortly to be organised, probably on an international basis. Meanwhile, it must be realised that the Porte at Constantinople, even if it had the best intentions in the world, which it has not, could not under present conditions maintain order throughout the derelict country which it nominally rules. It has neither the men, nor the money, nor the organisation, to prevent massacres, or instigate them for that matter. An empty sack cannot be made to stand upright, and Turkey is an empty sack.

However, it wastes no tears upon Turkey, but proceeds to examine how the dissolution of the Turkish Empire will affect the world at large. "The real danger," it says—

is not religious, for the wide democracy of Islam has much more common-sense than is generally supposed. The peril that menaces is strictly practical and economic. The Turkish Empire is moribund, but the Turkish people are still alive, and sullen, and intractable, and bitterly hostile to the makers of the San Remo Treaty. Defeated and discouraged they may be for the moment, but a decade of continual war has inured them to hardship and accustomed them to every chance and change

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of fate. They are a nation of nomads and adventurers, born in beggary and bred on bloodshed. An infinite capacity for mischief remains to them. Whether any agreement is possible with the Turks will be seen when the Grand Vizier arrives in Paris. But if there is no agreement, there will be no peace, and our military expenditure, which has already assumed staggering proportions, will have to be further increased. Further, if the moment should arrive for the Turks to settle accounts with their enemies, a German-Russian-Ottoman alliance will be a menace as serious as the world has ever seen.

### Smyrna.

In the July number of the *Fortnightly Review* Mr. H. Charles Woods writes upon "The Turkish Treaty." To some extent the article is a recapitulation of views which have been previously reproduced in this column; but what the writer says upon the question of Smyrna is of immediate interest: —

Coming to the details of the scheme, it must obviously be apparent, to all those who know the East, that the *temporary* maintenance of Turkish sovereignty is a mistake, and that this course has been adopted in the pious hope that it will minimise Ottoman opposition, and that this sovereignty will automatically and easily disappear at the end of the five years' period. If Greece was to have Smyrna at all, the suzerainty of the Sultan ought either to have been laid down as a permanent condition or it should have been done away with *now*. I say this without fear of contradiction, because I remember the difficulties created by the position which existed in Crete for years, and because, although the district is to have a local Parliament, it is certain, with Greek administration and Greek military occupation, that, as a result of methods which are common to all Near Eastern countries, no Parliament will ever be elected which is not acceptable to Greece. True as it is, too, that Smyrna is declared to be a port of "international interest," and that Turkey is to be granted a lease of an area in that port, I do not for one moment believe that this arrangement will work even as well as that which existed, prior to the war, between Serbia and Greece, in regard to Salonica. Although, therefore, the Hellenic Government, by force of arms, may be capable of maintaining its position in Asia Minor, it is safe to say that those arms will neither be able to protect the vast number of Hellenes who must continue to have their homes in Turkey, nor to bring about friendly relations between the respective countries—relations which are equally in the interests of both parties.

### America and Armenia.

In the June issue of *The New Armenia*, the Hon. Louis Bartlett writes upon "American Aid for Armenia." He evidently does not yet despair of intervention by the United States, for he says:—

What is needed in Armenia is a stable government, competent leadership, and economic assistance, until such time as the people can get on their feet and manage independently. Stable and safe government is impossible under the Turks. They have failed everywhere. Their rule has wrought misery and poverty wherever it has extended. Whether or not there be a League of Nations, the Great Powers have the ability now to establish a free and stable government for the Armenians.

Why should we not undertake the rôle of big brother in Armenia? It has worked in the Philippines and Cuba, and it will work in Armenia also. It need not be a new departure in American policy. It need bring us no entangling alliances, and in the long run will cost us little. All Allied nations, including America, are under obligations to Armenia for her military assistance during the war.

Looked at from a purely selfish point of view, America has everything to gain and nothing to lose. The Balkans brought on the last great war. We could not keep out of the world conflagration, and it is unlikely that we can again. The thing to do is to prevent it from starting, and a stable and prosperous government in Armenia, on the highway between Europe and the Orient, is a strong pledge given to the future peace of the world. Let us then unite in asking Congress to do what is not only the generous and humane thing, but also the safe thing for this nation to do—to extend its aid in the reconstitution of a united and independent Armenia, and lend it the economic help and technical leadership necessary to put that struggling nation on its feet.

## TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT

*The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—*

TURKEY: Greek Operations.—Prisoners (Malta). PERSIA: Anglo-Persian Agreement.—The Mejliss.—Kuchik Khan. MESOPOTAMIA: Turkish Petroleum Company. INDIA: Punjab Disturbances (Correspondence). (July 5.)

EGYPT (MILNER COMMISSION). PALESTINE (MANDATE). TURKEY (RAHMI BEY). INDIA: International Trade (Exchange). (July 6.)

INDIA: Brigadier-General Dyer. Army Council's Decision. Statement by Mr. Churchill.—Officers' Pensions.—Lieutenant-Colonels (Pay).—Punjab Disturbances.—Connaught Rangers. TRANSPORT: Bakouba Camp. TURKEY: Christian Minorities, Asia Minor. MESOPOTAMIA: Anglo-French Agreement.—Oil. EGYPT (MILNER REPORT). INDIA: Army Officers' Pension. (Colonel J. P. Hennessy).—Amritsar Disturbances (Hunter Commission).—Miss Sherwood (Newspaper Interviews).—Sir Michael O'Dwyer.—H.R.H. the Prince of Wales (Visit).—Anglo-Russian Agreement, 1907 (Persia). MESOPOTAMIA: Land Revenue.—Oil (Deutsche Bank).—Sir Percy Cox. (July 7.)

## MUSICAL NOTES.

Readers of this column will have noticed that I do not often comment upon opera, the reason being that it is the form of music in which I am least interested. But the literature written upon opera is by no means uninteresting, and even those whose musical knowledge is small will find much to entertain them in the most recent book on the subject. This is "A Book of Operas," written by H. E. Krehbiel, and published by the New York Macmillan Company at $2.50. The subject is an easy one to write upon—the history of operas is mainly but a matter of facts—but in spite of the facility of his task the author has compiled a quite readable book. His aim is confessedly not a high one: it is merely to record the plots of various operas, and to give details of performances (chiefly at New York and London), and he has achieved it accurately and concisely enough. Although it is a book which will appeal most to American readers, seeing that many operas which have been performed at London and elsewhere are not touched upon in this book, it is really of general interest, because the ground covered has been trodden in nearly all other countries.

In the few opinions which Mr. Krehbiel does allow to supplement his narrative he shows a correct deference to traditional opinion, but he also does justice to such minor works as "Der Freischütz," and "Hänsel und Gretel" (to Humperdinck indeed he pays unusual homage). The most informative chapter in the whole work is one on "Biblical operas"; for here the author displays a very wide and keen knowledge, and writes with an enthusiasm that cannot well pervade the mere telling of a plot. It is full of instructive anecdotes which are related with earnest American candour and simplicity.

Up-to-date readers may be disappointed to find no descriptions of the works of such men as Bach, Borodin, or Debussy, but in a book which attempts to cover the whole area of opera, someone is bound to be disappointed, and I suppose that in this affair it is the "modern" reader who matters least. But even the whole-hearted adorer of Wagner and Verdi would welcome an index to "A Book of Operas," so that for the sake of democracy the author should see that the next edition of his work has one.

I have not yet seen the stage adaptation of Robert Hichens' story, "The Garden of Allah," which is being performed at Drury Lane, and for which Landon Ronald has written special music, but the publishers of the score, Messrs. Keith, Prowse and Co., Ltd., have sent me "In An Eastern Garden," which is the name given to the chief violin solo in the piece. It is a very capable piece of writing, and probably has already secured sufficient popularity to endure the run of the play. In the more obvious methods of suggesting atmosphere, Mr. Ronald has in previous compositions proved himself very competent, and in "In An Eastern Garden," he very accurately presents the rich languor of the East. There is a lazy sense of the exquisite in its smooth phrases, and the repeated employment of some intervals known in the oriental scale gives that monotonous delight which is intended. As pure music it, of course, does not rank high; but for its purpose it should be admirably effective. The facts that it is dedicated to Mr. Albert Sammons and was played by him at the first performance of the play are good indications of its value; and if the rest of Mr. Ronald's music is up to its standard, "The Garden of Allah" should, for those who love Eastern sights and sounds, be well worth a visit.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"INDIA AT THE DEATH OF AKBAR—AN ECONOMIC STUDY." By W. H. Moreland, C.S.I., C.I.E., late of the Indian Civil Service. (London: Macmillan and Co. 12s.)

II.—"THE STAR OF DESTINY." By H. M. F. Campbell. (London: Odhams, Ltd. 7s. net.)

## I.—INDIAN ECONOMICS.

Mr. Moreland's contributions to Indian economic literature are always welcome, and his latest book, "India at the Death of Akbar," is certainly no exception to the rule. For several years, especially during his retirement, Mr. Moreland has devoted much—we almost wrote "all"—his time to investigating the sources of Indian economic history. His knowledge of the Ain-i Akbari by Ahil-Fazl has stood him in great stead in this important sketch of the economic life of India at the close of Akbar's reign—*i.e.*, at the end of the sixteenth century—and we have an interesting account of Indian production, consumption, and distribution. In short, we have a description of agricultural production—land tenures, the system of agriculture, the conditions of life in the villages; non-agricultural production, commerce, the administration, and a very readable account of the standard of comfort that obtained among the main occupied classes. The volume is of importance as a handbook to the student of the economic history of India of a period when the mediæval history was ending and modern history beginning. As the author says, "It is a sketch rather than a finished picture; there is room for more intensive study of some of the authorities, and there is a reasonable prospect of the discovery of additional facts among sources to which I have not at present access, such as the records of the Portuguese administration and of the Jesuit missionaries, or the vernacular literature of the East and South and West. The period thus offers opportunities for further research, much of it of a kind well suited to the schools of economics now growing up in the Indian Universities, and while there are obvious arguments for deferring publication until the sources have been more fully explored, it seems to me that the balance of advantage lies in offering the sketch for use until the schools have got to work; it will serve at the least as a framework on which additional results can be arranged, and as an index to the topics on which further information is required."

The picture which the author sees of India at the death of Akbar is one of faulty production and bad distribution of the wealth produced. The only career open to men of position was State service, and much of the service rendered was sheer waste. There was throughout the country an unnecessarily large number of officials, domestic servants, and of those engaged in religious pursuits. The cultivator of the soil was much worse off in ordinary years than at present, and he had less to spend on necessaries and luxuries. In bad years he was no better off than the village labourer. In those days there was no organised system of famine relief, a system which is a permanent wonder to many interested in labour economics, and especially in unemployment. Of landlords we do not know much. Those who became courtiers probably lived the life of ordinary officials. Many seemed to be parasites, while others assisted their tenants. Ahil-Fazl, however, reminds us that "the general custom of Indian Zamindars is to leave the path of single-mindedness, and to have an eye to every side, and to join anyone who is victorious or who is making increasing stir." In a word, if the Ain-i Akbari is to be believed, official circles did not always approve—we put it mildly—the attitude of the landlord class. We find that merchants on the coast adopted the style of the small upper class, but up-country it was dangerous to indulge in this lavish expenditure openly. Like the middle classes, up-country merchants probably lived, as at present, in a very frugal way. Mr. Moreland arrives, in regard to the purchasing power of the rupee, at the conclusion that one rupee in Akbar's time was the equivalent of six rupees in the period before the war; or, in short, that a monthly income of five rupees would provide the same quantity of necessaries as could be purchased before the war with an income of thirty rupees.

In a very interesting chapter on commerce we have the various sources examined, and the result is that we see before the arrival of the Portuguese in the Indian seas an all-supreme body of Moslem traders, able men who did business from Madagascar to the Straits of Malacca. Moslem merchants were exceptionally strong on the west coast of India, particularly at Calicut, a commercial centre (as the name "calico" reminds us) of the highest importance. Spices brought European traders to the East. The trade in spices was, so far as the Portuguese were concerned, the royal prerogative of the King himself. Mr. Moreland points out that as late as the year 1585 the contract made for the fleet sailing from Lisbon provided for the annual import of 30,000 quintals (or, say, 1,750 tons) of pepper, an enormous quantity when judged by contemporary standards of commerce. The motives which brought Portuguese traders to the East were identical with those which actuated the English and Dutch. Soon, however, the basis of trade was greatly extended in every direction. As Adam Smith points out in the "Wealth of Nations," "The trade to the East Indies, by opening a market to the commodities of Europe, or, what comes nearly to the same thing, to the gold and silver which is purchased with those commodities, must necessarily tend to increase the annual production of European commodities, and consequently the real wealth and revenue of Europe." (Book IV., Chapter I.) Trade by land was not infrequently hazardous in the extreme, as the account of the journey to Kabul from Lahore by the missionary, Benedict Goez, quoted by Mr. Moreland, undoubtedly shows. As the conditions of transport in India in the sixteenth century were such as to induce traders to send their goods by water wherever possible, the coasting trade was of great importance. At the end of the sixteenth century there was no Calcutta; and, of course, Bombay, Madras, Karachi, and Rangoon had not sprung into existence as ports. The Cambay ports, including Surat and Broach, the Bengal ports (Satgaon-Hoogly, Sripur, and Chittagong), the Malabar and Coromandel coast ports, were important in this connection.

All things considered, the author of "India at the Death of Akbar" has succeeded, and he has succeeded well. An economic study based on the materials used by Mr. Moreland was from the outset no easy matter. We should have liked more references in the text to original authorities. It is true there is a bibliography at the end of each chapter, but to the serious student of Indian economic history ample footnotes would have been of great value. At times, we venture to suggest, too much is deduced from somewhat slender data, as, for example, where the tonnage of ships in Akbar's time is compared with the pre-war figure. Two sketch maps and five appendices have been added to the text, and are a pleasing addition to a very readable book.

## II.—THE STAR OF DESTINY.

The artificially intense atmosphere in which Stella Hamilton lived, where her friends "made, for the most part, an artistically uncomfortable use of the goods of this world, and each severally aspired to obtaining an intimate private knowledge of the inner workings of the next," is delightfully and cleverly suggested in the opening chapter of "The Star of Destiny" in the description of a select party invited by one of them to meet and hang on the words of Krishna Tyer, a young Hindu student.

Stella is almost in a dream condition, feeling herself marked out for some great destiny and thoroughly thrown away on an ordinary existence in Edinburgh. The author makes it seem quite natural that she should be taken in by Krishna's words that the star of her destiny calls her to the East, which will have a very special message for her. Krishna has previously discovered that there is a possibility of her going to India to stay with her friend, Daisy Cameron, whose husband is Collector of Venkatapur, and thinks that to have a friend in this household will be a help to his seditious schemes. Stella finds him on board the same steamer as herself for the voyage to India. The rest of the book is concerned with Stella's visit to the East and her gradual awakening from her dream. Krishna himself is more or less duped by a German agent (the time is just before the war), who passes under the name of Mrs. Ferguson. It is difficult to have much patience with an English girl who distributes seditious pamphlets in the bazaar at the instigation of a fanatical Hindu, under the impression that she is helping "to uplift the degraded masses of the Hindu population and to awake them to the mystic truths contained in their religion." But, in spite of the tiresomeness of her behaviour, we are really sorry for her on the voyage home, so disillusioned and disappointed, and are very glad when she realises at last—on a grey day in Edinburgh—that her true way to happiness lies in marrying the attractive young Scottish soldier whom she had so scornfully refused in India.

The story is readable and interesting, and the fact that the author carries out his rather difficult plot successfully is largely owing to his possession of a great sense of humour.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Orient in Bible Times." By Elihu Grant. (London: J. B. Lippincott Co. $2.50 net.)

"The Bride of Shiva." By Henry Bruce. (London: John Long, Ltd. 7s. net.)

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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

## CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

**Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish Dates.**

| Gregorian (New Style). | Julian (Old Style). | — | Moslem. | Jewish. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1920. July 15 | 1920. July. 2 | Thursday ..... | 1338. Shawal. 28 | 5680. Tamuz. 29 |
| 16 | 3 | Friday ..... | 29 | Ab. 1 |
| 17 | 4 | Saturday..... | Julkada. 1 | 2 |
| 18 | 5 | Sunday ..... | 2 | 3 |
| 19 | 6 | Monday ..... | 3 | 4 |
| 20 | 7 | Tuesday ..... | 4 | 5 |
| 21 | 8 | Wednesday ..... | 5 | 6 |

The Armenian Patriarch arrived on July 10 at Spa, and was received by M. Delacroix.

M. Venizelos went to Brussels on July 9 and lunched with the King of the Belgians.

A Damascus message states that Emir Faisal intends leaving for Europe by the first steamer from Syria.

Professor Nedjib Hindie has now changed his address, the new one being 65, Kensington Gardens Square, Bayswater, W.

King Alexander has returned to Greece. His wife, Mme. Aspasie Manos, will stay at the Villa Tombazis at Poros in the Peloponnesus.

Sir Herbert Samuel called on the American Consul at Jerusalem on July 4 on the occasion of the celebration of Independence Day.

M. Boeresco, of the Roumanian Legation, is to arrive in London this week, and will act as Chargé d'Affaires, with the rank of Minister.

Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught have honoured Mr. A. O. Lamplough by inspecting his collection of water-colour drawings of Egypt.

Prince Firouz Nosrat ed Dowleh, Minister for Foreign Affairs in the late Persian Cabinet and chief of the Peace Mission, left London on July 10 on a visit to France prior to his return to Teheran.

Mr. Frederick William Hasluck, of "The Wilderness," Blagden's Lane, Southgate, N., for many years assistant director and librarian of the British School at Athens, who left £9,242, bequeathed his collection of coins between the British Museum, the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge and Leys School, Cambridge.

Mr. Athelstan Riley gave a dinner at the Athenæum on July 8 to the Metropolitan of Didymoticon and the other members of the delegation from the Patriarchate of Constantinople to the Lambeth Conference. The guests included the Greek Minister and M. Gennadius, the Archbishops of York and Melbourne, the Marquis of Salisbury, the Earl of Malmesbury, and the Bishops of Gloucester, Ely, Coventry, Moray, and Ross, and Harrisburg (U.S.A.), Colonel Benson, and the Rev. J. Fynes Clinton.

Sir Ponnambalam and Lady Arunachalam returned to Ceylon by the P. and O. "Narkunda," which sailed on July 9. He came here as the head of the Ceylon Reform Deputation which interviewed Viscount Milner, and has interested members of Parliament and others in the subject. Lord Milner's reform proposals will be placed before the House of Commons before the end of this session. Sir Ponnambalam and Lady Arunachalam had the honour of being received in private audience by their Majesties at Buckingham Palace on June 26.

Our Baghdad Correspondent writes (May 30):—There is much gratification among all communities here at the announcement that His Majesty the King has conferred the K.C.I.E. (for war services) on Lieut.-Col. A. T. Wilson, C.S.I., C.M.G., D.S.O., the Acting Civil Commissioner in Mesopotamia. The time has perhaps not yet arrived for telling in full the remarkable story of the building up of the Civil Administration during the last few most difficult years, but it is satisfactory to know that it has not passed unnoticed at home. In conveying the intimation of the honour, "the Secretary of State for India has been pleased to direct the Civil Commissioner to express to the officers of the Civil Administration his warm appreciation of their loyal devotion to work under constant strain and in face of great difficulties for the welfare of Mesopotamia."

The christening of the infant daughter of Prince Antoine Bibesco (Chargé d'Affaires of the Roumanian Legation) and Princess Bibesco took place on July 6 at the Greek Church in Moscow Road, Bayswater. The sponsors were Queen Alexandra (for whom the Duchess of Portland stood proxy), Countess Benckendorff, the Marchioness of Granby, Lord Robert Cecil, and Lord Ivor Spencer-Churchill. The names given to the child were Alexandra Priscilla Helen. The presents to the child included a diamond pendant from Queen Alexandra.

The anniversary of the birthday of King Peter, King of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, who was born in 1844, was celebrated in London on July 12. A message of congratulation from King George was handed to M. Gavrilovitch (the Minister for the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes) by Major-General Sir John Hanbury-Williams, Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, the text of which, together with a message from the Serbian Colony, was telegraphed to King Peter in Belgrade. In the afternoon M. and Madame Gavrilovitch held a reception at the Legation in Queen's Gate, which was largely attended.

M. Misu, Roumanian Minister for Crown Lands, and formerly Minister in London, arranged to leave England yesterday for Bucharest.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Signor Mercatelli, holding the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary in the Italian Diplomatic Service, has been appointed Governor of Tripoli.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—

Mr. Stanley Fisher, Chief Justice, will go on leave to England on the return of the Puisne Judge, Mr. A. L. Stuart.

Mr. E. F. Wilson is appointed to act as Assistant to the Chief Secretary.

Mr. E. Heidestan will act as Auditor.

The following appointments have already been made on the staff of Sir Herbert Samuel, High Commissioner for Palestine:—

Mr. W. H. Deedes, C.M.G., D.S.O., who held the rank of Brigadier-General during the war, was one of the heads of the Political Intelligence Staff at Lord Allenby's Headquarters during the Palestine campaign. He has since been Military Attaché at Constantinople and Director-General of Public Security in Egypt. Mr. Deedes will be Civil Secretary to the High Commissioner.

Mr. N. Bentwich, O.B.E., M.C., who was Professor at the School of Law in Cairo, was Major in the Camel Corps during the Palestine campaign, and has since been Senior Judicial Officer of the Military Administration in Palestine.

Mr. Ronald Storrs, C.M.G., C.B.E., at one time Oriental Secretary to the High Commissioner in Egypt, has been Governor of Jerusalem since a few days after the occupation.

Captain Lord Edward Hay, Grenadier Guards, served in France during the war, was attached to the Peace Conference in Paris, and subsequently to Major-General Sir Edmund Ironside, on a special mission to Hungary and Roumania, and to the Military Intelligence Department at the War Office.

Mr. J. P. K. Groves, served in the Scottish Rifles in France during the war, was afterwards attached to the Arab Bureau at Cairo, Jerusalem and Damascus.

Mr. M. Nurock, has been secretary of the Zionist Commission at Jerusalem.

## OBITUARY.

General Boya Yankovitch, the Serbian General, who during the war commanded the Army which marched through to the Adriatic and occupied Durazzo, died at Novi, in Dalmatia, on July 8, states a Reuter message from Belgrade.

We regret to announce the death, which occurred as the result of a motor accident, of Mr. Augustus van Millingen, of Alexandria. He was 52 years of age. Much sympathy will be felt for Mrs. van Milligen, who was shortly expecting him at their English home, "The Warren," Purley Downs, Surrey.

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## GREAT BRITAIN AND THE MANDATE FOR PALESTINE.

A demonstration under the auspices of the English Zionist Federation took place on July 12 at the Royal Albert Hall in celebration of the acceptance by Great Britain of the Mandate for Palestine as the Jewish National Home. The chair was taken by the Rt. Hon. Lord Rothschild, F.R.S., and the following were amongst the speakers: Mr. Balfour, the Chief Rabbi, Dr. J. H. Hertz, the Marquis of Crewe, Lord Robert Cecil, M.P., Major Ormsby-Gore, M.P., Dr. Ch. Weizmann, Mr. Nahum Sokolow, Dr. Max Nordau, Mr. James de Rothschild, Colonel Wedgwood, M.P., and Mr. M. M. Usishkin. Mr. Sokolow moved the following resolution:—

"That this meeting, representing Anglo-Jewry, held at the Royal Albert Hall, on the 26th Tamuz, 5680—July 12, 1920—expresses heartfelt joy at the decision of the Supreme Council to incorporate the Balfour Declaration in the Treaty of Peace with Turkey, and at the acceptance by Great Britain of the Mandate for Palestine as the Jewish National Home; it also puts on record its high appreciation of the illustrious services rendered to the Jewish nation by the statesmen and peoples of the Allied and Associated States, particularly of Great Britain, who have collaborated in this memorable achievement, and pledges the Jews of this country to spare no effort and no sacrifice for the rebuilding of Palestine as the Jewish National Home, in collaboration with the inhabitants of the country."

The resolution was seconded by Dr. Weizmann and passed unanimously. The meeting closed with the singing of the "Hatikvah" and the National Anthem.

## NEW STAMPS.

The following are extracts from recent notes in *The Times* on new stamps:—

The Roumanian Post Office proposes to issue at an early date a set of victory commemorative stamps in the denominations of 1, 5, 10, 15, 25, 40, and 50 bani, 1 and 2 lei.

Forthcoming issues of Britsh colonial stamps include a special series for use on official correspondence in Mesopotamia, consisting of six values of the current Iraq stamps additionaly overprinted "On State Service" in a semi-circle in black.

The Serbian national stamp collection was lost during the war, and an effort is now being made to form a new one. The Director-General of Posts at Belgrade has accordingly issued through the Postal Union Bureau at Berne an appeal to all offices of the Union to supply him with three specimens of their postage stamps.

The national fêtes in Prague, attended by a Britsh delegation representative of arts and letters, were made the occasion for the introduction of a new series of postage stamps designed by Czech artists. The first type, depicting a dove descending with a letter in its beak, the work of Professor Benda, figures on the denominations five deniers dark blue, 10d. dark green, and 15d. red brown. The next three values bear an allegory of a lion breaking its fetters (by V. Brunner), 20d. dark red, 25d. dark brown, and 30d. red-violet. A Hussite chalice bearer is the subject of the design of the 80 and 90 deniers stamps, from the brush of Professor Alfonse Mucha, while the values from 100 to 40 deniers are symbolical of industry restored after war, as delineated by Jakob Otrovsky. The stamps have been surface printed by the United Czech Printing Office, and are perforated.

Nearly £1,000 has been subscribed by the inhabitants of Gibraltar to enable the local Sea Scouts and Boy Scouts to be represented at the forthcoming Grand Jamboree in London.

## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

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CONSTANTINOPLE. — English High School for Girls. — Required, to sail about the middle of August:—(1) Assistant Mistress for Mathematics. Applicants must have experience in teaching this subject up to matriculation standard. (2) Two or three Assistant Mistresses for general work in Junior Forms. Preference given to candidates who can offer a little dancing as an additional subject. The posts are resident. A return first-class passage paid on a two years' agreement. Salary according to experience and qualifications. Candidates are asked to make immediate application, enclosing full particulars of qualifications and copies of testimonials, to Miss Lightfoot, B.A., 8, Holland Villas Road, London, W.14.

# WHERE TO STAY.

**For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—**

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(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."

**which would indicate that two rooms were required at Matlock on the 20th of the month.**

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# THE NEAR EAST.

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THURSDAY, JULY 15, 1920.


## THE AMRITSAR DEBATE.

Last Thursday, for the first time in its history, the House of Commons had before it an estimate for expenditure on the India Office, and we question whether even the most ardent advocates of the change of procedure could have anticipated the immediate result of their persistent and eventually successful agitation. Practical politicians, at any rate, expected that, while the subjects for discussion might be novel in form, the discussions themselves would be of the type which had become so painfully familiar, a thin and listless House considering some question of merely academic significance, a few hours of the droning of notorious bores, and probably the relief of an early adjournment. On this occasion, however, the course of events was entirely different; there was a full-dress debate, with an unusual proportion of speeches by recognised leaders, the House was charged with passion, the Ministerial party was almost equally divided on a crucial question, and eventually the Government was saved from defeat by the votes of its usual opponents. The explanation of these unwonted manifestations is, of course, to be found in the nature of the subject which came up for discussion. The House had before it a grave moral issue, closely interwoven with questions regarding the conduct of individuals, brought into prominence by an exceptional combination of circumstances, and everyone who is familiar with the mentality of legislative assemblies knows that a combination of moral and personal issues can be counted on to electrify the atmosphere. The chief defect of Mr. Montagu's opening speech lay in his attempt to ignore this tendency, and divert the discussion to political lines. He asked the House to vote on the question of ascendancy *versus* partnership in our relations with India, but the House knew and felt that that issue was dead; it was really settled long ago by the inexorable logic of accomplished facts, and the unanimous acceptance by Parliament of the Government of India Act was in effect a formal recognition of the position which Great Britain and the Empire had already reached. Mr. Montagu's attempt necessarily failed, Sir Edward Carson was quick to bring the discussion back to the line in which members were really interested, and then Mr. Churchill expounded the attitude of Ministers in a matter which he rightly described as one of exceptional seriousness, delicacy, and responsibility.

Mr. Churchill's speech was worthy of the occasion. He explained the intricacies of procedure, which have proved so puzzling to some of our contemporaries; he defined clearly the respective functions of the Army Council and the Cabinet; and then, passing to the merits of the case, he laid down the principle which should govern the conduct of officers charged with the duty of repressing civil commotion. The Government stands by the rule which in popular language has been described variously as the minimum of force, or the condemnation of "frightfulness"; you may have to shoot, but you are not entitled to shoot people here in order to produce a moral effect elsewhere; and, if that principle be accepted, there is really little more to be said on the events which were under the consideration of the House. The claim put forward so insistently that the shooting at Amritsar in fact saved India may or may not be well-founded, but the Government's decision is that you are not entitled to save India in that particular way. A lawless crowd may be dispersed by force, but may not be made a scapegoat to bear away the sins of others. That, as Mr. Churchill said, is not the British way of doing things. The principle having thus been laid down in uncompromising terms, the only remaining question for the Government related to the action taken against the officer by whom that principle had been disregarded. On that question individual opinions necessarily differ, and while Sir Edward Carson had asked for censure but not punishment, Mr. Churchill expressed his personal preference for a more definite disciplinary act; but he declared that the Cabinet as a whole supported what he described as the moderate and considerate conclusion reached unanimously by the Army Council, and to that conclusion he invited general assent. Mr. Asquith, who spoke next, was prompt to accept the invitation for the party which he leads, and then the debate passed mainly into the hands of the partisans on either side. It would be tedious to refer in detail to the assertions and the invectives in which successive speakers indulged, and we think the one side may fairly be set off against the other; the speeches show the volume and depth of the feelings which have been aroused by the events under discussion, but, taken as a whole, their only positive value is to emphasise the moderation of the standpoint reached by Ministers, and explained once again in the closing remarks of the Leader of the House. Mr. Bonar Law spoke as one who stood between two fires, but his insistence on the fact that the Cabinet as a whole, and not any individual Minister, was concerned appears to us to possess more than merely tactical importance. The time when the Secretary of State for India could have a policy has, in fact, gone by; the big questions affecting India must henceforward claim the attention of the Cabinet, and a Government must be prepared to stand or fall by the decisions which it takes. In this case the Government stood firm: the division-list shows, as we have said, a transfer of votes which may possibly be significant for the future course of politics, but the immediate question has been disposed of so far as the House of Commons is concerned, and it remains only to ask how far the decision will be accepted by the country.

We believe that the decision will ultimately be concurred in, and rightly so, by the great bulk of middle and responsible opinion. As regards the moral issue we have no doubt; a policy of "frightfulness," an ugly word for an ugly thing, is repugnant to British instincts and ideals, and the emphatic declaration that no such weapon forms part of the soldier's equipment will be welcomed as a timely recognition of the position in India and elsewhere. On the personal question the scope for difference of opinion is undoubtedly greater, and we can scarcely venture to hope for an immediate cessation of controversy, but, when a merciful hoarseness shall have overtaken extreme partisans, we expect that opinion will be found to have settled down somewhat on the lines indicated in the speech which General Hunter-Weston contributed to the debate. A soldier's case has been considered by the Commander-in-Chief in India, and by the Army Council in this country; the Cabinet has concurred in the unanimous decision of the Council, and for the ordinary man that consensus should suffice. The measure of blame attaching to individuals for acts performed in distant lands and under pressure of the gravest emergency cannot be determined with precision by a public imperfectly informed as to the facts, and unable to reconstitute the circumstances in which action had to be taken; the public must be satisfied that the principle applied is sound, but if it is so satisfied, it will be wise to leave the application in the hands of those who know. The temptation to join a pack in full cry is doubtless great, but, none the less, it is a temptation to be resisted, and in the present case we can see no possible good in any attempt to prolong the discussion. Let us remember only that the events at Amritsar have left ugly wounds on both sides, wounds which time alone can heal. We cannot forget those wounds while they still hurt, but at least we can leave them to the great healer, and it is our clear duty to do nothing which may cause them to break out afresh.

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# "BULGARIA'S PENANCE."

**By JAMES D. BOURCHIER.**

In describing Bulgaria as "quite a recent British discovery," the writer of THE NEAR EAST's leading article of May 13 told the simple truth. Bulgaria is still a *terra incognita* to most Englishmen. For the most part all that they know of her is that she is a little State, situated somewhere in the East, which has maliciously and treacherously joined our enemies and deserves to be punished accordingly. She must pay the full penalty of her crime, and if slices of her territory are distributed among our friends, it is thought to be quite in accordance with the fitness of things. The ignorance of the public has been increased rather than diminished by an energetic anti-Bulgarian propaganda which, under the guise of imparting information, has obscured the essential features of the Balkan problem. But *magna est veritas et praevalebit:* the effort, hitherto only too successful, to convert the Anglo-Saxon conscience into an instrument of Balkan animosities can hardly be maintained when the passions excited by the war begin to subside; the public mind becomes more cool, more discriminating, and begins to suspect that it has been misled.

The inevitable reaction has scarcely yet begun. Meantime the British soldier has met the Bulgarian on the field of battle, and, though taught to regard him as a "monster in human form," has spontaneously discovered that he is not a bad fellow after all, and has even learned to like and respect him. That is something gained. "It is only when you grapple with a man that you discover his real quality," as John Addington Symons remarks in his description of the Swiss wrestlers. The fortitude with which the Bulgarians have met the stroke of adversity has also impressed many who have never had the opportunity of making the acquaintance of this unknown people. Those who possess no first-hand knowledge of them can scarcely realise how crushing has been the blow; it is not the heavy load of the financial terms now imposed on them, nor even the loss of territory that afflicts them, but the unnatural severance from their kith and kin, now handed over to alien domination. It is very good of THE NEAR EAST correspondent, M. Cassavetes, to admit that the Bulgarians "cannot so soon renounce their dreams of conquest" and to propose that Serbia, Greece and Roumania, "the victors," should extend a friendly hand to Bulgaria. If these States are influenced by "a sincere desire for amity and neighbourly collaboration," their first step would be to desist from the process of forcible assimilation by which they are now endeavouring to compel some 1,750,000 Bulgarians to renounce, not their "dreams of conquest," but their national consciousness. Once "the victors" can induce themselves to restore to the vanquished the churches and schools they possessed under Turkish rule, their bishops, their priests, their teachers, and the right to speak their own language, some progress will have been made towards the establishment of those neighbourly relations which M. Cassavetes rightly thinks so desirable. Until this has been done, to preach amity between the spoilers and the despoiled is nothing but a cruel irony.

Bulgaria, we are told, "has been a constant thorn in the flesh to all her neighbours." If this has been the case, who was responsible? In 1878, Beaconsfield and Bismarck divided the newly enfranchised race into five parts. The Dobruja was given to Roumania, Pirot to Serbia, Macedonia and Thrace were handed back to Turkey, Eastern Roumelia received autonomy under a Turkish governor, Northern Bulgaria alone obtained complete freedom. For the irredentist movements which inevitably followed Bulgaria, in the war literature of the period, is invariably declared to be responsible, and the calumny, by dint of repetition and in the absence of refutation, has come to be more or less generally believed. In point of fact, the Bulgarian Government, in order to avoid diplomatic difficulties, or at the bidding of Russia, has frequently repressed these movements, so far as they existed within the borders of the kingdom.

The real truth is that the young state, situated in the midst of jealous rivals, whose animosity has been excited by her marvellous progress, has received innumerable thorns in her flesh, and has been made the victim of rapacious designs. It is enough to mention briefly the secret treaties made by both Serbia and Roumania with Austria-Hungary at her expense, the treacherous attack of Serbia in 1885, the Greco-Roumanian combination against her in 1900, the Greek effort to annex Macedonia in 1897, the repudiation by Serbia of the Treaty of 1912, the persecution of the Bulgarian element in Macedonia by both Greeks and Serbs in 1912-1913 (while they were still her allies), and the unprovoked invasion of her territory by Roumania in 1913.

It is necessary to read a little history in order to correct erroneous impressions derived from the propagandist literature of recent years. It is scarcely fair to state that Bulgaria has never been "a good ally," in view of the fact that she never made an alliance till 1912, and that she was not the first to break the compact then made. And if she has proved "a dangerous enemy," we British may certainly lay claim to a similar distinction, as the result of our war with Germany has demonstrated.

It is no doubt unwise on the part of some advocates of Bulgaria to lay too much stress on the exclusive culpability of King Ferdinand. The time has not come for disclosures, but, when all is known, it will be found that he had little choice left as to the course he should pursue. The blunders of Western diplomacy, the obstinacy of the Serbian *militaires*, who refused to yield an inch of Macedonia, the support which they received from the Germanophil *coterie* at Petrograd, which aimed at detaching Bulgaria from the Entente, the mischievous activity of the Russian Minister at Belgrade, the vacillation of the Tsar, the threats of the Kaiser, the absence of any prospect of support from the West—these factors combined with others to bring the Bulgarian ruler to an *impasse*. He did not make up his mind till the last week of August, 1915—the *soi-disant* secret treaty with Austria of the previous year is a fabrication. His decision was distinctly unpopular in the country—anyone who witnessed the sullen demeanour of the troops when mobilised could not fail to contrast it with their joyful alacrity when summoned to fight Turkey in 1912. They did not want, and the nation did not want, to fight Russia and Britain. Several mutinies took place, and a revolution would not improbably have followed had not M. Stambolisky, the only man who could have led it, been thrown into prison. Thus Bulgaria was deprived of its Venizelos, and it may be asserted without fear of contradiction that could the Allied fleet at that time have sailed over the Balkans to Sofia, the deposition of King Ferdinand would have been accomplished with far greater ease than the subsequent removal of King Constantine from Greece. But once the army received the order to march into Macedonia the war ceased to be unpopular, and the troops, welcomed by their Macedonian brothers, fought well, as our British officers have testified. It became a fight *pro aris et focis*.

The Treaties of Berlin and Bucharest have been the cause of all the trouble in the Balkans, and the Treaty of Neuilly, drawn up on the same lines as its predecessors, will inevitably aggravate the mischief. Its territorial arrangements are, of course, its worst feature, but its financial and economic provisions, like those of the sister Treaties of Versailles and Saint Germain, are also open to serious criticism. The "considered" verdict of the Powers needs further consideration. It is daily becoming more apparent that revenge is not the best policy, and that our own interests will not be served by exacting "the uttermost farthing" from our former adversaries. Commonsense requires that we should help the fallen foe to meet the heavy liabilities that we impose on him; it is sheer folly to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. Fortunately, in the case of Bulgaria the Commission of Reparations is empowered to grant such alleviations as circumstances may show to be expedient; but, apart from these, it is

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obviously in our interest to help her laborious population, already decimated by a series of wars, to renew their productive toil and to furnish us with the cereals of which we shall soon be badly in need. They will take in exchange our merchandise. It will therefore be desirable to facilitate and cheapen transport by leaving to Bulgaria a port of her own on the Ægean, and presently to accord her a loan, which, by helping to reduce the ruinous rate of exchange, will increase her purchasing power.

## THE HIGH SCHOOL, CONSTANTINOPLE.

A correspondent informs us that a letter received last week from Constantinople contains the bad news that the residential building of the High School for Boys in that city has been burned down. The letter was undated, but our correspondent calculates that the fire occurred in the last days of June. The school building was not burned, but apparently suffered some damage. Our correspondent adds :—"The fire occurred about 7 p.m., and broke out in a house seven buildings removed; but as there was a very high wind blowing at the time the flames made rapid progress, especially as the houses, although all detached and in gardens, were large wooden *konaks*. I understand that a few things only were saved, but have no particulars.

"This is very unfortunate, as the building, which had been occupied by the officers of the Sutherland and Argyll Highlanders, was only evacuated at the end of last December and handed back to the School Committee. It was put into good order, and the staff and boarders took up their residence last January, and the school was doing very well." Later information adds that the military (British) blew up a couple of *konaks* to stay the progress of the fire, but unhappily without success. The headmaster, who, with his wife and child, resided on the premises, lost all his personal property. His wife and child are now suffering from shock, the former having been scorched while trying to save effects.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

Ten railway vans full of gunpowder have exploded at Bucharest.

A clearing office for dealing with enemy debts has been established at Simla in accordance with the Peace Treaty.

For the first time since the war a steamship with grain from Roumania has arrived in Holland. The Wingate reached Rotterdam on July 4 with a cargo of Roumanian wheat.

The French Minister in Belgrade has handed the Croix de Guerre to the town of Shabatz on behalf of the French Government, on account of its heroic attitude during the war.

An international conference on Armenia, attended by delegates representing Great Britain, France, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and Holland, is being held in Paris.

Proposals have been made in the Indian Imperial Council for legislation to regulate the entry into and residence in India of British subjects from the self-governing Dominions and Dependencies on a basis of reciprocity.

The Egyptian Cabinet has approved the necessary credits for the continuation of the irrigation work on the Blue Nile at Sennar for three months. Within that time a general decision on the Nile irrigation projects will be reached.

## CHESS.

Below I give a further game from the Final Section of the Murton Cup Handicap :—

(Remove White's Queen's Knight.)

| White. | Black. | White. | Black. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 P—K4 | P—K4 | 12 B—R5 | Q—Kt3 (7) |
| 2 P—KB4 (1) | P—Q4 (2) | 13 P—K6 | P x P (8) |
| 3 Kt—B3 | B—KKt5 | 14 R x P | Kt—B3 (9 |
| 4 B—K2 | B x Kt | 15 B x Kt | P x B |
| 5 B x B | P x KP | 16 KR—K | O—O—O (10) |
| 6 O—O | P—Q5 (3) | 17 R x B | Kt—Q4 |
| 7 P—Q3 | P—QB3 | 18 R x P | P—B4 |
| 8 B x P | Kt—Q2 | 19 B—Kt3 | Q x P |
| 9 Q—Q2 (4) | Kt—K2 (5) | 20 Q—Kt5 | Q—Kt4 |
| 10 QR—K | Kt—KKt3 | 21 Q—K5 | Resigns (11) |
| 11 P—K5 | B—K2 (6) | | |

(1) The only really satisfactory opening at these odds.

(2) Without the QKt White can scarcely play P x QP, and there seems no better continuation than that adopted.

(3) B—B4 (ch.) would, of course, have been much better. As it is the P at Q5 becomes a source of strength for White.

(4) One of those positions where the best move is very hard to find. With the text move White decides on complete development before an offensive.

(5) A present of a move, as it will now take two more moves to develop the B.

(6) Kt x B would be no better.

(7) Intending to Castle on the Queen's side, but it is too late. Castles should have been played, when there would probably have followed 13 B x Kt, RP x B 14 P—K6 Kt—B3; 15 P x P (ch.) R x P; 16 R—K6, and should win.

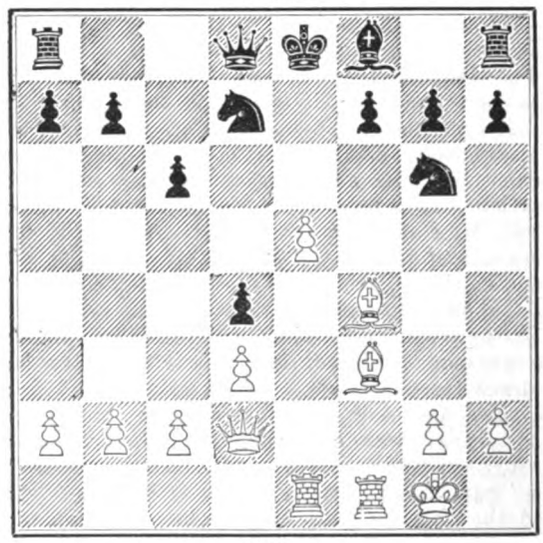
(8) If Kt—B3, 14 P x P (ch.), K x P, 15 Q—K2, KR—K, 16 Q—K6 (ch.), K—B, 17 B—Kt5 P—B4 (if 17 . . . . B—Kt5, 18 R x Kt (ch.) P x R, 19 B—R6 mate), 18 Q—B5 followed by B x Kt (B3) and P—KKt4.

(9) Losing a piece, but Black had to submit to immediate loss of some material, the only question being what. At this point Black probably had a lost game, whatever was played.

(10) If 16 . . . . Kt—Q4, 17 B—Q6 Q—Q, 18 Q—Kt5.

(11) A neat finish.

Position after White's 11th move, P-K5.
Black.



White.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

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The trade outlook in Egypt seems rather better. There appears to have been a very general anticipation that there would be a bad "slump" there, and in preparation traders endeavoured to reduce their commitments. The latest message from our Correspondent, however, refers to the return of a slight tendency to confidence, and states that "the bigger business men are optimistic enough to expect a big volume of general business in the late autumn or early winter." A factor in the situation that cannot fail to arouse apprehension is the extraordinary congestion of goods at the docks at Alexandria to which our Correspondent referred last week. In his opinion, there is between two and three million pounds' worth of merchandise there. Obviously, until a very considerable portion of this has been absorbed, the trade position is bound to remain somewhat obscure.

***

A much more cheerful picture can be derived from a study of the figures for Egypt's trade for the first four months of the current year which are dealt with by our Correspondent this week. For April remarkable figures were recorded, the imports amounting to £E8,446,361, and the exports to £E5,199,927, making the imports for the four months £E28,991,541, and the exports £E55,755,593, as against £E12,340,611 and £E17,451,021 for the corresponding period of last year. The balance of trade in favour of Egypt was thus at the end of April £E27,539,526, which, our Correspondent points out, "added to the total recorded for the previous four years brings the credit balance in Europe well into nine figures." In the face of these statistics there is clearly no reason for undue anxiety should the Egyptian market undergo a temporary period of depression, for the country now has adequate resources behind it to assure its rapid recovery.

***

Another possible opening for British trade in Morocco has been brought to my notice this week. A contract for the construction of two suspension bridges over the rivers Yquem and Cherrat between Casablanca and Rabat was secured by a French firm, but while the masonry work has been completed it appears that the steel structure has not yet been undertaken, because it has been impossible to secure the necessary steel cables. Obviously there is an excellent opportunity for some enterprising British firm to step in and offer to supply the required material. I should be glad to give readers of these columns further particulars on request.

***

Mr. E. C. D. Rawlins gives a most encouraging picture of the outlook for British trade with Greece in his review of the commercial and industrial position in that country during the past year, a summary of which will be found elsewhere in these columns. Conditions during the war brought the two countries closer together, and enabled the Greeks to become more closely acquainted with British goods, while last autumn the Athens Exhibition gave British manufacturers an opportunity to bring their products before Greek buyers in most favourable conditions. The Greek traders, Mr. Rawlins points out, are more than ever well-disposed towards British manufacturers "on account of the traditional reliability of their quality," and provided British traders are not lacking in enterprise, it may be anticipated that there should be a great increase in trade with Greece in the next few years.

***

If, however, this is to be the case, British trade methods will have to be modified in some respects. Mr. Rawlins states that complaints have been made by Greek merchants of the conservatism of British manufacturers. This is an old shortcoming, to which I have drawn attention time after time. Obviously, unless the requirements of any particular market are carefully studied and efforts made to meet them, permanent success cannot be looked for. One cannot dictate the tastes of another country. It is the same as regards local trade conditions, in which connection Mr. Rawlins states that British traders must learn to give facilities to their clients in the matter of quotations. To quote goods ex factory or f.o.b. conveys nothing to the Greek merchant, he points out; what is desired being the cost of the goods delivered at the Pirœus, Patras, or Salonika.

***

The question of the representation of British firms in Greece is the subject of interesting comment. The appointment of a local agent with exclusive rights over the whole of Greece or a certain portion of it is, Mr. Rawlins states, the most efficient means of representation for British firms. "There are many reliable Greek and British firms here," he remarks, "possessed of a fair capital, who are anxious to obtain British agencies. Since the war a good many British firms have opened up offices here for the purpose of representing British manufacturers. As these firms mostly possess competent native travellers, and are in close touch with the requirements of the market, this would undoubtedly appear to be the most practical means of representation for British firms in this market."

***

This year the British Industries Fair was held simultaneously in London, Birmingham, and Glasgow, an arrangement which has disadvantages as well as advantages. A joint committee of the Board of Trade and the Department of Overseas Trade, together with representatives of the Birmingham and Glasgow sections of the Fair, has been appointed to inquire whether it would be better to hold the Fair in future at one centre, and if not, what centres should be selected. Other matters to be investigated are the inclusion of additional trades, and the holding of an autumn as well as a spring Fair.

***

There is, in my opinion, no doubt that it would be much preferable to hold the Fair at one centre. But there are certain very obvious difficulties to be overcome. Where, for instance, is a building to be found to house all the exhibits? This year's exhibition at the Crystal Palace, representing for the most part small and easily handled commodities, was a gigantic affair in itself, and as I have very good reason to know, a comprehensive visit to it was no light physical undertaking. At least three times the space would be required if the Fair is to be concentrated in one place, and that would certainly entail the construction of a special building. This is scarcely the time for such an enterprise, and it seems on the whole better to follow this year's precedent and to adhere to a number of centres.

***

Despite the effects of last year's disturbances, the Egyptian Delta Light Railways is able to show fairly satisfactory results for the twelve months ended March 31. The gross receipts amounted to £406,696, as against £366,043, there being an increase of £38,250 in coaching receipts, though goods receipts showed a slight decrease. It may be noted that during the period the increases in rates authorised by Government came into force. The increase in gross receipts was, however, more than counterbalanced by the increase in working expenses which rose from £195,194 to £257,683. Including £89,127 brought forward the total available balance is £251,447. It is proposed to place £20,000 to the reserve, to pay a dividend of 5½ per cent. on the preference shares, and to carry forward £93,273.

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# Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, June 23.

### Increasing Trade Balance.

April was another phenomenal month for the trade of Egypt, imports amounting to £E8,446,361, and exports to £E5,199,927, as against £E1,959,796 and £E1,617,164 respectively during the corresponding month of 1919. As a consequence, imports for the four months of the current year now total £E28,991,541, and exports £E55,755,593 as compared with £E12,340,611 and £E17,451,021 during the same period last year. Re-exports are slightly less, but transit trade has risen from £E2,529,711 to £E3,858,962. Thus the balance of trade in favour of Egypt goes on increasing. On the year it is so far £E27,539,526, which added to the total recorded for the previous four years, brings the credit balance in Europe well into nine figures. So soon as the political situation is cleared up and the shipping difficulties are overcome, there should therefore be a very good time for foreign and, let us hope, British manufacturers, though at the present moment there is a slump in the Egyptian market owing to the exorbitant prices charged by, and over-speculation on the part of, many importers.

The principal imports have been barley £E71,696, potatoes £E114,318, wheat flour £E414,961, oranges £E168,311, sugar £E1,185,347, coffee £E602,224, wine £E159,404, coconut oil, £E208,105, kerosine £E739,645, oil fuel £E312,167, lubricating oils £E111,663, paper and printed matter £E650,840, timber £E508,896, coal £E669,064, nitrate of soda £E628,244, household soap £E254,464, matches £E137,340, cotton yarn £E594,421, cotton piece goods £E7,618,664, cotton hosiery £E553,731, woollen and worsted cloths £E779,067, silk yarn £E284,542, silk cloths £E713,974, iron and steel bars £E162,884, iron and steel rails and fittings £E131,936, motor vehicles and chassis £E240,227, copper and brass sheets £E227,468, and tobacco £E1,009,469.

As regards exports cotton, of course, overshadows everything else. In point of fact, it accounts for over 90 per cent. of the total, i.e., £E51,591,448, out of £E55,755,593. The other principal exports during the four months have been eggs £E285,259, hides and skins £E352,131, rice £E128,667, cottonseed £E1,244,976, cotton cake £E273,007, onions £E254,389, sugar £E382,903, cigarette paper £E71,666, and cigarettes £E307,978. The main re-exports have been kerosine, coal and textiles, mostly to Palestine and Syria.

Almost every item under both imports and exports shows an increase in value, but in many cases there is a marked decline in the quantity, or a wholly disproportionate increase in volume. As examples I would quote wheat, which increased by £E51,330, or 15 per cent., but fell off by over 3,000 tons, or 30 per cent., cotton piece goods which quadrupled in value, but only increased by a little over 150 per cent. in quantity, and cotton yarn which showed a similar rise in value, but only increased by 175 per cent. in volume; while under exports, of course, we have cotton, which rose from £E14,000,000 to over £E51,000,000, but of which only 2,380,000 kantars against 1,747,000 kantars were exported.

Of the enormous increases in value the United Kingdom took its share, though the figures are more satisfactory under imports than under exports. Thus of the former, just under half went to Great Britain, as compared with 38 per cent. last year, while of the exports she only took 40 per cent., against a previous 50 per cent. The decline in the proportion of exports is due to the larger purchases of cotton made by the United States, which took over one million kantars, against but 250,000 the previous year, while Great Britain's purchase only increased a fraction, and in fact fell below that of the States, who top the list both for cotton and for total exports. It is interesting to note that the bulk of the motor vehicles and cycles come from across the Atlantic, and that Italy is steadily increasing her share of the cotton piece good trade.

Trade between Egypt and the Sudan is steadily improving. Imports into Egypt during the four months increased from £E635,107 to £E1,166,456, and exports to the Sudan from £E864,325 to £E1,320,389. The main items under imports were livestock £E372,775 (85,000 head against 52,000 head), hides and skins £E64,505, sesame £E307,943 (6,500 tons against 2,900 tons), ground nuts £E100,185, charcoal £E41,422; while those under exports were cereals £E62,065, sugar £E338,589, coffee 106,696, textiles £E402,832 and tobacco £E78,269, all of which show substantial increases over the corresponding period of 1919 and illustrate the greater purchasing power of the Sudan.

### The Outlook.

In last week's notes I mentioned that the commercial situation in Egypt was quiet—almost ominously so. During the week I have been in touch with the directors of some of the bigger firms, and I am informed that things are no worse than they were then. The decline in cotton prices seems to have stopped. Prices have reached a more stable level in the neighbourhood of 100 dollars per kantar, and the general expectation is that this may be taken as a basis for future dealing. Though this is yet by no means certain, it is regarded as extremely likely, and the last few days have seen a slight tendency towards confidence. If the Bourse stabilises, the recovery of the whole country will be speedy. Egypt is in such a position to-day that it has wonderful recuperative commercial qualities, and the present slump will have had the effect of inculcating necessary caution. The summer season here is always more or less quiet, and the bigger business men are optimistic enough to expect a big volume of general business in the late autumn or early winter. Perhaps the strongest evidence in favour of the wide confidence in commercial potentialities in Egypt is the number of new firms which are still springing up. Many of them, with headquarters in Alexandria, are backed by capital from reputable quarters at home, and are steadily forging links in that already strong commercial chain which links this country to Great Britain. The Canadian Trade Commissioner for the Near East has been touring the country, and in a recent interview he expressed satisfaction with the prospects of business between Canada and Egypt.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, June 29.

### The Petrol Distribution Monopoly.

As reported in my last week's letter, the alarm caused by the publication of the recent Decree-Law giving a monopoly for the distribution of petrol in Roumania to a new private society has gradually subsided, and on Sunday, June 27,


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the *Independence Roumaine*, published an official statement on the subject by the Minister for Industry and Commerce, which runs: "In reply to the alarmist rumours that have been circulated in regard to the application of the decree-law on the home distribution of petrol, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce wishes to state that the disposition for the transference to the State of the depôts and means of transport refers only to such installations as are necessary for the distribution of petrol products within the country, of which the State's right of purchase is, for the most part, recognised by agreements with the various private societies. These dispositions, however, do not extend to means of transport which are used for petrol exploitation properly so-called, all of which remain intact as the sole property of the various petroleum refineries."

**Railway Receipts.**

Provisory figures have been published of the takings of the Roumanian State Railways during the year 1919-1920. They are as follows: For passenger traffic, 138,978,695 lei; luggage, 10,281,210 lei; goods, 128,911,444 lei; various, 13,908,571 lei; making a total of 292,080,020 lei. The following estimate has been made for the year 1920-1921: Passengers, 555,915,000; luggage, 41,125,000; goods, 515,646,000; various, 55,634,000; total 1,168,319,979 lei. Local fares are to be increased by 50 per cent. as from July 1 this year.

**Effect of Storms.**

As reported last week, extremely heavy rains have practically devastated several districts during the past month. From the Slanic Valley it is reported that the river has carried away some of the wooden houses. The bridge of Cernatesht has been destroyed, and many of the roads are impassable. It is feared that many bodies will be found when the water recedes.

**Orient Express Route.**

The Simplon still takes the route by Predeal, as the Olti Bridge is not safe. It is reported in to-day's Press that application has been made to Paris from Bucharest, Vienna, and Prague for permission to run the Orient express via Vienna, Prague, Salzburg, and Strassburg. This would be a great convenience to travellers, for the discomforts of the Trieste route are growing weekly greater.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, July 3.

**Paris-Salonika-Athens Express.**

A regular railway service three times a week has been inaugurated between Paris and Athens via Salonika. The first through train left the French capital on July 1. The duration of the journey is at present 120 hours, but it is hoped that as soon as the lines in Serbia have undergone certain necessary repairs the whole journey will be effected in about 90 hours.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, June 21.

**The Budget.**

The Budget estimates provide for a revenue of 1,200,000,000 levas, and an expenditure of 2,000,000,000, there being thus a deficit of 800,000,000 levas. To meet this the Government is to take drastic measures to curtail the expenditure of the various Ministries. In this way it is estimated that from two to three hundred million levas can be saved.

**Export of Cereals.**

The Consortium has concluded a contract with the representatives of the Polish Government for the sale of barley, millet, rye, and maize to the value of 14,000,000 francs.

A representative has arrived here from South Russia to purchase cereals for the Russian Volunteer Army fighting against the Bolshevists.

**Miscellaneous.**

Hitherto the Ministries of Agriculture, Commerce, Public Works, and the Interior, have dealt with water power, but henceforward the functions of these four Ministries are to be concentrated in a branch of the Ministry of Public Works.

The damage done to the crops in the neighbourhood of Provadie by the recent flood is estimated at 30 per cent. If the rains continue much longer the harvest in general will be seriously affected.

The service of trains between Belgrade and Constantinople is to begin on July 2.

## TRADE WITH ROUMANIA.

### Lord Bessborough on the Outlook.

The Earl of Bessborough, K.P., C.V.O., C.B., presiding at the recent annual meeting of the British Roumanian Chamber of Commerce, in moving the adoption of the annual report of the council for the twelve months ended May 31, 1920, said that since he had the honour of addressing the members last year the boundaries of Roumania had been definitely settled by the Peace Conference, and Greater Roumania was now one of the most important countries in Europe, comprising within its borders large areas of very fertile agricultural land and also mineral wealth which awaited further exploitation. There were, in addition, a certain number of established industries, and what was perhaps most important of all a rapidly increasing population. These factors ensured that Roumania would continue to be an importer of manufactured products with a potential purchasing capacity of increasing importance. Roumania was now one of the countries included in the Board of Trade's Export Credits Scheme, and he had no doubt that so long as the present uncertainty in the international exchange situation continued, the facilities that this scheme offered would be much more largely availed of than they were at present as they became more familiar to the trading community. When addressing the members last year he had said he believed there would be a good opportunity for British business with Roumania in the future, and he was happy to say that so far as the year under review was concerned his remarks had been justified, as the business done with this country had been considerable. There was, of course, plenty of room for further development.

He referred to the British Chamber of Commerce recently established in Bucharest, which he was informed was proceeding with the creation of a Court of Arbitration, which should be of assistance to British trade. With Chambers of Commerce open in London, and Bucharest specially dealing with Anglo-Roumanian trade, and a Court of Arbitration in being in Bucharest, the facilities afforded for trade between the two countries should be excellently cared for, and they had every reason to hope that business would continue to develop satisfactorily. While the conditions of trade in general and those of Roumania in particular had not called for any action of an exceptional kind during the past year on the part of the Chamber, he reminded the members that apart from the circulation of reports and dissemination of news of interest to them, the Chamber had from time to time considered the conditions of trade between this country and Roumania, and was ready at any time to take action should such a course be considered advantageous to the commercial relations of the two countries.

The annual report was adopted and the officers unanimously re-elected.

Dr J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne

Of all Chemists, 1/3 and 3/-.

Safeguard your Health with this Reliable Medicine.

Cuts short attacks of HYSTERIA, SPASMS, PALPITATION.
A true palliative in NEURALGIA, GOUT, TOOTHACHE, RHEUMATISM.
Checks and arrests FEVER, CROUP, AGUE.
The Best Remedy known for COUGHS, COLDS, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS.
Always ask for a 'Dr. Collis Browne's'

ACTS LIKE A CHARM IN DIARRHŒA, CHOLERA, DYSENTERY.

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE.

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210th YEAR

THE OLDEST INSURANCE COMPANY IN THE WORLD.

HEAD OFFICE: 63, THREADNEEDLE ST., LONDON, E.C.

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|---|---|
| CAPITAL PAID UP and OTHER FUNDS | £3,740,742 |
| CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED but UNCALLED | £1,920,000 |
| | £5,660,742 |

Branches and Agencies throughout the World.
Principal Agents in the Near East:

SALONICA - - THE WHITTAL SALT:EL CO., LTD.
ALEXANDRIA - - - - BEHREND & CO., LTD
CAIRO - - - - - - - - - VICTOR HANAN.
CYPRUS - - - - - - - - - - C. S. CRAMBY.

*THE ESSENCE OF INSURANCE IS SECURITY.*

# W. MORPHY & SON,

*Steamship Agents and Commercial Representatives,*

ATHENS, PIRÆUS, PATRAS, SALONICA.

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# BASS & Co's PALE ALE

## = IN BOTTLE =

who may experience difficulty in obtaining supplies abroad, should communicate with—

**Messrs. BASS, RATCLIFF & GRETTON, Limited,**
**BURTON-ON-TRENT, ENGLAND.**

# NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

(Affiliated to The British Trade Corporation).

*ESTABLISHED 1909 BY IMPERIAL FIRMAN.*

## CAPITAL - - - £1,000,000 STERLING.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

CONSTANTINOPLE.
S. de Bilinski, C.B.E. (Chairman).
Sir Adam Block, K.C.M.G.
F. Edwin Whittall.
H.E. Ahmed Djemal Bey.
H.E. Nail Bey.
H.E. Ismail Djenani Bey.

LONDON.
A. G. M. Dickson (Chairman of London Committee)
Hon. Hugo Baring.
Sir Henry Birchenough, K.C.M.G.
C. S. Gulbenkian.
R. H. Macaulay.
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**HEAD OFFICE:**
**CONSTANTINOPLE (Union Han, Galata).**

**Branches: STAMBOUL (KENADJIAN HAN). SMYRNA.**
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***Every description of Banking business undertaken.***


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# BRITISH CONSULAR REPORTS.

## I.—GREECE.

The report of Mr. E. C. D. Rawlins, Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation, Athens, on the commercial and industrial situation of Greece in 1919, which has just been issued, gives a promising account of the economic progress of the country during the period of reconstruction. Greece, it must be remembered, was handicapped by a practically continuous state of war from 1911 to 1919, and the end of the war might have been expected to leave her more exhausted than many of the other countries involved. "Contrary to this expectation, however, Greece was, at the close of the year, in the sense of the individual, fairly prosperous. Many large fortunes had been made during and subsequent to the war, in commerce and shipping, and the long period during which the French and British troops were stationed in various parts of Greece left a great deal of money in the country."

### Growth of Industry.

"Industry in Greece made very considerable progress subsequent to the signing of the Armistice, and a very considerable number of new factories were in course of erection or were projected. Amongst these were cotton spinning factories, wool manufactories, soap factories, oil mills, flour mills, etc., etc. The leading industries, however, are the tanneries and soap factories, of which there are more in Greece than of other industries, and the greater part of the raw materials necessary for the carrying on of these industries are imported from abroad."

"During the latter part of the war, and until some time after the signing of the Armistice, many important factories in Greece were unable to carry on at their regular output, or were obliged to shut down altogether owing to the shortage of fuel. A certain number managed to keep going in an unsatisfactory manner by using a mixture of wood and lignite. Amongst other results of the shortage of coal, may be mentioned the greatly reduced supply of electric power, which was cut down to an absolute minimum for lighting requirements, and current for industrial purposes was for some time only supplied by the Athens Power Station to such concerns as were absolutely necessary. Consequent upon this, a good many flour mills at the Piræus were obliged to suspend work. A further result of the coal shortage was the shortage of gas. There had been no gas available for domestic or industrial purposes since 1916, practically to date, with a consequent disappearance of coke from the market."

### Trade Expansion.

During the year Greece afforded a much larger field than before for British trade and enterprise. "The war gave the Greeks an opportunity for making the closer acquaintance of the British in general and of British goods, and the prolonged presence of the British troops in her territory and of British ships in her ports and around her coast, created a certain amount of unconscious propaganda, with the result that the Greek traders became exceptionally well-disposed towards Great Britain, and were prepared, on equal terms, to give her the preference in trade. The Exhibition of the Federation of British Industries, held in the Zappeion at Athens from October 19 until November 23, gave British manufacturers the opportunity of bringing their products to the notice of Greek buyers."

"Imports into Greece, following the relaxation of the restrictions in force during hostilities, went up by leaps and bounds. Towards the end of 1918, and early in 1919, Greece was drawing most of her supplies, outside of wheat and coal, from Spain, and very considerable quantities of textiles and comestibles were imported from that country. Large quantities of goods were stored in anticipation of increased prices, and on the signing of the armistice with Germany, rather earlier than was generally expected, and the cessation of the submarine campaign, and consequent re-opening of the European and American markets of supply, together with the depreciation of the peseta, the interested merchants were faced with a very heavy loss; but on the subsequent opening of the Dardanelles a large portion of these goods were disposed of to Roumania and Southern Russia, thus avoiding heavy losses for the commercial communities of Athens and Piræus."

"After the signing of the armistice, it has to be admitted that the United States was first in the field of the Greek market with her industrial products, as was perhaps to be expected, owing to the lesser degree in which her industries have suffered owing to the war. In the early days after the armistice, a string of American Shipping Board controlled steamers arrived in Greek ports with general cargoes for the Greek markets, principally composed of foodstuffs, textiles, small manufactured and fancy goods, boots and shoes, kitchen utensils, some agricultural machinery, and a good many motor vehicles. Owing to the inflated prices ruling on the arrival of these goods, and the ready market they found, the American exporters should have found their enterprise to be profitable. In certain parts of Greece, Italy led the field in imports, and she made strenuous efforts to retain her hold. Later on, however, British goods, as the productive power of British factories recovered from their enforced cessation of work owing to the war, again obtained the lead in the Greek market."

### Attitude towards British Goods.

"Greek traders at this time were more than ever well-disposed toward British manufacturers on account of the traditional reliability of their quality. During the war, however, and immediately following the armistice, Greek merchants complained that the quality of British goods was not what it used to be. They complained principally of lack of finish of the articles. They further complained of the conservatism of British manufacturers, who refused to go out of their way to study the requirements of foreign markets. If we are to maintain our trade supremacy, it will be necessary for British merchants to remedy their shortcomings in this respect, and to study carefully the requirements of the markets they are catering for. Quality and finish must be maintained, and consideration must be given in the manufacture to the particular requirements of the country, due to climatic conditions and custom. Further, in order to be successful, British traders must learn to facilitate their clients in the matter of quotations. It is not sufficient to quote goods at a certain price ex factory or even f.o.b. This conveys nothing to the Greek merchant. What he wants to know is what the goods will cost him, delivered at Piræus, Patras, or Salonika. Then he knows where he stands, and is free to make his calculations accordingly and go ahead with his business. Every effort should be made therefore by merchants to quote prices c.i.f. at a Greek port wherever possible.

"It may be said that the commercial and industrial potentialities of Greece are at present in the earliest stage of their development. Greece has never had an opportunity of developing Macedonia, and numerous schemes have been projected for the erection of mills, waterworks, and irrigation schemes, and the Greek Government is giving very serious attention to the development of the agricultural resources of these new provinces."

*(To be continued.)*


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## GENERAL BANK OF GREECE.

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

**Head Office - ATHENS.**

BANKING OPERATIONS:
Every description of Banking business transacted.

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

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

## POPULAR BANK OF GREECE.

**Head Office, ATHENS. Branch, PIRÆUS.**

Correspondents throughout Greece.

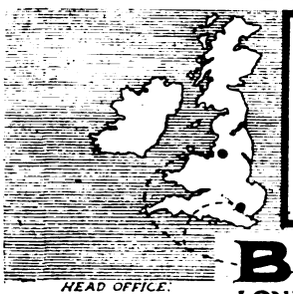
Established June, 1905, by the National Bank of Greece and a group of Capitalists.

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

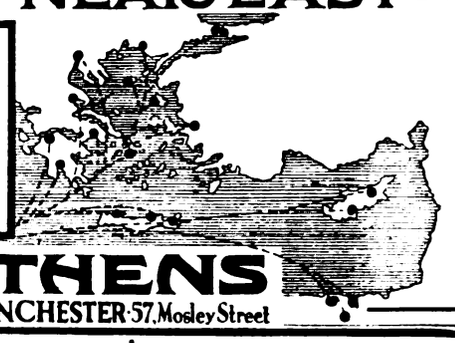
The Bank specialises in the collection of Bills payable in Greece; it accepts goods on consignment, and undertakes their sale, and transacts every kind of Banking business.

*General Manager:* D. LOVERDO.

## TRADE WITH THE NEAR EAST



WITH its offices in all the principal towns in **Greece**, in **Egypt, Cyprus, Crete, Constantinople**, and in **Smyrna, the Bank extends exceptional Facilities for Export and Import Trade between Great Britain and the Near East generally**, and invites enquiries and correspondence relating thereto.



HEAD OFFICE: ATHENS.

## BANK OF ATHENS

LONDON 22, Fenchurch Street E.C.3. MANCHESTER 57, Mosley Street

## COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE, LIMITED.

**CAPITAL PAID-UP - Drs. 15,000,000.**
**RESERVE FUNDS Drs. 2,845,010.45.**

**Head Office: ATHENS.**

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

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

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

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

## GREECE.

Area 43,522 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,746,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 296,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

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

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

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

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

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

**COINAGE.**—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 31·30 Drachmæ to £1.

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

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

## BANK OF NATIONAL ECONOMY (of Greece)

Head Office: ATHENS.

*Branches:*

PIRÆUS, SYRA. PATRAS.

**Capital Paid Up - Drs. 10,000,000.**

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

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

## THE HELLENIC COMPANY OF MARITIME ENTERPRISES

(PALIOS LINE.)

**Head Office - PIRÆUS.**

A. P. PALIOS, Founder. M. P. PALIOS, General Manager.

**REGULAR MAIL, PASSENGER, and FREIGHT SERVICES from PIRÆUS to MEDITERRANEAN PORTS, GREECE, SEA OF MARMORA, BLACK SEA, SEA OF AZOF, ASIA MINOR, SYRIA, and EGYPT.**

26 PASSENGER and CARGO STEAMERS.

85 AGENCIES in Greece, Sea of Marmora, Black Sea, Sea of Azof, Asia Minor, Egypt, Mediterranean and principal Ports of the World.

Coaling Yards and Repair Shops.

GENERAL AGENTS for the High Commission of Sea Transports; for all Passenger Steamers requisitioned by the Greek Government.

*Cable Address—Navigation Palios.*

*Codes used—Scott's (1905) 10th Edition; A.B.C. (1901) 5th Edition.*

## MARITIME BANK of GREECE

**AUTHORISED CAPITAL FULLY PAID DR. 10,000,000.**

Founder—A. P. PALIOS.

**Head Office: PIRÆUS, GREECE.**

Cable Address: "Maritime Bank."

Codes Used.

Scott's 1906 - 10th Edition. A.B.C. 1901—5th Edition. Palios 1919

*Branches and Agents in the Principal Cities of Greece and the Levant.*

*The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business, and by reason of its connections, throughout Greece and the Levant, is in a position to offer to the trade exceptional facilities.*

**Advances and Collections of B/Ls., Shipowners' Remittances and Disbursements to and from all parts of the World, by cable or mail. Loans on Vessels and other hulls. Bills of Exchange Negotiated. Letters of Credit and Drafts issued on the Principal Cities of Greece and Foreign Countries. Confirmed Credits at Home and Abroad. Loans on Government and other Securities. Loans on Goods and Warrants of Bonded Stores.**

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# BANK OF ORIENT.

**Capital Paid Up - - - Drs. 25,000,000.**

**Head Office - ATHENS.**

Every kind of Banking Business Transacted.

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


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# THE RUPEE EXCHANGE PROBLEM.

(From a Correspondent.)

On all sides one hears adverse comments upon the apathetic attitude of the India Office towards the recent slump in exchange. Unfavourable criticism might reasonably be expected from shippers to India whose customers will suffer by the fall in the value of the rupee, but there is a much larger body of others with interests in India who view with misgivings the drop to 1s. 9d. There can be no question that the adoption of the currency commission report implied that Government committed themselves to maintain the rupee round about 2s., but so far they have been sitting on the fence.

It may be of interest to review the fluctuations which have taken place since the report was published. When it was announced last February that the rupee would be linked with gold the Indian Government offered to sell Reverse Council Bills in India at the gold equivalent, and exchange was pushed up to a new level. Reverse Councils were sold at 2s. 10⅞d. in early February, but banks' selling rates never reached the Government rate, and were generally twopence to threepence lower. Rates gradually fell, in spite of weekly offerings of Reverse Councils to the extent of £1,000,000, and the fall appears to have been arrested at about 1s. 9d.

The question which came uppermost in the mind of the commercial community was why Government persisted in selling Reverse Councils so far above the market rate when no necessity was apparent to establish such an inflated exchange. The only reason given was that the sales were meant to check any possibility of forcing rates beyond gold point, a very remote probability, which was entirely dissipated as the weekly sales progressed.

The concession was of no help to trade; tenderers only received 1 per cent. of their applications, sometimes less, and speculators in exchange were the principal people to reap any advantage. The Indian Government now appears to be under the impression that the present lower rates should stimulate an activity in exports, which would stiffen exchange and thus raise the rate to nearer 2s., but any acquaintance with existing trade conditions puts that probability out of sight for the present.

Exports of hides and skins from India have practically ceased, and the markets on this side are so glutted that Madras shippers have suspended shipments for several months. At this time of the year food grains should be on the move from India and wheat from the Punjab. Reports of the seed crops indicate a large surplus, but exports of foodstuffs are prohibited. The wheat crop is the best since 1916—according to the latest estimate, it is upwards of 10 million tons—but Government has imposed an embargo on exports until September. Even then it may be safe to assume that the restrictions will only be removed provided the local price of wheat in India falls to a level which will enable the native population to be supplied at a reasonable price.

Although it is beyond a doubt that more people in India are eating wheat in preference to the cheaper grains, it is estimated that the amount available for export may be as much as 250,000 tons, and it requires no stretch of imagination to realise what a relief this would be to the Mother Country in the present scarcity and the high price of bread.

It will thus be apparent that the rupee need not rely upon exports for support at the moment, and the demand for jute two months hence will be the first factor to influence the exchange. Much, of course, will depend on the monsoon. Should it be patchy and lead to a scarcity in exportable products, is there any reason to assume that exchange may not fall still further unless Government adopt a more strengthening policy? It has to be admitted that the trading community have little faith in the stability of the rupee. Government's sales of Reverse Councils since February amount to about £30,000,000, and have been of little benefit to trade. These drawings on London have so depleted Government reserves that should they be forced later on to sell more freely in order to maintain exchange near 2s., the provision of the necessary funds may put them to some inconvenience. The outlook is not assuring, and merchants and bankers would appreciate an indication from Government as to what policy they intend to adopt in order to stabilise the exchange.

---

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended June 26 amounted to £8,634.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Meshed states that, if United Kingdom manufacturers interested in trade with Persia would care to forward him copies of their catalogues, he would be pleased to undertake their distribution amongst local importers. They should be addressed to H.M. Vice-Consul, British Vice-Consulate, Meshed, Persia.

# LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

The position of sellers in the market during the past week has not really improved, and although in some sections the tone has been rather better, there has not been any definite increase in the amount of business passing. The opinion is gaining ground that some of our customers will be forced to purchase more freely before very long. Owing to the trade slackness, however, prices still tend to ease, and there is always hesitation in buying in a falling market. A steadier feeling has shown itself in Egyptian cotton prices. Many people are scarcely of opinion that bottom has been reached, and it is asserted that if crop advices continue encouraging, there will be a further drop in values. The plants, however, are said to be doing remarkably well. Favourable progress is also being made in the American cotton belt, and the yield next season will probably be much larger than anticipated a couple of months ago. In Egyptian yarns demand continues very quiet, but prices are certainly on a more reasonable level than a little time ago, and there is a possibility of more buying in the near future. Numerous spinners are in urgent need of relief, and now and again prices are cut in order to sell. In piece goods for Egypt there has been no activity whatever. Large quantities of cloth have still to be shipped, and there is some hesitation in taking deliveries. The political situation in the Near East still causes some anxiety. Excellent news has been received relating to the monsoon rains in India, and a revival of demand seems inevitable in the near future as exchange is now improving steadily, but, so far, bids have not been workable. Operations for China continue very restricted. Only occasional lines have been put through for South America. Some Burnley manufacturers have sold a little more freely at low rates. American yarns have continued dull of sale, and spinners are losing their margin of profit rather rapidly. Scarcely anything at all has been done in shipping yarns.

# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

## Forthcoming Sailings.

The Cunard s.s. Pavia, for Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Manchester on July 17, and at Liverpool on July 24.

The Papayanni (Ellerman Lines, Ltd.) s.s. Bosnian, for Malta and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on July 17.

The Bibby Line s.s. Lancashire, for Rangoon, will leave London on July 23.

The Harrison Line s.s. Tactician, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Liverpool on July 22.

The Anchor Line s.s. Elysia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Liverpool on July 22.

The R.M.S.P. Co. will dispatch a steamer from London to Gibraltar and Morocco on July 21.

The Johnston Line s.s. Wingate, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on July 17.

The Johnston Line s.s. Norton, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on July 27.


**ANCHOR LINE**

**FAST PASSENGER SERVICE.**

**LIVERPOOL to BOMBAY.**

**KARACHI (via Bombay) calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.**

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
FITTED WITH ELECTRIC FANS.
MARCONI WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

PASSENGER SAILING DATES—
ELYSIA ABOUT AUG. 7.
CIRCASSIA ABOUT AUGUST 28.
OLYMPIA ABOUT SEPT. 8.

ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LTD.,
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# THE "UNIVERSAL" CIGARETTE MACHINE.

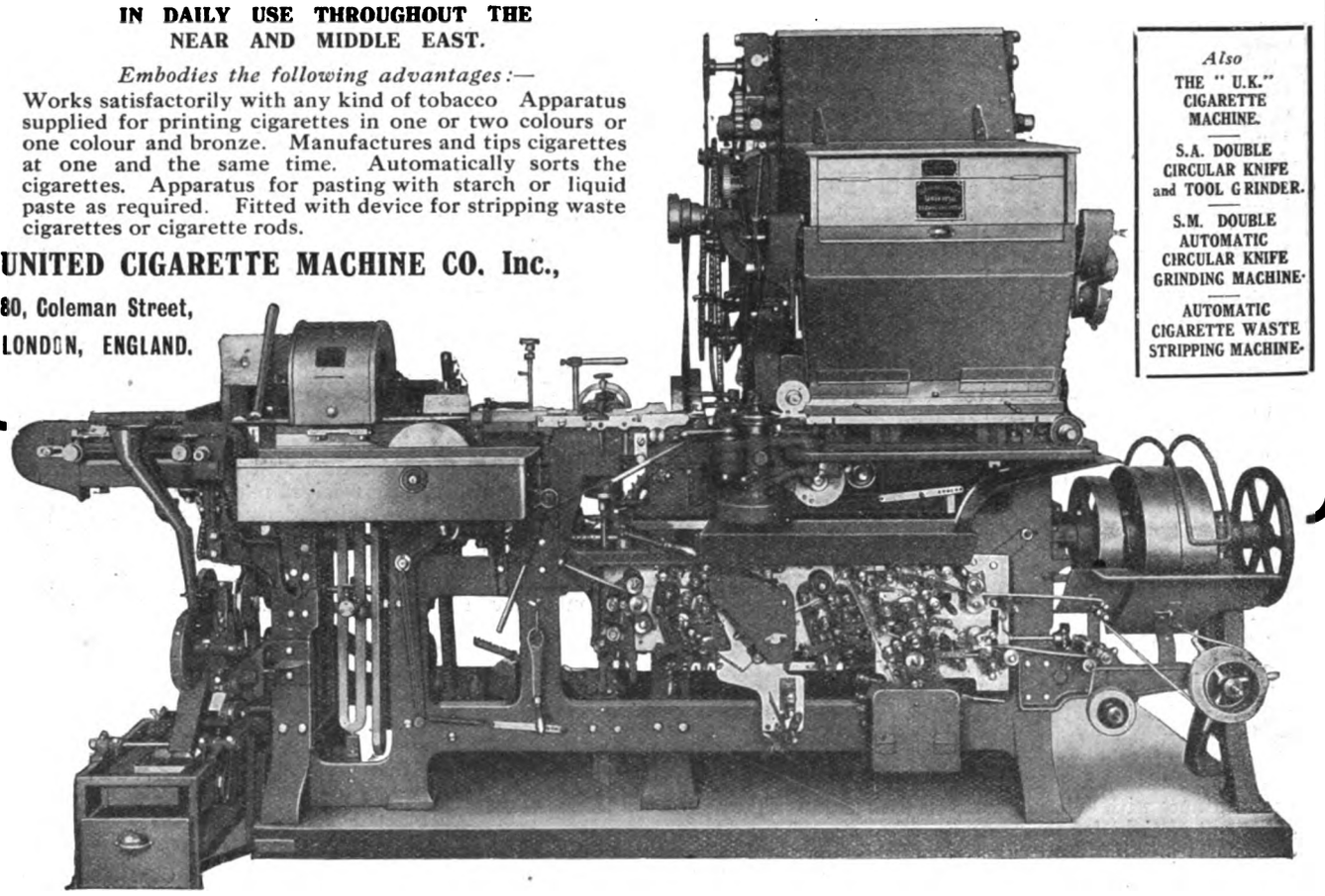
Designed to make round, oval or Egyptian cigarettes with creased edges of any desired diameter or length with wide or narrow pasted laps, and, by an interchange of parts, also crimped cigarettes.

**IN DAILY USE THROUGHOUT THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.**

*Embodies the following advantages:—*

Works satisfactorily with any kind of tobacco Apparatus supplied for printing cigarettes in one or two colours or one colour and bronze. Manufactures and tips cigarettes at one and the same time. Automatically sorts the cigarettes. Apparatus for pasting with starch or liquid paste as required. Fitted with device for stripping waste cigarettes or cigarette rods.

**UNITED CIGARETTE MACHINE CO. Inc.,**
**80, Coleman Street,**
**LONDON, ENGLAND.**



*Also*
THE "U.K." CIGARETTE MACHINE.
S.A. DOUBLE CIRCULAR KNIFE and TOOL GRINDER.
S.M. DOUBLE AUTOMATIC CIRCULAR KNIFE GRINDING MACHINE.
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## ENGINEERING.

### An Improved Type of Pulley.

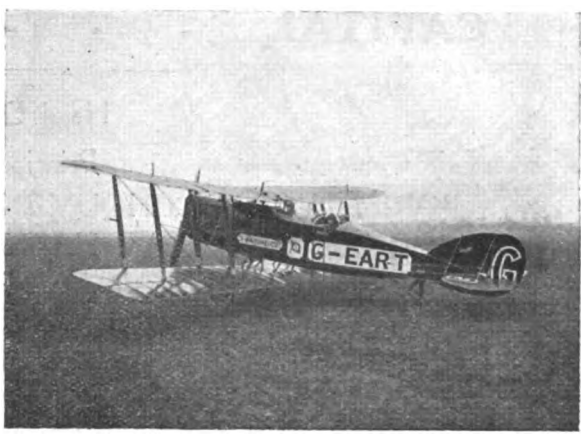
During the war there was a marked tendency on the part of engineers to operate machine tools at higher speeds than usual; and, indeed, practically all machinery was worked at a specially high speed. As a result of this it was found in many instances that the old type of cast-iron pulleys generally used would not stand up to their work so well as expected, whilst wood pulleys of the built up type frequently failed. Flaws were found to exist both in the design and material of which the pulleys were constructed, and many engineering firms gave time and attention to the subject of designing a pulley which would be able to transmit heavy powers at high speeds without trouble. A well-known engineering firm have recently placed on the market a pulley designed in accordance with modern requirements and conditions, and it may be said that pulley design has now been brought into line with the rest of the improved industrial machinery of the day. The pulley referred to has interchangeable rims and shaft bushes, and gives a positive grip on the shafting without the use of keys, and so presents the advantages of adaptability and ease and quickness of fitting.

In construction the pulley consists of three essential parts —the clip for the shaft, the rim, and the balance weight, which also adds strength to the appliance. The rim is not made of cast or wrought iron or steel; but is, on the contrary, a removable band of high-grade steel which is extremely flexible, and has a good clean surface obtained by cold rolling. The ends of this band are flanged and drilled, with bolt holes through which steel tightening bolts can be passed to clip the band tightly on the centre portion of the pulley. This tightening gives a binding action which not only adds considerable strength to the pulley, but prevents it from bursting at high speeds.

The centre portion of the pulley is made in two halves of cast-iron, for which purpose a very high grade of white cast-iron is employed. It is made with four arms in the smaller and six arms in the larger sizes, two or three to each half. These arms are cast in what is known as a stream line section, which reduces air resistance to a minimum. The hubs of this portion are accurately machined to receive the shaft bushes, and are fastened together with two bolts on each side, which can be fastened with an ordinary spanner. The two halves are accurately machined and perfectly balanced before being assembled for sending out. The balance weight referred to is a small piece of accurately shaped steel which balances the weight of the stretching bolts and flanges used for tightening up the rim.

During the machining of the cast-iron portion of the pulley two grooves are turned round the edge of the cast-iron portion, and two corresponding ridges are pressed in the inner side of the steel rim during rolling. These accurately engage each other when the pulley is assembled, and prevent any side movement of the parts. The balance weight, which is a T-shaped piece of sheet-iron, is fastened to the opposite side of the pulley to the flanges and stretching bolts, and when the whole is bolted on the shaft it runs as truly and as accurately as a bicycle wheel.

In spite of its lightness, the pulley has proved to be possessed of more than sufficient strength for even the most exacting duties. Tests carried out to destruction at the factory have shown that the pulley will transmit high power at immensely high speeds, and will, in short, stand up to loads that could not possibly be given in commercial practice. The entire absence of rivets is a further point that makes for both strength and durability. Summarised, the advantages of the pulley are its lightness (due largely to the novel form of rim adopted) and the fact that it is practically indestructible. It can be fitted in a few seconds to any shaft, the only tool required being an ordinary wrench, and a pulley of as large as 4 ft. in diameter can be fixed in less than four minutes. The absence of keys, which is an important feature of the design, does not limit the use of the pulley to the transmission of light loads, as the grip obtained by the special form of hub on the shafting is ample for all powers likely to be met with. It may be mentioned that the rims and centres of these pulleys are interchangeable, as different sizes of bushes can be provided. This feature adds greatly to the general utility of the pulley, as changes can be made without any difficulty and without any fitting or other alteration to the pulley itself.




BRISTOL 3-SEATER TOURER.

### Motor Liners.

Hitherto, although large numbers of motor ships have been constructed, none of them have been built for passenger carrying. In view, however, of the proved economy of the oil engine, the British India Steam Navigation Company has ordered three large motor ships designed each to carry 150 passengers in addition to a full consignment of cargo. These vessels will have a speed of 13 knots, and will be equipped with two large Diesel engines of a new type which are now under construction on the Clyde. The total machinery power is over 5,000 h.p., and all the auxiliary plant is electrically operated. As the cargo capacity of each vessel will be 10,000 tons, some detailed accounts of their running costs will be awaited with interest.

### The Next Motor Show.

The forthcoming Motor Show will be in two portions, one of which will be at Olympia and the other at the White City, Shepherd's Bush. I am informed that the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, the governing body responsible for the various shows previously held, have arranged that their members shall have full opportunity of participating in the mammoth display which is to form the first of similar exhibitions to be held at the White City in future. This innovation does not, however, stop with the motoring industry, as the re-opening of the White City buildings will inaugurate a still further series of exhibitions, representative of the various trades and industries of the country.

In the opinion of many the White City is the only site for such an enterprise. The locality, always a unique one, is

(*Continued on page* 103.)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becoming, if anything, still better year by year, the thickly populated districts around it have been steadily increasing during the recent years, and the consequent additions in the network of tubes, tramways, and omnibuses, which have hitherto radiated from the site, signify that the facilities for getting to and from it are exceptionally good. Even now, though the place is closed, electric trains and trams pass its doors every few seconds, a fact which should make it extremely useful from the commercial point of view.

One need only to call to mind the three-quarters of a million persons who have in a day been brought to its entrances in comparative ease and comfort in order to appreciate the number that can be accommodated next November, when the new Tube and omnibus services will be in operation.

**Tourists' Cars.**

I am informed that the Automobile Association has instituted arrangements, through the medium of reputable firms, for effectivelv dealing with motor vehicles imported into or exported from Great Britain. The arrangements cover the unpacking of imported motor cars and the packing of motor cars for export, Customs clearance and dues, and payment of duties. Upon arrival at a British port cars are unpacked and promptly got ready for the road under the supervision of experts.

Details of these facilities, which should be of great use to foreign motor tourists visiting this country, may be obtained from the Touring Department of the Association, at the head office, Whitcomb Street, London, W.C.2., or from any of the provincial A.A. headquarters.

**Forging Furnaces.**

Furnace development has taken place of late at a very rapid rate, due, no doubt, to the big demand for metal and the general necessity for its heat treatment during the war. I have just received drawings and particulars of the Revergen system of gas firing, which is really a regenerative system which possesses many advantages. Previously the principle was only applied to closed furnaces for such work as case-hardening and annealing, but recently it has been found possible to apply it to open-mouthed furnaces for forging work. It is certain that by its use considerable fuel economies can be effected, and the output results are such as should extend considerably the use of gas as a furnace fuel in engineering works.

The furnace consists of an outer casing of sheet steel, which is bound by steel tie rods, channels and thrust blocks, so as to be of immense strength, and the body of the furnace is built up of specially thick Scotch firebrick. In the sides of the furnace a number of openings are provided through which the metal rods, etc., to be heated may be passed. A mixture of gas and air is admitted at the top of the furnace, and the exhaust gases are led away from the bottom. Town gas mixed with air under pressure is used for fuel, but there would appear no reason why producer or coke oven gas should not also be used with modifications of the fuel feed. Both gas and air are under control by individual valves, and extremely accurate means of adjustment are provided. Double recuperators are built in underneath the actual oven itself, and these have been the subject of considerable test and calculation in order to ensure that they are of the exact capacity, so far as science can tell us, to extract the maximum amount of heat from the escaping gases. This heat is not wasted, but is used in heating the air on its way to the furnace chamber, and it is this utilisation of what would otherwise be wasted heat which adds so considerably to the economy of the furnace.

It is interesting to note that the recuperators are not continually subjected to heat extraction, but that, on the contrary, they are worked alternately, a reversal taking place automatically and periodically, according to the temperature at which the furnace is working. The heat-absorbing materials are first heated by the escaping products and then cooled by the incoming air, which takes up their heat. Thus, whilst one heat reservoir is being cooled, the other is being heated by the escaping gases. It robs these of their heat and stores it up until such time as it in turn is required to yield it up to the incoming air blast. The continuance of the inversion process results in the production of an extremely high temperature, and the efficiency of this type of furnace is consequently remarkably high. The makers, in fact, guarantee a saving of 33⅓ per cent. of fuel as compared with the usual practice, and figures have been obtained on test that show a saving of one-half when compared with the production of forgings by the use of a coal-fired furnace.

**Quick-setting Cements.**

It appears that if a small percentage of dry chloride of lime is added to cement, or if a quantity of this is dissolved in the water with which it is to be mixed, the result is that the cement sets with extreme rapidity. This was made use of in the war, when concrete heavy gun foundations were made and were ready for actual use in less than three days.

The question has been raised as to whether cement or concrete made in this way would be as durable as that which had been allowed to set at a slower rate, and quite recently the results of some tests commenced rather over a year ago have been made public.

In view of the fact that quick-setting cements of the ordinary type are not all as permanent in character as could be wished, and with a knowledge that the engineering world would want some definite information to go on, these tests were instituted almost immediately after the chloride of lime theory was carried into practice. Laboratory samples of cement and concrete of various qualities were prepared and subjected to compression and other tests periodically. The results, which are for a 4 per cent. solution of calcium chloride used as mixing water, show that the effect is actually to increase the strength at all ages up to one year—the duration to which the experiments have extended to the present.

There seems no reason to doubt the accuracy of the tests or their far-reaching nature, and consequently it would seem that contractors for road building, public works construction, and the like, can shorten the time of building considerably. Concrete road foundations, for example, would be ready for the laying of the blocks or the carpet within a comparatively few hours, and not only would the work be expedited, but the inconvenience to the public and to traffic users generally would be lessened.

At the same time it would be well were the experiments continued, and I should like to see extended and exhaustive tests made by some representative body. My reason is that I have always understood that chloride of lime had a remarkably strong affinity for water; was markedly hygroscopic in character, and unless some chemical change takes place when it is mixed with the cement it would seem probable that its use would tend to make the concrete damp. I have an idea that damp concrete would tend to disintegrate. I may be wrong, but, at any rate, I should like to know that further research work was being undertaken in this connection.

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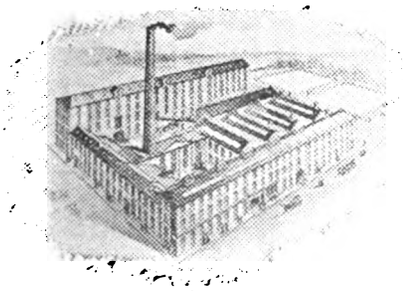
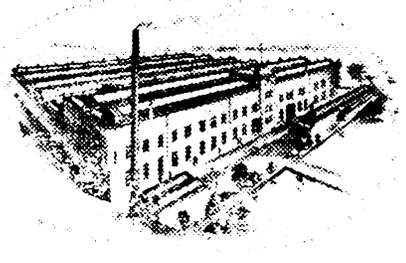
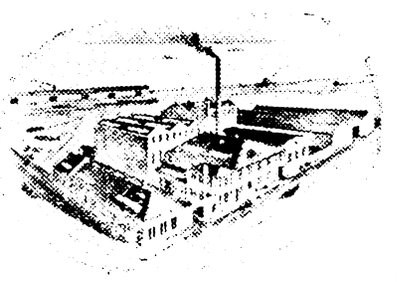

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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## Turkish Fruit Crops.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows under date July 1:—Stocks of sultanas and figs of the 1919 crop are practically exhausted. We now limit ourselves to supplementing the provisional estimates contained in our preceding reports by the more complete returns available of the final results of last season.

Sultanas.—Total production for 1919 about 29,000 tons. Distribution: Shipments to the United Kingdom about 14,000 tons; to the Continent about 8,000 tons; to the United States, Canada, etc., about 3,000 tons; local consumption, about 3,500 tons; stock remaining about 500 tons; total about 29,000 tons.

Figs.—Total production about 85,000 loads. Arrivals on the market, inclusive of hordas (inferior qualities used exclusively for distillery or manufacturing purposes), about 60,000 loads, equal to about 13,000 tons. Distribution: Shipments to the United States, Canada, etc., about 6,000 tons; to the United Kingdom, about 4,000 tons; to the Continent, about 2,000 tons; local consumption, etc., about 1,000 tons; total about 13,000 tons.

Red Raisins.—Total production in the districts of Vourla, Carabournou and Chesme about 2,100 tons. The bulk of this fruit was shipped to Continental markets.

Black Raisins.—This raisin before the war was shipped mainly to France and Germany for wine making. The estimated production last season mainly in the district of Tchal is estimated to have reached up to about 7,000 tons, but as Tchal lies in the area under Turkish occupation the bulk of the crop could not reach our market. It is estimated that about 3,500 tons in all were dealt in, being partly exported or used by local distilleries.

The Outlook.—Interest now centres on the prospects for the coming season. Weather conditions have been favourable and, generally speaking, qualities of our fruits give promise of great excellence, both as regards soundness and development. Estimates are as follows: Sultanas, about 27/30,000 tons; figs, about 80,000 loads; red raisins, 1,500-1,700 tons; black raisins, about 6,000 tons.

As pointed out in our previous report, agricultural progress and results are closely connected with the political situation, but unfortunately there can be no doubt that, from the latter point of view, the outlook is far from reassuring. The districts under Greek military occupation have enjoyed complete security during the past year, and the best results are likely to be obtained in these limited areas. But the whole country is in a state of war, and with every prospect of military operations continuing to extend, it is difficult indeed to venture on a forecast of what proportion of the ripening crops will be gathered and eventually reach our market.

It is our opinion, however, that we are likely before very long to see a material improvement, if not over the whole country, at least in this important province. The Greek forces are steadily advancing and bringing a larger area under their occupation, the Nationalists suffering severe reverses and being forced to withdraw.

It is generally recognised that the attitude of the Greek military and civil authorities has been exemplary, and the confidence of the native population is thereby increased, with the result that the produce of a larger extent of country will be available for transport to Smyrna this autumn. On the whole, we are confident that the present uncertain situation is not likely to continue much longer, and so far as our province is concerned we are hopeful that the conditions which will obtain this season will be better than those of twelve months ago.


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# COMPANY MEETING NOTICES.

## New Egyptian Company, Limited.

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the New Egyptian Company, Limited, will be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2, on Wednesday, the 28th day of July, 1920, at 12 o'clock noon, for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing in manner required for passing an Extraordinary Resolution the subjoined Resolutions:—

RESOLUTION I.

(1) That on and from the 1st September, 1920, the whole of the business of the Company except such formal parts of the business as are by the Statutes for the time being applicable to this Company required to be transacted in England or at the Registered Office of the Company for the time being, shall be transacted, controlled, managed and conducted in and from Egypt as the Company may from time to time in General Meeting determine, and that for this purpose all General Meetings and Meetings of the Board of Directors except so far as otherwise required as aforesaid and all class Meetings of Shareholders shall be held in Egypt, and all references to the Board or to the Directors or to the Company in General Meeting contained in the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company shall as regards all matters other than those required as aforesaid to be transacted or conducted in England at the Registered Office of the Company as aforesaid be held to refer to the Company in General Meeting and to the Board or the Directors whether sitting as a Board or otherwise assembled in Egypt, and all references to the Office shall save as aforesaid be taken to be to the Head Office in Egypt instead of the registered office of the Company.

(2) From and after the said 1st day of September, 1920, the majority of the Directors of the Company shall be ordinarily resident in Egypt.

(3) For the purposes of the transaction of such formal or other business as is, by the Statutes aforesaid, required to be transacted in England or at the registered office of the Company, the Board may under the powers conferred by Articles 98, 99, 100 and 101, appoint one or more persons so as to form, if thought fit, a local Board or Agency to act in England, but so that they shall act under the general control and directions of the Board assembled in Egypt, and the Board shall also appoint a Secretary and such other officers as may be from time to time required on such terms as they may from time to time think fit for the purpose of representing the Company for all purposes required by the Statutes and making the necessary returns and keeping the necessary books and registers under the general control and direction of the Board as aforesaid.

(4) For the purposes aforesaid the Board shall be and are hereby authorised to exercise all the powers conferred by Sections 34, 35, 78, and 79 of Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, and to keep a branch register in Egypt and the Board shall cause the principal register of members to be from time to time duly written up so as to contain all the entries made in the register kept in Egypt.

(5) All dividends that may be declared by the Company in General Meeting shall be declared only at a General Meeting held in Egypt, and shall be paid in and from Egypt, and all Preference and Interim Dividends declared by the Directors shall be declared only at Meetings of the Board held in Egypt and shall be paid in and from Egypt, and no part of the profits of the Company shall be transmitted to the United Kingdom except in payment of dividends to members ordinarily resident there.

All the existing regulations of the Company not consistent with the provisions of this resolution shall be and are hereby overriden.

RESOLUTION II.

That the Articles of Association of the Company be altered in manner following:—

(1) By adding the following words to the end of Article 43: "Provided always that until otherwise directed all general meetings of the Company shall be held in Egypt."

(2) By inserting between the words "Directors" and "shall" in Article 69 the words "the majority of whom shall have their ordinary residence in Egypt."

(3) By deleting the words "the United Kingdom" in lines 8 and 9 of Article 87 and by substituting therefor the word "Egypt."

(4) By adding to the end of the said Article 87 the words following: "Directors' Meetings shall be held only in Egypt and not elsewhere."

(5) By deleting the word "England" in line 2 of Article 93 and by substituting therefor the word "Egypt."

(6) By adding after the word "Seal" in line 1 of sub-clause (17) of Article 97 the words "in Egypt."

(7) By deleting the word "England" in line 3 of Article 98 and by substituting therefor the word "Egypt."

(8) By deleting the word "England" in line 3 of Article 99 and by substituting therefor the word "Egypt."

(9) By deleting the words "Registered Office of the Company" in line 2 of Article 102 and by substituting therefor the words "Head Office of the Company in Egypt."

(10) By deleting the words "the United Kingdom" wherever they appear in Article 124 and by substituting therefor the word "Egypt."

(11) By deleting the words "the United Kingdom" in Article 125 and by substituting therefor the word "Egypt."

(12) By deleting the last four words of Article 127 and by substituting therefor "two daily newspapers circulating in Egypt."

RESOLUTION III.

That upon the resignation of the following directors resident in England, namely:—Mr. Arthur A. Baumann, Sir Ernest Spencer, Sir Westby Perceval, and Mr. Thomas F. Dalglish, the sum of £12,000 be paid to them out of the funds of the Company by way of compensation for their loss of their said offices of Directors, such sum to be divided amongst them in such proportions as they may agree.

Should the said resolutions be passed by the requisite majority they will be submitted for confirmation as special resolutions to a further Extraordinary General Meeting and such meeting will be held on Tuesday, the 17th day of August, 1920, at the same hour and place, for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, confirming such Resolutions as Special Resolutions accordingly.

Dated the 12th day of July, 1920.

By order of the Board,

THOMAS DAY, London Manager and Secretary.

Pinners' Hall, Austin Friars, London, E.C.

Shareholders who hold warrants to bearer are reminded that if they wish to attend and vote at either Meeting either personally or by proxy, they must, three clear days before the day appointed for the Meeting, deposit their Warrants at the Registered Offices of the Company, Pinners' Hall, Austin Friars, London, E.C.2, or at the offices of the Company in Alexandria, or at any of the principal Banks in Alexandria, a list of which can be obtained at the offices of the Company in Alexandria. Shareholders who have deposited Warrants to Bearer in Egypt and who desire to vote by proxy must lodge their proxies with their certificate of deposit of Warrants or cards of admission at the registered office of the Company in London forty-eight (48) hours at least before the hour of the Meeting.

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## NATIVE WOOLS OF BULGARIA

There are three classes of wool produced in Bulgaria, classified according to their texture. There is the "Karnobat" wool, produced in Eastern Bulgaria, which is exceptionally soft and lustrous. This is used in the manufacture of the fine carpets of Bulgaria. It is said to be superior even to the Persian wool for that purpose. Then there is a good average quality of wool produced throughout Bulgaria having no special characteristics differentiating it from other wool. There is a third very coarse variety of wool produced by the sheep of the Roumanian nomads. There are no distinguishing trade names for these wools, although they are often called by the name of a town near which they are produced (says an American consular report).

Before the war the "Karnobat" wool and wool of similar texture sold at from 3½ to 4½ leva the kilo. The ordinary Bulgarian wool sold at from 2 to 3 leva and the coarse wool at from 1.60 to 2.50 leva. At the present time the average price is about 40 leva the kilo.

The tending of the flock and shearing methods in Bulgaria are primitive. In the southern part of the country sheep are pastured during the entire winter, which is mild, and are seldom fed. In other parts of Bulgaria where the winters are more severe sheep are fed on hay, and sometimes dried leaves and bran. Almost every Bulgarian peasant is a sheep owner, and much wool is used at home for domestic purposes. No peasant's wardrobe is complete without a sheepskin coat.

## HYDROELECTRIC POSSIBILITIES IN TRANSCAUCASIA.

The next few years will witness a great development in the utilisation of potential water-power for electrical purposes in Transcaucasia (says the American Trade Commissioner at Constantinople in a recent report). The mountainous character of the country and the proved mineral wealth are the two important factors that will make these undertakings commercially profitable. The total existing hydro-electric stations yield only 6,725 horse-power, although surveys have indicated that over 350,000 horse-power is possible. A report of leading engineers (hitherto unpublished) presents specific data on the region that covers, roughly, Russian Armenia and the *de facto* republics of Azerbaijan and Georgia.

The following stations have been started during the last twenty years:—(1) In the district of Zangezur, in the Government of Elisavetpol, on the River Orkhtchi-Tchai, to transmit the power to the copper works in the Katar region. (2) In the district of Bortchalo, in the Government of Tiflis, on the River Debeda-Tchai, for the needs of the copper works of Alaverdi. (3) In the province of Batoum, on different streams, to supply the needs of the works in Kvaizkhana, Dzantsul, and Khoi.

The electric power obtained is used specifically for different enterprises, for light, cables, aerial tracks, elevators, circuits, and for obtaining chemically pure copper. The capacity of each installation is not more than 1,000 horse-power.

Other installations were set up during the same time for lighting the towns of Sukhum, Batoum, Akhaltsykh, Akhalkalaki, and Erivan; the health resorts of Cagri, Borzhom, and Deligeance; the private estates at Tchakva and Ananoff, and the colonies of Elendorf, Georguievskaya, Ekaterinenfeld, and Novi-Aphon. These private installations adapted for lighting purposes have used only a fraction of the potential energy available.


# IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

**Capital - £10,000,000**
**Paid-up - £5,000,000**

## GENERAL COMMITTEE.

**LONDON.**

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E. C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

**PARIS.**

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
J. BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY.
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
RAOUL MALLET.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

## London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.
Assistant Manager: W. P. SHEPPARD.

**PARIS:**
**7, Rue Meyerbeer.**

**MANCHESTER:** **25, Pall Mall.**

**MARSEILLES:** **41-45, Rue Grignan.**

**CONSTANTINOPLE.**
**(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)**

**EGYPT.**
**Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.**

**PALESTINE.**
**Jerusalem. Jaffa.**

**CYPRUS.**
**Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.**

**SYRIA.**
**Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.**

**SALONICA. TUNIS. AFRICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.**
**(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)**

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

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

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.


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## COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

### Egyptian Delta Light Railways.

The report of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the year ended March 31 states that an aggregate of 559.79 miles are open and working. Gross receipts from coaching traffic were £261,989, compared with £225,739 for the previous year. The gross receipts from goods traffic were £153,315, a decrease of £820. Working expenses totalled £257,683, compared with £195,193. The balance carried to net revenue account is £149,012, which, with interest and dividends earned, £13,303, and with the balance brought forward of £89,127, gives a total of £251,447. After providing for interest on debentures and for all fixed charges, placing £20,000 to general reserve and making provision for the proportion of profits due to the Egyptian Government, £32,201, a balance of £150,516 remains. The board recommend a dividend of 5½ per cent. on the preference shares for the year, leaving £93,273 to be carried forward. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., July 28, 12.30 p.m.

### Bank of Bombay.

The directors of the Bank of Bombay announce a dividend for the past half-year at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 5 per cent. per annum and a special bonus of 2 per cent. per annum, all free of Indian tax, transferring to reserve Rs. 6,00,000, to depreciation on securities Rs. 3,00,000, to pension fund Rs. 1,00,000; carrying forward Rs. 4,48,723.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97 5/16-97 7/16 |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 31·15-31·30 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 60-66 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee. | 24d. | 1/9⅝-1/10⅛ |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 145-150 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee. | 24d. | 1/9⅝-1/10⅛ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 400-420 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅔ | 3·94½-3·95½ |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 46·65-47·00 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 218-225 |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 27 |

## OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended June 26 :—The sales this week on our market amount to 12 cases of manufacturing qualities at piastres 1,000 to piastres 1,070 per oke as to quality, which is equivalent at to-day's exchange rates to 19s. 6d. to 20s. 10d. and 3.85 to 4.12 dollars per lb. c.i.f. The exchange to-day is piastres 400 per £1 sterling for cheque and one dollar for one Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are 1,740 cases against 695 at same date last year.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

This week's Indian cable states :—Widespread rainfall except in North-West Frontier, where local. General crop conditions good, but more rain required parts Western Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, United Province of Agra and Oudh, Punjab, Central Provinces, and Mysore. Bombay cotton market irregular. Fully good broach July-August Rs. 453. Piece-goods market no improvement with slack demand. Exchange still causing anxiety. Calcutta jute market quiet. Hessians quiet with prices falling and very little business passing. Heavy goods fairly steady, but quiet. Shellac position strong. Bank rate is Bengal 5 per cent., Bombay 6 per cent., Madras 7 per cent.

Piræus-Athens-Peloponnesus Railway Four per Cent. Bonds.—The Bank of Athens announces that Coupon No. 17, due July 14, will be paid on presentation at the Offices, 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

## ON CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

Business has been on a very small scale this week,, and there is a certain amount of irregularity in prices; but the movements have in a general way been of an unimportant character. Some transactions have taken place in City of Alexandria Bonds round the current price. Egyptian Unified, after having been up to 69¼, are closing ¼ down at 68½, and the 3½ per cent. Prefs., after business up to 57½, are closing at 56. The Turkish 4 per cent. 1891 and 4 per cent. Unified loans are both one point up at 61 and 35 respectively. In Greek securities the 1881 and 1884 Loans, although nominally one point down at 56, are in good demand at this price. The 1902 Railway Loan has risen half a point to 46. The 1910 Loan has risen a similar fraction to 40½, and the 1914 Loan is one point up at 55½. On the other hand, Currant Bonds have dropped one point to 90.

In Bank shares Nationals have improved ⅛ to 19⅝ and Agriculturals 1-16 to 4⅜. Agricultural Prefs. are somewhat better at 5 3-16 xd. Agricultural Bonds are 2 points down at 61 and 63 respectively. Bank of Abyssinia shares have dropped ⅛ to 1¼, but, on the other hand, there has been a further improvement in Bank of Athens shares, which are ⅛ higher at 4⅛, and sellers very scarce.

In Railways, Ottoman Ordinary are one point down at 8, and Piræus Athens 3 per cent. have declined from 45 to 44.

In Land shares Aboukirs have been in demand, and are closing 6d. higher at 35s. 6d. Egyptian Consolidateds are again somewhat weaker at 2s. 7½d. Foreign Trusts are fractionally firmer at 13s. 3d. New Egyptians have been in continuous demand, and are closing 1s. higher at 34s. 6d. Sudan Plantations have advanced 3-16 to 4 7-16, and Union Foncières are 1-16 firmer at 4 9-16.

In Miscellaneous descriptions, Salts and Sodas, after being up to 2⅝, finish 1-32 firmer at 2 19-32. Khedivial Mails are practically unchanged at 5 17-32 xd. Morums have further sagged 3d. to 17s. 3d.

In Oil shares, Anglo-Egyptian B have again dropped 1-16 to 3 after being lower.

## TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—

### Egypt.

*(The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.)*

Cotton Waste.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 200 metrical tons cotton waste. August 9. (L.)

Uniforms.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for Bedford cord pantaloons, khaki drill infantry and artillery frocks. Tenders will be received up to first post on Monday, July 26, and will remain open for 14 days. (L.)

Extension of Electrical Station of Zagazig and Belbeis.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, for the extension of the electrical station of Zagazig and Belbeis. Adjudication at noon on September 1. A copy of the specification, etc. (in French) may be consulted by British firms interested at the Enquiry Office of the Department of Overseas Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.2.

Gas Piping, etc.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the following:—(1) Gas Piping and Spares. Tenders returnable by noon on July 17. (2) Puggaree Khaki (45,000 yards). (3) Huckaback Towels. Tenders returnable by noon on July 20. (4) Saddlery. Tenders returnable by noon on July 21. (5) Blue Serge and Khaki Puttees. (6) Calico. Tenders returnable by noon on July 23. (7) White Canvas Shoes (Gymnastic). Tenders returnable on July 26. (8) Lining for Tarboushes. Tenders returnable on July 27. Tenders in the case of items (1) and (4) will remain open for 14 days; in all other cases they will remain open for seven days. (L)


# BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

Telegrams: "TRABANQUE, LONDON."

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.)
13 AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telephones: LONDON WALL, 2947-2948.

**CAPITAL.**

**Authorised, £10,000,000.** | **Subscribed and Paid up, £2,000,000.**

*Governor*, The Lord Faringdon. *Deputy Governor*, Sir Henry Babington Smith, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.S.I.

*Manager*, A. G. M. Dickson.

*London Manager*, P. C. West. *Secretary*, G. de B. Brounlie.

The Corporation is prepared to assist in the development of the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and offers exceptional financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their export and import trade.

It has Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world, and transacts Banking business of every description.

It invites enquiries, and will endeavour, where necessary, to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

*Branches* BATOUM. BELGRADE. DANZIG.

*Affiliated Companies:* THE NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY, Constantinople and Branches.

THE TRADE INDEMNITY CO., LTD. *(Established for the assistance of British Trade by the Insurance of Accounts.)*


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# "NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

| LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE. | Price July 5. | Price July 12. |
|---|---|---|
| **GOVERNMENT STOCKS.** | | |
| Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892 | 36 | 36 |
| Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907 | 51½ | 51½ |
| Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909 | 27 | 27 |
| City of Alexandria 4%, 1909 | 60 | 60 |
| Egyptian 4% Unified Debt | 68⅜ | 68½ |
| Do. Pref. 5% 1890 | 57½ | 56 |
| Greek 5%, 1881 | 57xd | 56 |
| Do. 5%, 1884 | 57xd | 56 |
| Do. 4% Rentes, 1889 | 41 | 41 |
| Do. 5% 1890 | 54 | 54 |
| Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893 | 53xd | 53 |
| Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902 | 45½xd | 46 |
| Do. 4% Loan, 1910 | 40 | 40½ |
| Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) | 54½ | 55½ |
| Do. 5% Currant | 91 | 90 |
| Montenegro 5% Loan | 68½ | 78½ |
| Persia 5% 1911 | 64 | 64½ |
| Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913 | 36 | 36 |
| Serbian 4% Unified Bonds | — | — |
| Turkish 4% 1891 | 60 | 61 |
| Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894 | 54 | 54 |
| Do. 4% Unified | 34 | 35 |
| **BANKS.** | | |
| Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) | 4⅜ | 4⅜ |
| Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) | 5⅜ | 5⅜xd |
| Do. 3½ Bonds Red. | 63 | 61 |
| Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red. | 65 | 63 |
| Bank of Abyssinia | 1⅜ | 1½ |
| Bank of Athens | 4 | 4⅛ |
| Bank of British West Africa | 5⅛ | 6½ |
| Bank of Roumania | 5⅜ | 5⅜ |
| British Trade Corporation | 9 | 8½ |
| Imperial Ottoman Bank | 8½ | 8½ |
| Imperial Bank of Persia | 7⅞ | 7½-8 |
| Ionian Bank, Limited | 5 | 5 |
| Land Bank of Egypt Ord. | 5 | 5 |
| London County and Westminster | 14⅜ | 14⅜ |
| National Bank of Egypt | 19½ | 19⅝ |
| **RAILWAYS.** | | |
| Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer | 5⅝ | 6⅝ |
| Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord. | 9 | 8 |
| Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref. | 10 | 10½ |
| Do. Do. 4% Debs. | 34 | 34 |
| Do Do. 5% 2nd Debs. | 27 | 30½ |
| Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry. | 29½ | 27 |
| Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½% | 60 | 60 |
| Do. Do. 3% Bonds | 45 | 41 |
| **LAND.** | | |
| Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) | 35/- | 35/6 |
| Do. 6% Debs | 135 | 135 |
| Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt | 12/6 | 12/6 |
| Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment | 75/- | 75/- |
| Béhéra Co. | 16 | 16 |
| Do. Pref. | 3½ | 3½ |
| Building Lands of Egypt | 1½ | 1½ |
| Egyptian Consol 5/- | 2/9 | 2/7½ |
| Egyptian Delta Land and Invest. | 13/6 | 13/6 |
| Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs. | 73 | 73 |
| Do. Land and General Trust | 1/6 | 1/6 |
| Do. and Foreign Trust | 13/- | 13/3 |
| Gharbieh Land Co. | 3 | 3 |
| Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt | 29/- | 29/- |
| Do. 4½% Debs. Red. | 84½ | 84½ |
| Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red | 61½ | 61½ |
| Mortgage Co. of Egypt | 6½ | 6½ |
| Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red. | 75 | 75 |
| New Egyptian Co. | 33/6 | 34/6 |
| Sidi Salem Co. | 2½ | 2½ |
| Sudan Plantations | 4½ | 4⅞ |
| Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. | 4½ | 4⅝ |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | |
| Abyssinian Corp. | ⅛ | ⅛ |
| Alexandria Water Co. | 8 | 8 |
| Associated Cotton Ginners | 25/- | 25/- |
| Egyptian Hotels | 2½ | 2½ |
| Do. Markets Ord. | 1⅛ | 1⅛ |
| Do. do 5% Debs. Red. | 86½ | 86½ |
| Do. Salt and Soda Bearer | 2⅛ | 2⅛ |
| Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs. | 96⅜ | 96⅜ |
| Khediv al Mail Ord. | 5⅛ | 5½xd |
| Do. Do. Prefs. | 3½ | 3½ |
| Levant Co. (fully paid) | 18/- | 16/9 |
| Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref | 17/6 | 17/3 |
| Suez Canal | — | — |
| **Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.** | | |
| Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series | 94½ | 94½ |
| Chinese 4½% 1898 | 57½ | 55½ |
| Do. 5% 1896 | 71½ | 71½ |
| Argentine 5% 1890 | 70⅜ | 69⅜ |
| Do. 5% 1907 | 80 | 77½ |
| **OIL.** | | |
| Algerian | 3/6 | 3/- |
| Anglo-Bulgarian | 8/7½ | 4/3 |
| Anglo-Egyptian B | 3⅛ | 3⅛ |
| Anglo-Persian Pref. | 22/6 | 2?/1½ |
| Do. 5% Debs. | 80½ | 82½ |
| Anglo-Roumanian | 7/3 | 7/3 |
| Cyprus Oil Trust | 3/10½ | 3/6 |
| Maisel's Petroleum Trust | 10/7½ | 10/7½ |
| Roumanian | 18/9 | 18/3 |
| Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs. | 100 | 100 |
| Suez | 5/9 | 4/- |
| Traian (Roumanian) | 7/6 | 7/6 |

The yield of oranges in Palestine in 1919 is estimated to have been over 66,000,000 kilos.

Box boards, oil, and manufactured goods are in demand at Jaffa, according to an American consular report.

# "NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

*(Continued.)*

| BRUSSELS BOURSE. | Price July 3. | Price July 9. |
|---|---|---|
| Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs. | 397·50 | 402·50 |
| Do. do. Priv. | 576·50 | 576 |
| Do. do. Cap. | 444·50 | 436 |
| Do. do. Div. | 400 | 400 |
| Anglo-Belgian Co. | 39·50 | 39·50 |
| Cairo Electric Railways Cap. | 225 | 217·50 |
| Do. do. Div. | 300·50 | 301·25 |
| Caisse Hypothécaire Act | 477.50 | 477·50 |
| Do. do. (10 eme p.b.) | 64·75 | 62·75 |
| Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½% Debs. | 355·50 | 355·50 |
| Do. do. Priv. | 490 | 490 |
| Do. do. Div. | 184 | 181·50 |
| Compagnie Immobiliére Deb. | 375 | 379·50 |
| Do. do. Cap. | 161·25 | 167·50 |
| Do. do. Fond. | 258·75 | 254·75 |
| Enterprise and Development Cap. | 230 | 235 |
| Do. do. Div. | 120·50 | 125 |
| Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte) Priv. | — | — |
| Do. do. Ord. | 497·50 | 497·50 |
| Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap. | 205 | 200 |
| Do. do. Div. | 125 | 125 |
| Salonika-Constantinople Railway | 230 | 250 |
| Salonika-Monastir Railway | 200 | 200 |
| Smyrna-Cassaba Railway 4%, 1894 | 150 | 150 |
| Do. do. 4%, 1895 | 150 | 150 |
| Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv. | 115 | 115 |
| Do. do. Div. | 160 | 150 |
| Tramways du Caire Priv. | 450 | 444·50 |
| Do. do. Jouiss | 691·25 | 691·25 |
| Travaux Publics du Caire Priv. | 272·50 | 272·50 |
| Do. do. Ord. | — | — |
| Do. do. Div. | 40 | 40 |

# INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

**INDIAN FUNDS.**

| Interest Due. | Name. | July 2. | July 9. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc. | India 3½% Stock,* 1931 | 55⅜ | 55⅜ |
| Various dates. | Do. Rupee Paper 3½% | 52 | 52½ |

* Redeemable.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **CORPORATION STOCKS.** | | |
| Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959 | 83⅛ | 83⅛ |
| Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40 | 65 | 65 |
| Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938 | 63 | 66 |
| **BANKS.** | | |
| Chartered of India | 75½ | 75⅝ |
| Eastern | 6¾ | 6⅝ |
| Mercantile of India A. | 26 | 26 |
| National of India | 50⅝ | 50⅛ |
| **MINES.** | | |
| Balaghat Gold Mining | 8/7½ | 6/10½ |
| Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref. | 14/- | 14/- |
| Burma Corp. | 9⅜ | 9⅛ |
| Burma Ruby Mines Ord. | 21/- | 6/- |
| Champion Reef Gold | 2/7½ | 2/6 |
| Mysore Gold Mining | 14/4½ | 14/4½ |
| Nundydroog | 11/3 | 11/- |
| Ooregum Gold Mining Ord. | 14/4½ | 15/1½ |
| Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf. | 21/- | 21/- |
| Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.) | 24/3 | 24/3 |
| **OIL.** | | |
| Assam Oil | 33/9 | 30/- |
| Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref. | 36/3 | 26/3 |
| Brit. Burmah | 95 | 95 |
| Burmah Oil Co. Ord. | 15⅝ | 16½ |
| Do. 6% Cum. Pref. | 18/9 | 18/9 |
| Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref. | 9⅛ | 9⅛ |
| **RAILWAYS.** | | |
| Assam Bengal | 53½ | 53½ |
| Bengal and N.-Western Ord. | 123 | 124 |
| Do 3½% Cum. Pref. | 49 | 49 |
| Bengal-Nagpur | 103½ | 100½ |
| Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India | 100 | 100½ |
| Burma Railways | 98½ | 100½ |
| Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb. | — | — |
| E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953 | 11⅝ | 11⅝ |
| East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957 | 11½ | 11½ |
| Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948 | 10⅜ | 10⅜ |
| Madras and S. Mahratta | 102 | 100½ |
| Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord. | 121 | 121 |
| Nizam's Guaranteed State | 68 | 66 |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | |
| Bengal Iron and Steel Ord. | 52/9 | 52/6 |
| Do. 6% Cum. Pref. | 19/6 | 19/4½ |
| P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P. | 75½ | 75½ |
| Do. Deferred | 431½ | 462 |
| **TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.** | | |
| Assam Co. | 57½ | 56 |
| Bengal United Tea Ord. | 15⅞ | 15⅞ |
| British Indian Tea Ord. | 7⅛ | 7⅛ |
| Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord. | 15 | 15 |
| Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord. | 9/6⅔ | 9/7½ |
| Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. | 53/9 | 54/9 |
| Consolidated Estates | 40/- | 40/- |
| Darjeeling Co. | 16/3 | 16/- |
| Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. | 37/9 | 37/9 |
| Dooars Tea Ord. | 48/- | 45/9 |
| Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. | 17/9 | 17/9 |
| Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est. | 32/6 | 30/- |
| Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber | 29/6 | 29/10½ |
| Hewagam Rubber Co. | 21/- | 21/- |
| Jhanzie Tea Association | 9⅛ | 9⅛ |
| Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. | 17⅞ | 17⅞ |
| Kepitigalla Rubber Estates | 15/- | 15/6 |
| Lanka Plantations Ord. | 22/6 | 21/6 |
| Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord. | 21/3 | 21/3 |
| Malayalam Rub. and Produce | 37/6 | 37/9 |
| Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. | 12⅛ | 12⅛ |
| P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates | 28/9 | 30/3 |

# STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

| | June 4. Rs. | June 12. Rs. |
|---|---|---|
| **GOVERNMENT LOANS.** | | |
| 3½% Government Paper | 59 | 59 |
| 4% Government Paper, 1916-17 | 74 | 74 |
| **BANKS.** | | |
| Alliance Bank of Simla | 300 | 300 |
| Bank of Bengal | 1730 | 1735 |
| Bank of Bombay | 2130 | 2130 |
| Bank of Madras | 1650 | 1560 |
| Bank of India | 148 | 148 |
| Tata Industrial Bank | 51 | 50¾ |
| **COAL.** | | |
| Baraboni | 16½ | 16½ |
| Bengal | 778ex | 780 |
| Burrakur | 47¾ | 46¾ |
| East Indian | 38½ | 38 |
| Equitable | 48 | 47½ |
| Pench Valley | 335 | 335 |
| Raneegunge | 70 | 63½ |
| Standard | 80 | 76½ |
| **COTTON.** | | |
| Bengal Nagpur | 550ex | 550ex |
| Bombay Dyeing, etc. | 3385 | 3360 |
| Bowreah | 1300 | 1300 |
| Buckingham | 2500 | 2500 |
| Carnatic | 1200 | 1000 |
| Cawnpore | 195ex | 195ex |
| Century | 1120 | 1075 |
| Central India | 4550 | 4590 |
| | 2275 | 2295 |
| Elgin | 167½ex | 225 |
| Gold Mohur | 400 | 400 |
| | 200 | 200 |
| Khatau Makanji | 725 | 725 |
| Muir | 325 | 325 |
| New Ring | 1150 | 1206 |
| Phœnix | 950 | 1000 |
| Svadeshi | 4620 | 4555 |
| **JUTE.** | | |
| Alliance | 715 | 745 |
| Barnagore | 150ex | 170 |
| Budge Budge | 660 | 605 |
| Clive | 302ex | 312 |
| Dalhousie | 510 | 532 |
| Delta | 660 | 660 |
| Fort Gloster | 1085 | 990 |
| Gourepore | 1290 | 1141ex |
| Howrah | 45½ | 47 |
| Kamarhatty | 995 | 1038 |
| Kanknarrah | 775 | 836½ |
| Khardah | 583 | 600 |
| Kinnison | 1120 | 1186 |
| National | 422 | 410 |
| Standard | 676 | 708½ |
| Union | 830 | 850 |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | |
| Bengal Paper Mills | 110 | 125 |
| Bengal Timber Trading | 865 | 865 |
| Burn and Co. | 300 | 300 |
| Carew and Co. | 118 | 118 |
| Cawnpore Sugar | — | 44½ |
| Cawnpore Woollen | 150 | 150 |
| Champaran Sugar | 440 | 425 |
| Howrah Oil Mills | 38 | 38 |
| India General Steam | 130 | 130 |
| Indian Iron and Steel | 140 | 140 |
| | 90 | 90½ |
| Marshall Sons and Co. | 12 | 12½ |
| Titaghur Paper | 453 | 468 |

# ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

PRICES ON JULY 2.

| | |
|---|---|
| Agricultural Bank of Egypt | £4⅜ ex. |
| ,, ,, ,, Fond. | £370 ex. |
| Alexandria Water Co., Ltd. | £8½ ex. |
| Anglo-American Nile Steam | £4⅛ |
| Assoc. Cotton Ginners | £1⅜ |
| Banque d'Orient | Fr. 101 |
| Béhéra Ord. | L.E. 15⅜ |
| ,, Priv. | £3⅜ |
| Bonded Stores | £14⅛ |
| Brasseries d'Egypte Priv. | Fr. 210 |
| Building Lands of Egypt | £1⅛ |
| Cairo Heliopolis Railway | £119½ |
| Cassa di Sconto | Fr. 86 |
| ,, ,, Priv. | Fr 117 |
| Ciments d'Egypte Priv. | Fr. 58 |
| ,, ,, Div. | Fr. 30 |
| Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte | £1⅛ |
| Consolidated Land | P.T. 13 |
| Crédit Foncier Egyptien | Fr. 608 |
| ,, Fondateur | 7900 |
| ,, 1886 Oblig. | 386½ |
| ,, 1903 ,, | 265½ |
| ,, 1911 ,, | 265½ |
| Crown Brewery Priv. | Fr. 240 |
| ,, ,, Div. | Fr. 223 |
| Eaux du Caire Capital | Fr. 85 |
| ,, ,, Jouissance | Fr. 118½ |
| Egypt and Levant S.S. Ord. | 30/6 |
| Egyptian Delta Light Railways | £5⅜ |
| Filature Nationale d'Egypte | £18⅜ |
| Frig. orifique d'Egypte | L.E. 2⅞ |
| Gabbari Lands | L.E. ⅛ |
| Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. | £6½ |
| Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv. | 108/- |
| ,, ,, ,, Ord. | £3½ |
| Kom Ombo Ste. Ane. de Wadi | £8 |
| ,, ,, Nouvelles | £8 |
| ,, ,, Fondateur | £77 |
| Land Bank of Egypt Actions | £5⅞ |
| ,, ,, Parts de Fond. | £46½ |
| Lots Turcs | Fr. 71⅜ |
| Menzaleh Canal Navigation | P.T. 336 |
| Nungovich Hotels | £8½ |
| Ramleh Railway | £2⅛ |
| Salt and Soda | 51/4½ |
| Tram d'Alexandrie Priv. | Fr. 59 |
| ,, ,, Div. | Fr. 83 |
| Union Foncière d'Egypte | £4⅞ |
| Upper Egypt Hotels | £1⅛ |
| Urbaines and Rurales | £3 |

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 481.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Persia, Mesopotamia, and Syria are all suffering badly, in one form or another, from the unrest that has been prevalent throughout the world since the war. Persia's troubles are chiefly and directly traceable to Bolshevism; those in Mesopotamia and Syria are due principally to the restlessness of the Arab character and to other causes in no way connected with Bolshevism, though Bolshevist agents are doubtless doing their best to foment them. The situation in Persia and Mesopotamia forms the subject of our leading article. Here we may glance rapidly at the latest developments in the troubled regions.

The Bolshevists have landed fresh troops at Enzeli and Meshed-i-Sar, but no trustworthy statistics regarding their strength south of the Caspian are available. Here, as elsewhere, they appear to be relying largely on their propaganda, and it would seem that they have achieved some measure of success; for Persian Bolshevists are reported to be showing activity in the region between the Caspian and Teheran, and some bands were stated at the end of last week to be within two days' march of the capital. At Menjil a Jangali band has attacked a patrol of British armoured cars, and has learned that such things are awkward opponents. On the other hand, a Teheran message of July 18 reports that the Bolshevist force at Sari was defeated by Government troops and driven out of the town. But, unfortunately, the set-back was a temporary one only, and the Reds reoccupied the town later. The Persian Government, naturally uneasy, have sent the Persian Minister at Rome to Moscow as a special emissary to treat with the Bolshevists, and have simultaneously requested the British Military Mission to suspend its labours until its Report, with the Anglo-Persian Agreement, has been submitted to the Mejliss. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that a Treaty is said to have been concluded between the Soviet Government and the Armenian Republic; and that Afghanistan is considerably agitated by fear of a Bolshevist invasion—India being the ultimate goal, of course. Upon the whole, it must be admitted that Persia's desire to parley with the enemy while he is at the gate—or, rather, before he gets too far past it—is quite comprehensible.

An important thing to note regarding the situation in Mesopotamia is the way in which news is held up when it is regarded as being unsatisfactory. The news of the train outrage between Baghdad and Sherghat, which we publish on another page, is a case in point. Why it should have been kept back we are at a loss to understand; for, given the conditions now ruling in Irak el-Arabi, and especially the exacerbated state of Arab feeling regarding the Mandate, such things are bound to occur; and the Administration would be well advised to recognise the fact and not attempt to lead the world to believe that the Garden of Eden has been resuscitated—without the Serpent. In the House of Commons last Friday Mr. Churchill stated that there is no reason to suppose that, if sufficient exertion is made, order cannot be thoroughly re-established in the country. That is far better than pretending that order has never been disturbed. How best order can be re-established and the country be helped along the path of progress which everybody wishes it to follow is another question. The facts that the situation on the Euphrates is still causing anxiety, that Rumeitha has had to be provisioned by aeroplane, and that our casualties since July 1 are reported to be 400 suggest that the question will not be entirely easy to answer.

As far as this country is concerned, news from Syria is at least as perplexing and as unsatisfactory as that from Mesopotamia. That General Gouraud is advancing from Beyrout with a strong force is clear, but whether he intends to halt at Rayak, or to press on either to Damascus or (less likely) to Aleppo is unknown. Similarly, it is impossible, at the time of writing, to be sure whether the Emir Faisal has actually set out for Europe, whether he intends to do so, or whether he means to stay and oppose any further French advance. General Gouraud has certainly sent an ultimatum to the Arab Government, but whether he actually demanded a French occupation of Damascus, as Arab reports state, is not certain. Not the least interesting of the reports in connection with these Syrian developments is that which has it that several members of the Lebanon Administrative Council have been arrested by the French authorities: according to the French version, because they had accepted bribes from the Emir Faisal to support him in Europe, but, according to an Arab version, because they wished to secure recognition of the independence of the Lebanon. Another report is to the effect that the French intend to depose Faisal and to replace him by Mohammed Said, whom the British were forced to deport owing to his intrigues. This it is impossible to believe. Possibly there has been once again some confusion over names; but, more probably, the rumour is merely the outcome of too active imagination.

The Allies' reply to the Turkish Note on the draft Treaty of Peace has been delivered, and Turkey has

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been given up to July 27 to sign. Should she refuse, the Allies warn her that they will take such action as they may consider necessary in the circumstances. A Crown Council is to be held in Constantinople—by the time these lines appear it will probably have met—to decide between peace and the resumption of war that a refusal to sign would amount to; but there can be very little doubt what the decision will be. Turkey is in no state to renew hostilities, and it is evident that the Sultan, his Grand Vizier, and his Ministers recognise the fact. Doubtless they recognised it long ago, and made up their minds to bow to the inevitable; and in all probability their greatest anxiety at the present time is to know how the "Nationalists," avowed and secret, will regard their acceptance. A reconstruction of the Cabinet is to be expected in order that Damad Ferid Pasha may be freed from the embarrassment of doubtful supporters before signing.

The Turks will find but cold comfort in the Allies' reply. There are a few modifications in regard to minor points, but on the crucial points the Allies are obdurate: they "can make no modification in the clauses of the Treaty which detach Thrace and Smyrna from Turkish rule, for in both areas the Turks are in a minority." The same reason applies in the case of Syria and Armenia. As to the *régime* of the Straits, the Allies decline to modify the general terms, but they are willing to grant Turkey, "as a riparian Power, and in the same manner and conditions as to Bulgaria," the right to appoint a delegate to the controlling Commission. In conclusion, the Allies deny that the Treaty has the character attributed to it by the Turkish Delegation, and suggest that there is nothing in it to prevent the Turkish people from becoming a prosperous nation, if they reform their ways; but they also give warning that if the Turkish Government refuses to sign, and "still more if it finds itself unable to re-establish its authority in Anatolia, or to give effect to the Treaty," the Turks may be ejected from Europe "once and for all."

The Allies having taken their decisions and announced them, it would be unprofitable to discuss them further at this stage. It would clearly be unprofitable also for the Turkish Government to attempt to oppose them, and in the circumstances the best advice that any friend of Turkey can offer her is to sign, and to endeavour to surprise Europe by "reforming her ways" and "becoming a prosperous nation." She has, as the Allies once more point out in their latest note to her, brought her terrible misfortunes on herself, for she had only to maintain her neutrality in order to secure the integrity of her dominions. She chose the other course, and she must pay the price. But we venture to hope that the Allies will, in respect to one point, show a more generous spirit than their reply seems to indicate. If the Turkish Government "finds itself unable to re-establish its authority in Anatolia," as it very well may do, with Bolshevist Russia backing Mustapha Kemal, and the Middle East in a ferment, we hope that help will be given it by the Allies. And for obvious reasons we hope that such help will be given by France and Great Britain. Given generously, it would go far to restore Turkey's faith in that good will for her which has found such frequent expression in Allied Notes and pronouncements, and given for a sufficient length of time, it might convert the Allied statesmen's vision of a reformed and prosperous Turkey into a reality. If it is withheld, no amount of platitudinising will afford compensation to the Turks; while offers of help from certain other quarters would be worse than useless.

The appointment of Mr. Malcolm Stevenson as High Commissioner of Cyprus is very welcome. As Chief Secretary to the Government of the island and as acting head of the Government he has gained both experience and popularity, and the islanders will have learned of the appointment with satisfaction, though, in the case of those who express a desire for union with Greece, the satisfaction will doubtless be qualified. For our part we hope that the appointment, coming at the present time, may be regarded as significant of Great Britain's intention to hold the island, at any rate while conditions in the Near East are so unsettled. A glance at the map, and a little reflection upon the present state of affairs in the Levant should explain the reasons for this view.

The Joint Committee of Parliament have now completed their revision of the rules framed for the elections to be held in India next winter The changes they have made are very few, and we think anyone who has examined the rules in detail will concur in the tribute paid to the great care and ability with which the drafts were prepared in India, as well as the remarkable expedition with which the task was achieved. The only point calling for notice here is the question of Labour representation. Last year the Joint Committee recommended that an attempt should be made to bring urban workers into the scheme. The attempt was duly made, and the result was to establish the impracticability of the idea, the only possible measures being described as indefensible in theory and probably unworkable in practice. The Committee have therefore decided, "without hesitation, though with some regret," to drop the experiment altogether, and urban Labour, like some other amorphous interests, must for the present put up with nominated representatives.

We entirely accept the decision of the Joint Committee on this point, but we venture to express a hope that the authorities in India will base their nominations on principles somewhat different from those which have been followed in the past. Hitherto nominees have usually been before all things "respectable" and "safe," but if the voice of the factory workers is to be heard effectively in Council, these criteria must be abandoned in favour of vigour, courage, and straightforwardness. Labour representatives are in any case bound to be a nuisance from the Indian and aristocratic point of view, and in the long run it will be best if the facts are faced at once. The authorities who have to nominate would do well to look up the history of the merchant shipping legislation in this country in the 'seventies: Samuel Plimsoll was undoubtedly a terrible nuisance at the time, but to-day even landsmen understand the significance of the Plimsoll mark, and if there are any men of that breed in India it is better that they should be in the Councils than outside.

The Lords have already accepted the Joint Committee's report, and doubtless an early opportunity will be found for its consideration in the Commons. Meanwhile the latter body has again been devoting some attention to Indian affairs, and there was an informal conversation last week which threw welcome light on the attitude of the authorities towards that perplexing person Mr. Gandhi. Mr. Montagu's position seems to be that, just as in England a dog is entitled to one bite, so in India a saint may act in such a way as to lead to one rebellion; but just as a second bite is dangerous to the dog, so a second rebellion would be awkward for the saint, however lofty the motives by which he may be actuated. The number of saints in India is so large just now that the application of this doctrine may not be wholly free from practical inconvenience, but at any rate it is to be left to the men on the spot, for this is one of the cases in which the Government of India are assured beforehand of Mr. Montagu's support. The assurance is timely, for the administrative problem involved is one of great difficulty, and the codes provide no machinery for perfecting a saint by purging him of overweening egotism.

The trek of Indian Moslems to Afghanistan appears to be developing, though not yet on the scale advocated by its promoters. To our mind it is a logical and legitimate idea that people who dislike a particular government should abandon it for another; in this instance we may doubt whether the emigrants will really be more comfortable in Afghanistan than they were in India; but that is their affair, not ours, and if they are disillusioned they may, perhaps, be able to return. The

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curious point about the movement is that the advance parties appear to have no very prominent leaders. We should have expected to read that the way was being pioneered for these confiding people by someone who knew the road, and understood the conditions of life in the promised land; Mr. Shauqat Ali, for instance, seems clearly marked out for the part of Moses, and various other names might be suggested as suitable understudies, but perhaps these gentlemen have caught the German habit of leading from the rear.

Of the two new appointments to the Council of the Viceroy of India, that of Sir Thomas Holland only regularises the existing position, for he has been *de facto* in charge of the Department of Industries for some time past, and any other selection was entirely out of the question. Mr. Sarma, who assumes charge of the Revenue Department, has achieved a distinguished position in politics, but we believe he is new to administration, at least on the vast scale as practised in Delhi, and his department, which, among other matters, controls forest and agricultural policy, is exceptionally heavy on the administrative side; it has fallen very seriously behindhand during the last ten years, and the time has come not merely for a forward move, but for a vigorous and persistent forward policy. We have no means of judging whether Mr. Sarma possesses the qualifications required for this purpose, and we must for the present regard his appointment as something of an experiment, but we hope the experiment will be justified by success.

# THE WEEK AT HOME.

**Spa.**

The Spa Conference occupied the international stage last week. The few friends of the Germans were happy that they have at last been allowed to meet the Allies in open discussion, and they did their best not to be disgusted with Herr Stinnes, whose hectoring outburst showed that the old Prussian spirit still survives; the newspaper opponents of the Prime Minister were ready to attack his every move, but his firmness gave them little opportunity. As a matter of fact, he seems to have dominated the Conference. He insisted that the Germans have got to disarm, and to hand over the coal to France, and in the end, with many sighs and groans, they consented.

It is quite clear that Germany built great hopes on the Conference, and their newspapers are correspondingly depressed that nothing came of it. But the German is still a poor politician. In the "shining armour" days sheer bullying sometimes came off, and his lack of diplomatic finesse—which other people called lack of good manners—occasionally achieved its aim: but that particular style is now simply absurd, and fails to impress the veriest tyro. Some members of the German Government appear to have realised the changed situation, but their position at home is clearly rather weak, and they seem afraid of another internal revolt. Mr. Lloyd George, in an interview, has recognised that this is the greatest danger. As to the German capacity to carry out the terms imposed, there is no real doubt.

But it will be necessary to see that they are held strictly to their pledge to reduce their army to the required figure, for that is the keystone of the whole position. Their now-admitted failure to do so up to the present—the admission was dragged out of them—has shocked a good many people, who had hoped that the German would have learned by this time that, ethical considerations apart, it is worth while to keep treaties.

**Perambulators and Politics.**

The House of Commons, suddenly recollecting that the hand which rocks the cradle rules the world, last week turned from Imperial affairs to talk of babies, housing, and other domestic interests, with Dr. Addison—who retains the bedside manner on the Treasury Bench—as family physician-in-chief. He positively beamed over the rising birth-rate; clearly England expected, and not in vain, that every man would do his duty, for there are more babies than ever before, and the perambulator manufacturers are making their fortunes. The infant population of this realm has increased by nearly a million since the armistice; peace has her victories no less renowned than war.

The trouble is not the infants, but the houses in which to put them. Only two thousand houses have been built, which is obviously inadequate for a million babies; and although something like fifty thousand houses will be completed this year that will not be nearly enough. Dr. Addison, like the old woman who lived in a shoe, simply does not know what to do with his official children; and not only does his family increase every day by about a thousand, but the cost of building goes up every week.

But we are certainly going steadily ahead with housing. At Kingston, Epsom, and many other places I have seen for myself houses actually rising from the ground, and bricklayers actually laying bricks. It is very hopeful, until one is told that for every house there are two thousand applications, and that most of them are sold before the first sod is cut. A London house agent with whom I was discussing the position told me a few days ago that he expects to clear his books of the existing applicants in about ten years' time, and that he has almost forgotten how to let a house, as everybody has to buy in these days.

Apart from housing, politics have been dull. The Free Liberals made their usual demonstration against Imperial preference, and suffered their usual defeat; and Mr. Chamberlain has been comforting us by telling us how nobly we are paying off the capital debt of the war by income-tax and excess profits and the other ills that flesh is heir to. Never, according to the Treasury, did our reputation stand so high; it is our only consolation, for assuredly never were our pockets so empty.

**Household and Furniture Prices.**

There is no sign whatever that prices as a whole have fallen, but there are very definite indications that the public is buying less. The West End women's shops started their sales rather early this year, but the usual crush of purchasers of their incredible bargains has been less. I happened to be in one of the great emporiums in London to look at some furniture a few days ago; it gave me quite an uncanny feeling, for there was not a single purchaser in the place. No doubt that was exceptional, for it was a disgustingly wet day; but the old manager, who remembered me as a customer some years ago, was very pessimistic.

Prices were still going up, he told me, on account of labour and material advances, but buyers were getting fewer. "What else can you expect?" he said. "Before the war we sold an ordinary oak dining-room suite for a typical suburban home at £60, and we furnished an eight-roomed house at £300. The same things now cost £200 and £1,200; besides, then, young people who were getting married, who were the bulk of our customers, could rent a house, but now they have to buy it instead, and that leaves little money for the furniture, at the present inflated prices of household goods."

The really astonishing thing is that people are still getting married. I cannot believe they all have wealthy fathers or uncles, who press a cheque for five thousand pounds into the reluctant hands of the blushing bride at the wedding breakfast; and presumably they are not all content to live for ever in two rooms—although a suburban doctor in one of the best neighbourhoods of London tells me it is perfectly amazing how many of his patients, who got married during or since the war, are starting life in that cramped fashion, and making the best of it. On the other hand, a lawyer who has a good many divorces through his hands assures me that domestic difficulties and household worries are responsible for several of his cases. It is so easy to quarrel when there is only one living-room.

**The Banks and Finance.**

One or two new issues make their appearance every week, but the boom is over, and the Stock Exchange gamble has been killed by the banks, who are pursuing what is called a conservative policy, which in plain English means that they are reducing overdrafts as

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much as possible. Undoubtedly they are right, for the structure of credit became rather top-heavy some months ago. The result is that stock values have shrunk steadily, and are not likely to improve for some time. Trade remains good, but business men are not so optimistic as they were; and those who know say that there are distinct signs that the public is still curtailing its expenditure, except in the great industrial towns in the north, where money is still made and spent easily. In London the shops are certainly less crowded than a year ago, and people are quite obviously more economical in the restaurants.

**The Railway Revolt.**

Curses loud and deep have resounded through England this week. It had been anticipated that railway fares would be increased, but a further 10 or 20 per cent. was the utmost expected. It has now been suddenly announced that the increase will be 50 per cent.—in other words, that the pre-war rate will be doubled. This applies to season as well as ordinary tickets, and all cheap tickets, of course, have long been abolished. The Government have timed this increase to begin on August 1, so as to get the additional revenue from holiday-makers; and with an elaborate show of making a concession, they have postponed it till August 5. At the same time, freight and all other railway rates are to be put up by 100-150 per cent.

It is amusing to notice that the Government are blamed for the increase. The real cause is Mr. Thomas and his merry men, who have doubled the railwaymen's wages, and Mr. Smillie and his still merrier men, who have doubled the cost of materials. But that is by the way. The Government will probably lose votes for the time being, but the Labour Party will almost certainly lose in the end, when the situation is realised, and it will not help their rather precarious solidarity.

But, leaving the political effects on one side for the time being, this increase marks a more important and more permanent change. It indicates very definitely the beginning of the end of railway supremacy as a means of transit. In 1850 they had run the old stage-coaches off the road, and throttled the canals. For the next fifty years their dominance was absolute; and in 1905 they still sneered at the motor-car and the motor-bus, and, of course, the aeroplane was not yet born. By 1910 the motor-car had made a difference to first-class traffic in the provinces, and the motor-bus had proved a more formidable rival than the municipal train to suburban traffic. But the touring motor-charabanc and the long-distance country motor-omnibus was still a toy.

All that, however, is now changed. In some country districts in Kent, Surrey, and Sussex the train runs only once every two hours, the motor-bus every half-hour. The train is a little quicker—not so very much over a few miles—but the bus is more convenient. And the train will now be very definitely dearer. Having lost traffic to its competitor, it is endeavouring to recoup itself by raising the fares again; but now that it has no longer a monopoly, that merely means that it will hand over more traffic to its rival. The proverbial ostrich was nothing to Sir Eric Geddes; but among the many blunders of a mis-spent life, I can at least thank Providence that I have never been tempted to put any money into "Home Rails." I doubt if that particular market, which has been depressed for some years, will ever recover this knock-down blow.

**London Theatres.**

London never was so full as at the present moment, with country cousins up on holiday, American visitors over for the Mayflower celebrations, and the usual seven millions of Cockneys. But one theatre after another is shutting down till the autumn. One American play after another has been staged, but apparently Americans do not go to their own plays, and they have failed to draw Londoners. It is not so much that they are bad—they could hardly be worse than the home-grown drama—but they are a different kind of badness. Audiences certainly seem more critical than during the war, and the theatrical managers are talking rather gloomily of a slump. Perhaps if they were to put on something worth seeing they might sing to a different tune; but that particular remedy does not seem to have occurred to them.

**The Pylon.**

A scheme is afoot for erecting a grandiose war memorial, in the shape of a pylon of Egyptian design, at Hyde Park Corner. The sketch of the memorial, which has been published in the newspapers, may be the last word in modern art, but it reminds one more than a little of an electric light works. The idea received so cool a welcome that it died almost in the hour of its birth; the horrors of war were bad enough, but there is no reason why we should perpetuate them by the worse horrors of British architecture and British sculpture—the recently erected statue of Nurse Cavell, by the way, near Charing Cross Station, strikes one as almost the heaviest and least inspired piece of work in the world.

These dreadful monuments make one wonder whether we are really an artistic nation. Seeking an answer to that question quite recently, I walked into the National Gallery. The new method of hanging the pictures was quite effective, but the gallery itself was almost deserted. There were a few uniformed attendants doing their best not to look bored, an old man furtively munching a sandwich, a young woman reading the *Daily Sketch*—in the palace of British art—and, opposite one of the wonderful women of Velasquez, a couple of lovers looking into each other's eyes; I doubt if Velasquez meant much to them. That was the entire company of spectators—less than a street accident would assemble. It made one wonder.

**Dearer Telephones.**

Telephone rates, like most other things, are to be raised shortly, to the disgust of the commercial world, which can hardly dispense with that nerve-racking instrument of torture, but which sees itself saddled with one more increase in its overhead charges. There have, however, been fewer complaints than usual lately of the inefficiency of the service, and it is an undoubted fact that the cost of maintenance has enormously increased.

**A Bowling Feat.**

The true hero of last week was Cox, of Sussex. Playing against Kent, he took seven wickets in a few overs for eight runs—a wonderful performance that will immortalise his name in Wisden. When I was a boy, the Sussex bowlers were the weakest in all county cricket, and a visit to the small Brighton ground, where runs were easily got, improved everybody's batting average. But times seem to have changed.

**The Yacht Race.**

The papers have made a great feature of the Lipton yacht race with the Americans. But the plain fact is that I have not heard it discussed, or even mentioned, in train, tram, or omnibus by a single soul during the week, and I doubt whether it has really evoked any particular interest. In this matter, a cheery taxi-driver spoke the unadulterated truth to me some time ago. "When a man follows cricket and football, boxing and racing intelligently," he said, "he hasn't much time for anything else beyond earning his living in these hard times."

**The Week's Books.**

"Spiritualism: Its Present Day Meaning" (Fisher Unwin) is a symposium of opinions collected by Mr. Huntley Carter, with contributions by such people as Mr. Bligh Bond, Dr. R. F. Horton, Sir William Barrett, and many others; with certain specimens of spirit-photographs. These latter do not impress me overmuch, and I should like to see them critically discussed by expert photographers.

"Bishop Moorhouse" (John Murray), by Miss Edith C. Rickards, is the biography of the late Bishop of Melbourne and Manchester. The book will appeal to many good Anglicans.

A wider audience probably awaits "Mercier: The Fighting Cardinal" (Appleton), by Charlotte Kellogg. It is the record of a very great figure in modern life; no history of the war would be complete without a mention of Mercier and his consistent opposition to the Germans—an opposition which they did not dare to silence.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, July 7.

**The Nile Projects Affair.**

This is still the chief subject of interest among all classes. Following the committal for trial of Sir William Willcocks and Colonel Kennedy, an application is to be made in open court on Tuesday next for postponement of the hearing. In ordinary circumstances such an application would have to be accompanied by some justification; the reasons in this instance will be the ill-health of Sir William and the fact that Colonel Kennedy requires witnesses from England and Australia. There has been talk of a compromise, and there is reason to believe that many prominent people would be glad to see the case end at this stage; but I have it on unimpeachable authority that Sir William Willcocks and Colonel Kennedy have decided to fight the case to a finish. From the same authority I learnt this morning that, prior to the publication of the interim report of the Nile Projects' Commission—but when it was obvious what the decision, in effect, was going to be—Sir William Willcocks, after having discussed the situation with several of his friends, wrote out a withdrawal of his charges, and was about to take steps to have it presented in the proper quarter when he received the summons to appear to answer the charges which have been preferred against him.

**Proposed Works: Native Engineers' Views.**

Several of the native Egyptian engineers are professing the strongest dissatisfaction with the interim report of the Commission. They resent the recommendation of the new big projects on engineering grounds alone. But I had better quote their own words, in the detailed criticisms of the projects which they have submitted to the Commission:—

To the very last, we unyieldingly object to the construction on the Blue Nile of any work which may tend to cut off or decrease the supply of water and silt which flows down to Egypt from that river. . . . We are perfectly convinced that Egypt has in this connection a vested right, which she possesses and has possessed for more than 6,000 years.

We also prefer that the water which is to be stored for the benefit of Egypt should, whenever possible, and at whatever cost, be kept in reservoirs within Egyptian boundaries. When this is not possible the reservoirs should be constructed on sites upon which no political difficulties are likely to arise in the near or far future.

. . . . As for Nag Hamadi barrage, we consider it a work which should have been achieved many years ago, in order to prevent the recurrence of *sharaqi* in Upper Egypt in low years . . . .

In conclusion, we beg to quote a word which was written by Sir Murdoch MacDonald in the Irrigation Report for 1912: "Egypt without irrigation would be lost from existence, and would become a part of the surrounding desert. But the Sudan is favoured with an advantage, as it lies within a rainy zone whose supply of rain water can adequately meet all its requirements if it is carefully and systematically organised."

These are arguments which, at least, deserve investigation.

**High Rents: A Protest.**

This morning the shopkeepers of Alexandria declared a cessation of business for twenty-four hours as a protest against the outrageously high rents which they have to pay for premises. The events which have led up to this "strike" form quite an interesting story. When, some months ago, the Rents Limitation Law was promulgated, property-owners were forbidden to charge more than 50 per cent. increase on the 1914 rent for residential accommodation only. The natural result was that the rent of business premises immediately rose. Further, many flats which hitherto had been described as residential flats have suddenly been given the high-sounding title of "business premises." If a family seeks a flat now, they can, in most cases, only secure it on the understanding that they are renting it as an "office." With the shortage of accommodation so acute, most families have had to do this, and the outcome has been that, instead of flats being available at lower rents, flats and offices are dearer.

**Another Bonus for Officials.**

At their meeting on Saturday last the Council of Ministers approved of the proposal to give the lower-paid Government officials another bonus of 20 per cent. on their salaries, such bonus to be paid in half-yearly instalments. The suggestion came, in the first place, from the Financial Adviser, Sir Paul Harvey—who, by the way, has resigned, but is returning to act as an expert adviser to the Government for six months—but upon the announcement of the suggestion in the Press Ismail Sidky Pasha, late Minister of Wakfs, at once addressed an open letter to the Financial Adviser, asserting that such a bonus was more likely to defeat its own object, since it would be bound to cause a complementary and higher rise in prices. That letter has since evoked "an avalanche of replies and touching protests" from the officials concerned; most of the writers, indeed, hold that the bonus is barely sufficient to enable them to meet the increased cost of living, and that, even with it, they will be, comparatively, worse off than they were in 1914. There is something to be said for both sides; but the general view among business men—who, it must be remembered, cannot be regarded as unprejudiced witnesses—is that the suggestion is an untimely one, since it cannot fail to tend to raise prices, and thus make harder the lot of the lower-paid commercial men without any hope of a relatively substantial benefit.

**Viscount Allenby Indisposed.**

Among the bathers at Alexandria last Saturday afternoon was the High Commissioner, who, according to a daily paper, "swam out to the buoys with a fine bold stroke." Subsequently, however, he caught a chill and the doctor at once directed him to stay in bed. He was confined to his room for three days, but has now recovered sufficiently to commence his journey to Palestine, whither he is proceeding in order to meet Sir Herbert Samuel.

**The Political Situation.**

All political discussion in this country at the moment apparently is confined to the native Press. Everyone is still scrutinising the cables from London daily, waiting for signs of a settlement. I have discussed the stuation with well-informed officials, who state that, beyond advice from London that "Zaghloul means business," there have been no developments, and that everything is in abeyance here pending the negotiations at home. The vernacular Press is still divided in its allegiance to the extremists and the Zaghloulists.

**A Necessary Example.**

Ibrahim Massoud, who was convicted of having thrown a bomb at Tewfik Nessim Pasha, on June 12 last, is to be hanged to-morrow morning in the Court of Appeal prison. In this case no time is being lost in meting out justice. A good deal of sympathy appears to be evinced for the man, but most reasonable people are in agreement that it was high time that an example was made.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, July 6.

**H.R.H. in Zagreb and Liubliana.**

The visit of the Crown Prince Regent to Zagreb and Liubliana has been a brilliant and unqualified success. It has been far more than a mere perfunctory visit of a ruler to other parts of his domains, for it has been a triumphal progress of the symbolic leader of national unity and a victorious liberating army. It is many centuries since the Croats have had a sovereign who addressed them in their own tongue. It is true that "Karlik bez marjasha" or "Charlie Lack Ha'pence,"

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as the Serbs disrespectfully refer to the ex-Emperor of Austria, is reported to have greeted his subjects in Slav, but an authentic account of the incident describes it as a bit of unintelligible gibberish which he had learnt by heart, and that badly. But the impression on the deputations of Croatian peasants when their Regent greeted them in their own tongue, and shook hands with them in a most natural and friendly way must have been profound. The "spirit of Shumadia," as the Serbs describe their own free and easy, democratic spirit, due to actual equality among these yeoman farmers, is a new phenomenon in lands which were once under the Hapsburg sceptre. The press of all parties is unanimous in giving glowing accounts of the visit.

But Zagreb is not essentially a national town; there is a large foreign element, especially of Jews; Liubliana, on the other hand, is really a thoroughly Slavonic town, and here the Prince's reception passed all anticipations. There was one pretty incident, when a little girl, armed with a bouquet, addressed the Prince on behalf of the 400,000 Slovenes who are left to pine on the far side of the Demarcation Line; this is the fly in the ointment of the Slavs released from Austrian and Hungarian misrule. The Prince, greeting the crowd from a balcony, expressed the hope that before long even those Slovenes on the wrong side of the line would have the blessings of liberty. The Prince so completely identifies the national cause that the enthusiasm of his reception must have come as a nasty shock to the Italians, who have been spending so much money to sow dissension between Croat and Serb. Now perhaps they will realise that it is unwise to force an unjust quarrel on a young, high-spirited, self-confident, proud and martial, and, above all, united people.

**"Vidov Dan."**

"Vidov Dan" is not only the anniversary of the battle of Kossovo, but of the Serajevo murders six years ago. Whatever may be the verdict of the West, the Yugoslavs know that this deed brought about the realisation of their dream, and there is a growing tendency to regard its performer as an enthusiastic martyr who gave his life knowingly to further the national cause sacred to the heart of every Serb. From this two incongruous facts arise: the first, that the public executioner, as an Austrian official, is to-day drawing a pension from the Yugoslav Government; the second, that Prinsep's body, according to the papers, is shortly to be brought solemnly from Prague to Serajevo. The odd part is that the man in charge of the operation is the former President of the Committee for raising a memorial to the Archduke and Archduchess, whose existence was a fatal obstacle to the union of the people and the incarnation of hostility to the idea of a "Greater Serbia."

The bodies of the "Heroes of Serajevo," who died as criminals at Prague, were solemnly exhumed during the Congress of Sokols; in a truck decorated with flags and flowers they were sent off from Prague by rail, amid the respectful attendance of an enormous crowd; patriotic speeches were made by the President of the Sokols and by Madame Chiljak; after a religious ceremony, the train steamed out on the way for Serajevo. All the people released from the tyranny of Austria-Hungary look upon Prinsep and his associate as martyrs to the cause of freedom, the blessings of which their action has brought to millions, and to countless millions yet unborn.

**The Ethnographic Museum.**

The Ethnographic Museum, one of the most interesting but least known institutions in Belgrade, suffered a great deal from enemy looting. The Hungarians helped themselves freely for their museum in Budapest. Fortunately, now, although a considerable amount was destroyed during the régime of Bela Kun, the greater part of the stolen objects are being returned, and will soon be once more on exhibition.

**A Soldiers' Yarn.**

An amusing incident, which we are informed is absolutely authentic, is recorded from Bakar. Some Yugoslav gendarmes were out exercising without any officer, when they inadvertently crossed the demarcation line without knowing it. A party of d'Annunzio's precious "'arditti" saw them, and came running up; the Slavs thought they were about to be attacked, and prepared for action, when the Italians threw their guns down and their hands up; the Slavs' astonishment was increased when another party of Italians, this time with a lieutenant and a machine-gun, also came running up, and they, too, surrendered! At length the Slavs succeeded in explaining that they were only innocent trespassers, and did not want to fight anybody or take anybody prisoners, and politely asked the way home. The Italians, in relief, cleared off as fast as they could, for fear the terrible Slavs would change their minds, while the latter returned to their quarters shaking with laughter, to tell the tale to their comrades. The incident recalls the jingle that was current among the Serbian troops in Macedonia :—

Perje ima—tica nije.
Pushku nosi—vojnik nije.
K'o zec bega—a zec nije.

Which might be translated :—

No soldier this, tho' bears a gun.
Nor bird, tho' plumage fine is his;
Nor yet a hare, tho' like a hare will run.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, July 7.

**Parliament.**

The Chamber of Deputies have prepared their reply to the Speech from the Throne and have discussed it during three days' sittings. The main points mentioned as those requiring immediate attention are the ratification of recent Decree-Laws, the reorganisation of the country so as to include the new provinces, the budget, the care of crippled soldiers and war orphans, the systematic institution all over the country of communal pasture lands, the protection of the interests of workmen with a view to preventing strikes, and the very necessary measure for the unification of the currency. This is a very heavy programme, especially as only three weeks of the session remain, but the Opposition are not satisfied with it, and have suggested many interpellations so as to introduce some of the chief items on their own programme—*e.g.*, the taxation of war profits, complete freedom of commerce, and a further modification of the Agrarian Reform Laws in favour of the peasants. Of all these measures the most urgent are the unification of the currency and the ratification of the Agrarian Reform Laws. It is of the greatest importance to the country that adequate measures for carrying out Agrarian reform should be adopted at once, so that all the land may be distributed, paid for, and brought under cultivation as quickly as possible. At present large tracts of arable land are still lying fallow either because they have not been parcelled out, or because there was no one able or willing to take them over, and the Government could not decide to leave them for the time being in the hands of their former owners. This naturally represents a heavy loss to the country.

It is encouraging to see that while the Chamber spends most of its time in personal vituperations the committees are apparently getting some work done on the preparation of the bills indicated in the Government programme. The Communal Pasturage Bill has been drawn up. It provides that each village commune shall have a grazing ground of one hectare for each three or four head of cattle. In mountainous regions pasturages are also provided for sheep. In each case the necessary land is to be taken from domains which have not yet supplied the percentage provided by the Expropriation Law.

**The Dobruja.**

The appeal made by Archbishop Nifon to the Senate last week for help for the population of this devastated province will receive the sympathy of all who know how distressing are the conditions which still prevail there. Scarcely a house or hut was left standing after the war, and a great many of the wells were choked, and yet the inhabitants were loth to leave their lands. They, therefore, dug themselves caves in the ground where whole families live huddled together with no fresh air and no means of ventilation, with the result that tuberculosis has spread rapidly and taken a heavy toll of the population. A doctor, who was mayor of one of the towns, stated that twenty-seven strong men had died of rapid consumption in one commune alone. The

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Government has done what it could and has distributed a small dole of money, and the American Red Cross afforded great relief in other ways, food, clothing, medicines, etc., but the important thing now is to get cottages built, and one hopes that in this country where appeals for charitable institutions are usually well responded to, something will soon be done towards providing more sanitary habitations for these poor peasants.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, July 10.

**The King's Return.**

His Majesty King Alexander, accompanied by his A.D.C.'s MM. Contarato, Gerontas, and Melas, returned to Athens on July 5 from his trip to Paris. He disembarked at 3.30 p.m., and immediately proceeded in his motor car to the Royal Palace, where the Council of Ministers and other military and civil officials had assembled to welcome his return.

The King expressed his great joy at the continuous successes of the Greek troops in Asia Minor, and informed M. Repoulis, the Vice-President of the Council, that it is his intention to visit the theatre of operations personally in the course of a few days.

Madame Aspasia Manos, King Alexander's morganatic wife, accompanied his Majesty on his return journey from Paris, and has taken up her abode at Poros, a picturesque little island about thirty-five miles from Piræus.

**In Thrace.**

With the exception of a few incidents of little or no importance on the boundary line, and the exchange of a number of rifle shots between the opposing sentries, things are very quiet on the Thracian front. There have been many rumours recently afloat to the effect that an offensive movement against the Greeks was being contemplated by Jaafar Tayar. According to the latest reports, however, this gentleman is still very busy strengthening his position at Adrianople and Ouzoun Kioprou, and there is very little possibility of his undertaking the initiative of operations in Thrace.

It is now beyond doubt that Bulgarian help—unofficial, of course—is reaching Jaafar Tayar. In addition to the large number of Bulgarian *Komitajis*, now estimated at about 5,000, who have concentrated at Kirdjiali and Mustapha Pasha, very important supplies of ammunition, rifles, guns, and even a number of anti-aircraft guns, have been sent to the Turks. The presence of these guns was ascertained during a recent aerial reconnaissance of the Turkish positions.

A few days ago proclamations giving the recent *communiqués* of the operations against Kemal Pasha in Asia Minor were dropped by Greek aeroplanes in Adrianople and other important centres in Eastern Thrace.

According to the Athenian Press, General Zymbrakakis, who is in command of the Greek forces in Thrace, has called up the 1915-1921 classes of all Greek subjects residing in Western Thrace.

**A Greco-Italian Incident.**

The following grave incident, which is now, fortunately, closed, occurred a few days ago in Asia Minor between the Greeks and the Italians.

A numerous band of Turkish irregulars crossed the River Meander, which is near the boundary line dividing the territory under Greek occupation and that occupied by the Italians and burned down a small station in the Greek zone opposite Sokia on the Smyrna-Aidin railway line. The Greeks soon disposed of the Turkish band, but, fearing a recurrence of similar raids, occupied an adjacent hill, the greater part of which is in the Italian zone of occupation. This measure was decided upon by the C.-in-C., General Paraskevopoulos, and General Nider, although the High Commissioner at Smyrna, M. Stergiadis, looked upon it with disfavour. The Italians promptly demanded the immediate evacuation of the hill. The Greeks, however, refused to comply with this request. Whereupon about 300 Italian troops attacked the hill, and when at a distance of 100 yards opened fire on the Greeks, whilst an Italian destroyer lying off New Ephesus commenced shelling the Greek positions. Before long, however, the destroyer was obliged to cease fire, as the troops on the hill had come to close quarters, a bayonet fight ensuing. The Italians finally withdrew, after having lost one officer and three men killed, and leaving five prisoners in the hands of the Greeks. There is no information to hand as to what the Greek casualties were.

**Roumanian Boy Scouts.**

Sixty-two Roumanian Boy Scouts, accompanied by their Scoutmaster, Professor Picnu, arrived in Athens on Tuesday (July 6), on their way to London, where they will participate in the International Review of Boy Scouts. They were very heartily welcomed by the forty-two Greek Boy Scouts who have been chosen to represent Greece in London, and were given an official reception on the Acropolis by the Municipal Council. Professor Sotiriadis, of Athens University, delivered a lecture on the Parthenon, after which a luncheon was given at the Zappeion by the Greek Boy Scouts to their Roumanian comrades. Following a visit to the Archæological Museum and a look round Athens our young visitors returned to their ship, which left next morning.

The Greek Boy Scouts departed for London via Marseilles on the same day by the s.s. Andros.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, June 28.

**Treaty Commissions and Housing.**

The Foreign Ministry has been asked by the French military authorities to prepare accommodation for the Entente Commissions for the execution of the terms of the Peace Treaty. The request is for the preparation of 139 houses for the officers of the commissions, with at least four sleeping-rooms each, or 556 rooms, and as every officer will have an orderly, 139 more rooms will be necessary; and on top of this accommodation for offices will be wanted. The Sofia housing commission has declared itself unable to supply the accommodation required, and has recommended the requisitioning of three hotels, the Bulgaria, the Panach, and the Continental; and this will be done as soon as the commissions arrive. So far, only nineteen members have arrived.

The Prime Minister has asked the Entente military missions to reduce the *personnel* of the commissions, pointing out the acuteness of the housing difficulty and the great expense of hiring houses.

**Reduction of Officials.**

With a view to reducing the expenses of the State, the Government will do everything possible to curtail the staffs of the State offices, and to simplify their conduct. A committee of deputies and high officials has been charged to draw up plans to this end. The dismissal of women from State employment is contemplated as a first step. By drastic measures the Government hopes to effect a saving of between 200 and 300 million levas per annum.

**Sentence on a General.**

The Sofia Military Court has for the past three weeks been occupied in investigating charges against General Ratcho Petroff, former Governor of Uskub. He has now been sentenced to twelve years' imprisonment, and to pay a fine of 320,000 levas to the State.

**Rapprochement with Roumania and Italy.**

Cordial telegrams have been exchanged between the Prime Minister, M. Stambolisky, and the Prime Ministers of Roumania and Italy. Bulgaria is making great

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efforts to re-establish good diplomatic relations with the outside world, being very anxious to make known the true state of the country.

**Shortage of Meat Supplies.**

There is a great shortage in the country of cattle and sheep, and the price of meat is rising rapidly. After handing over to Serbia cattle and sheep in accordance with the Treaty terms, the shortage will naturally be still greater. The Government has therefore decided to impose twelve days' compulsory fasting in each month, in addition to the two days' religious fasting in each week (Wednesday and Friday). On these days the sale of meat dishes in restaurants is rigorously prohibited.

**Distinguished Russian Refugees.**

Last week General T. Dimitrievitch Gourko arrived here. He is the youngest son of the famous General who took a leading part in the liberation of Bulgaria in 1877. Another distinguished arrival is the son of Count Ignatieff, the creator of Great Bulgaria, according to the Treaty of San Stefano, 1878. The latter has asked permission to settle in Sofia.

## TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, July 4.

**The Greek Advance.**

The official announcements of the capture of Balikesr, or Karassi, and of Edremit, by the Hellenic troops have effectually disposed of the fantastic rumours that have been current during the day or two when there were no Greek *communiqués*. One of the most absurd of these rumours was a circumstantial account of the entry of the Nationalist forces into Smyrna, and of the wonderful exploits of an army of Kirghiz cavalry. For some little while the Anatolian papers have been publishing stories of mysterious armies from Central Asia arriving in Anatolia to assist the National forces in the task of driving the Greeks into the sea, and it is possible that the Anatolian peasants firmly believe the reports. To that extent perhaps there is some purpose served, but the spreading of similar reports in Constantinople is a false move on the part of Nationalist sympathisers.

The landing of Greek troops at Panderma on the same day as the capture of Balikesr, and the subsequent capture of Edremit mean the complete rounding up of the Nationalist forces in the Chanak district, and the removal of all possibility of an attempt to hold up the Straits or to molest traffic. If the Hellenic army accomplishes nothing more than that, it will deserve the gratitude of the Allies; for the clauses concerning the Straits are of vital importance to the Peace Treaty; and until the Asiatic shores of the Straits and the Marmora are cleared those clauses cannot be put into effect.

**The Peace Treaty.**

It is announced to-day that the Turkish Peace Delegates are on their way back from Paris, but no reason is assigned for their sudden return; although it is believed that it has something to do with the Greek advance in Asia Minor. Be this as it may, there seems very little probability of the Treaty being signed, for the Allies have evidently determined that it must stand practically as it is, and are leaving to Greece the most important part of the task of enforcing the conditions. In these circumstances the signature of the Turkish plenipotentiaries is more or less superfluous, and there is a clearly defined issue which really amounts to the resumption of hostilities between Turkey and the Allies represented by Great Britain, France, and Greece. For that part of Turkey which is not Nationalist does not count.

**The Nationalists.**

So far as can be ascertained, the advance of the Hellenic Army has in no way weakened the determination of Mustapha Kemal to resist the decisions of the Peace Conference. The value of Italian promises of support should by now be clear, however, and it is not surprising, therefore, to hear of the existence of a current hostile to the dictator of Anatolia. There are few details available, but the formation in Constantinople of a Moderate Nationalist Party is an indication of what is occurring in Asia Minor. The uselessness of an extreme policy should be evident to anyone with a small measure of political insight, and although the Turks have shown that they are very poorly endowed in this respect, the actual development of affairs cannot be ignored except by the most purblind fanatics. No doubt it would be possible for the Nationalists to prevent the establishment of order and security in Anatolia for an indefinite period, but to what useful end? The Moderate Nationalists have drawn up a programme, which stands at least some chance of meeting with success. The principal item of this programme is the conclusion of immediate peace on the best terms obtainable, subject to the provision that whatever may be left of Turkey shall be a completely independent state. It remains to be seen how far these counsels of wisdom will prevail.

**Bolshevism in Anatolia.**

Reports of travellers depict a rather disquieting state of affairs in Anatolia, for it would appear that Bolshevist propaganda has established a serious hold upon the poor and uneducated masses in certain districts. It is not for a moment suggested that the Nationalist authorities seriously contemplate the establishment of a Bolshevist republic in Anatolia. Their connection with Bolshevism is purely artificial, and for ulterior purposes, but it is now certain that they have allowed Bolshevist agents a free hand in the dissemination of propaganda. They have calculated that their influence over the masses will be sufficiently strong to neutralise the effects of this propaganda should it become really dangerous, but there seems to be ground for the belief that they have under-estimated the power and danger of Bolshevist propaganda among the poor masses of Anatolia, who have suffered patiently the tyranny of the most corrupt and rapacious bureaucracy in the world. To-day these unfortunate masses are being taught to believe that under Bolshevist rule the man who has not got a sheep will promptly receive one, and he who is without a horse will be given one. The appeal is irresistible, and although there is no suggestion of immediate danger, it must be admitted that if Lenin's agents are allowed to work freely a little longer, there will be a fair possibility of still further complications in the vexed Eastern Question.

It may here be remarked that the latest reports received from London, which announce the practical failure of the negotiations with the German-Bolshevist agent Krassin, have aroused the liveliest satisfaction in Entente circles here.

## MESOPOTAMIA.

BAGHDAD, June 6 (delayed).

**A Train Outrage.**

A train was wrecked and six men were murdered and seven others wounded by Arabs, led and paid by Syrian officers of the Sherifian Army, about a week ago, on the broad gauge railway which runs north from Baghdad and terminates at Shergat. The affair took place on the section of the line immediately south of Tulul Baq, which is the first station from Shergat. The Arabs, who are said to have numbered 200, having attacked and overcome the gangmen working on that section of the line, took up some of the metals and put obstructions on the track. No. 64, down train, an empty goods train, returning from Shergat to Baghdad, was wrecked by these obstructions, and the few Indian passengers, as well as the crew of the engine, were attacked, with the result already mentioned. The driver of the train, an Englishman named King, was among those murdered. The working of the railway has been resumed, but trains are now only running in daylight.

## CYPRUS.

NICOSIA (Undated).

**The Situation.**

The state of things becomes more trying, and indeed irritating, for all communities, British, Turkish, and Greek alike, while the wearying and Sphinx-like silence regarding

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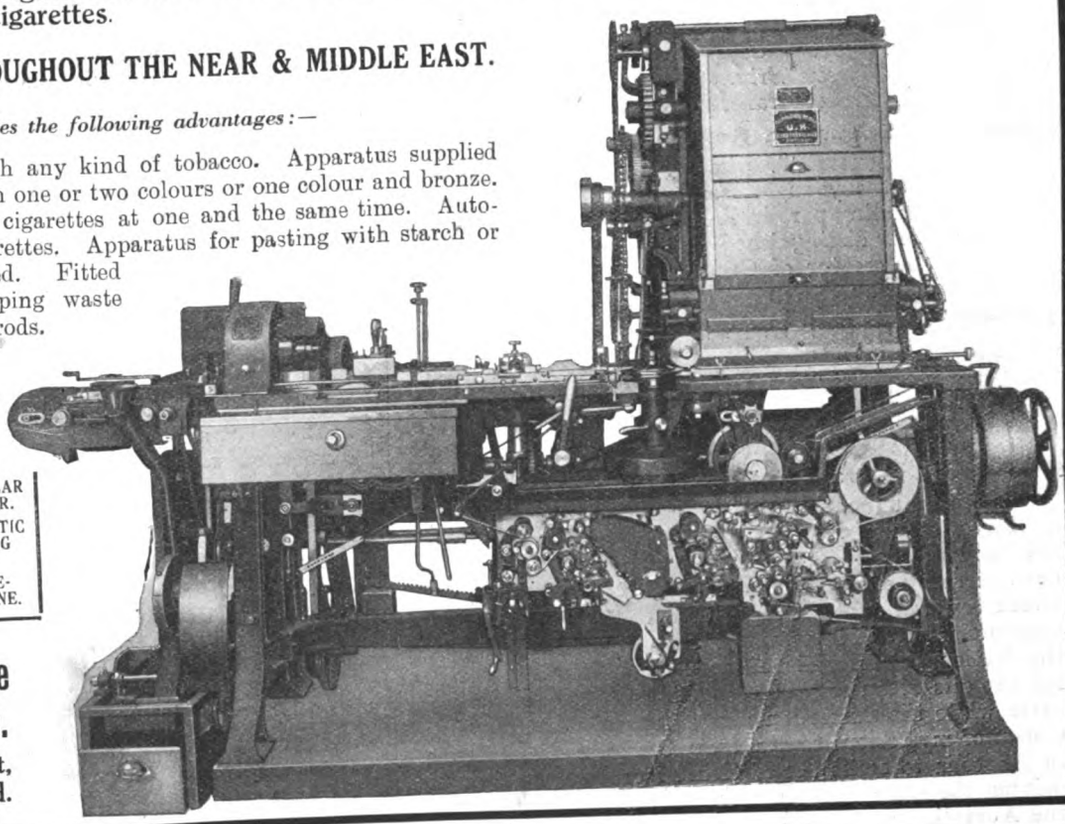

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the "Cyprus question" remains unbroken. The fact that no High Commissioner is appointed buoys up the hopes of the "unionists," but it is the only fact that points that way. Greek youths and Turkish judges still go to London to study for the bar; but although the training may be valuable, there will be little call for English-speaking barristers if the island is to be handed over to Greece. It must be confessed that the absence of many high officials and the serious gaps in the judicial ranks give some ground for complaint; and if the Greek press talks, as it does, of a "parody of Government," there is really some justification for its cynical comments.

**A Cypriot on Greek Aspirations.**

Of Cypriot scholars Dr. S. Menardos is the most distinguished. Since he held the chair of Modern Greek at Oxford for several years, he has been a professor at the University of Athens. Greek papers quote from an address recently given by him at a re-union of the Philological Society of Athens, at which M. Venizelos was present. Besides being of interest from its literary and historical merits, it was characteristic of present national sentiments. The new territories which Greece has acquired are, he holds, but stepping-stones to other regions, both in Europe and Asia, which "by right of inheritance" she must yet obtain. Their leader is like Moses looking at the promised land, or rather like those soldiers in the retreat of Xenophon's "ten thousand," who, reaching the heights of Pontus, cried "the sea! the sea!" The Greek patriot will now cry "Polis! Polis!" until the *polis* of Constantine, the capital coveted by so many nations, and the goal of Hellenic aspirations, is once again her own. Modern Greece must wait patiently as Italy waited for Rome. The Cypriot press shares enthusiastically in the present exultations, and appeals for unity in all parts of the scattered kingdom. The confidence which the Allies repose in M. Venizelos is a great national asset, which must not be endangered by the differences of rival parties in Athens. Let their great leader fulfil to the end the task to which Providence has called him. Even those politicians who may regard themselves as slighted or overlooked must sink their differences, and support wholeheartedly a statesman without whom Greece could never have obtained what the English *Times* calls "the lion's share" which has been allotted to her.

**A Call for Volunteers.**

The local Greek papers urge the Cypriot youth to respond in large numbers to the summons which the Hellenic Government is issuing for volunteers to serve in Thrace, in Ionia, and in Northern Epirus. Let them take this opportunity of fulfilling the highest possible duty, and at the same time finding that employment of which so many are in search. Let those who are still bent on the mad scheme of emigration to America, where no Pactolus awaits them, abandon their unprofitable craze of adventure and go where glory and substantial pay may be earned, since the Greek Government offers 150 drachmæ a month besides the soldier's regular pay, or a total of about 240 drachmæ, in addition to other advantages.

**General News.**

Weather is oppressive. The Government offices moved up to Troodos on June 17. Summer hours have been started in all offices, and the railway services have been altered, as usual, for the season. The Greek Bishop of Papho, who acts for the Archbishop, is returning from a visit to Egypt. About 3,000 Armenian orphans are expected at any moment from Cilicia. They will probably be placed in what was for 35 years the military camp of Polemidia, near Limasol. Appreciative articles on the late Dr. Ronald Burrows, and notices from English papers, appear in the Press. The *Kourban Bairam* will be quietly celebrated by the Turkish community. M. Halid Bey, Turkish judge of Famagusta, has passed all preliminary examinations at Grays Inn. His two brothers are judges at Larnaca and Papho. Like Fuad Bey, the Turkish judge at Nicosia, he is an excellent English scholar, speaking the language perfectly. The cereal harvest has been very good both in quantity and quality. No news has yet been received from the Greek deputation in London. It is felt pretty widely that there is little justification for this mission, since it is impossible to add anything to what has been so fully represented already, and the great expense which is being again incurred might well have been saved for other purposes.

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## THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

I see that, according to a Philadelphia report, "the oldest known written code of laws in the world" has been discovered among the clay tablets found at Nippur by the University of Pennsylvania's expedition, which left the site in 1900, and has not since done a stroke of work there. The fact that tablets of such interest have been lying by in the University's stores so long, presumably undeciphered, affords food for thought. I well remember that when the tablets were secured there was, very naturally, a great fuss about them; and then the learned 'ologists fell out about them, and nasty things were said about people wishing to keep all the good things for themselves—or words to that effect. It really does look as if there had been some truth in those accusations, doesn't it?

***

Be that as it may, the Nippur tablets have provided some very interesting material at one time and another. There have been "Flood" tablets, or fragments, and some wonderfully "modern" business documents, notably those of a firm of goldsmiths who flourished—they evidently *did* flourish—several centuries B.C. And now comes the new "oldest code of laws," which is said to have been prepared 3100 B.C., thus pre-dating the famous Hammurabi Code by nearly a thousand years. The fact that they contain clauses protecting the Tenant against the Landlord suggests that the world was much the same 5000 years ago as it is to-day.

***

It would be interesting to know whether any British "diggers," amateur or professional, tried their hands on the Nippur mounds during the war or since. The site is a great one, and would well repay further excavation, but it looks as if it would require a fairly strong guard to protect the excavators just now, for it lies in the region that has been giving trouble of late, and which at the best of times was never very law-abiding. Still, with all the troops we have in the country, it ought to be possible to make excavations safely there, and the mounds have been so far opened out that a clever excavator ought to get results early and cheaply.

***

A Reuter's message announces that "a Goanese woman at Dar-es-Salaam, East Africa, recently gave birth to seven children. . . ." Imagine the proud father's feelings when he asked the nurse: "Boy or girl?" and was told: "Six boys and one girl." It must have upset *his* little Home of Peace (Dar-es-Salaam). I am not surprised to find Reuter adding tersely: "All the children are dead." It had to be, if Dar-es-Salaam was to keep its name.

Corsair.

## PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

**Syria.**

In commenting upon the recent French advance into Syria, *The Times* of July 19 does not take the view, expressed in some quarters, that French policy threatens the existence of Syria as an independent Arab power. It proceeds to discuss the Arab outrages, which, however, it does not ascribe to Emir Feisal. And it concludes by finding a parallel between Syria and Mesopotamia. "The French," it says, "do not want any military adventures or fresh military responsibilities in Syria. . . . General Gouraud's objects are political rather than military, and are designed only to vindicate France's position as mandatory and as heir to a great historical tradition in Syria."

Even if France were under any temptation to exceed these limited objects, our own example in Mesopotamia would have been sufficient to deter her. We are in trouble there through this pouring of the newest political vintages of the West into bottles still accustomed only to the patriarchal feudal or theocratic distillations of Arabia. With our example before her France will, we are sure, not wish to repeat our errors. The whole of this vast country from Beirut to Baghdad, is really one, and will require to be settled on the same general principles. It may, we hope, be taken for granted that England and France are neither of them acting independently or, at any rate, without consultation with each other, for trouble anywhere within these vast regions, like ripples on water, may widen until it reaches the most distant shores. In Syria for France, as in Mesopotamia for us, there is a choice between two courses. Either we ruin our mandate and perhaps ourselves by assuming the direct administration of the country, or we confirm ourselves in the mandate by strengthening the local rulers and governing by advice to a native overlord. We wish that there were in Mesopotamia someone who was in a position to exercise so much authority as Feisal in Syria, but it may be that the Sheereefian solution may there too be the wise one, and if we can concert that solution in Mesopotamia with the French settlement of

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Syria, so much the better. In the meantime, we earnestly hope that no evil adviser will seduce Feisal into extreme and violent measures, for in that case he will get no help from us and will be jeopardising more even than Syria.

On the same subject the *Manchester Guardian* of July 19 says:—

The fact is that this action of the French suddenly throws a searchlight on the whole position of the Allies in the Near East and on the magnitude and urgency of the problems involved. The position of the French in Syria differs in no respect from our own position in Mesopotamia, except in the fact that they are not already in possession and we are. It does not differ even in regard to the violence of the means employed, for there have been risings against us just as there is resistance to them, and there have been incidents in our occupation of portions of the territory we hold as painful and as little to be justified as any which are likely to arise in the French advance. Our occupation of Mesopotamia, irregular and provisional as it is, is rapidly hardening into a condition indistinguishable from actual annexation and administration on the Indian model. The French attack is openly aimed at the same end, and would probably be justified, as it has undoubtedly been encouraged, by our example. The result in both cases, if we persist in this policy of domination, is likely to be in the highest degree unsatisfactory and dangerous. It will almost certainly involve us in great and continued expense, alike in money and in men, and it will involve the whole system of mandates, and with it the League itself, in the gravest discredit. The original and most honourable conception of a mandate was that it was to be exercised over the less advanced or savage peoples, as yet unable to stand by themselves, as "a sacred trust of civilisation" for their "well-being and development." But as at present exercised, without the previous assent of the League, and without any of the safeguards for which the League should have provided, it has become a mere travesty of this ideal, and the whole system should at once either be brought back to its original conception and made to conform with the plain prescriptions of the Covenant, at present ignored or evaded, or else something better should be substituted for it. At present neither in Mesopotamia nor in Syria do the local population, in whose interest we and the French are supposed to be acting, recognise the advantage of our presence. They appear, in fact, to desire nothing so much as to be quit of us. That would be better than to continue permanently to govern them against their will for our own supposed advantage; but there is surely a third course possible. If we cannot ourselves give effect to the true conception of a mandate over a weak and undeveloped people, why should we not make the League itself the mandatory and place what force is needed at its back? It would be much cheaper, as well as more creditable, and would at least give a chance to the local populations to enjoy order free from domination and to ourselves to escape from a false and discreditable position.

### The Middle East.

A writer in the *Morning Post* of July 17 has some frank words upon the perplexing policy adopted by the Allied Governments in connection with the Middle East, and seeks a solution of the problem in the friendship of the Arabs:—

It appears to those who have watched the gradual development of the Arab national spirit, a spirit entirely independent of religion, that the two factors which may yet save bloodlessly and economically the vexed question of the Middle East have been discovered by the Arabs themselves. The Shereefian house of Mecca has proved its friendship to the Allies. In touch with Western civilisation through their European education, bound to the Allied cause by four years of the comradeship of a hard-fought war, yet claiming the allegiance of even the most fanatical tribesman by their direct descent from Islam's prophet, the two sons of the King of the Hedjaz, the Emir Feisul and the Emir Abdulla, are surely the most suitable leaders to shoulder the responsibility of forming the new States which, backed by French and British prestige, should form an efficient barrier against the southward sweep of Bolshevism. European counsellors could point out the Western way to rulers who would have the fullest support of their subjects. European Staff officers could superintend the training of an Arab army and European commissioners could protect the rights of Jewish or Maronite communities. France would win as much gratitude for this culmination of her work as she did for its inception in 1860. England would achieve the protection of important roads to India and Egypt without having recourse to the pockets of her harassed taxpayers.

In a leading article entitled the "Middle East Menace," the *Newcastle Chronicle* of July 15 takes a very serious view of events in Persia. "There is no reason to doubt," it says, "that the conditions we know to exist in Persia are extremely dangerous":—

A mischievous movement like that now progressing, if not effectively checked, may convert the country into a hotbed of anarchy and set the whole Middle East aflame. Bolshevist machinations in Afghanistan have already caused trouble there, and it is stated that the new doctrines have been adopted by powerful sections of the community. So difficult has the situation there become between the opposing factions that there have been rumours of the intended abdication of the Amir. The atmosphere in the Middle East has become explosive; a spark may cause a catastrophe. If the Bolshevist invasion is not stopped, if we retire to the old British sphere of influence, a situation may be created that will be intolerable for us. The idea of a military expedition at present is not to be thought of. The official Persian suggestion is that Persia should be supplied with arms and ammunition to equip her army of 50,000 to 70,000 men to stem the tide of the Bolshevist invasion. This is regarded by them as the only practical course, as it would enable the Persian Government to create a force sufficiently strong to deal with the invaders. But first of all we want to be sure of our Persian Government. We want to know whether it is to be Persian or Russian. The Soviet may have the grace to take action to bring to an end the mischievous operations of its supporters, nominal or actual, in Persia. Unless it does so it may not be able to carry on the negotiations for the opening of its trade about which it is apparently so solicitous. If Lenin and his gang find that they cannot get what they want from the Allies until the Middle East adventure is stopped, we may take it that they will at least make an effort to control the Reds in Persia, though we do not believe that the writ of Lenin runs very far in Asia. It is not difficult after all to set the world ablaze; the Russian incendiaries may be on the point of discovering how difficult it is to put out the fire they heedlessly lighted. But the situation has an ugly aspect. The war spirit was not extinguished by the armistice, and seems to be actually fed by Peace conferences.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE OCCUPATION OF THRACE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In reply to the letter of intemperate tone of your anonymous correspondent, which highly amused me, I should like to state that the information taken from the *Zora* was obtained from the *Messager D'Athenes*, and I heartily object to the assertion of this gentleman that I fabricate *canards* to the detriment of the "Black sheep of the Balkans."

The copy in question has been already sent to your offices some time ago, along with other copies of the *Messager D'Athenes*.

The *Messager D'Athenes* also stated, if I remember well, quoting *Zora*, of course, "that the Bulgarian pressmen had brought with them phonographs and a cinematographic apparatus on their visit to Mustapha."

I am, etc.,
THEODORE D. MOSCONAS.

32, Oxford Street, Manchester,
July 15, 1920.

[Either the copy of the *Messager D'Athenes*, to which Mr. Mosconas refers, did not reach us, or it was unfortunately overlooked; but, of course, we have no doubt that his statement regarding the appearance of the paragraph in that paper is perfectly correct.—ED.]

### THE TURKISH TREATY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST"

Sir,—Your leading article on this is perhaps above criticism except in one sentence. I quarrel with the words "Turkey's *wanton* entry into the war." I object to the adjective. Germany's hold over the dominions of the Sultan was so strong in the autumn of 1914 that an armed occupation of Constantinople would at once have followed any refusal on the part of Turkey to do what she was bid.

Permit me to recall a piece of what is now ancient history. In 1880, soon after the Berlin Treaty was signed, measures were determined on to enforce law and order in Asia Minor. The Great Powers were to appoint Consuls and officers for this purpose. Germany, however, stood in the way, and finally, on February 10, 1881, Lord Granville wrote as follows:—"In consequence of the objections raised by the German Government, Mr. Goschen will not be instructed to put forward the Armenian question on his return to Constantinople."

Thus was the German foot firmly planted in Asia Minor, and bit by bit the Sultan was reduced to the status of the helpless vassal of Germany. Had the Berlin Treaty been carried out in its entirety, there would in all probability have been no war in the Near East. There would have been no "wanton" entry into the war.—I am, etc.,

G. L. H.

Kyrenia, Cyprus, July 6, 1920.

### ALBANIA AND ITALY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—At a meeting of the Anglo-Albanian Society held on July 15, in a Committee Room of the House of Commons, the following resolution was unanimously passed: "That this meeting of the Anglo-Albanian Society welcomes the decision of the Italian Government to recognise the Albanian Government, that it desires respectfully to congratulate the Italian Government on the victory of those liberal principles for which the Italian people fought so long and endured so much; and that it hopes, for the sake both of Italy and of Albania, such an understanding may be reached as will ensure to Albania Italy's support for complete independence within the frontiers laid down in 1913, and establish between the two nations such a friendship as will safeguard the interests of both.

"And this meeting trusts that this policy, which makes for peace and freedom, will be approved and endorsed by Great Britain and France."

I am, etc.,
M. E. DURHAM,
Hon. Sec., The Anglo-Albanian Society.

July 16.

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## MUSICAL NOTES.

The concert season is very nearly at an end (it will recommence with Sir Henry Wood's "Promenades" at the Queen's Hall on August 14), and it is not easy nowadays for an artist to attract a full audience. There was, therefore, some rashness on the part of Madame Gloria Britana, described as "the British dramatic soprano," in making her début at the Queen's Hall on July 15. However, she did not appear to be depressed by the smallness of her audience, and she was not unduly nervous. Her recital was remarkable for two facts—she sang only in English, and she included in her programme some songs that really ought not to be heard outside the ordinary ballad concert. To begin and end a recital with songs bearing the name of W. H. Squire and Wilfrid Sanderson respectively is asking too much of the critic. Americans do this sort of thing, and we bewilderedly forgive them, but in our own singers we simply cannot tolerate it. For the rest, Madame Gloria has a full, rich voice, which is never unpleasing to the ear, and she sings in tune (an increasingly rare attribute in modern singers). But when she describes herself as a "dramatic soprano," it is to indicate aspiration rather than achievement; she certainly sang some dramatic songs like Bantock's "Lament of Isis" and "Elizabeth's Air" from "Tannhäuser," but it was in these that she most completely failed. Of interpretative ability she showed little trace—almost every song was approached in the same manner. To be an artist she put forth no serious claims; but I have little doubt that she will be very popular as a ballad singer. Her name will count for something, for the ordinary British audience has not yet lost its patriotism.

Although, as I have said, the present is not the time for large audiences, there was a concert at the Queen's Hall on July 14 which was so attractive that it could but be well attended. Renée Chemet, the French violinist, and Vladimir Rosing, the Russian tenor, are artists who appeal both to gallery and stalls; and to hear them both in one evening was an experience not willingly to be missed. Mlle. Chemet is a beautiful fiddler; technically she is almost irreproachable, her intonation is but very rarely at fault, and her interpretations are both dignified and finished. It is true that she did not play anything of great depth—apart from a perfectly played sonata by Tartini, the compositions chosen were mostly slight pieces of the eighteenth century—but what she did give was of utter and convincing charm. There are in her interpretation of these old pieces (which, by the way, were properly accompanied on the harpischord) a spontaneity and inevitability which make disagreement impossible.

With M. Rosing, on the other hand, one very often disagrees, even though one can never deny the intensity of his singing. In Russian songs he is supreme; indeed, he is unapproachable, for the feeling and ardour which he infuses into them are overwhelming. He is to Moussorgsky almost what Pachmann is to Chopin; and to hear him sing this composer's "Death Serenade," or "Hoi My Dniepr," is a most thrilling joy. On this occasion M. Rosing was not in good voice, but although this fact explained some deficiencies in Schumann's "Ich grolle nicht," it did not excuse his overacted singing of Purcell's "Dido's Lament." There are times when M. Rosing's stage methods illuminate, but there are also times when they obscure; and so it was that a false darkness beclouded his rendering of Purcell and Beethoven. His strong points are his weak points, his virtues his vices. It is never through the absence, but always through the presence, of certain things that he sometimes fails; but when the song demands his peculiar methods he is a very great singer.

It is very pleasing to record that the Quinlan Agency has succeeded in reorganising (under the permanent conductorship of Mr. Adrian Boult, upon whose excellence I have often remarked) the British Symphony Orchestra, a most admirable body, composed wholly of ex-Service men, which unfortunately failed last season to get sufficient public support. This orchestra is to begin a series of concerts in the Kingsway Hall in October.

ANDANTE.

## THE LEBANON HOSPITAL FOR MENTAL DISEASES.

A report lately received from the Director of the Lebanon Hospital for Mental Diseases in Syria, H. Watson Smith, M.D., Ch.B., who, by the way, has, since his return to Syria, had the O.B.E. conferred upon him by our King, states that 109 patients—68 men and 41 women—were admitted to the hospital during the year. This is the largest number admitted in the history of the hospital. Thirty-three men and twenty-eight women—that is, sixty-one patients—were present in the hospital on April 1, 1919; therefore, 170 patients—101 men and 69 women—were under care and treatment during the year. Of this number, 35 patients—16 men and 19 women—were discharged cured; 14 patients—10 men and 4 women—were discharged improved; 16 patients—10 men and 6 women—were discharged not improved; 8 patients—5 men and 3 women—were found to be not insane and were discharged; and 12 patients—9 men and 3 women—died during the year. There remained in the hospital on March 31, 1920, 85 patients—51 men and 34 women—being an increase of 24 patients over the number of last year.

Other extracts from the report are as follow:—

The French military authorities have been sending quite a number of acute cases for treatment, and the results have been decidedly gratifying. The majority of these cases (soldiers) have recovered, which has called forth a very kind letter of appreciation and thanks to the hospital from General Gouraud in the name of the French Army.

The general health in the hospital is good. The wards are clean and tidy. The patients are comfortably clothed and well supplied with food and medicines. The supply of blankets is sufficient, and, in spite of the acute and difficult nature of the patients, the nursing staff is doing its work very well at present.

The country generally is in an extremely distressed state at the present time, and mental cases seem to be on the increase, for I am having at present almost daily demands for admission. Prices of foods and, in fact, of everything are rapidly and progressively rising, and although I oblige those who can to pay to the utmost of their power, there are still a large number of absolutely urgent poor people who certainly have not the means wherewith to pay for their support and treatment, and to refuse them admission would be nothing short of a scandal. It is therefore earnestly to be hoped that the interest always shown towards this unique work—the only hospital for mental diseases between Cairo and Constantinople—will be strongly maintained, for to help the insane is to help those who are indeed helpless.

During the war the Turkish military authorities paid the hospital in wheat for poor patients sent by them for admission, and after they left the French military authorities continued to give wheat and other foodstuffs to the hospital. The price of this quantity of wheat amounts to about £120 a month, and unfortunately I have received notice that this provision may be discontinued

## TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT

*The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—*

ALBANIA. MESOPOTAMIA: Civil Administration. INDIA: Brigadier-General Dyer. INDIA: Afghan Operations (Military Medal). MESOPOTAMIA (TURKISH PETROLEUM COMPANY) (July 8)

TURKEY: War Aims.—Greek Operations. MESOPOTAMIA: Oil. Military Occupation (cost).—Land Revenue. INDIA: Medical Services.—Medical Works Service (Sub-Conductor Cuerdon's Pay). (July 12.)

INDIAN ESTIMATES. MESOPOTAMIA: Rising Rumeitha. MESOPOTAMIA (REVENUE). (July 13.)

MESOPOTAMIA: Arab Tribes.—Anglo-French Agreement. INDIA: Amritsar Disturbances.—Government Draft Rules (Joint Committee).—Defence Force.—Labour Situation (Madras).—Mr. Gandhi.—General Dyer.—Indian Administration (Debate). INDIA: Labour Situation, Madras.—Export Duties (Hides and Skins).—Immigration (Criminals). (July 14.)

MESOPOTAMIA: Arab Officials.—Oil.—Land Revenue System. Rising, Rumeitha and Samawah. INDIA: Amritsar Disturbances. TURKEY: Allied Garrisons.—Nationalist Prisoners. PALESTINE: Civil Administration.—Frontiers. MONTENEGRO (RELIEF MISSION). SYRIA (FRENCH ADMINISTRATION). SYRIA. (July 15.)

TURKISH TOBACCO REGIE (PALESTINE). ACT OF INDEMNITY (INDIA). (July 16.)

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III.—"FREE WILL AND DESTINY." By St. George Lane Fox Pitt. (London: Constable and Sons, Ltd. 5s. net.)
IV.—"PATRICK SHAW-STEWART." By Ronald Knox. (London: Collins. 8s. net.)
V.—"THE SHADOW OF THE MOSQUE." By Morris McDougall. (London: Hurst and Blackett. 7s. 6d. net.)

## I.—THE SERBS IN MACEDONIA.

Several good books have been written about the Salonika "side show," and the writers of all of them deserve the gratitude of those of us whose interests lie in the Near East for reminding the public of the enormously important part played in the great war by the only Allied Army on which the limelight was never allowed to play for a single moment during the four years it spent in Macedonia. The Press was given few opportunities by the Censor for giving any information regarding the progress of the campaign on the Salonika front, and the officers and men taking part in it not being allowed to refer to it in their letters home, it soon became firmly impressed on the public mind that nothing was doing in that quarter. Hence periodical screams for the removal to the western theatre of war of the great army which we were told was stagnating in idleness in Macedonia. Thanks to the writers of books like "With the Serbs in Macedonia," we know better now, and are able to appreciate to some extent the hardships endured, the difficulties overcome, and the splendid success achieved by the Cinderella of the Allied Armies. This particular book, however, covers new ground to some extent, for the author's unit of the R.A.S.C., a Ford M.T. Company, being attached to the Serbian Army, served from the beginning to the end of the campaign with our gallant Allies, for whom his admiration is unbounded. One doubts whether a warmer friend of Serbia than our author could be found anywhere, and he could not have thought of a better way of enlisting the sympathies of his readers for the nation he so greatly admires than by ending his book with a terse summary of the work actually done by the Serbian Army in each of the five years from 1914 to 1918. It is, indeed, an amazing record of military achievement, and it is all the more extraordinary that so little has been said about it even by the Serbs themselves. We all remember the great part played by the Serbian Army in the final struggle in Macedonia in 1918, but most of us seem to have forgotten that in the first month of the war the only enemy army subjected to a thorough thrashing was the Austrian force, which rashly attempted the invasion of Serbia. Seven days' fighting sufficed to send the invaders flying out of the country beaten and demoralised after losing nearly 150,000 men in killed, wounded and prisoners. In December, 1914, it fared no better with the second Austrian Army, doomed to repeat the enterprise, but after Rudnik's magnificent victory the luck turned, and attacked on every side by the Austrians, Germans and Bulgarians, the Serbs had to abandon their country, the campaign ending with the marvellous retreat through Albania of the remnants of their heroic army. When it reappeared, reformed and reorganised, in Macedonia, the Serbian Army was not slow in repeating its former triumphs. In the heavy fighting which resulted in the capture of Monastir, it played a leading part, as may be learnt from "With the Serbs in Macedonia"; the author was privileged to serve with it on that occasion, and he gives a most interesting account of the operations. Indeed, he gives an interesting account of everything he saw, grave and gay, during his service on the Macedonian front, not omitting the work of his own branch of the service, and one might well call this book the Mechanical Transport Epic. Lovers of Kipling, and the verses in this book leave us in no doubt as to the author being one of them, will remember how "romance brought up the 9.15." She was as much in evidence when our men drove their Ford cars through the marshes, across the sandy wastes and over the rugged mountains of Macedonia, taking up ammunition and supplies to the gallant Serbs. For the men of our R.A.S.C. it was a case of "the longest day was never too long or the hardest work too hard," for every line of this book makes one feel that they all, officers and men, put every ounce of energy they possessed into the carrying out of the difficult task assigned to them. Perhaps the genuine gratitude of the Serbs for the aid so ungrudgingly given to them in their great effort to reconquer their country had not a little to do with it. In war to feel that your work is really appreciated is as gratifying as it is novel.

Not the least of the attractions of this brilliant little book is discoverable in the excellence of its literary quality. Unlike so many of the minor works written round and about the war, this book is well written, and the good quality of the prose is well matched by the excellence of the verse interspersed through its pages. The latter could not be fairly described as poetry, and it is too reminiscent of Mr. Rudyard Kipling's South African War verses to suggest any great amount of originality; but within these limitations it is essentially "good stuff." All these verses are genuinely funny, and they are brightened occasionally by strong flashes of wit, most conspicuous in those addressed "To 'Enery" and in those inspired by "The Weather." The former should please Mr. Henry Ford, if the triumphs of the useful product of his mammoth workshops, extolled and derided in four continents, have not by this time exhausted his sense of appreciation.

It is to be hoped that this book will be as widely read as it deserves to be; for, apart from its amusing qualities, which alone should suffice to ensure its popularity, its vivid descriptions of the scenery and clever pen portraits of the people of Macedonia are well calculated to give the reader that subtle suggestion of atmosphere that can never be conveyed by the cleverest newspaper articles or the most eloquent public speeches. Reading, one lives for the time in the Near East so completely that one feels one is at last getting some grasp of the problems peculiar to a part of Europe much in our thoughts at the present time. That the author, in the midst of his technical preoccupations, has given some thought to these problems may be gathered from the following passage in his book:—"Goodness only knows who is really right or how far the present parcelling out of this much-disputed region will be altered by the Peace Conference. At present nobody is satisfied—and the difficulty in the world is that the other side has always got its own case. That is what makes life so hard for the Bernard Shaws and so comfortable for the fools and bigots. Each nation concerned can supply a shoal of facts to prove its own claims and a sheaf of evidence proving the other side's iniquity. One of the curiosities of the psychology of peoples is the different passionate conclusions at which they arrive from the same premises." When one has once grasped that what we call the national aspiration of the Serbs, Bulgars and Greeks are embodied in the territorial claims they respectively advance, and that each nation firmly believes that these claims are based on justice, one begins to see how complex is the problem the statesmen of Europe have so often attempted to solve in the past century. Whether their last attempt to settle the Eastern question will be rewarded by success time alone can show; but even the dissatisfied claimants in the great suit must by this time have appreciated the honesty of intention and freedom from prejudice of the judges on this occasion, in which case it is perhaps not too much to hope that permanent peace will be established in long-suffering Macedonia as a result of their labours.

SECOND EDITION NOW READY. 21s. net.

DIPLOMATIC REMINISCENCES.

By A. NEKLUDOFF.

*Formerly Russian Minister at Sofia and at Stockholm, and Ambassador at Madrid.*

"This former representative of a departed system sees no necessity to guard certain of those secrets which go to make up the mystery of diplomacy. He permits himself to give descriptions and make confidences not often to be found in the writings of retired ambassadors. . . . In consequence of this break with the past, which fate has forced upon him, M. Nekludoff is interesting and informative."—*The Times.*

LONDON: JOHN MURRAY.

## II.—EX-KING FERDINAND AND HIS SUBJECTS.

M. Nekludoff belongs to a small group of diplomatists who served Imperial Russia with zeal and never hesitated to tell unpalatable truths to their superiors. In January, 1911, he was appointed Minister at Sofia; he remained at that arduous post through ut the internecine struggle of 1912-13, which heralded a far greater cataclysm; and has now given the world a volume of reminiscences containing

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much first-hand information regarding the events of that fateful period. His narrative is somewhat involved and broken by many irrelevant parentheses; it does not enable Western readers to unravel the tangled skein of Balkan politics or follow the military operations which they produced. Its chief value lies in the author's intimate knowledge of the Bulgarians, and of the Sovereign who misgoverned them for a quarter of a century.

Before leaving Petrograd for his new post M. Nekludoff was received in audience by the Emperor Nicholas II., who spoke in his usual urbane manner, and whilst giving instructions which were really *orders*, only appeared to be airing his opinions. Once only in the course of the interview did the Emperor assume a solemn and dictatorial manner; after an intentional pause, stepping backwards and fixing me with a penetrating stare, he said: "Listen to me, Nekludoff; do not for one instant lose sight of the fact that we cannot go to war! I do not wish for war as a rule; I will do all in my power to preserve for my subjects the benefits of peace. But at this moment of all moments, everything that might lead to war must be avoided. It would be out of the question for us to face a war for five or six years; in fact, till 1917. Though, if the most vital interests and the honour of Russia were at stake, we might, if absolutely necessary, accept a challenge in 1915—but not a moment sooner, in any circumstances or under any pretext whatever. Do you quite understand me?"

It is evident that nothing short of unprovoked aggression could have forced Russia to enter the lists in August, 1914.

M. Nekludoff was no stranger at Sofia; having spent several years there as Secretary to the Russian Legation, he had enjoyed ample opportunities for studying the people and their sinister sovereign. The Bulgarians, he writes, were "cursed in history for having brought the Turks into Europe"; but their Nemesis came in the guise of a yoke which accentuated the worst traits in their complex character. From the Finnish, or Ugro-Altaic, strain in their ancestry they inherited stubbornness allied with gross materialism; and both defects were immeasurably increased by five centuries of Turkish domination. Their native nobility and ecclesiastical organisation were destroyed; they lost every vestige of autonomy, and became more barbarous than any other race inhabiting Balkan territory. No community can long exist without religion and ideals. For Bulgarians the first was restricted to a minimum of perfunctory ritual, the second to dreams of an empire extending over the whole Near East, with Constantinople as a metropolis. In pursuit of this monstrous ambition they displayed a degree of brutal courage and submission to iron discipline which placed them in the first rank as a militant race. But their greatest qualities were neutralised by short-sighted cunning and by inborn cruelty which spared neither Turkish prisoners nor their own wounded.

In Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg they possessed a ruler who stimulated their fanaticism for selfish ends, and who, with all his undoubted ability, never showed a trace of tact or constructive statesmanship. He shared their visions of empire; his ambition it was to revive the glories of Byzantium as Basileus of Constantinople; and he followed that will-o'-the-wisp with sleuth-hound persistence and entire lack of scruple. He seems to have resembled the ex-German Emperor in physical cowardice, a passion for theatrical display and affectation of omniscience; but William II. did occasionally employ men of sterling worth, while Ferdinand loved to surround himself with scoundrels.

He excelled in the art of keeping the fear of judgment over men who had compromised themselves by bribery and corruption; and in holding them by the dread of punishment or by the necessity of relying on his protection or forgiveness. In 1913 there was at one time in Bulgaria a Cabinet composed almost entirely of men who had either been sentenced and forgiven or who were on trial for malpractices and abuse of power.

Ferdinand's military policy was borrowed from that of Rome in decadence and Turkey at her apogee of ruthless might. He built an enormous school for officers at Sofia, where young aspirants were taught by specially-chosen professors to regard the Sovereign as the sole dispenser of their careers. On entering the army they found life made easy by good food and wines provided at very low expense, but an elaborate system of espionage taught them the virtues of discretion and unquestioning obedience. Such qualities, inculcated during the plastic stage of growth, served Ferdinand in good stead—up to a certain point. Although he made no secret of his contempt for the Bulgarians, they felt that they had in him a mighty asset making for the realisation of their dreams. In Bulgaria's darkest hour, brought on in large measure by his tortuous policy, Ferdinand never lost a certain measure of popularity.

In the interests of history it is regrettable that M. Nekludoff should have been transferred to Stockholm in 1913. We should know more of the circumstances which led Bulgaria to throw in her lot with the Central Powers had an observer of his calibre remained for two years more at Sofia. The last half of his book relates to events in Sweden, and subsequently in Spain, to which he was accredited as ambassador in June 1917. Finding it impossible to work with the Provisional Government, he resigned his functions in September, after hurling a Parthian shaft at Kerensky in the shape of a long telegram which predicted the ruin about to fall on Russia.

F. H. S.

## III.—DESTINY AND EDUCATION.

There are times, and emphatically one of these times is with us now, when many of us feel the necessity of getting down to fundamentals. What is the use of, what meaning is there in all this turmoil and confusion which we call life? This highly practical little book sets out to put some clues into our hands. Indeed, it does more, for the author writes with the conviction that he has found a veritable *solution*. What exactly this solution is, it is not at first reading easy to determine, for, in spite of admirably clear language and exposition, the book is alarmingly short and its brevity makes the argument somewhat hard to follow. A second or third reading will not, however, take up too much time, and is well worth the trouble.

The author's main purpose is summed up in the last chapter. He is endeavouring to discover and unfold as a working ideal the "common ground of all denominations, sects and creeds"; to "indicate a way or path of life which will conciliate and unite rather than antagonise and divide." What is it, he asks, that hinders this quest? The great obstacle, he insists, is to be found in "egoism." This word, occurring frequently throughout, is, as he reminds us in his excellent "correlated glossary," used in the French language as the equivalent of our more familiar word "selfishness." It is not, however, a mere word, blessed or otherwise, that is presented to us as the supreme panacea. At some length, and with much subtlety of argument the full meaning of egoism is gradually developed. He expounds with skill, and an eloquence which carries the reader with him, how egoism arises, how it manifests itself, and how we may hope finally to overcome it. Incidentally, an interesting light is thrown on what has popularly come to be known as psychical research

The subject is one of great difficulty and immense importance. Mr. Fox Pitt might well have written a treatise on it, running into several large volumes. Instead of this, he has preferred to confine himself to a short essay, in the hope that it may reach more readers, stimulate thought and lead to practical results. The book ought to be read in conjunction with the author's previous little work on "The Purpose of Education," issued by the Cambridge University Press.

Sir Frederick Pollock adds to the value of the volume by contributing an "open letter" dealing with the moral aspect of the League of Nations, while Mr. Frederick Gould contributes an appendix on the International Moral Education Congress. This appendix will be a revelation to many of this powerful movement, of which more will certainly be heard. Some of the most distinguished men and women throughout the world are actively engaged in its work, and it may well be hoped that the deliberations of the Congress will make an important contribution towards the solution of some of the most difficult problems facing the whole world, and especially the Near East.

C. S.-W.

## IV.—"FOR EVER ENGLAND."

Achilles came to Troyland
And I to Chersonese.

These two lines, written by Patrick Shaw-Stewart when he was on Gallipoli, sum up much of the substance of this book; they sum up, that is, the Eton and Balliol period of his life, when he was chiefly engaged in learning the classics, and his war period, of which the most vivid part was the experience of the Dardanelles.

Patrick Shaw-Stewart, who was one of that brilliant circle which included Charles Lister, Julian Grenfell, Ronald Knox, and, later, Rupert Brooke and Denis Browne, was true to the traditions and faithful to the conditions of his type. Into the splendour and the sacrifice which informed the actions of that type he does not let us see deep;

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there is, indeed, little sentimentality in this book. But the absence of this does not conceal the tragedy of his fate, and the fate of others like him; rather, the reserve and discretion with which Father Knox has explained and has edited Shaw-Stewart's letters make us feel, more keenly than more words and zeal could, the utter loss in the European War of such young men as was the subject of this memoir.

Shaw-Stewart, who was born in 1889, and was killed in France at the end of 1917, had two full war years in the Near East; he was in the Dardanelles expedition from beginning to end, and in 1916 he was on the Macedonian front, mostly with the French armies there. His letters from Gallipoli are full of his passion for the classics. Here is an example, written on April 29, 1915, of how he enjoyed his knowledge:—

Thence we came straight to the very edge of the tyranny of Miltiades, in sight of the *notissima fama insula*, in sight of Samothrace, in imaginary sight of windy Ilios itself, and not so very far from Ægospotami.

On June 26, 1916, he wrote (in a letter to Raymond Asquith):—

I have roamed over Crestonæa and Mygdonia, set foot on the Trans-Strymonie territory of (I think) the Odomanti, encamped by the Echedorus, which Xerxes drained, ranged on the hills where lions attacked his camels, and occasionally looked in on the Thessalonians.

The judicious method by which the author has chosen to show what manner of man Shaw-Stewart was, is most effective, for it admirably brings out the character—or, at least, some strong traits—of his friend. This memoir is designed, we take it, not so much to publish the individual worth of his friend as to be an expression of Father Knox's private gratitude to him, and as such it is not for us to criticise the book or the subject of it. A book which is the product of grief and admiration—a book which nearly every Englishman (who, owing to the toll taken by the war, is an equal possessor with Father Knox of the two properties mentioned), would, if he could, have written—is not for literary, psychological, or any other kind of appreciation. But for those who yet ponder on these things, Father Knox has compiled a beautiful volume.

## V.—THE SHADOW OF THE MOSQUE.

This is Mr. McDougall's first novel, and he has chosen for its setting Mesopotamia of the present time, occupied by the British. The style of the story is businesslike—no time is lost in introducing the chief characters and making it clear what their rôles are to be. Captain Galt is shown arriving as the new political officer at El Ragi, and almost immediately catches sight of the Sheikh of El Ragi with a sinister expression on his face which he hastily changes for one of dignified and courteous friendliness when he sees Galt. Very soon Galt becomes familiar with the figures of an aged blind teacher of the Koran, and of his adopted daughter, who leads him daily to and from the Mosque. A glimpse of her face, seen when her veil is raised for an instant, shows a fair complexion, tanned by the sun, and glowing violet eyes. After this the story goes with a swing, and adventures follow one another quickly. Needless to say, Galt triumphs completely in the end over the treacherous Sheikh. Fortune certainly is with him when he is able to discover that his "Arab" love, Uyuni, is really of European birth, and when his extraordinarily silly fiancée writes from England to break off her engagement to him. Mr. McDougall has created an atmosphere full of colour and picturesque movement, and draws some vivid pictures of Mesopotamia and its inhabitants. Captain Galt and Major Falconer, the Military Governor, are more than recognisable types—they are real people. The author is to be congratulated on finding a new sphere for romantic adventure and on making such spirited use of it.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"L'Egypte, La Proie de ses Métèques." (Paris: P. M. Delesalle.)

"Ethiopic Grammar," with Chrestomathy and Glossary. By Samuel A. B. Mercer, Ph.D., D.D. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Life of Lieutenant-General Sir Stanley Maude." By Major-General Sir C. E. Calwell, K.C.B. (London: Constable and Co. 21s. net.)

"Early Persian Poetry: From the Beginning down to the time of Firdausi." By A. V. Williams Jackson. (New York: The Macmillan Co. $2.25.)

"The Death of Cleopatra and other Verses." By James A. Mackereth. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 3s. 6d. net.)

"Assyrian Church Customs and the Murder of Mar Shimun." By Surma d'Bait Mar Shimun. With Introduction by His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Glossary by W. A. Wigram, D.D. 2s. net. "The Church and Faith of Armenia." By the Right Rev. Dr. Abel Abrahamian, LL.D. With a Preface by the Lord Bishop of Gloucester. 1s. 6d. net. (London: The Faith Press.)

"A Christmas Carol." By Charles Dickens. (The Oxford Story Reader for Serbians.) (London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. 3s. 6d. net.)

# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

## CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

**Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish Dates.**

| Gregorian (New Style). | Julian (Old Style). | — | Moslem. | Jewish. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1920. | 1920. | | 1338. | 5680. |
| July | July. | | Julkada. | Ab. |
| 22 | 9 | Thursday ..... | 6 | 7 |
| 23 | 10 | Friday ..... | 7 | 8 |
| 24 | 11 | Saturday..... | 8 | 9 |
| 25 | 12 | Sunday ..... | 9 | 10 |
| 26 | 13 | Monday ..... | 10 | 11 |
| 27 | 14 | Tuesday ..... | 11 | 12 |
| 28 | 15 | Wednesday ..... | 12 | 13 |

Prince George Bibesco arrived in London on July 16 from the Continent.

The address of the Georgian Legation in London is 32, Queen's Gate, S.W.7.

The Duke of the Abruzzi arrived in Port Said on July 12 on board the "Roma," and is proceeding to Naples.

Princess George of Greece, who writes under the name of Marie Bonart, is publishing a book entitled "Military Wars and Social Wars."

Issa Khan Moham-es-Saltaneh, Second Secretary to the Persian Legation in Paris, has been temporarily attached to the Legation in London.

M. Boerescu, Counsellor of the Roumanian Legation in London, has been confirmed in the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary, and is returning to London shortly to resume his duties as Chargé d'Affaires.

At the joint annual meeting in Paris on July 11 of the Asiatic Society of Paris, the Royal Asiatic Society, and the American Oriental Society, it was decided to prepare an encyclopædia of Buddhism and to collect information to that end.

In the list of pensions granted during the year ended March 31 last under the Civil List Act occurs the name of Mrs. Leonard Wm. King, who, in recognition of her husband's services to Assyrian and Babylonian study, and in consideration of her circumstances, is awarded £86.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (July 7):—Dr. Seton Watson was entertained at dinner by the Foreign Ministry a few days ago, General Averescu and the Presidents of the two Chambers and some of the leading members of the Government and the Opposition being present. Party strife seemed to be for the moment forgotten, and all joined in giving an extremely cordial welcome to Dr. Watson, whom all alike regard as one of Roumania's best and staunchest friends. Dr. Watson has now gone back to Belgrade.

Our Baghdad Correspondent writes:—

Some idea of the social amenities of the British community of Mosul may be gathered from the following letter from a correspondent of the *Baghdad Times*:—

"Our merrie season at Mosul ended with the races and a most enjoyable dance given by Colonel C. P. Wynter and officers of the 52nd Sikhs (F.F.) at the Club on Wednesday, the 19th inst. The club was quite transformed by shaded pink lights, and the band of the Northumberland Fusiliers played the most dance-inspiring tunes. The supper, which was most sumptuous, was laid out of doors, and everyone tucked in merrily. Our hosts spared no trouble in looking after their guests, and everyone agreed that it was one of the most pleasant dances of the season. The season was inaugurated by a dance given by two festive young staff officers, who were born hosts. This dance was followed by one given by the 44th Battery, R.F.A. Next came one given by the M.G. Company. Then the Masters and Owners of the Nineveh Tripe Hounds, not to be outdone, gave their 'Annual' Hunt Ball, which was conviviality itself. The feature of this entertainment was the band of the Northumberland Fusiliers, which was much appreciated. Most of the ladies will be off to the hills soon, but we hope next cold weather there will be the same camaraderie and pleasure."

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Mr. Malcolm Stevenson, Chief Secretary to the Government of Cyprus, has been appointed High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief, in succession to the late Sir John E. Clauson.

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The King has been pleased to approve the following re-appointments and appointments to the Viceroy's Executive Council:—H.E. General Sir Charles Carmichael Monro, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., A.D.C., Commander-in-Chief in India; Sir George Rivers Lowndes, K.C.S.I., K.C.; Sir George Stapylton Barnes, K.C.B.; Sir William Henry Hoare Vincent, K.C.S.I.; Khan Bahadur Mian Muhammad Shaf, C.I.E.; Mr. William Malcolm Hailey, C.S.I., C.I.E.; Sir Thomas Henry Holland, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., F.R.S.; Rao Bahadur B. Narasimheswara Sarma Garu.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Ernest Barker, M.A., Fellow and Tutor of New College, Oxford, to the office of Principal of King's College, London, in succession to the late Dr. R. M. Burrows. Mr. Barker, who is in his forty-sixth year, is the author of a number of publications, including "The Political Thought of Plato and Aristotle" (1906), a revised edition under the title "Greek Political Theory" (1908), and "The Future Government of India" (1919). He has also been a contributor to the Encyclopædia Britannica (11th edition) and the Cambridge Mediæval History.

## OBITUARY.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes:—General regret was felt at the death of General Bozha Jankovitch, recently commanding the Fourth Army at Zagreb. The deceased soldier was born in 1849 and promoted general in 1902. He was buried at Belgrade on July 9, with full military honours.

## CURE FOR BILHARZIA DISEASE.

### The Intravenoue Injection of Antimony.

Dr. J. B. Christopherson, C.B.E., M.D., in a demonstration before the Tropical Disease Section of the British Medical Association, Cambridge, on July 1, stated that the schools, hospitals, and houses of Egypt were full of Bilharzia disease. The country was riddled with it, and it was:—more than anything else—accountable for the indolence of spirit, want of character, and the backward condition of development of the Egyptian fellah and, as the fellaheen formed 90 per cent. of the population, one might venture to say the Egyptian nation. Now that a cure had been found and had established itself, it behoved the Egyptian Government to apply it, and apply it nationally.

The intravenous injection of antimony, if carried out in a scientific manner by men accustomed to work with care and to be guided by the results of their work, would, if carried out through the agency of mobile laboratories, and working in co-ordination with prophylactic measures suggested by Leiper for the destruction of the "intermediate hosts"—the fresh-water snails—probably result in the annihilation of the disease in a few years.

It was impossible for English doctors to undertake the work at this present time, as the motive might be misconstrued by the fellaheen in their present condition of unrest, but there were now many Egyptian doctors who by their character and training at the Kasr-el-Aini Hospital, Cairo, and subsequently in England, were qualified to undertake this important work themselves; and it would be a proper and a graceful act of appreciation on the part of the Egyptian Government to enable them to carry out the great work of ridding their country of what Madden rightly terms "Egypt's most dangerous modern plague."

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

Ibrahim Massaud, sentenced to death for attempting to assassinate the Prime Minister, Tewfik Nessim Pasha, on June 12, at Cairo, was executed on July 8.

It is stated that the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, Tourian, has been at Spa in order to press the claim of Armenia to a share of the Turkish indemnity.

A start is expected to be made with the State University at Cairo next academic year. The report of the Committee is now ready, and the Cabinet will shortly discuss the project.

The Bulgarian Government, says *The Times*, has issued current Bulgarian postage stamps in ten denominations overprinted with a native inscription signifying "For Our War Prisoners," and surcharged with figures representing one-half of their normal face values only. The postal validity of these stamps is restricted to the amount of the surcharge, the balance of 50 per cent. going to the Prisoners of War Fund.


## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

INDIA.—Lady (young) offers services, any capacity, return for passage to Bombay. October.—ROBERTS, 2, Spencer Road, Southsea.

# WHERE TO STAY.

**For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—**

"EASTAPROX, LONDON. TWENTIETH MATLOCK TWO

(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."

**which would indicate that two rooms were required at Matlock on the 20th of the month.**

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*(facing beautiful Cathedral).*

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# THE NEAR EAST.

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THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1920.


## STORM CLOUDS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Lord Grey, of Fallodon, whose rare appearances in public life make us deplore more and more not only the grievous physical infirmity which curtails them, but also his exclusion from the inner councils of the Empire, drew special attention last week, in his speech at the Council of the League of Nations Union, to the extreme precariousness of the position into which we are drifting in Asia in consequence of the policy, or, as we should prefer to put it, the want of policy, of the British Government. In commenting just three weeks ago on the fair picture of the future of Mesopotamia, which Mr. Lloyd George and Lord Curzon had successively unfolded in the House of Commons and in the House of Lords, we ourselves ventured to point out that all the admirable plans propounded by them were bound to fail, unless we could disperse at the same time the storm clouds that threatened other parts of the Middle East, and notably Persia. The event has only too speedily confirmed our apprehensions. In Mesopotamia itself there have been unfortunate occurrences strangely at variance with ministerial forecasts. An Army of Occupation numbering 13,500 British and 66,000 Indian troops—from which only a very small deduction must be made for the few still scattered about Persia—has been unable to prevent an Arab rising, which cut the Euphrates line of railway between Busreh and Baghdad, destroyed or captured six trains, isolated a British detachment at Rumeita, inflicting heavy casualties upon it, defeated all the first attempts to relieve it, and plunged a large district into "a state of great disorder." We do not know yet what was the attitude of the local levies to which we had been told eventually to look for the maintenance of Mesopotamian peace and security, but it is clear from these deplorable happenings in the heart of Irak-el-Arabi, that the prospect of any reduction of our Army of Occupation is very much further off than Ministers would have had us to believe. Indeed, Mr. Churchill stated quite frankly that the Government of India had now been warned to hold a further force in readiness to be despatched in case of emergency. No official information is yet forthcoming as to the causes of this Arab rising. The only definite statement made is that it has not been instigated by any of the Arab chiefs to whom we have paid subsidies. That is rather cold comfort, but we must make the best of it. On the other hand, it is well known that for many months past Arab emissaries from Syria and the apostles of Turkish Pan-Islamism-cum-Bolshevism have been hard at work stirring up trouble amongst the turbulent elements of the Mesopotamian population. The recent promise of a large measure of autonomy for Mesopotamia could hardly be expected to allay the resentment provoked amongst all classes by the post-war policy of the Allies in Palestine and Syria, for they not unnaturally regard both Zionism and French domination as the negation of all the Arab aspirations towards united nationhood which we ourselves encouraged so long as we needed their co-operation against Turkey, and of the specific pledges given in the Anglo-French declaration of November 7, 1918, that the object of France and Great Britain was "the establishment of national governments and administrations deriving their authority from the initiative and free choice of the indigenous populations." We fail to see how the threatened action of France in Syria can be reconciled with those pledges. Any serious collision between Faisal and the French would, we fear, inflame the whole Arab world against the Allies, and drive it into the expectant arms of the Turkish Nationalists. Nothing could be more calculated to strengthen Mustapha Kemal's hands, or to weaken those of the Turkish Government at the very moment when the Powers have braced themselves up to deliver an ultimatum at Constantinople demanding the acceptance of their peace terms within ten days.

The situation in Persia is at least as bad, though for different reasons, as it was towards the end of 1915 when a desire to strike a resounding blow which would re-echo through the whispering galleries of the East was one of the motives that prompted the premature attempt to seize Baghdad, which ended in the Kut disaster. The Bolshevist invasion of Persia is spreading all along the southern shores of the Caspian, and whilst Persian Ministers, as helpless to-day as they were then, are clamouring for British troops to protect the capital, the British Prime Minister has stated with significant emphasis that we have no military or naval commitments in Persia. We do not quarrel with that statement, for the British people would never listen for a moment to the despatch of a British expeditionary force on any such adventure. Nor do we contend that in the present state of our national finances the British Treasury should turn a favourable ear to Persian solicitations for large pecuniary advances. But we have a right to expect that, since Mr. Lloyd George is determined to come to terms with Soviet Russia and has evidently advised Persia to do the same, he will not be content with mere vague assurances that Moscow will desist from all enterprises, either by military action or by propaganda, prejudicial to our interests in the East, but that he will insist on deeds rather than words. The Soviet Government, of course, declares that it never ordered the Bolshevist descent upon Persia. Very well. There is only the more reason then for it to order its friends out of Persia. Or is Bolshevist Russia going to take yet another bad leaf out of the book of Tsarist Russia and pretend, as the old Russian diplomacy used too often to do, that it cannot restrain its agents abroad? We did not recognise the validity of any such pleas in those days. Why should we now? If for its own reasons the Moscow dictatorship is genuinely anxious to establish normal relations with Great Britain, it will find ways and means of stopping Bolshevist aggression on a country where, if we have no naval or military or even financial commitments, we certainly have commitments of friendship and of interests. If we fail to do this much for Persia, we shall merely add another to the list of Oriental peoples that have lost their faith in us. With the fall of Vossukh-ed-Dowleh one of our best friends is already gone. He stood by us during the war, for more than anyone else he insisted on the maintenance of Persian neutrality, which was all that we asked for, and it was with him that we negotiated the Anglo-Persian agreement as soon as the war was over. If he was to be sacrificed to the Shah's desire for a change, the Mushir-ed-Dowleh was probably as good a successor as could be found for him as Prime Minister. He has had a Western education, and his intentions may be excellent. But there are other members of his Cabinet whose antecedents during the war are more questionable. In any case the convocation of the Mejliss, which cannot, and should not, be any longer delayed, will put the authority both of the new Government and of the young Shah himself to a severe constitutional test, as it is sure to contain elements not entirely proof against Bolshevist blandishments, even if and when not directly inspired from Moscow. In these circumstances it is clearly our duty to be at least quite frank with the rulers of Persia, and to let them know what we can and what we cannot do for them. One of the things we cannot do is to send armies to their rescue. One of the things we can do is not merely to say to the Soviet Government before we enter into the proposed new relationship with it: "Hands off Persia," but to see that it has actually removed its hands from her.

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# BRITISH INTERESTS IN EGYPT.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 14.

The British Premier, in a much-quoted speech, declared that the grand object of the Government's reconstruction policy is "to make Britain a land fit for heroes to live in." A friend of mine assured me recently that the British policy in Egypt, as exemplified in the proposed changes in the legal system, is a co-ordination of Egyptian with Home policy. I pointed out that the changes, far from being welcomed, were disliked and condemned by the British community. "I know," he replied; "if the satraps here impose these changes, Egypt will rapidly become, so far as the British are concerned, a country unfit for any but the most heroic to live in."

The publication of the memorandum drawn up by the "Council of the British Non-Official Community in Cairo," in justification of their unanimous demand that the changes in the legal system in Egypt at present proposed, shall not be allowed to become law, is welcome. The memorandum is a document deserving the earnest consideration of everyone interested in the future of Egypt. It sets out clearly the elements of a situation pregnant with dangerous possibilities.

An examination of the broad outlines of the situation suggests that those at the head of affairs are embarking on a course that may ultimately lead to disaster, and at the best will increase enormously the difficulties of governing Egypt. Whatever the reason, their present policy appears to ignore entirely the fact that Great Britain has assumed the task of exercising a controlling influence over the government of Egypt. A strong national spirit now exists in the country; the British establishment is comparatively a tiny body; domination by force is not dreamt of by anyone: where is Great Britain to derive the power to discharge her task? Every Briton in Egypt knows the answer, written on every page of our history. British prestige must be maintained intact: it is hardly credible that the British authorities in Egypt do not realise that its maintenance is the indispensable foundation of our hope to carry on successful government. The non-official British community in Egypt appears to have grasped far more clearly than the governing body the fact that prestige must be vouched by realities too plain to be blinked, and must be guaranteed, constantly and without hesitation, by government if it is not to melt away. It is of the very essence of prestige that it is claimed, admitted, and unassailable. A shaky prestige is a contradiction in terms. Besides the obvious demands of the situation for measures to secure the position of the British in Egypt, the fact that it is human nature to favour one's own, and that Great Britain is in a position to do practically what she chooses, will suggest to the minds of Egyptians a grave weakness in the British Administration and a contemptible capacity for betrayal, if, when the British community demand, as they do, that their position shall not be rendered less secure than in the past by any contemplated legislation, Government turns a deaf ear to the demand. The effect on our prestige of such an attitude is greatly intensified when it is known, as in the case of the new legal system which it is proposed to establish, that Government, in ignoring the wishes of the British community, definitely takes sides with a section of the population here whose hatred of everything British is in direct ratio to their lack of real usefulness to Egypt.

The explanatory memorandum issued with the draft laws containing the new legal system under which Britons in Egypt will have to live, opens with the harmless-looking statement that "The reconstitution of the mixed tribunals amounts in effect to the transfer to the mixed tribunals of the jurisdiction hitherto exercised by the Consular Courts." But it means that, if the draft laws are passed without amendment, an Englishman accused of a crime, who would formerly have been tried before a British judge, according to British law, must in future be tried by a mixed Court according to a somewhat modified form of the native code. Disputes between British subjects as to contracts or other civil matters, formerly tried in the Consular Courts according to the legal principles and methods with which the litigants were familiar, must be taken before what is virtually a foreign Court, there to be discussed in a foreign language, and settled according to a foreign law. Incidentally, the working of such a system means the extinction of the British lawyer, with a great increase in the volume of business to be discharged by the Mixed Court lawyers, scarcely any of whom are British. The only steps needed to make the system complete are to compel British residents to renounce their British citizenship, assume foreign names, and speak no English.

Once it becomes necessary to revise the criminal law and procedure, the opportunity for introducing the British system should not be lost. It is the finest system in the world. Its crowning glory is the spirit in which it is administered by British judges—a spirit which renders our criminal system one of the most solid guarantees of security for the law-abiding citizen, the spirit expressed in the principle that a man shall stand innocent in the eyes of the law until he is proved guilty. This spirit, which has moulded not only the form but the substance of much of our criminal procedure, is not to be found in foreign systems. One and all, they contain features rejected centuries ago by British law as unfair. We need have no hesitation in saying that to place the British in Egypt under any criminal codes but their own is to subject them to an indignity. A step so retrograde would not be tolerated at home for a day. What will people in England think when they hear that, in the case of a host of minor offences of common occurrence, it is proposed to make British subjects amenable to Courts in which the evidence on which the accused may be sent to gaol for two months may consist of a written statement drawn up by an Egyptian official, while no possibility of cross-examining either the official or those who supplied him with the information exists? There is something extraordinarily callous in the attitude of officials who permit the creation of a system so plainly suited for rendering the lives of British subjects intolerable in a country where such a consummation is devoutly desired by large numbers of people whose objection to the use of fraud and perjury as weapons of offence and defence, has not been noted by even the closest observer.

But, as has been indicated above, circumstances in Egypt call clearly for a more sweeping reform of the criminal system. The reputation for fairness and efficiency of British criminal courts, known through the operation of the Consular Courts here and other courts in the Levant, is well established. Others besides ourselves know, not only of the need for revision, but of the justice, simplicity, and freedom from harshness of our system. Why is the best system not adopted? If it were, the condition of the country would certainly improve. The administration of justice would rapidly acquire increased respect and confidence. No longer would it be whispered that Great Britain will give ear to any section in Egypt rather than her own subjects. No longer could she be secretly scorned for possessing so little confidence in her own criminal system that she abrogates it at the first opportunity.

It is understood that a suggestion has been made, on behalf of the Milner Mission, of Government's readiness to bring the criminal code, ultimately, into line with British ideals. The suggestion is not accompanied by anything binding the Government. If, however, the Government is ready to act as suggested, to act at once would be simpler than the course at present proposed. The official attitude about this shows up very clearly the complete disregard for British non-official interests which is characteristic of the whole scheme of the draft laws. Virtually the British are told this: "We intend to deprive you of the admirable system of criminal law under which you have lived up to now. We may—we won't bind ourselves to—change the whole criminal system in years to come. In the meantime, we have seen fit to apply the Native Code to you. Be content!"

If the British system is to be introduced, the reform of the Mixed Bench is necessary. Most of the judges are not British, are unfamiliar with English law, and long accustomed to a system radically different from ours. It is hopeless to expect them to make anything but a mess of their efforts to try cases according to English law and methods. To extract all the good the system contains, it must be worked by someone who has been trained in it and seen it applied by judges at home. So far, however, the known desire of the British community that the Mixed Bench should receive a strong leaven of English judges has been ignored; any appointments made recently have been of foreigners.

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

KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN

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There are other reasons why the British community cannot view with equanimity the change from the judges of the Consular Courts to those of the Mixed Courts. The foreign judges are appointed by their several Governments, and have not the same training or spirit as English judges. In the United Kingdom we have grown so used to the complete independence and impartiality of judges that it is sometimes forgotten that this attitude was considered unwise in Coke's time, and became universal only when State policy was directed to securing it. That it is not universal can be proved by more than one case in which the violence of newspaper partisanship here has affected judges of the Mixed Bench. The custom of attempting intimidation by newspaper campaigns is so well known an evil here that, were there no other reason, it would be sufficient to justify the British community in saying: "We want a Bench purged of the weakness from which we know the Mixed Bench has more than once suffered. We want judges who will take dictation from nobody; for we know that in Egypt the attempt to dictate is carried to great lengths." But there is another reason which simply cannot be ignored, once the fact is grasped that pressure from outside has been applied successfully to the Mixed Bench. There are so many nationalities represented in Egypt, and so many of the Powers have interests in Africa, that cases are bound to arise frequently which involve, although it may be indirectly, questions as to which other Powers do not see eye to eye with England, and questions in which the nationality and antecedents of the litigants give ground for fear that national prejudice might easily be imported into the case. It may be argued that all these objections were applicable to the Mixed Courts formerly; but the existence of an evil is no reason for its continuance. Moreover, it is unjust that the British should be compelled to give up the Courts in which they have had confidence, and in which their experience forbids them to have confidence; and the injustice is gratuitously inflicted when, as here, the necessity for reform in the Mixed Courts exists, apart from the consideration of purely British interests, and the power to affect the needed reform is possessed by Great Britain. The draft laws confirm the impression that, without a large infusion of British blood the tone which the British are entitled to expect in a Bench holding office under British supervision will not prevail. The enforcement of discipline is vested in the judges themselves. Obviously, the only guarantee of a sound tone is to import a number of British judges sufficient to make their influence decisive in questions of judicial conduct.

We understand that the draft of the proposed laws has not been finally settled. It is imperative to make every effort to secure that the final draft shall contain radical amendments. Not only is the general scheme replete with possibilities of harm to British interests, but certain of the laws exhibit a disregard of ordinary precautions that is astounding. The whole burden of governing Egypt rests on Great Britain. The country is full of elements jealous of British prestige or hostile in sentiment. Much political agitation is promised for some time; and the course of political agitation recently throughout the world justifies the belief that methods will probably be employed which will call for the greatest vigilance on the part of the Executive and the frequent invocation of the law. The only section from which complete loyalty and disinterested help can be looked for is the British. Yet the office of Procurator-General is not reserved to a British subject. The powers vested in this officer in matters such as the conduct of public prosecutions, the institution of proceedings to protect rights the benefit of which is vested in the public, and deportation, are wide. Their due discharge calls for the utmost discretion and a zealous regard for the maintenance of a public policy that shall harmonise with our efforts to render the country prosperous and peaceful. That is, the officer must have no interest nearer at heart than the maintenance of British policy, and he must be made fully aware of those facts, views, and decisions which in England would be regarded as Cabinet secrets. Can one imagine any European Power other than Great Britain allowing the possibility of appointing to such an office any but one of its own subjects?

The authors of the draft laws speak of "the special position which Great Britain enjoys in Egypt," and of "the powers which are necessary to enable her to discharge satisfactorily the duties which that special position imposes on her both towards Egypt herself and towards foreigners in Egypt." Egypt is not the first country in which Great Britain has enjoyed the special position, with its resultant duties. Hitherto she has performed those duties admirably. Her method was the simple one of giving her sons free play to establish their laws, their business methods, and their sports, and encouraging them to hold their heads high. An Englishman could go wherever Englishmen had preceded him with the assurance that his British citizenship was a more powerful shield and a higher distinction than the "Civis Romanus sum" of the Roman. Only by the sacrifices and devotion of her sons can Great Britain hope to discharge the duties with the weight of which the framers of the draft laws are so deeply impressed. It is hopeless to expect the maintenance of British prestige among a people who whisper among themselves that Great Britain considers the interests of all others before those of the British. Our work in Egypt will get a thoroughly bad start if it is made plain to all and sundry that under the new order of things the first people to be sacrificed, when any conflict of interests arises, are the British.

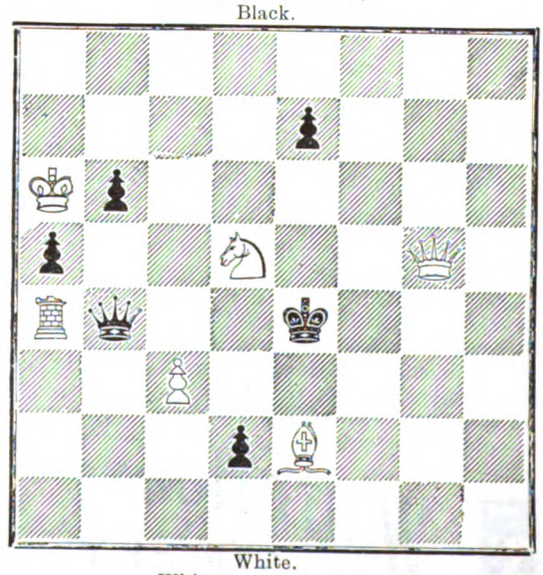
If we are justified in establishing a protectorate, it follows that our policy should be to bring the country's laws and government into line with our own as rapidly as can be, and as far as circumstances permit. What Egypt needs is more, not less, of English law, and the creation of a public spirit animated by decency and a desire for the public good rather than private advantage. Put the British here in an inferior position, and you furnish a powerful, because a material, argument against British rule. The obvious policy is to level everything up to the British standard, not to level the British position down to something lower. The draft laws go a long way on the downward path. Egypt is wide awake; fully aware that the British community does not want the draft laws as they stand; and, pondering the Egyptian equivalent of "Charity begins at home," Egyptians must despise the Government that pursues the policy of being generous to the stranger before it is just to its own.

To keep silent about a danger or an evil does not remove it. Loyalty to Great Britain demands that we should state plainly what we believe to be the vital necessities of the time. To make Egypt prosperous and contented order must be maintained, and respect for, and confidence in British suzerainty established. To achieve either purpose is impossible unless the British elements in the country occupy an unassailable position, and are maintained in it by Great Britain. If the proposed changes in the legal system are effected, it will rapidly become impossible for Englishmen to maintain their position here. With the decay of British influence it will be merely a matter of time and chance till the British official position becomes untenable. To steer clear of such disaster is a plain duty. A beginning can well be made with the draft laws; they can readily be framed so as to carry out three sound features of policy which are bound to produce good. First, the almost unanimous demand of the British for a system of tribunals in which they can have confidence should be conceded. Secondly, a definite decision to introduce British criminal law and procedure should be taken. Thirdly, the Bench of the Mixed Courts should be strengthened by the appointment of a number of British judges. A strong and contented British community, a uniform and just criminal system, and a Bench with a reputation for impartiality and independence, such as the English Bench enjoys, would furnish Great Britain with far greater powers for discharging her duties in Egypt than the agreements with Foreign Powers to which the authors of the draft laws attach so much importance.

## CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 22.

Black.



White.

White to mate in two.

The above problem by Mr. R. E. L. Windle took one of the prizes in one of last year's competitions of the G.C.C.P. Club.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

As will be seen from the quotations given on page 143, a great improvement is taking place in certain of the Near East exchanges. The Bulgarian rate, which a few weeks ago was about 270 levas for sterling, is now 192½; that of Roumania has improved to 125 lei; while the Yugoslav exchange is 62½. I have constantly pointed out that the extremely adverse exchanges of certain of the Balkan countries gave an unreal view of their respective positions, and that as they are one and all mainly dependent on the soil for their wealth it would need at the most one or two good harvests (and in the case of Roumania also more favourable conditions for the production and export of oil) to bring about a very great change in these rates.

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Presumably those conditions are ruling. Until the recent storms swept over the Balkan Peninsula climatic conditions in general had been all that could be desired, and excellent harvests have been forecasted in all the countries. It is as yet too early to be able to estimate with any exactness the damage caused by the late rains, but there seems ground for believing that except in Greece, which has unfortunately suffered most severely, it has not been quite so serious as at first appeared to be the case. This view is amply borne out by the movements in the exchanges, which in the circumstances may be expected to undergo a further substantial improvement.

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In the course of his speech at the general meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields Sir Marcus Samuel dealt with the question of the extension of the company's sphere of operations. He pointed out that they had not felt justified in acquiring further territory under the standard regulations which permitted them to acquire rights only on very small areas. Certain alterations were, however, made in the regulations, and the company agreed to explore and take up further territory, and rights were acquired over certain small areas outside the company's existing field. While they still did not regard the regulations as satisfactory, said Sir Marcus, "during the last few months they have been undergoing a process of what may be called 'progressive interpretation,' and we hope that we are now on the road towards the establishment of more satisfactory conditions in the petroleum industry in Egypt."

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Obviously any considerable enlargement of the company's sphere of operations would entail the provision of additional capital, and with the idea of facilitating any further issue that might be necessary proposals were submitted and approved at subsequent meetings for the reorganisation of the capital. The existing capitalisation of the company was needlessly intricate and involved, consisting as it did of 6 per cent. income bonds to the amount of £225,000, £250,000 in preference shares of 6 per cent., with a right to 20 per cent. of the profits after 5 per cent. was paid on the ordinary shares, and, finally, A, B and C ordinary shares to the amount respectively of £336,000, £664,000, and £100,000. These three classes receive 5 per cent., and jointly 80 per cent. of the profits after the allocation to the preference shareholders in the proportions of 35 per cent. each to the first two classes and 10 per cent. to the third.

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Instead of these numerous classes of shares, with their various rights, there will now be only ordinary shares and the C shares held by the Egyptian Government. To effect the alteration the capital has been increased to £1,808,000 by the creation of 458,000 new "B" shares, and the scheme of reorganisation briefly is that the "A" shareholders are to receive the same number of "B" shares as the present "B" holders; while the holders of income bonds and preference shares, amounting to £475,000, are to receive instead £380,000 of "B" shares.

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The position in regard to the Greek markets at the moment is one which cannot fail to give rise to some anxiety. Our correspondent at Athens reports general inactivity, and states that the brisk import trade of a few months ago has dwindled to insignificant proportions. It has unfortunately to be recorded that the country is again suffering from a surplus of goods, and our correspondent says that "in the event of a continued fall in prices in the British and American markets of supply a repetition of what occurred with the Spanish goods in 1918-19 is to be feared." In the case of the former crisis a way out was found in the Roumanian market, which at the time was able to absorb all the goods available. A solution may not be so easy to find on this occasion. Our correspondent suggests that the interested banks and traders are looking to the issue of the conversations with Krassin to solve their difficulties by bringing about the resumption of trade with South Russia. Another way of relieving the congestion would be opened up if conditions in Turkey became stabilised.

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The economic conditions and the prospects of Roumania at the close of the past year are the subject of an interesting report by Mr. Adams, Commercial Secretary to the British Legation at Bucharest, published this week as a White Paper. The war, he points out, has left Great Britain in a much stronger position as regards the import trade of the country, since Germany, whose percentage of this trade in 1912 was 37 as against 14 for Great Britain, is practically without marine transport, and transport by rail will continue for some time to encounter great difficulties. As regards the oil industry, he states that when the Germans left in December, 1918, there were 437 producing wells and 200 drilling wells, with 3,000 tons daily production as against 962 producing wells and 341 drilling wells, with 5,000 tons daily production in December, 1916, and that during 1919 the industry was entirely unsettled, but that the outlook now looks exceedingly hopeful. The position since the commencement of the year has been the subject of frequent reference by our correspondent, and it is clear that conditions have been gradually improving, and that there are sound grounds for the hope that at no very distant date Roumanian exports will once again reach their normal figures.

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The present position of the Constantinople market is briefly dealt with in a message from our correspondent, which will be found in another column. He states that the closing of Asia Minor to commerce has brought trade to a standstill. With the outbreak of the present disturbances stagnation was, of course, inevitable, for with bands of marauders near the capital the trade routes naturally became unworkable. Until order is restored in the interior it would be futile to look for any great improvement at Constantinople.

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In one direction considerable activity prevails in the market, this being in speculation in the exchanges. While, as our correspondent points out, fluctuations in the exchanges are inevitable, they are greatly aggravated by the speculation, the result being, he explains, that importers are still further handicapped, because if the rates go against them they lose, since buyers insist on paying at the rates obtaining when the order was given, and if, on the other hand, the alteration in the exchange is favourable, it is the buyers who gain, for they insist on having the better rate. In other words, the maxim of the buyers is, "Heads we win, tails you lose." Needless to say the effect of this state of things, as far as importers are concerned, is to make them exceedingly chary of undertaking transactions until conditions improve.

COMMENTATOR.


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# Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

## GREECE.

ATHENS, July 4.

### Adverse Trade Conditions.

The state of inactivity and general stagnation at present prevailing in the Greek markets is such as has not been seen since the signing of the Armistice. The brisk import trade which was being done up to a couple of months ago has completely collapsed, and the quantity of merchandise at present being imported is insignificant, very few fresh orders being placed.

The factors contributing to this state of affairs are identical to those which, in a lesser degree, have affected trade with the rest of Europe: the high rates of exchange ruling for drafts on London and New York, the overload of goods with which the Greek market is at present burdened, and which were ordered when the exchange was considerably lower, and the general tightness of money.

The 300,000,000 drachmæ lottery loan recently floated by the Greek Government, and satisfactorily covered, has absorbed most of the liquid capital lying in the country, and the banks have lately refused to make advances against merchandise.

A few months ago the pound sterling was quoted here as low as 22 drachmæ to the pound. This acted as an inducement to importers to order freely from England such goods as textiles, hardware, etc., and in many cases the orders placed were disproportionate to the means of the firms ordering. These goods have now arrived—after considerable delays owing to the difficulties which many British firms have found in executing orders owing to labour troubles at home—at a moment when the drachmæ is quoted as low as 34 to the pound sterling. As in the majority of cases the business has been done on the terms of cash against documents in Greece, the importers have found that, owing to the fall in the exchange, the cost of their goods has increased by 40 or 50 per cent., and consequently they have in many cases either refused to take up the documents or have delayed taking them up, hoping for an improvement in the exchange, with the result that the merchandise remains on the hands of the banks through whom the credits have been opened.

The Customs House is full of goods of which the consignees have not taken delivery, and the above state of affairs has brought about a situation very similar to that which occurred on the signing of the Armistice with regard to merchandise of Spanish origin. In this case, as will be remembered, great difficulty had been experienced in obtaining supplies from the belligerent countries owing to the submarine blockade, and the Greek merchants had recourse to goods of Spanish origin, and huge quantities of textiles and foodstuffs were ordered from that source. A sudden advance in the value of the peseta, and the reopening of the American and European markets, caused many traders to sacrifice the advances made to the banks against credits, and to leave the documents on their hands. The banks thus became the holders of very unwieldy stocks of goods, and a catastrophe was narrowly averted by the timely opening up to trade of Roumania, which country, being completely denuded of supplies, readily absorbed the supplies then lying at the Piræus.

The present situation appears rather hazardous, as in the event of a continued fall in prices in the British and American markets of supply, a repetition of what occurred with the Spanish goods in 1918-9 is to be feared. Many merchants will be unable to take up their documents in view of the increased cost to them owing to the fall in the Greek exchange, and since for the same reason retail prices have advanced in a rather more than proportionate extent, the public is much more conservative in purchasing than is normally the case, simply buying from hand to mouth. The result will be retarded consumption, and these goods may be in the market for some time to come.

The interested banks and merchants hope that a way out of their difficulties will be provided by the successful termination of the Lloyd George-Krassin conversations, and the consequent opening to trade of a port in Southern Russia. On the other hand, should this hope not be realised, then no improvement in trade can be looked for here until surplus stocks have been absorbed.

Various American firms who had sent large consignments of goods to Greece have had rather a bitter experience, and several thousand tons of American canned goods, boots, textiles, etc., are being re-shipped to America, after incurring heavy charges, as they cannot be disposed of here except at a loss, owing to the exchange question, whilst a better market for the goods is to be found at home.

German goods are now being freely offered for sale, and agents representing German houses are offering engines, machinery, and hardware of all descriptions for immediate delivery. A certain number of firms, both here and in the other Levant markets, are very disappointed with their endeavours to reopen trade with Germany. They have invested considerable sums in purchasing marks, which they have remitted to German houses in consideration of shipments of drugs, chemicals, etc. It has come as rather a shock to them when they find that the German houses appear to be in no hurry at all to deliver their goods, and are putting the buyers off from month to month with polite letters. On the other hand, whilst the Levant merchant sees that he has a very nice profit out of his investment in Reichmarks, the German firms are distressed that they are unable to return the amounts remitted, and consequently the unhappy traders here, who were so willing to respond to the appeal which was recently widely circulated in the Levant by certain German trade organisations, viz.: "Help to set Germany on her feet again, and she will not let you down," realise that they are probably far from receiving either their goods or their marks.

### "White Coal" in Macedonia.

A report has lately been drawn up for a Greek financial syndicate, and under the auspices of the Greek Government, on the possibility of the utilisation of the existing water-power in Macedonia for industrial purposes. The study has been completed by two Swiss experts in hydraulic installation.

The report drawn up is very complete, and computes the available force from the falls of Aliakmon, Vodena, Naoussa Vladovon, and Verria at 340,000 h.p., and estimates the expenditure necessary for converting this force into energy for industrial purposes at 500 million drachmæ. For some time past the falls at Naoussa have been utilised for the


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production of energy for driving mills in the neighbourhood of Salonika.

The engineers who have completed this survey have divided the execution of their projects into six periods. The first of these provides for works involving an expenditure of 100 million drachmæ, and which will render a staple energy of 45,000 h.p., to be considerably increased during the winter months. The execution of the works provided for during the first period is estimated to require a period of four years; the estimate for the works of the second period is two years, for those of the third four years, and for those of the remaining three two years each.

After the completion of the works provided for during the first period, one-seventh part of the total energy produced is to be utilised for works in the vicinity of Salonika, and the remaining six-sevenths will be conducted to Athens by means of three copper cables, supported on iron standards. It is stated that the loss on transmission of the energy to Athens will be only 15 per cent.

The price of the current, including amortisation of interest on the capital involved, will hardly reach nine and a-half lepta (about 9/10d.) per kilowatt hour, whereas the present cost of current in Athens is two drachmæ (1s. 8d. at normal rates of exchange). The energy produced will have a maximum pressure of 90 volts, and by transformation will reach 220 volts. It is obvious that the estimated price of 9½ lepta per kw. hour is based on the assumption that the consumption of the energy produced can be assured for the whole twenty-four hours of production.

The current will be available for industrial purposes along the route over which it is conducted to Athens, and consequently new industries should develop along the cable route—principally mining, agricultural, and manufacturing undertakings, and the current can be supplied to these industries at minimum rates. The report also provides for the building of two large dams, one at the Upper and one at the Lower Aliakmon.

M. Venizelos has been furnished with a copy of this report, and before taking definite decision has caused inquiries to be made as to the possibility of exploiting the hydraulic resources of the rest of Greece, more especially from a financial point of view. It is stated that the utilisation of the Macedonian water-power appears to be much more economical from every point of view.

ATHENS, July 10.

**Export of Currants and Tobacco.**

According to information supplied by the Statistics Department of the Ministry of National Economy, the following quantities of currants and tobacco were exported from Greece during 1919:—Currants: 139,144,182 kilogrammes, representing a total value of 173,936,227 drachmae. Tobacco: 22,582,782 kilogrammes, representing a total value of 218,827,157 drachmae.

**Imports of Wheat.**

The Ministry of Foodstuffs has given the following figures with regard to the quantities of wheat imported into Greece during 1919:—In January 6,775,325 okes of wheat were imported, in February 11,763,722, in March 19,059,692, in April 3,628,212, in May 13,126,207, in June 23,798,300, in July 10,724,361, in August 28,373,490, in September 17,304,932, in October 14,550,769, in November 3,996,114, and in December 21,099,878. From January to June the wheat was imported from the United States, while from July to December it came from Canada.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, July 7.

**Banca Natziunei.**

The general meeting of this bank was held last Sunday, when a very favourable report was read. In June last the capital was increased to five million lei, the following October to 25 million, and in March, 1920, to 50 million lei, with 29 million lei reserve. This bank has founded the following societies:—

Société de Traction Automobile Roumaine, capital 10 million lei, which recently purchased for 4,200,000 lei the enamel factories formerly of Jacques Catz.

Société Roumaine du Combustible, capital five million lei, owners of the lignite mine of Valea Copcei, producing five wagons per diem.

L'Imprimerie Guttenberg, capital 10 million lei.

Société de Construction "Casele Populare," capital five million lei.

L'Industrie Chimique Roumaine, capital 10 million lei.

Gospodariile Taranesti, capital 10 million lei.

Société des Mines d'Or de Roumaine, capital five million lei, which has acquired the mines in the Valea lui Stan.

It has also contributed to the capital of many other new banks and commercial companies, including the recently founded I.R.D.P., the society which has the monopoly of the home distribution of petrol. The directors have decided to pay a dividend of 50 lei to each share of 250.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, July 6.

**Credits for Reconstruction.**

The Minister of Communications has received a credit of 100 million dinars for general repairs to all railways within the old frontiers of Serbia which the enemy damaged so effectively on his retreat.

The Minister of Public Works has received a credit of 60 million dinars for the restoration of the roads of Serbia; the first to be repaired or remade will be the trunk road to Kragujevats, the Sandjak of Novi Bazar, through Montenegro to the sea.

It is reported that the Government has placed orders for 10,000 tons of iron and steel structures abroad to restore the destroyed bridges. Three new bridges are contemplated, one over the Save at Shabats, and the others over the Drina to provide a means of communication with Bosnia.

The Minister of Finance has approved the following credits for Montenegro:—First, two million dinars for the purchase of food; secondly, one and a-half million dinars for cattle for breeding and restocking; thirdly, 800,000 dinars for lorries for distributing the food in the country; and, finally, eleven millions for arrears of pay for Government officials for the time of the Austrian occupation.

**Miscellaneous.**

It may be remembered that during the days of the slump certain foreign currencies were condemned as "unsound," such as Austrian and Hungarian kronen, while others were designated as "sound," including the Italian lira. But now the dinar is better than the lira, and the Serbs are naturally delighted.

It is reported that the Serbian Government has allocated for Greece 75,000 tons of wheat, which amount will be increased if possible; in the same connection the National Bank of Greece is giving the Serbian Government a loan of 15,000,000 dinars at 6 per cent., which will be used by the Serbian Government in meeting its obligations in Greece, which consist chiefly of tobacco supplied to the army at Salonika.

It sounds strange to hear of Serbia helping France materially. It is reported that the Minister of Social Policy

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will shortly send to France a number of skilled builders, masons, and similar artisans to help in restoring the devastated provinces. It appears that France has requested this assistance on account of the shortage of skilled labour at home.

## TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, July 4.

### Stagnation.

The closing of Asia Minor to commerce has resulted in bringing all business to a standstill, with the exception of that doubtful form of activity which consists of speculating in the various foreign values which fluctuate in price from day to day. There is in this connection a vicious action and reaction, for, while the fluctuations which are to a certain extent inevitable give rise to speculation, it is speculation which aggravates the fluctuations and adds still another difficulty to the already much harassed commerce of Constantinople. It is difficult for home manufacturers to realise the full effect of the varying rates of exchange out here, and there is evidence to show that in many cases there is complete ignorance of the conditions. Take, for instance, the case of an importer who has to get his goods through a bank. By the time he gets the goods the rate of exchange will almost certainly have altered. It is a fact that if the rate goes against him he loses, but if the rate alters in his favour he gains nothing, for the buyer for whom the goods have been ordered will insist upon paying at the rate paid by the agent to the bank. If, on the other hand, the rate goes against him, the buyer then pays the rate of the day, and the unfortunate agent is compelled to agree or have the goods left on his hands. True, he may seek the assistance of the High Commission, and this has been done in several instances; but that usually means the loss of a customer. Agents may get 5 per cent. commission, but the rate of exchange frequently varies as much as 40 per cent. in a few days, so that a drop means a heavy loss. Unhappily it is difficult to find a solution for this state of affairs, until the exchange becomes steadier and speculation ceases. In some cases it may be possible to send the bills of lading direct to the agent, and thus allow him to clear the goods himself at his own convenience. This would allow him to take advantage of the rate of exchange, and at all events would obviate loss, but few firms would care to take the risk, and such a course is not advisable except in a very few cases. There seems to be nothing else to do but to follow Mr. Asquith's famous words of advice, "wait and see."

### Italian Competition.

The statistics of the goods that passed through the Stamboul Customs during the month of March are interesting in many ways. Great Britain headed the list with a total of £T.2,774,211 worth of goods imported, and Italy came next with a total of £T.2,575,287. The United States was third a long way behind, with a total of £T.716,459, and France came fourth with only £T.542,990. It is interesting to note that the largest item in the list of Italian imports was for cotton muslins, which were valued at £T.1,305,912. This was also the largest item in the British list, but the value of the muslin goods from the United Kingdom was only some £T.80,000, or less than £20,000 sterling more than Italy's contribution. In cotton yarns also the Italians are running us very close, but in other departments of the Manchester trade we are well ahead.

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## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, June 26.

### Export of Cereals and Tobacco

The Consortium has concluded a contract for the sale of 15,000 tons of maize to the Austrian Government.

Representatives of important foreign tobacco firms arrived here last week to open negotiations for the purchase of large quantities of tobacco. They are now visiting the warehouses in the provinces.

The Ministry of Agriculture has received a letter from a leading Swiss firm offering to supply agricultural machinery in exchange for tobacco. The proposal is under consideration.

### The Crops.

Heavy rains and hailstorms were experienced in parts of Northern Bulgaria during the past week, great damage being caused to the crops and vineyards.

The rose harvest is 50 per cent. below that of last year, but the quality is much better. Prices range from sixteen to twenty thousand levas per kilogram.

Swarms of locusts invaded the country in the spring. They have now almost completely disappeared owing to the energetic measures taken by the authorities.

### Chamber of Commerce.

To-morrow the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce is celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of its foundation. The King and the members of the Cabinet will be present at the ceremony, together with representatives of the financial, commercial, and industrial interests of the country.

## OIL FROM RUBBER SEED.

The current number of the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute* (John Murray) discusses in detail the possibility of utilising the large quantity of seed now being produced on rubber plantations. In the early stages of the rubber industry in the Middle East the seeds were mostly used for raising plants for making new plantations, but as there are now at least 1,000,000 acres under rubber trees, the quantity of seed available is much in excess of the planting requirements. It was shown many years ago by investigations made at the Imperial Institute that the kernels of Para rubber seeds yield a large amount of oil similar in properties to linseed oil, and that this oil can be used for paint-making and other purposes for which linseed oil is employed, whilst the cake which is left after the oil has been removed from the kernels is an excellent feeding-stuff for livestock. Until the last year or two the oil had only been produced on an experimental scale, but at least one oil mill is now established in Malaya for crushing rubber seeds, and small commercial consignments of the oil have been sold recently in this country and in Marseilles at good prices. Whether it will pay the planter to supply the seeds to an oil mill depends very largely on the cost of collection, a point on which experts differ. In view of the present necessity for the exercise of rigid economy on rubber estates and of the enormous demand for oils and feeding-stuffs, it is highly desirable that serious efforts should be made to organise the collection of Para rubber seed wherever it is likely to prove at all profitable, and so prevent waste of material, which is undoubtedly of considerable value.

We are informed by The American Machine and Foundry Co., Limited, of 59, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C., the well-known firm of tobacco machinery manufacturers, that one of their engineer-representatives, Mr. A. Podmore, is at present visiting the Balkan States, his headquarters being situated at 47, Pondrossou Street, Athens. It appears that a considerable number of houses have been giving themselves out as the local representatives of the above-named company, resulting in considerable prejudice to its interests, and we are consequently asked to state that no one, other than the gentleman above named, has the slightest authority to represent himself as agent of the American Machine and Foundry Co., Limited, in any of the Balkan States.

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# BRITISH CONSULAR REPORTS.

## I.—GREECE *(continued.)*.

The current of public opinion in Greece at the present time, Mr. Rawlins points out, is running very much in favour of Great Britain; and it is a very opportune moment for British manufacturers to take advantage of this in order to open up trade relations with this country.

"The system of credit in force previous to the war has of necessity been very much modified owing to the altered conditions obtaining. In the old days foreign firms were quite content to forward their goods to Greece on terms of 30, 60, or 90 days' credit, but the terms in force to-day are usually those of part cash with order, and balance payable, either against shipping documents in England, or through a bank on arrival of the goods in Greece; or, and this perhaps in the majority of cases, by confirmed letter of credit. The Germans are not yet in a position to give protracted credits, but certain American firms of general export agents have already circularised importers here broadcast, offering the old terms of 30, 60, or 90 days' credit.

"Owing to the inflated prices of certain products, notably textiles, of which a fall in price may sooner or later be expected, most firms are demanding payment of about 25 per cent. with order, before shipment of goods. This is considered advisable, as experience has proved that, in the event of a fall in price of the produce ordered, there is always a possibility of the consignee failing to take delivery of the documents on arrival of the goods, whereas, if sufficient cash is advanced with the order, the exporter is insured against this contingency. When the prices of commodities once more assume some degree of stability, these precautions will be unnecessary and the usual 'cash against documents' terms can be resumed, and, where the consignee is a reputable firm, short credits may be advantageous.

"There is no doubt that the general commercial status of the Greek trader has vastly improved of late years. The Greek business man now realises that it is to his interest to build up a steady regular trade with the houses he represents, and by regularity and reliability in his dealings with foreign houses to inspire confidence and thereby increase his trade. Chambers of Commerce have been formed within the last two years in all the principal towns of Greece, under the immediate auspices of the Ministry of Finance. The provincial Chambers work under the direction of the Athens Chamber of Commerce, which, through the laws at present in force controlling the export of currency or exchange, keeps a very close control on all firms doing business with foreign countries. When a Greek firm wishes to export bills of exchange, or open credits in payment of merchandise to be imported, application has to be made to the Chamber of Commerce at Athens, which furnishes guarantees on behalf of the importing firm to the Ministry of Finance, who, through the Exchange Control Committee, issues the necessary permit to authorise the sale of bills of exchange by the banks. Thus the Greek importer is under the direct control of the Chambers of Commerce, not only by reason of the hold which they have at present over the importers, but also by virtue of their power to refuse to furnish guarantees on behalf of firms who do not comply with their regulations. It was stated further, that the Greek Chamber of Commerce at Athens was considering the establishment of a black list of defaulting merchants, both Greek and foreign. The entry of the name of a firm on this 'black list' would involve a general boycott of the firm in Greece, and render it practically impossible for a firm so listed to do further trade in the country. This, however, would be a matter for future discussion, and cannot be entered into before consultation with foreign Chambers of Commerce.

"The most efficient means of representation for British firms is undoubtedly that of appointing a local agent, with exclusive rights of representation over the whole of Greece or a certain portion thereof. There are many reliable Greek and British firms here, disposing of a fair capital, who are anxious to obtain British agencies. Since the war a good many British firms have opened up offices here for the purpose of representing British manufacturers. As these firms mostly dispose of competent native travellers and are in close touch with the requirements of the market, this would undoubtedly appear to be the most practical means of representation for British firms in this market.

"If British firms wish to improve their business in these markets they should not lose sight of the necessity of sending out their representatives or travellers regularly, and of supplying them with a fair range of their samples and ample advertising matter, if possible, in the vernacular. Another important point, which can be once more reiterated, is the necessity for quoting prices in the metric system and using francs and kilos or metres when quoting, as the Greek merchant, with few exceptions, is befogged by quotations in £ s. d. and avoirdupois."

# RECENT MINERAL DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA.

The general report on the operations of the Geological Survey of India for the year 1919, by Sir H. H. Hayden, which has just been received in this country, gives the latest information regarding the progress of certain important economic inquiries which are briefly mentioned below:—

The examination of all the known bauxite deposits of India has been undertaken in connection with the attention which is now being paid to the manufacture of alumina and aluminium in the country. It is hoped to complete the greater part of the field work by the end of the season 1919-20, and to publish a memoir on the subject later.

In consequence of the discovery of a new locality for chromite near Fort Sandeman in Baluchistan, it was decided to resume the survey of the area between Zhob and Hindubagh. Unfortunately the outbreak of the Afghan war interrupted the work of the officer deputed to undertake it, and only a short visit was possible. The samples collected represent second grade ores, but the occurrences are important, because they prove the presence of chrome-bearing basic rocks, similar to those of Hindubagh, and suggest the possibility of further discoveries of chromite.

An officer of the Survey has been investigating the recent discoveries of iron-ore in the southern parts of Singhbhum for the past two field seasons. The iron-ore was found to occur usually at or near the tops of hills, the most important being the range running from about three miles south-west of Gua to the Kolhan-Keonjhar boundary east of Naogaon, a distance of about ten miles. The range, which rises some 1,500 feet above the plain, is said also to continue into the Keonjhar State. It was found that good iron-ore formed the top of this range of hills almost without a break. Parallel to this range is another similar line of hills running from the Duargui stream, three miles east of Bada, to the Karo river, south-east of Ghatkuri, a distance of about seven miles. Here the iron-ore was found to occupy the top of the ridge as before, the ore in the southern part being apparently as good and continuous as in the adjoining range; towards the north, however, a considerable amount of disturbance was observed, and replacement appeared to be less complete. To the west a third range of hills runs from the Karo river, east of Salai, to the east of Chota Nagra. Here also iron-ore was found at or near the top of the range, but it appears to be confined to patches, which, however, are of considerable importance. To the west of these ranges again are more irregular patches of ore occupying the tops of the hills. The Kolhan hematites usually appear to contain about 64 per cent. of iron, with phosphorus ranging from .03 to .08, or in some cases to as high as 0.15. The sulphur content is usually below .03. Titanium is also said to be found occasionally in the ore, usually either as a trace or in very small quantities. Samples from the better parts of the ore deposits contain as much as 68 or 69 per cent. iron. The concessionaires have done comparatively little prospecting work hitherto, but enough is known to justify the belief that the quantities available will run into hundreds—possibly into thousands—of millions of tons. In most cases the chief obstacle to development is the inaccessible nature of the country.

The well-known magnetite deposits of Kanjamalai, in the Salem district of Madras, have been re-examined, and the conclusion arrived at twenty-two years ago has been confirmed, that the ore is really a low-grade quartz-magnetite schist containing about 38 per cent. of iron. Preliminary magnetic separation tests on bulk samples were not satisfactory, and the matter is under further investigation.

A well-known horizon in the Irrawaddy sandstone series of Upper Burma is known as the "white bed," and it has long been recognised to contain a considerable amount of kaolin. Extensive examination of this bed in the Pakokku and Yamethin districts have proved it to contain very large quantities of clay which appears to be eminently suitable for the manufacture of porcelain. The raw sand is said to contain about 60 per cent. of free silica, and from 25 to 30 per cent. of kaolin; it is also said to be very free from iron and alkalis. Laboratory tests indicated that the plasticity, refractoriness, and colour of the levigated material were good. The white bed is said to run for a distance of some forty miles. Its thickness is variable, and is said to range from 15 to 50 feet. The most important area is regarded as the Yenangyat and Singu oilfields, where the bed attains its maximum development.

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## GREECE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**COINAGE.**—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 30·87 Drachmæ to £1.

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

**WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.**—It was decided in 1898 to introduce the metric system. The change is to be gradual from the old system, which is:—Oke = 2·82 lb., stater = 123·20 lb., livre (Venetian) = 1·05 lb., baril (wine) = 16·33 imperial gallons, kilo = 0·114 imperial quarter, pike = ¾ of a yard, stremma = ·242 of an acre.

## BANK OF NATIONAL ECONOMY (of Greece)

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*Branches:*

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**Head Office - PIRÆUS.**

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*Cable Address—Navigation Palios.*

*Codes used—Scott's (1905) 10th Edition; A.B.C. (1901) 5th Edition.*

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**Head Office: PIRÆUS, GREECE.**

Cable Address: "Maritime Bank."

Codes Used.

Scott's 1906—10th Edition. A.B.C. 1901—5th Edition. Palios 1919

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*The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business, and by reason of its connections, throughout Greece and the Levant, is in a position to offer to the trade exceptional facilities.*

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# ENGINEERING.

## Machine Tools.

The production of high grade machine tools has always been a British speciality, although every engineer will admit that we have been closely run by American makers in this connection. In fact, it may be said that from a production point of view some American tools have been superior to ours, but where this has been the case they have seldom proved so well made as ours, and, consequently, what has been gained in production has been lost by enhanced depreciation allowance to some extent.

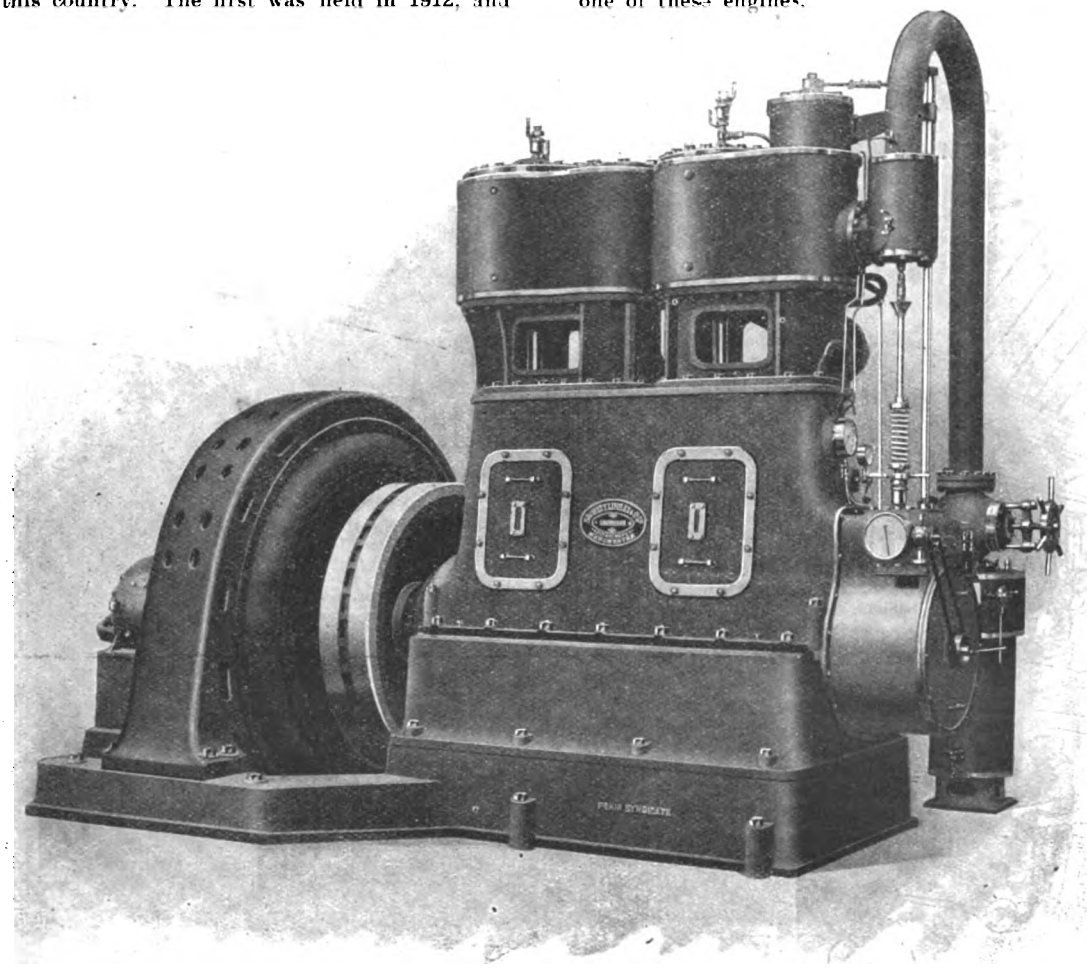
The announcement is made that during September there will be a large and representative exhibition of machine tools at Olympia, and, according to a well-informed writer in a contemporary, the whole of the available space has been booked up for some time, and the number of exhibitors will be in excess of 200. The show will evidently, therefore, be fully representative of the British industry. This exhibition, incidentally, will be the second of its kind in this country. The first was held in 1912, and the fact that eight years have elapsed since the last exhibition of machine tools in this country will mean that more new models and new types will be on view than have ever been shown at any previous exhibition.

It has been suggested that the use made of machine tools for the production of munitions educated the public in their importance, as it is now common knowledge that without their assistance it would have been impossible for us to produce anything like an adequate quantity of shells, rifles, tanks, or aeroplanes. This aspect, however, leads us to another, which is that the public may equally arrive at the conclusion that the machine tool was a munition producer only, and that now the war is over no further use can be made of them. This is by no means the case, as progress in engineering production largely depends upon the success of the machine tool-maker in improving existing machines and in inventing new ones. Under the circumstances, it is not to be wondered at that the Machine Tool Trades' Association, in advertising their exhibition, have adopted the slogan, "All increased production depends on machine tools."

No one interested in engineering can afford to miss the opportunity of visiting Olympia in September, where he will have the opportunity of seeing over 1,000 machines in actual operation. The exhibition is being organised by the Machine Tool Trades' Association, of which nearly all British machine tool manufacturers and merchants are members, and it will be held from September 4 to 25.

## Reciprocating Engines.

Quite a number of engineers appear to have formed the impression that the reciprocating engine, if not already out of date, is at any rate about to become obsolete, and need receive no consideration or attention or be regarded in any way as a competitor with other forms of prime-movers. The sole topics of their conversation are turbines of all types, internal combustion engines using volatile fuel and heavy oil engines of the Diesel type. As a matter of fact, the heavy duty, high-speed totally enclosed reciprocating engine is a highly efficient piece of mechanism, and when designed on modern lines and turned out by a firm of reputation, an engine of this kind is about as economical, powerful, handy and flexible as anything on the market. For electric lighting work in particular an engine of this kind, direct-coupled to a continuous or alternating current electric generator, possesses many good points, and it is safe to say that this type of engine will be used in electric light and power stations for many years to come. By the courtesy of Messrs. Browett, Lindley and Co., Ltd., of Patricroft, I am able to illustrate one of these engines.



**Heavy Duty Steam Engine, by Messrs. Browett, Lindley & Co., Ltd., direct-coupled to Electrical Generator.**

## Commercial Vehicles.

A particularly far-reaching scheme has just been completely worked out by which over 600 agents of the Automobile Association throughout London and the provinces will keep registers both of goods requiring transport by commercial vehicles and transport requiring loads. Already large centres, as Manchester, Liverpool, etc., have begun to link up with one another, but intermediary points and outlying districts are entirely neglected.

The Automobile Association's scheme is to put all its members and the 600 agents in touch with one another. A map has been prepared, showing every town and village where registers are kept, and a special list has been completed giving the address and the telephone number of every registration agent. Handy forms are issued showing the information required, and giving spaces for replies. Co-operation with existing transport clearing organisations has been welcomed, and the scheme, I understand from Mr. Stenson Cooke, has been well received. The map and list will be ready for members and agents by the end of the month. It may be made clear that the Automobile Association has no financial interest in the scheme whatever, and no registers are kept at any of the A.A. offices, the scheme being entirely carried out in its details by the registration agents.

(*Continued on page 137.*)

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# THE "STANDARD" CIGARETTE MACHINE

is universally acknowledged as unrivalled for:—

PERFECTION OF PRODUCTION,
CAPACITY FOR OUTPUT,
SIMPLICITY OF CONSTRUCTION,
EASE OF CONTROL,
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These are points of vital importance which cannot be ignored.

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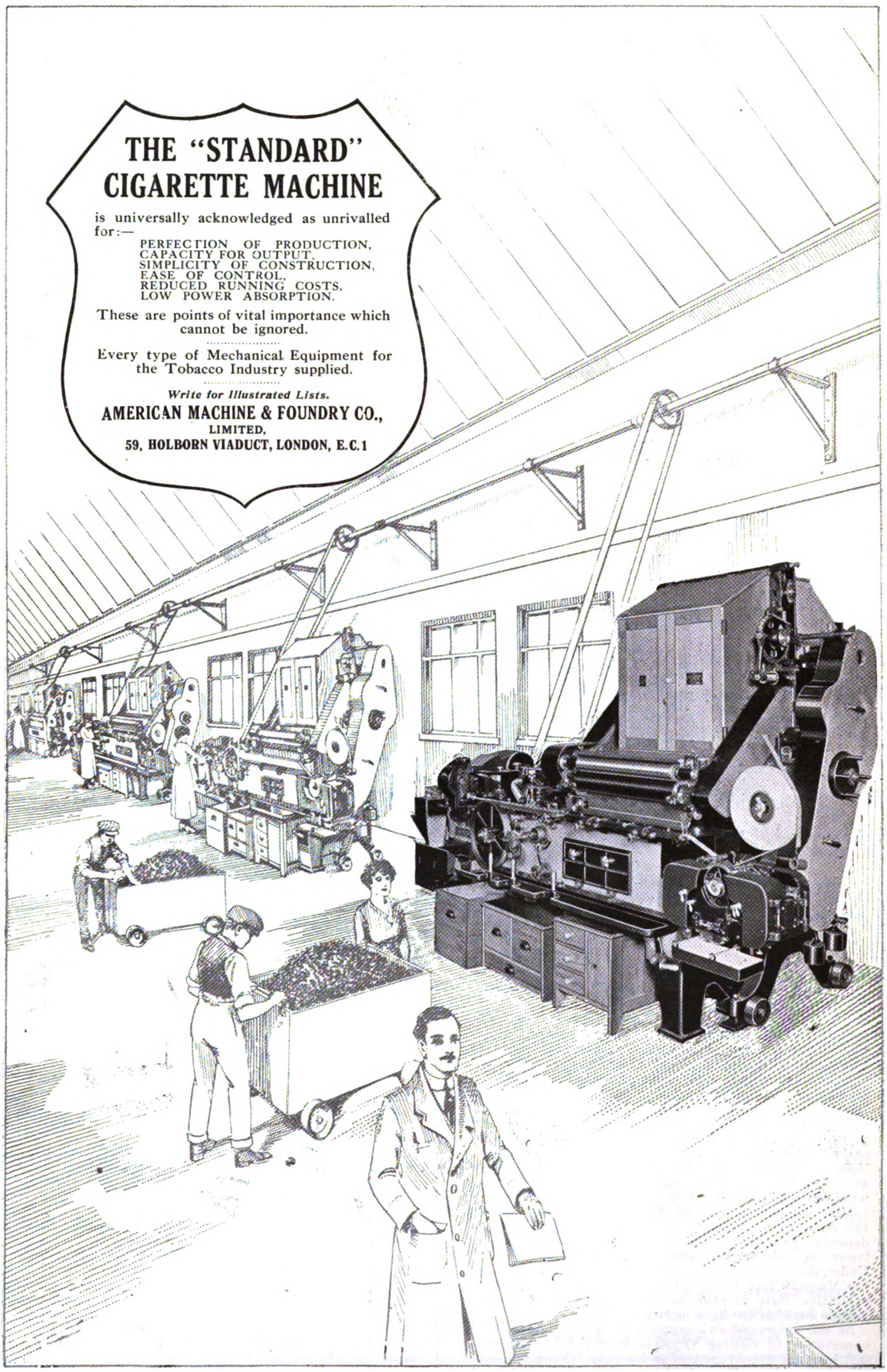


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### An Oil Substitute.

In view of the increasing price of natural oil and the growing fears of a coming shortage, it is not to be wondered at that engineers have been devoting time and attention for some time past to the question of finding a substitute which shall be obtainable in adequate quantities, be comparatively low in price, and which shall have approximately the same heating value. The first really promising result of their work has been the production of the new liquid fuel, which has been given the name of Colloil.

Scientific research has demonstrated the possibility of resolving most substances to a colloidal state, in which the particles are so finely divided that they are formless and to some extent resemble a fairly stiff liquid glue. It has been found that coal washings which have hitherto been dumped at the pit-head, the refuse from saw pits and paper mills, and the sludge from commercial coal cleaners can be brought to this condition and intimately mixed with oil residues and fuel oils. In this connection the oil obtained from low-grade coals, peat, and lignite by the low temperature process of distillation is particularly suitable.

This mixture may be burned in the same way as any other liquid fuel, and can be used with most existing types of burners, and thus, in addition to becoming a competitor with and a substitute for oil, it also competes with the comparatively newly adopted system of burning powdered coal driven by air or steam pressure through a jet into the furnace. It would seem that this new method would provide a means whereby good use could be made of the quantities of anthracite dust which have accumulated, and which it is difficult to use in any other known way. The percentages of oil and dust in the new fuel are about equal, and it is said that the cost of production should not exceed the price at present paid for coal which would have, weight for weight, a far lower calorific value. The new fuel, so far as the latter point is concerned, and when anthracite dust is used, would compare more than favourably with oil, and should be obtainable at about half the price of fuel oil as soon as working is commenced on a commercial scale. The essential claim for the new fuel, however, is that fuel dusts, which are difficult or impossible to use in any other way, can be utilised to advantage and satisfactorily burned in an ordinary furnace.

### Cleaning Ships Electrically.

Reference was made some time ago to the introduction of an electric motor of the submersible type, and it was mentioned that probably its greatest utility would be in connection with work under water in dockyard, pier, and breakwater construction.

Quite recently a scheme has been worked out by which the hulls of vessels could be cleaned by electric power from the growth of weeds and barnacles, which take so much off their steaming powers, and which accumulate so quickly. In this proposal a single screw driven barge carries a petrol engine coupled to an electric dynamo generating about 20 horse-power. This current is passed to a switchboard, and from thence to three electric motors. One of these drives the single screw propellor, whilst the other two are directly concerned with the cleaning plant, one controlling the raising and lowering of the cleaning arm, whilst the other drives the actual cleaner. This is a brush about 12 ins. in diameter by 5 ft. in length, which is mounted in bearings at the end of a boom, and which is driven at a fairly high speed by an electric motor of the submersible type mentioned above. In addition to driving the actual brush this motor drives, through gearing, a small propellor, which projects out at right angles behind the rotary brush.

By means of the boom, which is jointed, and which can be moved in any position by the electric motor controls, the brush can be passed against the hull of a vessel and caused to move along and about it, whilst the brush mentioned, which is made of stout coir or even steel wire, is rapidly revolved by its own motor. The small propellor referred to is also revolving, and tends to hold the brush closely to the hull of the vessel, whilst the disturbance of the water caused by its action also helps to remove the weedy growth. The weight of the boom and brush gear is counterbalanced by water tanks and air tanks ingeniously arranged, and by their aid it is possible to submerge the revolving brush to a depth of nearly 40 ft. The apparatus has been tested exhaustively and shown to be extremely successful in operation; in fact, a vessel of three thousand tons burthen and with a six months' accumulation was thoroughly cleaned in rather under six hours. The weight of the entire equipment, including the barge, is only eleven tons.

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The receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Limited, for the week ended June 20, amounted to £E10,262, making the total for the year £E90,501. The figures for the corresponding period of 1919 were £E6,884 and £E31,046.

The receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin railway for the week ended July 3, amounted to £7,886.

## LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

The market during the past week has presented a more cheerful appearance than for a long time back. Demand has been on a larger scale and buyers have shown more disposition to place orders with spinners and manufacturers. The belief has gained ground that values have touched the bottom, and owing to supplies in most of our outlets abroad not being heavy there has been increased inclination on the part of merchants to replenish stocks. A stronger upward movement has occurred in American qualities, and rates for Egyptian have been firmer. Reports relating to the Egyptian crop continue favourable, but it is recognised that values are now on a more reasonable level, and some users have been prepared to purchase a little more freely. Egyptian yarns have also attracted increased attention, although sales of weight have been quite isolated, and there continues much irregularity in quotations. Improved advices have been received from the Near Eastern markets with regard to the distribution of piece goods. Exporters who for some little time have asked makers to defer deliveries are now willing to receive supplies. The political situation abroad, however, causes anxiety. It is hoped that the congestion at Constantinople will be relieved by the opening out of trade in Russia. In cloths suitable for India there has been a distinctly larger inquiry, and more buying has taken place, especially in dhooties and printing materials. Not much has been heard of business for China. Shippers to South America have given rather better support. Manufacturers are now presenting a somewhat firmer front to buyers, but comparatively cheap sellers can still be found. Freer operations have been reported in American yarns for home consumption. So far not much has been put through in shipping bundles, but an increased inquiry has been met with for India and in coarse counts for the Levant.

## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

### Forthcoming Sailings.

The Cunard s.s. Sea Glory, for Piræus, Constantinople, and Galatz, will close for cargo at Antwerp on July 24, and in London on July 31.

The Moss Line s.s. Amasis, for Gibraltar, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo on July 30.

The Cunard Line s.s. Pavia, for Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on July 24.

The Prince Line s.s. Scottish Prince, for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast ports, and Cyprus, will close for cargo at Manchester on August 7.

The Ellerman Lines s.s. Terbino, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on July 31.

The Moss Line s.s. Assiout, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus, will close for cargo at Liverpool on July 31.

The Moss Line s.s. Aberlour, for Gibraltar, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo on July 30.

The Anchor Line s.s. Elysia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Liverpool on July 23.

The Henderson Line s.s. Amarapoora, for Port Said and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on July 28.

The Johnston Line s.s. Norton, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on July 27.


**ANCHOR LINE**

**FAST PASSENGER SERVICE.**

**LIVERPOOL to BOMBAY.**

**KARACHI (via Bombay) calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.**

**LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.**
**FITTED WITH ELECTRIC FANS.**
**MARCONI WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.**
**RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.**

**PASSENGER SAILING DATES—**
**ELYSIA ABOUT AUG. 7.**
**CIRCASSIA ABOUT AUGUST 28.**
**OLYMPIA ABOUT SEPT. 8.**

**ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LTD.,**
**16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.**


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# CREDIT NATIONAL OTTOMAN

(Established by Imperial Decree dated January 1, 1917.)

*Subscribed Capital - £T. 4,000,000*
*Paid-up Capital - £T. 2,000,000*
*Reserve Fund - £T. 140,000*

**HEAD OFFICE: 50, Voivoda Street, Galata, Constantinople.**

**Branches: STAMBOUL and SMYRNA.**

*Correspondents in the principal cities of Turkey and Abroad.*

**Chairman: His Ex. DAMAD CHERIF PACHA**
(late President of the Council of State).

**Manager: SOUBHY ZIA BEY.**

**Transacts every kind of Banking Business and undertakes Commercial, Industrial, Mining Enterprises, Public Works, etc.**

# P. G. MACRIS & CO.

**Head Office:—3, SOPHOCLES STREET, ATHENS.**

**∴ Branches and Agencies throughout Greece. ∴**

MANUFACTURERS' AGENTS for—

Newsprint and all other kinds of Papers.—Chemicals, Drugs and Pharmaceutical Products.—Fertilizers.—Jute Cloth and Jute Bags.

PERMANENT STOCKS of—

Chemical and Pharmaceutical Products and Papers of all kinds.

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES of—

The Hellenic Wine and Spirit Co., Athens.
The Hellenic Society of Chemical Products and Manures, Athens.
The "Titan" Cement Co., Athens.
The Soap and Oil Works, "Charilaos & Canellopoulos," Athens.

BANKERS' REFERENCES:—

The London Joint City & Midland Bank, Ltd. (Foreign Dept.), London.
The American Express Co., New York.
The Bank of Industry, Athens.

*Reference can also be made to "THE NEAR EAST."*

# BANQUE MARMOROSCH, BLANK & CO.

(Joint Stock Company).

**HEAD OFFICE: BUCHAREST (Roumania).**

**Capital: 125,000,000 Lei. Reserves: 140,000,000 Lei.**

BUCHAREST, CONSTANTINOPLE, PARIS, NEW YORK
AND
Branches in all the Principal Towns of Great Roumania.

# LIONDA & COMPANY, Ltd.

**3, Broad Street Buildings, Liverpool Street, LONDON, E.C.2.**

Tel.: "EXPLIONDAC AVE, LONDON." Cables: "EXPLIONDAC, LONDON."

**Export Department:** Heavy and Light Chemicals, Colonial Spices, Metals, Dried and Salted Fish, Matches, etc. Paper of any description, and all kinds of British, Scandinavian, Dutch and American Produce.

**Hellenic, Sudanese and Egyptian Produce:** Are always Buyers of Currants, Figs, Olive Oil, Locust Beans, etc., Gum, Senna Leaves, Beeswax, Hides and Skins, Cotton Seed, Onions, etc., etc.

**Chartering and Insurance Department:** British and Neutral Steamers chartering effected on the Baltic. Insurance of any description effected through Lloyd's and Government.

**Shipping Department:** For the Sale and Purchase of Steamers.

**Tobacco Department:** Stocks of various grades held always in London and Liverpool. **Coal Exporters, &c.**

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**ATHENS HOUSE: Postal Add.: LIONDA & CO., LTD., ATHENS, GREECE.** Tel. Add.: "LIONDA, ATHENS."

**PIRAEUS HOUSE: Postal Add.: LIONDA & CO., LTD., PIRAEUS, GREECE.** Tel. Add.: "LIONDA, PIRAEUS."

**CONSTANTINOPLE HOUSE: Postal Add.: LIONDA & CO., LTD., 12, ADA HAN, GALATA, CONSTANTINOPLE.** Tel. Add.: "EXPLIONDAC, CONSTANTINOPLE."

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*Bankers:* In England—The National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, London, E.C.; Barclays Bank, Ltd. (F.B.), Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.; Bank of Athens, 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C. 2; Ionian Bank, Ltd., Moorgate Street, E.C. 2. In France—Société Générale, Boulevard Haussmann 29, Paris. In Greece—Ionian Bank, Ltd., Bank of Athens, Banque d'Economie Nationale, Banque d'Orient.


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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## Smyrna Olive Oil.

The following is a further extract from the report of Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, from which we quoted last week.—

Olive Oil Yield.—The yield of oil in the past winter has proved the smallest ever recorded, the quantity available having proved inadequate for even a reduced local consumption.

Prospects for the coming winter are, however, exceptionally favourable. The fruit has set well and the trees are in healthy condition. The last good average pre-war yield in 1913-4 gave the following results:—Aidin district, 300,000 kintals; Odemish and Baindir, 90,000 kintals; Smyrna and environs, 50,000 kintals; Kiuluk, 80,000 kintals; Aivaly, 120,000 kintals; Adramyt, 280,000 kintals; say, 920,000 kintals or 50,000 tons.

It is now estimated that the trees are bearing sufficient fruit to assure a yield of about 35-40,000 tons. It must however, be borne in mind that many of the mills have been destroyed, that transport and labour conditions are very difficult, and that with the insecurity existing in many parts of the country it is doubtful if the entire housing and milling of the olives will be possible. Export is prohibited, and it is not likely that the prohibition will be raised until the result of the coming winter's yield is assured.

## Egyptian Crops.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in June:—

Cotton.—The weather was favourable and water supply was generally sufficient except in some localities at the tail ends of canals. Hoeing, watering, and manuring are in progress. "Wilt" has been reported from several districts in Beheira, Daqahliya, and Gharbiya, and aphis has been observed in most provinces, but no damage of any importance has been reported in either case. The cotton worm attack has spread to a limited extent in the provinces of Lower Egypt and in Giza and Minya, and is being promptly dealt with. Hatching on a very small scale occurred in some localities of Daqahliya and Gharbiya. Flowering is general, and bolls have been formed in Middle and Upper Egypt. The crop, generally speaking, has made up to some extent for its past lateness and is looking healthy, particularly in Middle and Upper Egypt.

Rice.—The weather was favourable and the water supply was, on the whole, sufficient. The recent extension of the rice area has involved the continuation of sowing throughout the month, and this operation is still in progress. Early sown fields are looking well.

Sugar Cane.—The weather was favourable everywhere, and the water supply was adequate. Hoeing, manuring, and watering are in progress. The crop is growing satisfactorily.

Wheat.—Reports received confirm last month's estimation of the yield per feddan with a very slight increase for Lower Egypt. These figures show a great improvement on those of last year, and it is hoped that the rise in the yield may compensate to a large extent for the decrease in the area.

Bersim (Seed).—Threshing, winnowing, and storing of the crop left for seed are in progress. Reports to hand confirm last month's statement as regards the shortage of seed.

## Special Reports.

The following information is compiled from the weekly bulletins received at the London offices of the Imperial Ottoman Bank from its correspondents in the Near East:—

PANDERMA, June 8.

Business during the past month has not been more important than in the previous period. Forecasts of the approaching crop, which will commence in July, are for the moment encouraging, conditions being most propitious. If there is no change, a satisfactory yield of cereals is to be anticipated.

ADANA (undated).

The cotton crop of 1919-20, although much below that of the years before the war, being about 25,000 bales against 80,000 bales, has been very profitable for exporters, who, notwithstanding the great difficulties of the financial and political situation and the fluctuations in the course of the exchanges, have realised profits surpassing their expectations.

Forecasts of the crop of 1920-21 are very favourable. The area of land sown is much greater than that of the previous year, and the climatic conditions having been favourable up to the present time a yield of double that of 1918 is to be anticipated—that is to say, 50 to 55,000 bales.

# NEW COMPANIES.

## Byzantine Adventurers.

Byzantine Adventurers has been registered as a private company with a capital of £2.000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on in the United Kingdom, Near East, or elsewhere, the business of wholesale and retail merchants, etc.

## Hamilton's Oil.

Hamilton's Oil Concessions (Roumania) was registered as a private company on June 18, with a capital of £500,000 in 2s. shares. Objects: To acquire, own and work oil, bitumen, maltha, or other deposits, etc. First directors: J. Brailsford, Crayfield, Chislehurst, Kent; R. R. Tweed, 13, Third Avenue, Hove, Sussex.

## Roumanian Deep Oil.

The Roumanian Moreni Deep Oil Company was registered on June 18 as a private company, with a capital of £40,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To take over lands in any part of the world suitable for the exploitation of minerals, oils, petroleum, ozokerite, and bituminous substances, etc. First directors: H. R. Clarke, A. de Vargas, J. Kentish, W. J. Williams, C. J. Gilbert, P. H. Simpson, and P. C. Millard. Registered office: 71a, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

## George Gordon and Co. (Burma).

George Gordon and Co. (Burma) has been registered as a private company with a capital of £25,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To take over the business carried on in Rangoon, Burma, by G. Gordon, and to carry on the business of general merchants, etc. The first directors are R. McCracken, Hyde Park Hotel, W. (director of Steel Bros. and Co., Ltd.); J. Duncan, Carlton Hotel, S.W. (director of Steel Bros. and Co., Ltd., British and Foreign Marine Insurance Company, Ltd., and Royal Insurance Company, Ltd.); B. T. Petley, 16, South Eden Park, Beckenham (director of Steel Bros. and Co., Ltd., and the Attock Oil Co., Ltd.); G. O. Stiven, "Barfield," St. George's Hill, Weybridge, merchant, 6, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

# COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

## Assam Oil.

The report of the Assam Oil Company for the year ended 1919 states that, prices in the various markets being well maintained, the value of paraffin wax advanced, and the accounts also benefit by the rise in the exchange value of the rupee. The directors also arranged for an expert inspection of the refinery, and have received a valuable report, from which they expect to obtain considerable benefit. The profit earned was £81,697. Including £28,322 brought forward, the credit balance is £110,019. The directors have transferred £25,000 to depreciation account, and propose a dividend of 8 per cent. on the ordinary and a further 1 per cent. on the preference shares, in order to make their total dividend equal to that paid on the ordinary, both dividends less tax; to transfer £10,000 to reserve, and to carry forward £17,101, out of which the excess profits duty in respect of 1919 will be paid.

## Bank of British West Africa.

The report of the Bank of British West Africa for the year ended March 31, states that after providing for current charges, rebate on bills, depreciation of investments and for bad and doubtful debts there remains a net profit of £125,147, which with £22,680 brought forward makes a total of £147,827. The directors recommend a final dividend of 6 per cent., making for the year 10 per cent., less tax. £15,000 has been applied to writing down premises and furniture account, £5,000 added to staff fund, £5,000 to bank's insurance fund and £21,250 to reserve, bringing the reserve fund up to £400,000. The balance of £30,377 is carried forward. There were issued during the year 55,000 new shares, the premium received thereon having been added to the reserve fund. A resolution will be proposed to increase the authorised capital of the bank to £4,000,000.

# OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended July 3:—The sales this week on our market amount to 35 cases (of 160 lb. per case), as follows:—Ten cases current qualities of 9½ per cent. average at 850 piastres to 1,025 piastres per oke, equal to $3 to $3.50 and 17s. 6d. and 19s. per lb., c.i.f.; 25 cases selected manufacturing of 11½ per cent. average at 1,050 piastres to 1,075 piastres, equal to $4 to $4.10 and 19s. 6d. to 20s. 3d. per lb., c.i.f. The exchange to-day is 410 piastres per pound sterling for cheque, and $0.98 for one Turkish paper pound. The arrivals (this week we commence the new crop) are 20 cases against six at same date last year.

The ordinary general meeting of the Jokai (Assam) Tea Co. will be held at 50, Old Broad Street, E.C., July 23, 3 p.m.

OAKEY'S WELLINGTON KNIFE POLISH.
The Original Preparation for polishing Cutlery.
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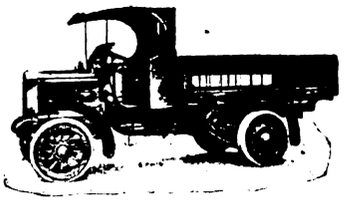

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# COMPANY MEETING.

## ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.

The ninth ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, Limited, was held on July 14 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Sir Marcus Samuel, Bt. (the chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. J. Y. Kennedy) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, before submitting to you the directors' report for the year ended December 31, 1919, I would call your attention to the general meeting of the holders of the "B" shares, which is to follow this meeting. In accordance with the plan invariably adopted by the "Shell" group, the interests of the shareholders in outside companies receives our greatest consideration, and it is in pursuance of this policy that the holders of the preferential capital in this company have offered to surrender their prior rights and to share in all the risks of the company with the ordinary shareholders. The advantages of the scheme are quite obvious, for so long as these preferential rights existed they would be a bar to raising fresh capital if and when this becomes necessary. I will briefly call your attention to the salient features in the report for the past year issued to you. We have to deplore a reduction in the quantity of crude oil produced in the year under review, which amounted to only 231,180 tons, as compared with 277,300 tons in 1918, and I regret to say that this unsatisfactory feature of our business still continues, the production for the first six months of this year having been only 64,088 tons. Under these circumstances it is satisfactory that we are able to recommend a payment of the dividend equal to 20 per cent. of the "B" share capital. The cash position was not unsatisfactory, since we held in investments £639,232 at the end of 1919. You will gather from a perusal of the profit and loss account how much we have benefited from the refining of imported oil, thus reducing the cost of treating our own to £34,786, and it is obvious that without this extraneous revenue the erratic production derived from our own territories would have been extremely costly had it borne the entire cost of the refinery working. I will not weary you with many of the difficulties which confront us owing to these circumstances. Not the least is that of transport, and were it not again for our good friends, the Asiatic Petroleum Company, Limited, who constantly come to our aid in this connection, we could scarcely conduct the business.

We have frequently dwelt upon the necessity for further productive territory if this company is to be as successful as we should wish, and these views have been repeatedly pressed upon the Egyptian Government. When the directors submitted their report a year ago we were still engaged in discussing with the Government the terms under which the concession was to be granted to the company. The Government expressed themselves as willing and, indeed, desirous that the company should take up new territory, but they were not prepared to grant such territory on any terms but those embodied in their standard regulations. Under these we could only acquire rights on very small areas—so small that we did not feel justified in committing our shareholders to heavy capital expenditure without any guarantee that they, and not others, would chiefly benefit from the discovery of new fields. We therefore pressed the Egyptian Government to grant us further territory under the same conditions as were embodied in the agreement of 1913. Last September, however, as a result of further conferences with the Government, we agreed to modify our attitude in view of alterations which had been made in the standard regulations, removing some of their more objectionable features. We agreed to explore and take up further territory under those regulations, and we have actually acquired the rights over certain small plots of territory outside our present field. We still do not regard these regulations as satisfactory, but during the last few months they have been undergoing a process of what may be called "progressive interpretation," and we hope that we are now on the road towards the establishment of more satisfactory conditions in the petroleum industry in Egypt.

The fuel shortage in Egypt has been a great preoccupation for many months past. One of our directors has visited Egypt twice and the question of supplies has been the main subject of discussion with the Government. Fortunately our friends, the Asiatic Petroleum Company, Limited, have been able to come to the rescue with large supplies of imported fuel and kerosene, thus staving off what might otherwise have been a very serious economic crisis. The question of supplies is involved with that of price, and on this point the Government have been most anxious to keep prices down to the lowest possible figure. We have felt it our duty, so far as possible, to comply with their strongly expressed desires on this point.

This company stands in a very peculiar position. The Government participates in our profits, and for many years we, in conjunction with our friends, the Asiatic Petroleum Company, Limited, have been in practice solely responsible for the maintenance of supplies on which Egypt is dependent for the first necessaries of life. We are basing our policy on the belief that the relation of such a company with the Government should be one of complete mutual confidence and cordial co-operation. In pursuance of this policy we are giving the Government full opportunities of examining all phases of our work, including the work of our refinery, and we wish to express our appreciation of the full information which the Department of Mines and other Government departments have at various times placed at our disposal. We hope that in the future such co-operation will result in the building up of a lasting national industry in Egypt, from which the Egyptian people, the owners of the undeveloped natural resources of their country, will derive great benefit—greater, perhaps, than strict justice would allow to them, having regard to the heavy responsibility and grave risks which are borne by those who undertake the development and bring these resources from their natural valueless condition into the position of productive national assets. I now move the formal adoption of the report.

Sir A. Henry McMahon, G.C.M.G., seconded the resolution.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

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A separate general meeting of the holders of the "B" shares was then held, at which the proposed agreement with reference to the rearrangement of the capital was passed by the requisite majority.

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An extra-ordinary general meeting of the company was afterwards held, at which resolutions were passed increasing the capital of the company to £1,808,000 by the creation of 458,000 new "B" shares of £1 each, ranking pari passu with the other "B" shares in the capital of the company, and adopting new articles of association.

In acknowledging a vote of thanks, the Chairman said that this was the only company outside the Shell group with which he had been personally associated. The time had come when he felt he must take things a little more easily, and if he had to resign the chairmanship it would be with regret, but he should not resign unless he felt that it was really necessary for his health.

The proceedings then terminated.

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## TURKEY'S FISHING INDUSTRY POSSIBILITIES.

Notwithstanding the large expanse of coast line of the Ottoman Empire, its fishing industry is of little importance compared with that of European countries (says the Commercial Secretary to H.M. High Commissioner, Constantinople). Maritime fishing is carried on only within some ten miles of the coast, and boats rarely or never go further from land. This fishing is done with nets, either floating, drawn, or fixed. The system of laying down nets parallel to the coast to keep the fish in during low tide is unknown in Turkey.

Turkey in Europe and in Asia Minor has a number of lakes, rivers and waterways which abound in fish to such an extent that their yield alone would suffice not only for local consumption, but could be developed into an important export trade if salted and smoked. The exploiting of these waterways has been carried on in general, although advantageously, in such a primitive and irregular way that the yield could be greatly increased without difficulty by the adoption of modern methods. It is reported that a European financial group has lately sent out a mission to prospect and report on the advantages to be gained in obtaining concessions, leases, etc., in connection with the lakes of Sabandja, near the Sea of Marmora, Bek-Chehir, and Ak-Chehir, in the district of Konia.

The fish which could be used for salting and drying, and which are to a certain extent exported, are anchovies, mackerel, sardines, short-finned tunny, eels, etc. Unfortunately, no statistics have ever been kept of this small trade, but from the Constantinople district the following figures were registered before the war:—Tunny, 200,000 kilos, of which 50,000 kilos were preserved in brine, and some exported to Italy and Mount Athos; mackerel, salted, 400,000 kilos; skate, from the vicinity of the islands of the Marmora, 50,000 kilos; sardines, 30,000 to 35,000 kilos; anchovies, 100,000 kilos; herrings, 50,000 kilos; and short-finned tunny, 700,000 to 800,000 pair. In addition, 4,700,000 smoked mackerel were similarly registered in 1914, 25,000,000 in 1915, and 54,000,000 in 1916. The mackerel eggs are not used to any purpose, as in France.

### Sources of Supply.

The Black Sea furnishes large numbers of anchovies, grey mullet, turbot, red herrings, short-finned tunny, sturgeon, whiting, roach, etc. In the Sea of Marmora, the Bosphorus, the Golden Horn, and the Ægean Sea, are to be found, besides those mentioned above, red mullet, sword-fish, tunny, sardines, skate, and sea bream, and also the following molluscs and crustaceans:—Oysters, mussels, lobsters, prawns, etc.

The inland waterways abound in carp, catfish, perch, pike, mullet, grey mullet, eels, gudgeon, rudd, bream, tench, etc. Waterfowl found on the shore of Lakes Kutchuk-Tchekmedjé and Buyak-Tchekmedjé include herons, cormorants, duck and wild geese.

The total catch for the Administrative District of Constantinople for the year 1915 was 9,592,200 kilos, with a total value of £T.195,650; that of the Adrianople Administration in the same year 598,000 kilos, valued at £T.2,500. In other administrative districts the total catch of Sivas in 1913 amounted to 10,350 kilos, in 1917 to 2,900 kilos, and in 1918 to 1,070 kilos; and that of Trebizond in 1913 to 2,171,200 kilos, and in 1917 to 1,483,000 kilos. In the Administration of Broussa 180,000 kilos of the catch are salted each year.


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### Egypt.

*(The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.)*

Cotton Waste.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 200 metrical tons cotton waste. August 9. (L.)

Uniforms.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for Bedford cord pantaloons, khaki drill infantry and artillery frocks. Tenders will be received up to first post on Monday, July 26, and will remain open for 14 days. (L.)

Extension of Electrical Station of Zagazig and Belbeis.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, for the extension of the electrical station of Zagazig and Belbeis. Adjudication at noon on September 1. A copy of the specification, etc. (in French) may be consulted by British firms interested at the Enquiry Office of the Department of Overseas Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.2.

Gas Piping, etc.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the following:—Blue Serge and Khaki Puttees. Calico. Tenders returnable by noon on July 23. White Canvas Shoes (Gymnastic). Tenders returnable on July 26. Lining for Tarboushes. Tenders returnable on July 27. Tenders will remain open for seven days. (L)

Electric Lift.—Tenders are invited for the supply and installation of an electric lift in the Kasr-el-Aini Hospital, Cairo. Tenders close on August 15. The lift is required to carry a cage 2 metres by 1.50 metres in area, with a fully loaded weight of 300 kilos, through a height of 9.40 metres with three stops (with a possible future extension to 15 metres with four stops), at a speed of 25 centimetres per second. A copy of the specification (in French) may be inspected at the Department of Overseas Trade (Room 50), 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

Engineers' Tools, etc.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for engineers' tools, files, portable forges, spanners, bolts and nuts, etc. Tenders will be received up to noon on July 24. (L.)

### India.

Iron Pipes, etc.—The Madras Corporation invites tenders for the supply and delivery of about 220 tons of cast-iron spigot and socket pipes, with special castings, sluice valves, etc. (Specification, 5s., Messrs. James Mansergh and Sons, 5, Victoria Street, S.W.1.). Tenders will be received until September 8.

### Turkey.

Telephones and Accessories.—The Commercial Secretary to the British High Commission at Constantinople has received an inquiry for the name of a United Kingdom manufacturer of telephones with magnetos, all telephone accessories, telephone wires, and a central of 500/600 lines; also electric bells, wires, batteries, etc. Correspondence and catalogues should be addressed to the British High Commissioner's representative at Samsoun, under cover to the Commercial Secretary at Constantinople.

### Roumania.

The Roumanian Government invite tenders for the supply of the following military equipment:—16,000 outfits, each consisting of two shirts, two pairs drawers, two hand towels, two handkerchiefs, two pairs socks, one pair woollen gloves, one clothes brush, one boot brush, one overcoat, two jackets, two pairs of trousers, one military cap, one sweater, two pairs of boots, two pairs of puttees, one hood, two blouses, one blanket, one mattress cover, two pillowslips, and two sheets. Tenders should be submitted to His Majesty's Commercial Secretary, Bucharest.

## ON CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

Although business still continues on a somewhat restricted scale, there is a better tendency generally for all Egyptian securities; and but for there being so very few sellers on this side a good deal more business would have been put through, as Egypt has been during the last few days sending over a good many buying orders.

In Government stocks some business has been done in Egyptian Unifieds round the current level, and the 3½ per cent. Prefs. have advanced a point to 57, owing to the shortage of stock and in spite of the fact that this is above the level at which Egypt is prepared to buy. In Greek loans there has been a fairly large business done, and, as a result, the 1881 and 1884 Loans are a point down at 55. The 1890 Loan has lost a similar amount at 53, and the Rente Loan has dropped half a point to 40½. On the other hand, the 1902 Loan is in demand at the current quotation, but there are no sellers, and both the 1910 and 1914 Loans are half a point up at 41 and 56 respectively. Turkish Fours of 1891 have put on ½ at 61½, and the 3½ per cent. 1894 Loan has advanced one point to 55.

In Bank shares Agriculturals have improved 3-32 to 4 15-32, and National Banks have risen ⅛ to 19¾. Ottoman Banks have been a strong spot and are closing ½ up at 9¼.

In Railways, Delta Lights are ⅛ up at 5⅞, while Piræus-Athens 4½ per cent. bonds are 2½ points down at 57½, but the quotation is rather nominal.

In Land shares there has been a general hardening of prices. Egyptian Consolidated Lands have jumped 4½d. to 3s., Delta Lands are 6d. higher at 14s., Gharbieh Lands have improved ¼ at 3¼, and New Egyptians are closing at 35s., an advance of 6d. A further rise of ⅛ has taken place in Union Foncières to 4 11-16, but, on the other hand, Sudan Plantations have dropped 1-16 to 4⅜.

In Miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Waters are ⅛ down at 7⅞, at which price some business has been done, and Morums Stores are again 3d. lower at 17s.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptian B have dropped 3-32 to 2 31-32, while Roumanians, on the other hand, have advanced 6d. to 18s. 9d.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97½-97¾ |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 30·75-31·00 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 60-65 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/10⅝-1/10⅞ |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 123-127 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/10⅝-1/10⅞ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 400-420 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅜ | 3·84¼-3·86½ |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 46·40-46·70 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 190-195 |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 27 |

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

This week's Indian cable states:—Rainfall has been fairly general throughout India. General crop conditions good, but more rain required in some parts. First preliminary forecast, acreage 2,501,636, or decrease of 11.9 per cent. on final figures of last year. Crop prospects not so good as last year owing to excessive rainfall followed by drought. Bombay cotton market weak. Fully good broach July-August Rs. 442 8 Annas. Piecegoods market improving, with better inquiry and fair turnover. Calcutta jute market quiet, with some business done in new crop. Hessians quiet. Heavy goods steady, with small business. Cornsacks easier. No change in Bank rate.


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| LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE. | Price July 12. | Price July 19. |
|---|---|---|
| **GOVERNMENT STOCKS.** | | |
| Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892 | 36 | 36 |
| Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907 | 51½ | 51½ |
| Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909 | 27 | 27 |
| City of Alexandria 4%, 1909 | 60 | 60 |
| Egyptian 4% Unified Debt | 68½ | 68½ |
| Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890 | 56 | 57 |
| Greek 5%, 1881 | 56 | 55 |
| Do. 5%, 1884 | 56 | 55 |
| Do. 4% Rentes, 1889 | 41 | 40½ |
| Do. 5% 1890 | 54 | 53 |
| Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893 | 53 | 53 |
| Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902 | 46 | 46 |
| Do. 4% Loan, 1910 | 40½ | 41 |
| Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) | 55½ | 56 |
| Do. 5% Currant | 90 | 90 |
| Montenegro 5% Loan | 78½ | 78½ |
| Persia 5% 1911 | 64¾ | 64½ |
| Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913 | 36 | 36 |
| Serbian 4% Unified Bonds | — | — |
| Turkish 4% 1891 | 61 | 61½ |
| Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894 | 54 | 55 |
| Do. 4% Unified | 35 | 35 |
| **BANKS.** | | |
| Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) | 4⅜ | 4⅜ |
| Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) | 5⅞xd | 5⅞xd |
| Do. 3½ Bonds Red. | 61 | 61 |
| Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red. | 63 | 63 |
| Bank of Abyssinia | 1½ | 1¼ |
| Bank of Athens | 4⅛ | 4⅛ |
| Bank of British West Africa | 6¼ | 6⅜ |
| Bank of Roumania | 5⅝ | 95/- |
| British Trade Corporation | 8⅞ | 8⅞ |
| Imperial Ottoman Bank | 8⅜ | 9⅛ |
| Imperial Bank of Persia | 7⅞-8 | 7⅞-8 |
| Ionian Bank, Limited | 5 | 5 |
| Land Bank of Egypt Ord. | 5 | 5 |
| London County and Westminster | 14⅜ | 14 |
| National Bank of Egypt | 19⅜ | 19¾ |
| **RAILWAYS.** | | |
| Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer | 5⅝ | 5¾ |
| Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord. | 8 | 8 |
| Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref. | 10½ | 10½ |
| Do. Do. 4% Debs. | 34 | 34 |
| Do Do. 5% 2nd Debs. | 30½ | 30½ |
| Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry. | 27 | 27 |
| Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½% | 60 | 57½ |
| Do. Do. 3% Bonds | 44 | 44 |
| **LAND.** | | |
| Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) | 35/6 | 35/6 |
| Do. 6% Debs | 135 | 135 |
| Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt | 12/6 | 12/6 |
| Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment | 75/- | 75/- |
| Béhéra Co. | 16 | 16 |
| Do. Pref. | 3½ | 3½ |
| Building Lands of Egypt | 1¼ | 1¼ |
| Egyptian Consol 5/- | 2/7½ | 3/- |
| Egyptian Delta Land and Invest. | 13/6 | 14/- |
| Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs. | 73 | 73 |
| Do. Land and General Trust | 1/6 | 1/6 |
| Do. and Foreign Trust | 13/3 | 13/3 |
| Gharbieh Land Co. | 3 | 3¼ |
| Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt | 29/- | 29/- |
| Do. 4½% Debs. Red. | 84½ | 84½ |
| Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red | 61½ | 61½ |
| Mortgage Co. of Egypt | 6¼ | 6¼ |
| Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red. | 75 | 75 |
| New Egyptian Co. | 34/6 | 35/- |
| Sidi Salem Co. | 2¼ | 2¼ |
| Sudan Plantations | 4⅞ | 4⅞ |
| Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. | 4⅛ | 4⅛ |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | |
| Abyssinian Corp. | ⅝ | ⅝ |
| Alexandria Water Co. | 8 | 7⅞ |
| Associated Cotton Ginners | 25/- | 25/- |
| Egyptian Hotels | 2¼ | 2¼ |
| Do. Markets Ord. | 1⅛ | 1⅛ |
| Do. do 5% Debs. Red. | 86½ | 86½ |
| Do. Salt and Soda Bearer | 2⅛ | 2⅛ |
| Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs. | 96⅜ | 96⅜ |
| Khedivial Mail Ord. | 5⅓xd | 5⅓xd |
| Do. Do. Prefs. | 5¼ | 5¼ |
| Levant Co. (fully paid) | 16/9 | 16/9 |
| Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref | 17/3 | 17/- |
| Suez Canal | — | — |
| **Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.** | | |
| Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series | 94½ | 94 |
| Chinese 4½% 1898 | 55⅜ | 55 |
| Do. 5% 1896 | 71½ | 70 |
| Argentine 5% 1890 | 69⅜ | 70⅜ |
| Do. 5% 1907 | 77½ | 79½ |
| **OIL.** | | |
| Algerian | 3/- | 2/11¼ |
| Anglo-Bulgarian | 4/3 | 5/3 |
| Anglo-Egyptian B | 3⅛ | 2⅞ |
| Anglo-Persian Pref. | 22/1½ | 22/9 |
| Do. 5% Debs. | 82½ | 81½ |
| Anglo-Roumanian | 7/3 | 6/- |
| Cyprus Oil Trust | 3/6 | — |
| Maisel's Petroleum Trust | 10/7½ | 10/7½ |
| Roumanian | 18/3 | 18/9 |
| Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs. | 100 | 100 |
| Suez | 4/- | 4/10½ |
| Trajan (Roumanian) | 7/6 | 7/6 |

Piræus, Athens and Peloponnesus Railway 3 per cent. Bonds.—Coupons and drawn bonds due July 15 are now being paid by R. Raphael and Sons, Austin Friars House, E.C.

Privileged Company to Protect Production and Trade in Currants 5 per cent. Loan.—Coupon No. 21 representing half-year's interest due August 1 will be paid on and after August 3 at Erlangers, 8, Crosby Square, E.C.

# "NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

*(Continued.)*

| BRUSSELS BOURSE. | Price July 9. | Price July 15. |
|---|---|---|
| Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs. | 402·50 | 405 |
| Do. do. Priv. | 576 | 575 |
| Do. do. Cap. | 436 | 444·50 |
| Do. do. Div. | 400 | 400 |
| Anglo-Belgian Co. | 39·50 | 36·75 |
| Cairo Electric Railways Cap. | 217·50 | 215·25 |
| Do. do. Div. | 301·25 | 299·50 |
| Caisse Hypothécaire Act | 477·50 | 477·50 |
| Do. do. (10 eme p.b.) | 62·75 | 65·75 |
| Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½% Debs. | 355·50 | 335 |
| Do. do. Priv. | 490 | 475 |
| Do. do. Div. | 181·50 | 180 |
| Compagnie Immobiliére Deb. | 379·50 | 382·50 |
| Do. do. Cap. | 167·50 | 166·25 |
| Do. do. Fond. | 254·75 | 250·50 |
| Enterprise and Development Cap. | 235 | 245 |
| Do. do. Div. | 125 | 117·50 |
| Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte) Priv. | — | — |
| Do. do. Ord. | 497·50 | 497·50 |
| Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap. | 200 | 200 |
| Do. do. Div. | 125 | 125 |
| Salonika-Constantinople Railway | 250 | 250 |
| Salonika-Monastir Railway | 200 | 200 |
| Smyrna-Cassaba Railway 4%, 1894 | 150 | 150 |
| Do. do. 4%, 1895 | 150 | 150 |
| Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv. | 115 | 115 |
| Do. do. Div. | 150 | 150 |
| Tramways du Caire Priv. | 444·50 | 450·50 |
| Do. do. Jouiss | 691·25 | 665 |
| Travaux Publics du Caire Priv. | 272·50 | 272·50 |
| Do. do. Ord. | — | — |
| Do. do. Div. | 40 | 25 |

# INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

**INDIAN FUNDS.**

| Interest Due. | Name. | July 9. | July 16. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc. | India 3½% Stock,* 1931 | 55¾ | 55¾ |
| Various dates.. | Do. Rupee Paper 3½% | 52¼ | 53 |
| | * Redeemable. | | |
| **CORPORATION STOCKS.** | | | |
| Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959 | | 83⅛ | 83⅛ |
| Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1903-10, 1939-40 | | 65 | 65 |
| Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938 | | 66 | 66 |
| **BANKS.** | | | |
| Chartered of India | | 75½ | 77 |
| Eastern | | 6⅝ | 6½ |
| Mercantile of India A. | | 26 | 27¼ |
| National of India | | 50⅛ | 51 |
| **MINES.** | | | |
| Balaghat Gold Mining | | 6/10½ | ⅜ |
| Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref. | | 14/- | 15/1½ |
| Burma Corp. | | 9⅞ | 9⅛ |
| Burma Ruby Mines Ord. | | 6/- | 5/6 |
| Champion Reef Gold | | 2/6 | 2/6 |
| Mysore Gold Mining | | 14/4½ | ⅛ |
| Nundydroog | | 11/- | ½ |
| Ooregum Gold Mining Ord. | | 15/1½ | ¾ |
| Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf. | | 21/- | 21/- |
| Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.) | | 24/3 | 24/3 |
| **OIL.** | | | |
| Assam Oil | | 30/- | 26/10½ |
| Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref. | | 26/3 | 23/9 |
| Brit. Burmah | | 95 | 93 |
| Burmah Oil Co. Ord. | | 16½ | 15⅝ |
| Do. 6% Cum. Pref. | | 18/9 | 18/9 |
| Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref. | | 9⅛ | 9⅛ |
| **RAILWAYS.** | | | |
| Assam Bengal | | 53½ | 50 |
| Bengal and N.-Western Ord. | | 124 | 119¼xd |
| Do 3½% Cum. Pref. | | 49 | 49 |
| Bengal-Nagpur | | 100½ | 100½ |
| Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India | | 100¼ | 100¼ |
| Burma Railways | | 100½ | 100 |
| Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb. | | — | — |
| E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953 | | 11⅝ | 11⅝ |
| East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957 | | 11½ | 11½ |
| Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948 | | 10⅝ | 10⅝ |
| Madras and S. Mahratta | | 100½ | 100 |
| Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord. | | 121 | 121 |
| Nizam's Guaranteed State | | 66 | 66⅛ |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | | |
| Bengal Iron Ord. | | 52/6 | 52/- |
| Do. 7½% Cum. Pref. | | 19/4½ | 19/4½ |
| P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P. | | 75½ | 75 |
| Do. Deferred | | 462 | 472 |
| **TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.** | | | |
| Assam Co. | | 56 | 55½ |
| Bengal United Tea Ord. | | 15⅞ | 15⅞ |
| British Indian Tea Ord. | | 7⅛ | 7⅛ |
| Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord. | | 15 | 15 |
| Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord. | | 9/7½ | 9/7½ |
| Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. | | 54/9 | 54/9 |
| Consolidated Estates | | 40/- | 40/- |
| Darjeeling Co. | | 16/- | 15/10½ |
| Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. | | 37/9 | 37/9 |
| Dooars Tea Ord. | | 45/9 | 43/9 |
| Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. | | 17/9 | 18/1½ |
| Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est. | | 30/- | 31/3 |
| Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber | | 29/10½ | 30/3 |
| Hewagam Rubber Co. | | 21/- | 21/- |
| Jhanzie Tea Association | | 9⅜ | 9⅜ |
| Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. | | 17⅛ | 17⅛ |
| Kepitigalla Rubber Estates | | 15/6 | 16/- |
| Lanka Plantations Ord. | | 21/6 | 21/6 |
| Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord. | | 21/3 | 21/3 |
| Malayalam Rub. and Produce | | 37/9 | 38/3 |
| Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. | | 12⅛ | 12⅛ |
| P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates | | 30/3 | 32/1½ |

# STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

| GOVERNMENT LOANS. | June 4. Rs. | June 12. Rs. |
|---|---|---|
| 3½% Government Paper | 59 | 59 |
| 4% Government Paper, 1916-17 | 74 | 74 |
| **BANKS.** | | |
| Alliance Bank of Simla | 300 | 300 |
| Bank of Bengal | 1730 | 1735 |
| Bank of Bombay | 2130 | 2130 |
| Bank of Madras | 1650 | 1560 |
| Bank of India | 148 | 148 |
| Tata Industrial Bank | 51 | 50⅝ |
| **COAL.** | | |
| Baraboni | 16½ | 16½ |
| Bengal | 778ex | 780 |
| Burrakur | 47½ | 46⅝ |
| East Indian | 38⅛ | 38 |
| Equitable | 48 | 47¼ |
| Pench Valley | 335 | 335 |
| Raneegunge | 70 | 63½ |
| Standard | 80 | 76½ |
| **COTTON.** | | |
| Bengal Nagpur | 550ex | 550ex |
| Bombay Dyeing, etc. | 3385 | 3360 |
| Bowreah | 1300 | 1300 |
| Buckingham | 2500 | 2500 |
| Carnatic | 1200 | 1000 |
| Cawnpore | 195ex | 195ex |
| Century | 1120 | 1075 |
| Central India | 4550 | 4590 |
| | 2275 | 2295 |
| Elgin | 167½ex | 225 |
| Gold Mohur | 400 | 400 |
| | 200 | 200 |
| Khatau Makanji | 725 | 725 |
| Muir | 325 | 325 |
| New Ring | 1150 | 1206 |
| Phœnix | 950 | 1000 |
| Svadeshi | 4620 | 4555 |
| **JUTE.** | | |
| Alliance | 715 | 745 |
| Barnagore | 150ex | 170 |
| Budge Budge | 660 | 605 |
| Clive | 302ex | 312 |
| Dalhousie | 510 | 532 |
| Delta | 660 | 660 |
| Fort Gloster | 1085 | 990 |
| Gourepore | 1290 | 1141ex |
| Howrah | 45½ | 47 |
| Kamarhatty | 995 | 1038 |
| Kanknarrah | 775 | 836⅛ |
| Khardah | 583 | 600 |
| Kinnison | 1120 | 1186 |
| National | 422 | 410 |
| Standard | 676 | 708⅛ |
| Union | 830 | 890 |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | |
| Bengal Paper Mills | 110 | 125 |
| Bengal Timber Trading | 865 | 865 |
| Burn and Co. | 300 | 300 |
| Carew and Co. | 118 | 118 |
| Cawnpore Sugar | — | 44½ |
| Cawnpore Woollen | 150 | 150 |
| Champaran Sugar | 440 | 425 |
| Howrah Oil Mills | 38 | 38 |
| India General Steam | 130 | 130 |
| Indian Iron and Steel | 140 | 140 |
| | 90 | 90⅛ |
| Marshall Sons and Co. | 12 | 12⅛ |
| Titaghur Paper | 453 | 468 |

# ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

PRICES ON JULY 9.

| | |
|---|---|
| Agricultural Bank of Egypt | £4[illegible] |
| " " " Fond. | £370 |
| Alexandria Water Co., Ltd. | £8½ |
| Anglo-American Nile Steam | £9[illegible] |
| Assoc. Cotton Ginners | £1[illegible] |
| Banque d'Orient | Fr. 102½ |
| Béhéra Ord. | L.E. 15[illegible] |
| " Priv. | £3[illegible] |
| Bonded Stores | £14[illegible] |
| Brasseries d'Egypte Priv. | Fr. 215 |
| Building Lands of Egypt | £[illegible] |
| Cairo Heliopolis Railway | £120 |
| Cassa di Sconto | Fr. 86 |
| " " Priv. | Fr 117 |
| Ciments d'Egypte Priv. | Fr. 58 |
| " " Div. | Fr. 30 |
| Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte | £1[illegible] |
| Consolidated Land | P.T. 13 |
| Crédit Foncier Egyptien | Fr. 60[illegible] |
| " Fondateur | 7900 |
| " 1886 Oblig. | 393[illegible] |
| " 1903 " | 269 |
| " 1911 " | 269 |
| Crown Brewery Priv. | Fr. 240 |
| " " Div. | Fr. 223 |
| Eaux du Caire Capital | Fr. 85 |
| " " Jouissance | Fr. 118 |
| Egypt and Levant S.S. Ord. | 32/- |
| Egyptian Delta Light Railways | £5[illegible] |
| Filature Nationale d'Egypte | £18[illegible] |
| Frig. orifique d'Egypte | L.E. 2[illegible] |
| Gabbari Lands | L.E. [illegible] |
| Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. | £6[illegible] |
| Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv. | 108/- |
| " " " Ord. | £3[illegible] |
| Kom Ombo Ste. Ane. de Wadi | £8[illegible] |
| " " Fondateur | £7[illegible] |
| Land Bank of Egypt Actions | £5[illegible] |
| " " Parts de Fond. | £46[illegible] |
| Lots Turcs | Fr. 73[illegible] |
| Menzaleh Canal Navigation | P.T. 340 |
| Nungovich Hotels | £[illegible] |
| Ramleh Railway | £2[illegible] |
| Salt and Soda | 51/10[illegible] |
| Tram d'Alexandrie Priv. | Fr. 66 |
| " " Div. | Fr. 73 |
| Union Foncière d'Egypte | £4[illegible] |
| Upper Egypt Hotels | £1[illegible] |
| Urbaines and Rurales | [illegible] |

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 482.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

As was to be anticipated, the Turkish Government last week decided to sign the Treaty, recognising that the Allies at last meant business. The Turkish Cabinet reached this decision on July 21, and it was confirmed the following day by a Crown Council, over which the Sultan presided in person. According to the *Morning Post's* Constantinople correspondent, the threatened loss of their capital was the determining factor in bringing the Turks to swallow the pill, and there can be little doubt that he is right. Still less can there be any doubt that Damad Ferid Pasha and his colleagues have acted in their country's best interests, and though they can hardly expect the thanks of their countrymen for what they have done, they certainly deserve them. Turkey has suffered grievous losses and bitter humiliations, but they are due, not to the Grand Vizier and his Ministry, but chiefly to the group of adventurers, headed by Enver and Talaat, who plunged the country into war so wantonly, and, to a less extent, to the misguided "Nationalists," whose folly has overtaxed the patience of the Allies. Hadi Pasha, Dr. Riza Tewfik, and Halid Bey have been appointed delegates to sign the Treaty, and they will probably have carried out their painful duty before these notes appear.

Greek military operations in Thrace are reported to have progressed with the same rapidity and success as marked those just completed in the Smyrna-Panderma region. From the latter point, on the night of July 20, a force, commanded by General Mazarakis, was transported to the European shore of the Sea of Marmora, the operation being conducted under the escort of a mixed British and Greek squadron. Landings took place at Eregli, Rodosto, and Sultankeui. Only at Rodosto was any resistance offered, and there, according to the special correspondent of *The Times*, the Turks had only three small field-guns, with which they fired only five shots. In the circumstances, it is not surprising to learn that the landing was a "bloodless little operation"; but that it was well and smartly carried out is evident from the fact that it drew the warmest congratulations of the Admiral commanding the British squadron. King Alexander, who witnessed the proceedings at Rodosto from the cruiser Averoff, landed in the afternoon, and received a great welcome, in which Turkish citizens took part.

The Greeks followed up their advantage swiftly. On the 21st a force was astride the railway at Muradli, and at the same time the Turkish positions at Kuleli Burgas were bombarded. On the 22nd the bombardment was continued during the day, and was followed up by a Greek advance to the bridgehead in the evening, and Athens messages of July 25 announced the fall of Adrianople and the disorderly retreat of Jaafer Tayar's forces. According to one report, he is, at the time of writing, falling back upon Kirk Kilisse, where, it is pointed out, he is within easy reach of the Bulgarian frontier. It is to be hoped that the hint thus conveyed will not be lost on the Allied military authorities. Obviously, if Jaafer Tayar's forces seek safety in withdrawal across the frontier, they will not only impose a heavy strain on Bulgaria, who must intern them, but their presence will be a sore temptation to the Greeks, flushed with victory. The Greek Military Mission in Sofia very recently protested to the Allied control against what it described as Bulgarian military movements in favour of Jaafer Tayar. We want no further frontier incidents.

The fears of another Cabinet crisis that had been rife in Yugoslavia for a fortnight or more were justified on July 20. On that day M. Vesnitch's Government failed to secure a vote of confidence, though only by the narrow majority of four votes, the figures being 68 to 64; and the Prime Minister at once handed the resignation of the Cabinet to the Prince Regent. The latter entrusted M. Vesnitch with the task of forming a new Ministry; and as the old one is to remain in office until its successor is formed, it is probable that the new will bear a strong likeness to the old. Whether it will meet the same fate time alone can show, but it is evident that with parties so nicely balanced as they now are the position of any Ministry is bound to be insecure. Such a state of affairs at the present time is much to be regretted; but though it may hinder the country's getting to work, it is very unlikely to lead to developments of the sort that are doubtless hoped for by Yugoslavia's enemies. The recent visit of the Regent to Zagreb and Liubliana served, as our Belgrade Correspondent pointed out, to show how closely united in essentials are the peoples of the pre-war Serbia and the Yugoslavia of victory.

Some particulars of the demands made upon the Damascus Government by General Gouraud are now available. Besides insisting upon recognition of the French mandate over Syria, they stipulated for liberty to use the Rayak-Aleppo railway line and to occupy the stations, for the reduction of the Sherifian army to its effectives of December 1, 1919, for the abolition of forced recruiting, and for free circulation for the French Syrian currency. The Emir Faisal, it was at first reported, accepted these terms, but it now seems to be uncertain whether the report was true. Probably the

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Emir himself wished to accept them, and gave orders accordingly, but his servants failed to carry out his instructions because they did not agree with them. In any case, General Gouraud deemed it necessary to advance on Damascus. On July 22 the advance was suspended at the request of the Emir, who protested that his reply to the ultimatum had been despatched. But a small French force between Homs and Tripolis was attacked by Arab regulars, and thereupon the French moved forward again. At one point, at least, their advance was opposed by the Arabs, and a stiff fight ensued. The French losses are put by the *Temps* at 150, the Arabs' are not stated; but they are said to have abandoned nine guns and twenty-five machine guns, and the Emir's Minister of War is reported to have been killed.

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What followed is not yet quite clear. Apparently the Damascus authorities sent representatives to the French commander, promising that no further resistance should be offered, and that they would victual the French force until railway traffic could be resumed. The city has been occupied by the French (so Paris reports indicate), and apparently Aleppo is to be similarly treated. The situation is admittedly very grave, and it is bound to react unfavourably on our position in Mesopotamia. While the Emir Faisal is understood to have appealed to the League of Nations, his father, King Hussein, has addressed himself direct to the British Government asking for British intervention, and declaring that he is unable to help Faisal's brothers from going to his assistance. For the moment we must content ourselves by stating the facts. But it is clear that Great Britain will have to take action of some kind, and it would seem that her best course would be to acknowledge that she has got herself into difficulties, and to ask her two Allies to discuss the whole subject with her in a friendly spirit. The first thing to decide—and to make quite clear to the world—is what agreements we entered into with the Arabs and with the French—and on what dates.

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The Lords' debate on Amritsar served chiefly to emphasise the competence of the Upper House in discussing questions of high Imperial concern. The matter of the speeches, like the atmosphere of the House, was indeed far superior to the standard attained in the Commons, but there was at the same time a certain unreality in the proceedings, arising from the constitutional position which we have reached in this country. The Commons could have turned out the Government: the Lords could at most record a pious opinion, and to our mind it is much to be regretted that the opinion could not be recorded first. The results of the division can easily be discounted by convinced opponents of the hereditary principle, but it is worth noting that the lead in the discussion was taken by men who owe their position to their own merits, and the difference in the views expressed by men like Lord Finlay and Lord Sumner, Lord Milner and Lord Meston, brings out the difficulty underlying the whole subject.

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We hope the announcement of definite dates for the Prince of Wales's visit to India, taken with Mr. Montagu's recent remarks on the nature and volume of the "opposition," may be read as a dignified reply to the weak spirits who have been suggesting that the visit should be abandoned or postponed. India in the mass loves and reverences the Royal House, and, in view of recent events, it is perhaps justifiable to add that she knows how to treat Princes when they come: there will be fewer hands to shake, and there will, we hope, be greater opportunities of informal recreation, with plenty of birds and beasts to shoot, in the intervals of those stately ceremonials in which the country delights. A few saints and politicians will probably sulk, but we do not think they will be missed.

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Meanwhile, we may note that a necessary condition precedent to the Prince's visit has been secured by the final approval of Parliament to the rules for the election of the legislatures which he will open. The discussion in the Commons last Friday was marked chiefly by Colonel Wedgwood's gallant attempts to introduce a long list of amendments, but the only change sanctioned was the extension of the franchise to pensioned and discharged soldiers, a change which will be welcomed in the fighting tracts, but will have little effect in the large areas whence few recruits have recently been drawn. Advanced politicians in India might profit by a study of Colonel Wedgwood's remarks after all his amendments had been rejected; the arrangements now sanctioned are a temporary makeshift, designed to pave the way for larger freedom, and while they may be open to all sorts of objections, it is only by working them that India can hope to advance constitutionally to better things.

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The need for goodwill becomes indeed more and more apparent as time goes on. India is waking up to the situation, and politicians are finding that they will have to reckon seriously with classes and with questions which hitherto they have endeavoured to ignore. To take one instance, we notice that "orthodox," or, shall we say, conservative, Hinduism, is coming forward, and various societies are now urging the electors to enact pledges from candidates regarding the maintenance of the marriage system and other thorny topics. That means that the "drum ecclesiastic" will be heard. India being what it is, no one could expect the electors to put aside that department of life in which their interest is deepest, but much depends on the way the subject is approached. There is plenty of bigotry on both sides, and if it sets to work to inflame popular passion, the country will go back instead of forward: the question is whether the leaders have the will and the power to keep such influences in check, and much mischief may be done before an answer to that question can be formulated.

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Again, it is becoming clear that the leaders of the backward classes, who ought to know, are very much alarmed about the danger of undue influence at the elections. A recent conference in Calcutta took the line that in such matters prevention is better than cure, and suggested seriously that an executive committee should be set up to which electors might appeal against threats or the offer of bribes, so that the matter might be dealt with before the election actually takes place. The practical working of such a provision would obviously be difficult, but the important point is that a demand for it exists. The backward classes, with an experience running far down the centuries, distrust their "natural leaders," and ask for a committee of impartial civil servants, the only body in all India whom they are willing to trust. Can the leaders prove this distrust to be groundless by insisting on a proper standard of conduct on the part of candidates and agents? If they cannot, it will in the long run be the worse for them, though for the moment it may be the inexperienced electors who will suffer.

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General Sir John Maxwell, President of the Egyptian Exploration Fund, has issued an appeal for financial support for the work of excavating the site of Tel-el-Amarna, which, taken from the German diggers, is henceforth to be carried on by the E.E.F. The site is an important one, and although very valuable results have already been secured, its further excavation on scientific lines is greatly to be desired. Unless we are much mistaken, it is something of a rarity among Egyptian sites, inasmuch as all its ruins belong to one period, and that a brief one in the long history of Ancient Egypt. Its buildings are those of the old city of Ekhaton, or Akhetaton, the city founded by Amenophis IV., better known as Akhenaten, who is rightly described by Sir John Maxwell as an "extraordinary genius." To do them justice, the German archæologists did good work at Tel-el-Amarna, and it behoves us to see what we do after them does not compare unfavourably with what they accomplished. Professor Eric Peet, who will be in charge of the excavations, may be trusted to do his part worthily: it remains for the British public to supply the necessary funds.

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# THE WEEK AT HOME.

**Confused Politics.**

Politically, the week has been one of confused political issues and no solutions. The Spa Conference has receded into the background, and everybody is satisfied with the treatment of Germany except Mr. H. J. Massingham and Mr. A. G. Gardiner, whose mournful jeremiads have covered columns of the *Nation* and the *Daily News*. But the Prime Minister's account rendered in the matter of Germany was followed by his serious speech on the Russo-Polish situation, and England discovered to her amazement that she might yet be involved in another European war if the Bolshevists invaded Poland. The *Daily Herald*, the organ of the pro-Bolshevists in this country, has done its best to damn the Poles, but the return of the British Labour deputation from Moscow has certainly lessened whatever sympathetic feeling there was among our professional rebels for Lenin and Trotsky. But for all that, we would rather not have another war just yet, although we have discovered—and are rather disconcerted by the discovery—that peace is more costly to wage than war and far less exciting.

From Poland the scene shifted to Ireland, where more murders have been committed, while Belfast has been rioting, and a large toll of killed and injured is reported. This system of organised outrage has proved impossible to suppress, and there has been some rumour that the Government have lost faith in the Home Rule Bill. It would, indeed, be wonderful if it were not so, for nobody else has the slightest belief in it. The whole thing is postponed until the autumn, when gossip has it that a plan of Dominion Home Rule is to be substituted. The basis of this belief is the fact that Mr. Lloyd George and the Cabinet discussed Irish politics for eight hours on Friday, and the quidnuncs derive great significance from the fact that when the Cabinet broke up Mr. Winston Churchill walked across from Downing Street looking more determined than ever, while Lord Birkenhead strolled across to the House of Lords to dine with the King looking younger and more rosy-cheeked even than usual. I confess I see nothing in these slender indications, and I do not believe the Cabinet have made up their minds.

After Poland and Ireland and the troubles of a few other disturbed countries, the grievances of that insignificant spot of earth called England seem hardly to be mentioned without apology. But the fierce discussion on railway fares continues. Lord Montagu points out that the railways are bankrupt; one of the heads of Lipton's has proved that it is cheaper to send goods by road than rail; one or two foolish people, who think that the poor are too rich, have written to *The Times* advocating the higher fares: Mr. Bonar Law continues enigmatic, and wears his usual air of being puzzled to know what all the fuss is about; and Sir Eric Geddes is the best-hated man in the country.

But it is accepted that fares cannot now be increased before September, and Lord Northcliffe and the Cadbury papers—strange comrades—assure us that if we all shout loud enough we may put off the evil day until October or even Christmas. There have, in fact, been perceptible signs of wavering on the part of the Government and of doubt on the part of the railway companies; and as questions of railway management as well as finance are now coming before the shareholders, we are evidently in for a long period of railway politics. Lord Montagu, as the spokesman of the motor-car, assures us that the end of it will be that the railways will have to admit they are out-of-date except for the carriage of long-distance heavy goods, and will have to cut expenses drastically and wipe out a good deal of their capital as lost. The prediction appears to be quite reasonable.

**The Autumn Session.**

It is finally decided that we are to have an autumn session in October. Mr. Lloyd George goes to Lucerne for a rest, which he badly needs; and Mr. Asquith will retire to the Upper Thames, where he will sigh over the indiscretions of his wife's biography—now appearing in the *Sunday Times*, to the terror of her contemporaries, who are afraid they will be mentioned, and still more afraid they will be omitted—and prepare for an autumn campaign which is to revive the flagging spirit of Independent Liberalism. The Speaker has again postponed his retirement, and his expectant successors are again disappointed; his health is apparently better than it was. The present House of Commons is, in fact, very easy to manage, and it is understood that his one trouble in life is not the lamb-like members, but the chimes of Big Ben, which he is compelled to hear day and night several months in the year.

**Women Justices.**

Shakespeare created Portia, but we still wait for the female advocate. But even Shakespeare did not foresee the woman J.P., and there is no female Shallow in the comedies. However, we have changed all that in these revolutionary days, and a long list of women whose appointment as justices has been approved by the Lord Chancellor has just been published. Most of the names are those of ladies who are already well known, such as Dr. Mary Scharlieb, Miss Balfour, and so on. There has been very little editorial comment on the list in the newspapers and not a single protesting "Letter to the Editor" in the London dailies.

**City Rents.**

Indignation at the increased rents demanded of business men for City offices culminated last week in a meeting of protest at Cannon Street. City men do not mind paying a reasonable increase—say of 50 per cent.—but when their rents are raised at one bound from £300 to £1,500 a year, and they are given no more than a day or so to make up their minds, it is little wonder that they should protest. The City Corporation, which is one of the large landowners in the City, has been moderate and equitable in its rent revisions; but some of the private landowners have proved veritable sharks.

**Rowdy Sunday Trippers.**

There has been a good deal of complaint of late from what used to be quiet country villages in Sussex and Essex that the peace of Sunday has been ruined by trippers passing through, morning and evening, on their way to and from the seaside. The Sabbath was made for man, but not particularly for the charabanc; and the nuisance has become so serious that action is to be taken by the proprietors of those great touring cars to restrain their passengers, for instance, from hooting and bellowing when passing village churches, and otherwise making nuisances of themselves. Most of it, no doubt, is sheer high spirits, but there appears to be real ground for the objections which have filled the papers of late.

**Cricket of the Week.**

The more sensible people of England, after going to church on Sunday morning, lit the dining-room fire in the afternoon of the last Sunday of July, and wondered what was going to happen to cricket if this November-like weather continued. But, despite the gloom of the alleged summer, some interesting games have been played this week, although Gentlemen v. Players, at Lord's, was disappointing, the Gentlemen putting up a poor fight. Surrey, however, provided the finish of the season against Lancashire on Friday. The Northerners were all out for 160 in their second innings, and Surrey had to make 91 runs in eighty minutes to win, against two of the best bowlers in England. Hobbs opened the first over of the last innings with a four, off the third ball he hit a two, and it was seen that a desperate effort was to be made to score the runs. Mr. Howell was unluckily caught when he had scored one; but, after that, Hobbs and Peach stayed together, and the winning hit was actually made with thirty-five minutes to spare. It was a very brilliant performance, with rain—which had stopped play several times earlier during the day—threatening every minute. Surrey are now at the head of the county championship, with Yorkshire, Kent, and Lancashire close at their heels.

**The New Medicine.**

A great deal has been written about the new medicine of late, and a new book, which has come into my hands, "The Shibboleths of Tuberculosis," by Marcus Paterson, M.D., gives some indication of the change

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that is coming over medical methods. Dr. Paterson is the resident medical officer at the Brompton Hospital, and probably the greatest practical authority of the day on this disease. Among the shibboleths he discusses are the ideas that consumption is a wasting disease—it is a disease of the blood; that it is hereditary; that the seaside and sea voyages furnish the proper curative treatment, and that it is not any use to sterilise milk for children when we do not boil their butter and their cheese, both of which are equally capable of conveying the bacillus. It used to be thought—perhaps it still is—that Bournemouth air was good for consumptives; Dr. Paterson points out that the mortality from tuberculosis is greater in Bournemouth than in Blackburn or Dudley, neither of which are precisely notorious as health resorts, and he ridicules the idea that the disease is susceptible of climatic treatment. He has no particular belief in cod-liver-oil or all those horrible fattening diets which the past generation of medicoes insisted on pouring down the throats of their unhappy patients.

As a mere layman who cannot even claim to have the disease, it would be impertinent in me to do anything but summarise some of his statements without commenting on, far less criticising them. But from this book, and from conversations with personal friends among the family who specialise in other diseases, it is clear that the new medicine will be radically different from the old.

So, no doubt, with the medical statistics of mortality, which I have personally some reason to distrust. A few years ago, when I was seriously ill, an ignorant country practitioner shook his head over me and assured me I was suffering from tuberculosis. I did not believe him, and when I recovered, a thorough overhauling and testing by a more competent man contradicted the diagnosis absolutely. But if I had died under the first medico—as anybody with a spark of decent feeling would no doubt have done—it would have been certified as one more death from tubercule. An experience of this kind teaches one to be a little sceptical of the value of statistics.

**The Week's Books.**

It sounds rather nonsensical to head the list of the week's new books with the "Agamemnon of Æschylus" (George Allen); but the fact that the translation is by Professor Gilbert Murray fully entitles it to mention. One enthusiastic reviewer suggests that it is the best translation ever made; it will have to be very good indeed to supersede the quite excellent version by Professor Blackie several years ago.

Professor Saintsbury, who is a devotee of wine no less than of literature, has deserted prosody and criticism for the grape in his latest book, "Notes on a Cellar-Book" (Macmillan). The Professor's knowledge of wine is that of the older generation of exquisite palates, which smoking has ruined for the present age; but, unluckily, Mr. Saintsbury informs us that he has abandoned his intention of writing a history of wine. Such a work, as he truly remarks, would have required "infinite research; also I should have had to drink more wine than would now be good for my pocket, or perhaps even my health, and more bad than I could contemplate without dismay in my advancing years." One sympathises with Mr. Saintsbury, now living in happy retirement at Bath; but it may be suggested that it is still his duty, as one of the authorities on the subject, to write that history. Nobody else is capable of the task, and the incidental martyrdom of drinking a certain amount of bad wine would be worth while for the sake of a good book.

"An English Wife in Berlin" (Constable), by Evelyn Countess Blücher, is a most interesting work, recording the life of an Englishwoman in Berlin during the war. It is her opinion that the Kaiser was an extremely weak person, entirely under the control of the General Staff; Bethmann-Hollweg was little better. Both, and also Solf and Helfferich, were against the unrestricted submarine war, but they were overruled by the military, o the eventual disaster of Germany.

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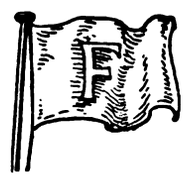

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, July 13.

**High Commissioner Indisposed.**

Viscount Allenby was obliged, at the last moment, to cancel his trip to Palestine, as he has not yet recovered from the chill he caught while bathing ten days ago, and his medical advisers have directed him to remain quiet for a few days longer. He is therefore staying quietly at the Residency in Ramleh. He will also be unable to attend the French national fête, which is to be held in the Esbekia Gardens to-morrow evening, but he will be represented by General Sir Walter Congreve and the Hon. Ernest Stowell Scott, Counsellor to the Residency. It has been rumoured during the past few days in certain circles that General Allenby would leave Egypt shortly in order to take over supreme command of the Allied forces operating against the Turkish Nationalists, but nothing is known here officially of the alleged appointment.

**Willcocks-Kennedy Case Postponed.**

Before Judge Thorpe, in the Consular Court at Alexandria this morning, Mr. Perrott made an application on behalf of Sir William Willcocks for postponement on medical grounds of the trial of the latter till January 2 next. Dr. Garry, Sir William's medical adviser, deposed that his patient was suffering from extreme physical fatigue, and apart from a weak heart —Sir William is 70 years of age—his physical condition was such that only an absolute rest out of Egypt would enable him to recuperate. Judge Thorpe eventually made an order that the case should not come on before November 1, 1920, subject to Sir William Willcocks' giving an undertaking that he would not repeat or publish any libellous statements concerning Sir Murdoch MacDonald or the Egyptian Public Works in any part of the world. He would allow Sir William to leave Egypt upon that undertaking, but bail would be increased to £1,000, self and one surety. No further application for an adjournment would be considered unless the defendant's plea in answer to the charges was put in at the same time.

Mr. Alexander, on behalf of Colonel Kennedy, then made an application for an order that the latter's case should not be taken until subsequent to the hearing of the charges against Sir William Willcocks. The order was made, bail not being increased, as Colonel Kennedy does not intend to leave the jurisdiction of the Court.

**The Price of the Riots.**

Gradually the annual reports for 1919 of different branches of the Government Service are coming to light, and each one tells of the heavy loss incurred through the disorders in the spring of last year. Among the latest is a summary of the year's work of the Egyptian Postal Administration, which closed with a deficit of £E51,111, of which £E13,465 went to repair the physical damage caused by the disruption; but beyond this must be taken into account the forced suspension of the service in many places, with consequent loss of revenue, and often increased overhead expenses. Another factor which has ensured the deficit has been the higher wages paid to the staff. Salaries had been increased by 45 per cent. since the war and before 1919, but last year the officials were granted another 20 per cent. on their salaries, plus 60 per cent. on their increased pay. They are, however, far from content with this, and are periodically bombarding the Director-General's office and the Press with appeals for a living wage. How far these appeals are likely to be successful can be interpreted from a sentence in the report, which states: "There are already signs that the conditions of the staff may have to be revised again." During 1919 the budgetary receipts of the Postal Service amounted to £E415,222, and credits by other administrations to £E75,000, making a total of £E490,222, whilst expenditure reached £E507,333, which, with £E34,000 for services rendered by other State Departments, totals £E541,333, leaving a deficit of £E51,111. Commenting on this the report states that it is evident that the postal charges will shortly have to be increased. In view of the fact that the charges are now the same as in the halcyon days of yore, there can be no strenuous opposition to the increase. That it has not been applied before might really be used in evidence against the Administration to show that it is far behind the times.

**A Natural Generator.**

From the Public Works Department I learn that consideration is again being given to the proposal to utilise the falling water at Aswan and at the Illahun bridges in the Fayoum for the generation of electricity. I understand that the proposal has been finally sanctioned, and plans are being prepared to enable the work to be commenced in the near future. Kamal Ghalib Bey, who is on the eve of returning from Europe, whither he has been to study the subject, is to have charge of the project. The power which will be generated at Aswan is to be used to pump water to the higher lands in Upper Egypt; that secured in the Fayoum is to be used, in the first place, to drain the swampy regions in the Minia and the Beni Suef provinces. During such time as the power may not be required for these purposes it is proposed to utilise it for the manufacture of chemical manure.

**Turkish Prisoners Arrive.**

On Saturday last the vanguard of the 40,000 Turkish prisoners from Irak and India arrived, and were transported to the prisoners of war camp at Belbeis. The prisoners are mostly Syrians, and include about 5,000 officers. Over a thousand of them arrived to-day.

**A Generous Gift.**

Messrs. Thos. Cook and Son have presented their hospital at Luxor to the Egyptian Government. The gift has been gratefully accepted, and the Council of Ministers has already sanctioned a credit of over £E2,000 to have the building renovated.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, July 12.

**More Political Clouds.**

M. Vesnitch is having some difficulty in driving his heterogeneous team. Last week there was nearly a rupture owing to a decision by the Minister of Justice that the Ban of Croatia had exceeded his powers; the Narodny Club left the House, but calm counsels prevailed, and the storm was averted.

Still, there is trouble brewing, because the two chief groups, Radicals and Democrats, are diametrically opposed on the burning question of agrarian reform. Unless the Premier succeeds in finding a solution, it is considered that a new crisis is inevitable on Wednesday next. These two parties are equally divided on the question of exports and the Central Association, and the Croat and Slovene parties are in arms on the question of the organisation of the provincial governments. The only solution appears to be the postponement by mutual agreement of the most thorny problems till after the general elections and meeting of the new Constituent Assembly.

**Pinpricks?**

The authorities have thought it worth while to issue an official denial to the ridiculous lies spread from Rome describing some imaginary fighting between Montenegrins and Serbs on Kossovo Plain, of all places. Another, similar, lie is that the railway from Bitolj (Monastir) to Skoplje has been destroyed, presumably by Montenegrins. As a matter of fact, this line was constructed by the enemy for military purposes and destroyed by them on their retreat nearly two years ago. A fortnight ago the restoration of the line was completed, and it is now open to traffic.

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Dr. Ante Trumbitch, Minister of Foreign Affairs, is returning to Belgrade. Serbia will be represented at Spa and in other conferences by M. Mata Boshkovitch, First Delegate of the Reparation Committee.

**Shabats Decorated.**

Before the war Shabats, the pretty capital of the Podrinski Province, was the most prosperous and the merriest town in Serbia. Situate near the point where the Drina enters the Save, it was the scene of terrific fighting, and all the savagery of the enemy invasions from the very outbreak of war to the end of 1915. Some citizens claim that Shabats saw the first and the last shot fired in the war, and this is very nearly the truth. Now, shorn of its glories, it lies in ruins, a mere shadow of its former self. It has been selected by the French as a symbol of Serbian martial prowess, and the French Minister recently decorated the town with the Croix de Guerre, with appropriate ceremony, and so Shabats proudly associates itself with its sister-sufferers, Verdun, Lille, Rheims, and Louvain.

**Miscellaneous News.**

A number of chemists have been recently appointed to the Chemical Laboratory in Belgrade, but, unfortunately, the enemy looted it so thoroughly that it has not yet been possible to reopen it, and there is a great scarcity of apparatus.

The Serbs, like most Slavs, are a musical and music-loving people. The Belgrade Branch of the Yugoslav Association of Musicians has petitioned the Ministry of Education to open a Conservatorium in the capital.

On Thursday, 8th, at 10 p.m., a fire broke out in the garage of the Old Palace, now the temporary Parliament. There was a tremendous blaze, as several hundred tins of petrol were consumed. The consternation of the public was increased by the firing by the soldiers to call for help. Fortunately, the fire brigade appeared promptly, and the conflagration was localised.

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BELGRADE, July 17.

**An Incident at Spalato.**

The Yugoslavs' patience is almost exhausted by the wilful provocation of the Italians, which, during the past few days, has exceeded all bounds. There has been a substantial invasion of Serbian territory near Prizren by powerful bands of Arnaouts, who are reported to be armed by Italians and to be in possession of Italian guns. Then there was the affair at Split (Spalato) on the day before King Peter's birthday, when the town was decorated with the Yugoslav tricolour. Now, Spalato is one of the headquarters of Southern Slav patriotism, yet for some extraordinary reason there is an Italian warship there, an antiquated survival of the Armistice. On the evening before Petrov Dan, it appears that a couple of Italian sailors who were ashore stole two Yugoslav flags and took them off to the gunboat; the populace were irritated and crowded on to the quays, where there were many gendarmes to keep order. Presently a launch left the boat and steered towards the shore, carrying the Italian captain, with a machine-gun and rifles. He demanded the "liberation" of two Italian officers who were ashore; the Prefect explained that owing to the angry temper of the crowd, due to the stealing of the flags, it would be unwise for the officers to appear in public, that they were under his personal protection, and that he was answerable for their safety. This seemed to annoy the Italian captain, who unexpectedly opened fire with rifles and a machine-gun, killing a man who was standing by the Prefect's side and several others, and wounding a good many. At this the gendarmes could not be restrained, and retaliated with rifle fire upon the boat, which quickly retired to the ship. It is reported that the Italian captain was wounded, and died in a few hours. The Italians naturally will attempt to throw the blame upon the Slavs, but the report of the American Admiral should settle the matter beyond any doubt.

But this very unpleasant incident has aroused the unruly Italian elements in Trieste and Fiume. It is generally forgotten that a good half of the population of Trieste is Slavonic, and here the mob attacked the old Slavonic buildings, burning and looting, destroying furniture and archives. At Fiume, d'Annunzio is reported to be deporting the Slavs from the town—a very good way, incidentally, to make the Italian majority a matter beyond dispute. The crowd burned four boats, the property of Slavs. Besides all this, newspapers report that Italian regular troops have occupied Bakar, the Yugoslav frontier town on the Ogulin line beyond Fiume, and that they are massing troops and guns near the frontier, quite close to Longatico, where the Simplon express enters Yugoslav territory. A few days ago an Italian aeroplane was compelled to land near Liubliana, and now it is reported that another aeroplane has flown over the town and proceeded on its way to Zagreb. In the face of this prolonged provocation, the attitude of the Slavs remains correct and dignified, but they cannot be expected to sit still for ever.

**The Cabinet.**

For a week or more there have been rumours of dissensions in the heterogenous cabinet of M. Vesnitch, but it is hoped that a compromise will be reached on all points at issue. The question of exports, which is so sharply dividing the Radicals and Democrats, should not be allowed to bring about a crisis; the question of agrarian reform is, of course, a burning one, but should be solved by the Constituent Assembly, which should be summoned as early as possible in everybody's interest. There remains the question of the provincial governments, which is still causing some heartburnings; but it is hoped that even on this a compromise will soon be reached, thanks to the Italian menace.

**Albania.**

The Albanian question is complex, as there appears to be something like civil war in that unhappy country. A Press telegram from Prizren describes how the Tirana Government, headed by Bairam Tsur, is preparing for an attack in force on the Serbian frontier. Bairam Tsur seems to be all-powerful, and is supported by the Italians, but he is opposed by Akif Pasha and his followers, who wish friendship with Serbia, and by Osman Balya, who is now leading Essad's followers. The Serbian attitude is quite clear. They will defend their territory, but in general ask for friendly relations with their neighbours, and in particular for the elimination of the Italians' intrigues from Albania, on the principle of "The Balkans for the Balkan peoples"

**King Peter's Birthday.**

Petrov Dan, King Peter's birthday was quietly celebrated in Belgrade. The aged monarch himself did not appear, but the Regent attended a service in the cathedral in the company of his suite and officers and the *corps diplomatique*; after the service, the troops that had been lining the streets paraded before the Prince. They made an excellent impression on everybody who saw them. The guards were in their new parade uni-

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forms, as on all ceremonial occasions. Great enthusiasm was expressed at the very smart appearance of the young cadets, uniting for the first time the youth of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in one corps. The infantry recruits included strapping lads from all parts of Yugoslavia, Mohammedan Albanians from Macedonia, and Central European Slovenes together, all sturdy and workmanlike. Perhaps the warmest welcome was reserved for the marine contingent, who looked, in the words of a Belgrade paper, as though they had stepped straight off the deck of a British battleship.

After the parade the Prince rode to the sanatorium at Vrachar, where on his sick-bed there lay the man who twice drove the enemy out of Serbia. The gallant old Voivoda Mishitch is very ill indeed, and it is feared that he will not be spared for long; the old warrior tried to stand up to salute his Prince, but the Regent gave him the same salute with drawn sword that he had just taken from his officers, and then dismounted and stood by the Voivoda, while the troops marched past their venerated commander-in-chief.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, July 15.

**Parliament.**

Another week has been practically lost in the Chamber in useless discussions, the chief bone of contention having been a proposal introduced by the Government to modify the regulations of the Chamber with a view to preventing persistent obstruction and disorder. The Opposition objected to the proposal, and such a storm of confused discussion arose that the President was finally obliged to close the sitting. For three days afterwards all discussion of this or any other business was blocked by the Opposition, who stamped and shouted down every speaker, claiming that the modifications had not been regularly introduced. On one occasion the turmoil became so great that soldiers were brought in and ordered to load their rifles. This was the last straw, and roused the greatest indignation among all the Opposition parties, and, I believe, also among many adherents of the Government. It certainly does seem a step which it would be difficult to justify in the light of present-day public opinion. The Opposition have now made it clear that they intend to continue their policy of obstruction until they have obtained satisfaction on this point and on that of the regulations, which have, however, been passed by the majority of the House.

The only important measure introduced last week was a Bill brought in by M. Trancu-Jassy, Minister of Labour, for the settlement of Labour conflicts, which he read in spite of noisy interruptions from the other side of the House. In pointing out the urgent need for such a Bill M. Trancu-Jassy stated that while the total number of workmen employed in the various industries in Old Roumania was about 405,000, there have been 130 strikes and 18 lockouts in the course of three months this year, 36 having been in Bucharest. At the present time 28 strikes and 18 lockouts are still in progress. Most of them, he said, had arisen over questions of salary or of workmen's councils. At that rate the annual number of strikes would be 592, which is far too high a figure, in relation to the number of workmen employed, as compared with that for more industrial countries. In drawing up the present Bill, the Minister of Labour said cognisance had been taken of the most successful recent legislation on the subject in other countries, and a sincere attempt had been made to observe the strictest fairness towards both employers and employed. It has been drafted under three main headings: (i.) freedom to work; (ii.) strikes; (iii.) sabotage.

Articles 1 to 3 guarantee to the worker the right to work, and place under a heavy penalty anyone interfering with this right (on the occasion of strikes, etc.) either by threats or violence. The second section of the Bill deals with collective stoppage of work, *i.e* strikes. A strike, it provides, shall be considered to have taken place when at least half of the workers cease work in a factory employing not less than 220, or in a commercial establishment having at least 10 employees. A strike may not take place before an attempt has been made at conciliation, this principle being obligatory, as in the French law of 1920. Where conciliation has failed the parties to the dispute must refer their case to arbitration.

Strikes are, however, categorically forbidden in all State institutions and enterprises, as well as in private businesses which come under the following headings:— Transport companies (by land or water), petroleum and natural gas companies, gas and electricity factories, motor power stations, mills and bakeries, hospitals, funeral undertakers, road-making and cleaning services, and the service of Public Health.

The decisions of the Arbitration Committee are to be considered as final. There has been no discussion of this Bill as yet, and it will be interesting to learn how it is proposed to enforce its provisions.

**Socialists and Bolshevists.**

A very significant discovery was made this week by the police at the Socialist Club in Bucharest. Some suspicion having been aroused that the Socialists were in direct touch with the Bolshevist headquarters, the police were ordered to make an examination of their premises, and they found in the safe an uncut roll of new paper money in notes of 2 lei each to the value, it is said, of some two million lei. The cashier, who is now in prison, states that he received the money from a delegate of Rakowski, who is the head of the Bolshevist propaganda department for Roumania and the Ukraine. According to the statement of the National Bank, this must be part of the money deposited by the Roumanian State, on the advance of the German armies into Roumania, for safe keeping with the Russian State Savings Bank; it is not, therefore, part of the treasure sent by the Roumanian State to Moscow at the same time. It has transpired that part of the roll of notes has already been spent by Messrs. Elie Moskovitch and Cristescu, now Socialist deputies in the Chamber, for the propaganda of the Roumanian Socialist party; and it is further stated that Bujor (who was Rakowski's right-hand man) before his recent imprisonment threatened to shoot Moskowitch unless he paid back this money which Bujor claimed was intended exclusively for Bolshevist propaganda. The Committee of Inquiry has made application to the President of the Chamber that the privileges of these two deputies should be disallowed, in order that proceedings may be taken against them in the ordinary course of the law.

Other evidence of Bolshevist activity in propaganda has just been found at Constantza, a Roumanian patrol having caught a motor-boat off the coast in which were two Bulgarian Communist Deputies, a deserter from the Roumanian Army, and several other men. They had in the boat large quantities of Bolshevist propagandist leaflets, apparently intended for Roumania. The men have all been imprisoned pending an inquiry. They state that they were bound for Moscow from Varna via Odessa.

Taken in conjunction with the rapid advance of the Bolshevist army in Poland, these discoveries are causing a good deal of anxiety to the Roumanians, and it is to be regretted that while so many serious questions await their decisions the members of the Legislative Body still waste their time in futile personal quarrels. Great things had been hoped from this Government: one wonders when it will begin to justify those hopes.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, July 5.

**Bulgarian Foreign Policy.**

At a recent sitting the Cabinet had under consideration the foreign policy of Bulgaria, and determined that it should aim at establishing and maintaining frank and friendly relations with foreign States, great and small; that it should make every effort to improve the financial position of the country, and that it should follow a purely Bulgarian policy. A declaration to this

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effect will shortly be made to the foreign representatives here.

The Prime Minister, M. Stambolisky, in an interview accorded to a representative of the *Zemledeltchesko Zname*, has declared that the relations of Bulgaria with the Great Powers are excellent, that he hopes to be able ere long to disperse the unfavourable atmosphere that has been created about the Bulgarian nation, and that conditions will be created favourable to the revision of the onerous peace terms imposed upon Bulgaria. This country wishes to live on the best possible terms with her neighbours, and it is a pity that Greek statesmen did not show truer foresight, and made such efforts to obtain Thrace; until the Ægean question is settled in a form acceptable by Bulgaria, friendship between Bulgaria and Greece cannot exist. M. Stambolisky is very optimistic, holding that statesmen at Athens will presently come round to this point of view. As to relations with Yugoslavia and Roumania, they are developing in the friendliest way, especially with the latter country, and the understanding will soon be so complete as to restore the traditional Bulgaro-Roumanian friendship.

**The Chamber and the Budget.**

The Finance Minister, M. Marko Turlakoff, in a brilliant speech, presented the Budget, and gave some interesting figures. The estimated receipts are: from direct taxes, 237,500,000 levas; indirect taxes, 832,150,000 levas; State monopolies 88,000,000 levas; import dues, 84,500,000 levas; railways and telegraphs, 264,000,000 levas; State properties, etc., 298,000,000 levas. Total, 1,802,150,000 levas. The expenditure on the regular Budget is in round numbers 1,400,000,000 levas, and on the extraordinary Budget about 1,445,000,000 levas; so that there will be a deficit of more than a milliard levas. But by the utmost economy the Government will endeavour to reduce this figure as low as possible. After hearing the Minister, the Chamber adopted the six-twelfths of the Budget for 1920-1921.

## TRANS-CAUCASIA.

TIFLIS, June 24.

**The Bolshevist Mission.**

A Peace Treaty having been signed between Georgia and the Soviet Government, it was inevitable that the latter should send its "Ambassador" to Tiflis. On Sunday last, the 20th, this emissary, Sergei Mironovitch Kiroff, arrived by motor-car from Vladikavkaz. He was met at the Cross near the Bozarjian works by M. Kartsivadze, the assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, and several other officials of the town, and escorted by a special guard of honour to his quarters on the Veliaminovskaya, where he received the greetings of the local Communist Party, who came boldly out of their holes for the first time in two years. A fairly large crowd of idlers and curious spectators had assembled in front of the building, and from a balcony Kiroff addressed them, thanking them for their warm reception—of which he must have had an eloquent testimony in their stony silence. He then went on to allude scornfully to the *bourgeoisie* of Europe who now, he said, in the person of Lloyd George, could not find pleasant enough words in the English dictionary with which to conduct the negotiations now proceeding with the representative of Russia—Krassin. "We are here," he said, "as the representatives of the workers and peasants of Russia, of that Russia about which the wildest and most absurd tidings are being spread abroad. As you see, we are ordinary people." The speech, of course, cut no ice: the Georgian people know very well the truth about Russia to-day, and they know very well how much confidence can be placed on the cut-throat Soviet rulers.

Kiroff's staff, of about sixty persons, arrived a few days earlier in Tiflis. I hear that included in this staff are several scholars of Oriental languages and conditions who are all aflame for the Bolshevist salvation of Persia, Afghanistan, and India, what time they will not scorn, forsooth, any proselytes of a minor order who may fall into the toils of their Communist net.

Perhaps the most interesting fact of all in connection with the Bolshevist mission—and it is a typical instance of Soviet cunning and duplicity—is that during the past day or two the Georgian authorities have arrested many members of the numerous Soviet staff, who were caught in the act of distributing Bolshevist propaganda literature. It is understood that the Government's intention is to send these agitators out of the country.

**The Peace Treaty.**

Meanwhile, although there is naturally a certain amount of satisfaction felt regarding the signing of an agreement with the Soviet Government, the Georgian Press and the Georgian people are by no means satisfied regarding the terms. One clause, for instance, is to the effect that no ratification of the treaty is necessary; and there is another which states that Georgia must bind herself "to take measures for the withdrawal from the territory of Georgia . . . of troops of any kind and military detachments which are not included in the Government troops of Georgia." As still another clause states that Batoum and the Batoum province are henceforth to be included in the Georgian Republic, and as the Entente still occupies Batoum, Georgia is practically asked to drive the Allies out. *Kilde*, a Georgian newspaper, says that the treaty thus places Georgia in conditions hostile to the Entente, and may provoke discord and difficulties. "Europe must always be for us the defender against Russia," says *Kilde;* "and now Europe is England."

**Assassination of Khan Khoisky.**

The assassination of Fatali Khan Khoisky, the first President of the Azerbaijan Republic and the Foreign Minister of the recent Azerbaijan Government, has produced much sorrow and indignation in the town. Accompanied by Khalil Bey Khasmamedoff, the assistant Minister of Justice of the former Azerbaijan, Khan Khoisky, visited an open-air cinema theatre in the Rustavili (Golovinskaia) Prospect a few nights ago. A suspicious-looking man had been noticed in the cinema: several people saw how he scrutinised every man who entered or who passed out. When the show was over this man passed out in front of the crowd. Suddenly six shots rang out. The crowd immediately dispersed in all directions. When the firing ceased it was found that Khan Khoisky had been mortally wounded, having received one shot in the back, one near the right temple, and one wound in the neck. His companion, Khasmamedoff, was wounded in the leg. No arrests have been made, but it is generally considered that the outrage was a Bolshevist one.

Khan Khoisky has played a big part in Trans-Caucasian politics since the Russian Revolution. For a time he acted as Commissioner of Justice in the Trans-Caucasian Committee and when Trans-Caucasia had resolved itself into three Republics—Georgia, Azerbaijan, and

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Armenia—Khan Khoisky was elected the President of the first Azerbaijan Government formed in Gandja (Elisavetopol), which later was transferred to Baku, where he took over the portfolio of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs as well. Khan Khoisky was Foreign Minister in Ussubekov's Cabinet, and fled to Tiflis after the recent Bolshevist revolution. A charming, handsome Mussulman gentleman, Khan Khoisky was very popular in the Caucasus, especially with the British and other Allied officers and staff. His murder is simply additional fuel for the fires of revolution that are being kindled by the Mussulmans against the Bolshevists.

**An Italian Minister.**

An event of minor importance, but one which presents a certain interest was the departure on the 18th inst. of Colonel Gabba, chief of the Italian Military Mission, which has been operating latterly as the Royal Italian Political Agency, his work now being continued by a duly accredited Italian Minister, Cavalier Mercantelli, Extraordinary Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary, who arrived from Batoum on the 20th inst. Gabba was very popular, and was given a great send-off at the station, where he was presented by the Georgian Army with a Caucasian sword. In his farewell speech Gabba declared that he was leaving Tiflis with sadness in his heart, which is really what everyone who leaves Tiflis does. Than this, nothing better can be said for the hospitality and the charm of the Georgians.

Writing of Colonel Gabba reminds me of the second anniversary of the establishment of the Georgian Republic. It was a very hot breathless day, and a sports meeting held a few versts outside Tiflis was part of the official celebrations. Thousands of people went out on foot along the dusty road to witness the sports. Seeing the happy crowd sweltering along in the heat a British officer turned to Gabba, and said: "If only some ice-cream men were here they would make their fortune." Then he became confused. After all, it was not particularly tactful!

**Soviet Baku.**

News from Baku is plentiful but not all reliable. There is as yet no definite news regarding the European prisoners. Commander Luke, D.S.O., the acting British Chief Commissioner in Trans-Caucasia, has asked Alshibaia, the Georgian Diplomatic representative in Baku, to look after the British interests. Incidentally, Kiroff has received a telegram from the Azerbaijan Bolshevik Government, asking him to protect the Azerbaijan subjects in Georgia—a ridiculous request, as the Georgians have throughout molested these subjects in no way, treating them, moreover, with every consideration.

Some statistics of Soviet expenses published in an official Bolshevist gazette are interesting. The revolutionary committee of Lenkoran demanded for the month of May 53,800,000 roubles for current expenses. Curious are such details as:—For the maintenance of the officials of civil institutions, 5,000,000 roubles; for militia, 2,000,000: for agitation, 500,000; for the organisation of schools for grown-ups, 1,000,000; for the maintenance of workmen on fishing grounds, 15,000,000; and, finally, for the maintenance of prisoners, 100,000 roubles.

Figures, you see, speak very much louder than words.

## CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, July 3.

**Volunteers for Greece.**

The Greek element is all astir under an impulse of patriotic zeal. The Acting Consul-General for Greece at Nicosia, M. A. Artemis, with approval from Athens, having publicly notified Greek Cypriots that volunteers of from twenty to forty years, whether Hellenic subjects or not, may be enlisted to serve in Thrace and Ionia, there has been a prompt response. Large numbers have come forward in all parts of the island "with indescribable enthusiasm." Up to July 2 over 4,500 had been enrolled, and the number now exceeds 6,000, and is daily increasing in all the six districts, the greatest number being from that of Nicosia, the largest division. Among those who are offering their services in the cause are the Bishops of Kitium and Kyrenia; while many medical practitioners are coming forward, eager to take their share. Enthusiasts anticipate that over 8,000 applicants will seek enlistment.

The Hellenic Government is not only inviting volunteers for military service, but is offering appointments in the Law Courts and in the civil administration of all the new territories. A number of those who have studied law in Europe have offered their services, and four appointments have been already made. The judicial salaries offered are 1,500 and 750 drachmæ (£60 and £30) a month respectively for magistrates of higher and lower grades. Mr. N. B. Themistocles, a Larnaca lawyer practising in Smyrna, has been appointed Governor of Kydonia, at 1,000 drachmæ (£40) a month. Needless to say, the Greek community is agog with excitement over the situation and the openings in new Greece. The papers are full of patriotic articles, of exultation over Greek victories in Asia Minor, and of thanks and encouragement to volunteers, who are flocking to the Motherland. A steamer is expected from the Pirræus for their transport. The situation is a strange one in this island of humdrum monotony. No one could imagine a year or two ago that Greek-speaking Cypriots, British subjects since 1914, who had thirty-six years previously been down-trodden Ottoman *rayhas*, would in 1920 be rushing with military ardour to occupy lands which the Peace Conference has assigned to Greece.

**Pensions for Retired Officials.**

For retired officials nothing is done. These ex-officials, some of long service, who are in receipt of the exceedingly small pensions which hard-and-fast pre-war regulations allow, are, according to present treatment by both the local Council and the Home Government, accorded a paltry "temporary bonus," totally out of proportion to the increases voted for present officials, although the former are probably more in need of help than those whose augmented salaries will bring proportionately increased pensions in the future.

## GREAT BRITAIN AND JERUSALEM.

We are indebted to a correspondent for the following extract from a letter from Jerusalem, dated July 4, received July 20:—"This has been a very eventful week here. Sir Herbert Samuel arrived on Wednesday, June 30, and as he entered Government House (as headquarters is now called) *the flag was hoisted for the first time*, the band of the Yorkshires playing 'God Save the King.' The whole place was swarming with troops, infantry and cavalry going up to act as guard of honour; the High Commissioner was brought from the station with an escort of three armoured cars—also an ambulance wagon! Anyhow, everything passed off well. Sir Herbert inspected the guard first, and was met by General Bols, who presented the heads of departments. It was all a fine sight, but the chief thing to see was the flag being flown for the first time in history over Jerusalem. It was a sight I would not have missed for the world to see the flag go up in all its greatness. This or the other man comes and goes, but *that* is England, and one can never believe that in this country alone she will go back on all her traditions of fairplay and justice. For the moment it is very hard to understand her policy. The people say openly we have betrayed them, and out here you feel acutely the indifference, or even enmity, to the flag being flown where even a few months ago it would have been a day of such rejoicing. General Bols left at four the same day. . . . He is a man who makes himself loved, and he and Sir Arthur Money have left a high tradition of honour and perfect straightness behind."

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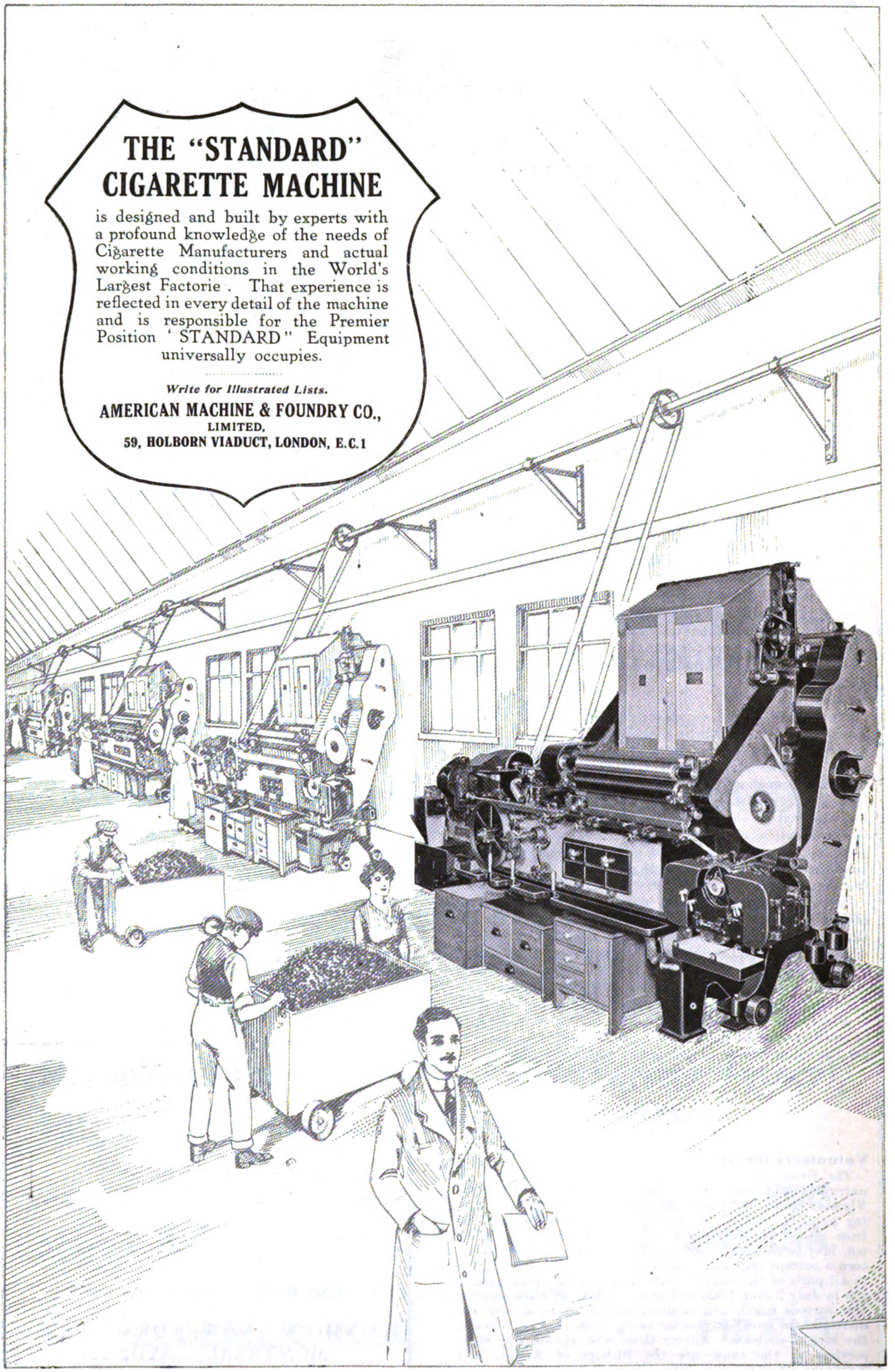


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# CORRESPONDENCE.

## GENERAL DYER.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST"

Sir,—Will you allow me to say that even your leader of the 15th inst. fails to remove the impression that gross injustice has been meted out to a general who simply, honestly and bravely did his duty?

Against him there is urged the old-time argument by fallacy involved in "frightfulness." This word, associated with German brutalities in an unscrupulous invasion, has no application, and ought to have been carefully avoided in treating of the well-intentioned, even if mistaken, effort to maintain the King's authority over would-be rebels.

The other, but less important plea, is the somewhat quibbling one, that the General had no right to think of the wider effects if he let the miscreants before [him] go unpunished: that is, that, in these days of telegraphs his thoughts were not to wander beyond the ground he stood on!

India is not now in closed compartments, and the officer was bound to think of the general effect of any weakness on his part. If he had not done so, his opponents anyhow, far and near, were watching the issue of that crucial moment. Had the trial of the General been for hesitation and remissness in his duty, his accusers of to-day would have had no scruple about invoking the "distant effect" argument against him.

In conclusion, and with all respect, mere soothing syrup, the argument from *fait accompli* and a hushing-up committee will not acquit the Government of sacrificing a valuable servant of the Crown to their political interests of the moment.—I am, etc.,

CONSTANT AND INTERESTED READER.

Grisons, Switzerland.
July 18, 1920.

[We used the word "frightfulness," not because we liked it, but because it had been used in the debate with which we were dealing to signify the methods which might be described more scientifically as moral action at a distance. To the condemnation of these methods we adhere: we think it probable that some of the Jallianwallah mob may fairly be described as miscreants, but even though it had consisted exclusively of miscreants, we should still hold that the action directed against it was in excess of the requirements of the situation. Our correspondent's further argument really takes us back to Aristotle: there may be errors of excess as well as of defect, and it is unfortunately true that partisans will seize on one as quickly as the other, so that an officer who should hit on the happy mean is likely to be attacked by extremists on both sides. Our own position is that on this occasion the happy mean was missed, not, as one side says, through any moral obliquity, but through an error of judgment which can readily be understood, and for which men of experience will make very great allowances. The precise evaluation of that error is, however, a matter which we are content to leave in the hands of the Army Council.—Ed.]

## THE EGYPTIAN NATIONALISTS' PRAYER

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The paragraph in your issue of June 24 on the Egyptian Nationalists' Day of Prayer will be read by many with deepest interest.

The supplication in itself may be considered as evidence of the one great need of all nations, or another expression of the inevitable conviction that the present social problem is beyond politics, beyond economics, beyond even ethics, and that the only solution is to be found in the recognition of the Almighty as the only omnipotent Sovereign of the universe, to whom the nations can appeal for the fullest satisfaction of their urgent present needs.

The Invocation may be further taken as evidence also of what Carlyle wrote: "Prayer is, and remains, the nature and deepest impulse of the soul of man."

God forbid that we should adversely criticise any form of sincere petition; on the contrary, we are conscious of the stupendous power of effectual prayer, but even a casual reading of the form adopted by the National movement at once suggests the doubt of its true significance, and even creates a suspicion of political taint. Is there not in this Invocation the very common misconception of prayer, namely, the idea of trying to get God to do our will? Contrary to the very essence of true prayer: "*Thy* will be done on earth as in Heaven."

Throughout the whole of the petition portion following that of the adoration the dominant desire is for absolute self-control of affairs, requesting the Almighty to come in as a powerful ally—a demand upon Him that He will do what they want, rather than that *His* will and direction should be accomplished through them. There is no surrender of self or subordination of human judgment to His omniscient ruling.

We are also faced with one of the most flagrant omissions essential to efficacious prayer—that of confession; there is not a word of humility or confession of evil. We are not without guidance in the matter of national prayers. Our Scriptures contain many, one, for example, is recorded in the Book of Daniel, chapter 9, which shows the right approach which a nation may take to expect rich results.—I am, etc.,

W. R. G.

Parkfield Road, Liverpool.

## THE OCCUPATION OF THRACE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Your Greek correspondent, M. Theodore Mosconas, is evidently a follower of the Greek philosopher Democritus, who smiled at everything. He is "amused" at the complete exposure by "A Bulgarian in England" of his pretended quotation from the Bulgarian journal *Zora*, and so no doubt are many of your British readers. He now tells us that this quotation, which was given in inverted commas, thus conveying the impression that it was textual, was from the *Messager D'Athenes*, a Greek journal published in French at Athens for the edification of the foreign world. It remains to be explained why M. Mosconas suppressed all mention of the Greek journal, which was evidently before him, as he quotes from it textually in the sequel of his letter.

It is now becoming dangerous to employ the methods of controversy habitually resorted to during the war. Protection against criticism and rebuke is no longer afforded by the sheltering wing of "Dora," and however amusing it may be to be found out, such methods can hardly be pursued in future without the risk of awkward disclosures.

To those who adopt them we may say in kindness "a chiels among ye taking notes." In some café in South-Eastern Europe one may see the smart little waiter, Pericles or Epaminandas, restoring the missing change to a customer with a smile of amusement before the latter has had time to state the amount. But in the case of that customer, at least, the joke will not be repeated for some little time.—I am, etc.,

"A BRITISH READER OF 'THE NEAR EAST.'"

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—It is clear that M. Theodore Mosconas has either not read carefully my letter while being "amused" by its "intemperate tone" of disclosure, or now he tries to shift away the main fact which I stated in my letter—that he used fabricated "fallacious quotations" alleged by him to have been published in the Bulgarian journal *Zora* of June 3.

Now, too late, the Greek gentleman finds himself compelled to admit that he obtained those quotations from *Messager d'Athenes*, while failing to point out the number or date of the copy.

The fact, as I stated in my previous letter, is that there is no such statement as the one quoted textually by M. Mosconas to be found in *Zora* of June 3.

In these circumstances it is immaterial who is responsible for falsification, M. Mosconas, or *Messager d'Athenes;* in either case it is Greek. But for the sake of establishing the truth I propose an inquiry to be made on this question, and request that M. Mosconas should supply the copy of the newspaper he quotes, while I on my part send you the copy of *Zora* of June 3.—I am, etc.,

"A BULGARIAN IN ENGLAND."

A regular aerial service is to be established between France and Yugoslavia.

M. Vesnitch has been entrusted by the Serbian Prince Regent with the task of forming a new Ministry.

A Commission under the Colonial Office is to be dispatched to Malta by the National Council for combating Venereal Disease.

It has been decided to build a temporary Legislative Chamber at Simla at a cost of £100,000, leaving the question of the future Parliamentary capital to the Reformed Councils.

Increases of pay to the lower grades of Indian telegraph and postal servants will amount to over a crore of rupees (£1,000,000 approximately), and the public have been warned that the Government of India are considering a revision of inland postage rates.

Members of the Indian community have decided to provide at Brighton a permanent memorial of the use of the Royal Pavilion as a hospital for Indian troops. For this purpose a design for a gateway at the southern entrance to the pavilion has been prepared by Mr. Thomas Tyrrwhitt, of Brighton.

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## MUSICAL NOTES.

When I left the Mortimer Hall, on July 23, I was prepared to say that Miss Ursula Greville, who had just given a recital there, had accompanied very efficiently Mr. F. B. Kiddle, who was at the pianoforte for her; but I reflected that Mr. Kiddle might be just as ignorant of the science of acoustics as I am, and how far the sad predominance of the pianoforte over the voice was due to the peculiar properties of the hall I did not know. Some foreseeing person had provided him with an upright instrument, but he did not appear to relish the imposition, and in the first group of songs he was so merciless as almost to extinguish the singer's voice. (The fact that even in these first awful minutes Miss Greville never forced her tone is a tribute to her sense.) It is true that he improved as the evening went on, but he did not at any time play with that refinement which so delicate an art as Miss Greville's demands. To mention but one example of this unfitness—he added to such fragile things as old French folk-songs a string of vulgar and unnecessary notes that might have been in place in the second part of a "promenade" concert, but which were a most destructive impertinence in a recital by so sincere and faithful an artist as Miss Greville.

However. though labouring under this deafening disadvantage, Miss Greville sang very charmingly. Her temperament is many-sided, though I have before in this column said where I think her strongest qualities lie. Of the new songs which she introduced, Geoffrey Gwyther's setting of de la Mare's "Song of Shadows," and Percival Garratt's "Roses" (verse by Agnes Hanrahan) were the best, though in this last song those words which the accompanist allowed me to hear seemed to be doubtful poetry. Four operatic airs were included in her programme — the "Berceuse" from Rimsky-Korsakoff's "Maid of Pskov," the "Chant Hindou," from his "Sadko," the "Hymn to the Sun," from his "Coq d'Or," and "Ah lo so," from Mozart's "Magic Flute." The first two, though beautifully sung, were scarcely a test of ability to sing opera, but from the last two it appeared probable that, if determination will do anything, it will turn Miss Greville's aspirations towards operatic singing into achievements. Her rendering of the grand "Hymn to the Sun" was intense, and the Mozart was exquisitely phrased. It really seems that the better the music of the opera, the better Miss Greville sings it. Certainly in stuff of the class of Delibes, de Lara, or Meyerbeer, which I heard her give at previous recitals, she did not succeed half as well. Where she is most artistic, however, is still in songs of dramatic import, like Bantock's "Lament of Isis," which she sings with hardly a false quality, in nursery songs, which she sings with great pluck and in great numbers, and in direct lyrics. Further to explain my opinion of Miss Greville's singing is unnecessary—it is, as my readers will remember, high—but I would like here to praise her unfashionable perseverance in the singing of British song, for she is one of those young artists through whose enthusiasm and skill the salvation of British song may ultimately come. In this connection it may be mentioned, for the sake of those fortunate readers who do not live in London, that Miss Greville, under the direction of Messrs. Elkin and Curwen, the music publishers, is undertaking next November a recital tour in the provinces, with the object of making known, and thus of making popular, songs by British composers.

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The history and the state of English hymnody are not brilliant, and it is, I imagine, with the double object of giving information and so of improving this condition of affairs, that the Faith Press are issuing their series of Church Music Monographs. The first volume (price 4s. 6d.) of this series is called "The Chorales," written by A. W. Wilson, the organist of Manchester Cathedral, and if succeeding volumes maintain its very high level, these monographs will prove extremely valuable works. With the religious and moral significance of the chorales—which, of course, were hymns sung by the congregation—this is not the place to deal; but, as Dr. Wilson points out, they are tremendously important to the musician, because of their influence upon the musical technique of the seventeenth century. Without an understanding of the chorale the genius of J. S. Bach cannot be apprehended; and it can be said that without understanding J. S. Bach the genius of music itself cannot be apprehended. It is, therefore, very important to get the chorale in correct perspective. Hitherto historians have unfortunately allowed religious bias to interfere with their history of the chorales—Catholic and Protestant alike claiming the origin of a melody as their peculiar property. It is with a quite open mind that Dr. Wilson approaches his sources of information—which are chiefly German—and the result is a fine, impartial work, replete with sound scholarship and a nice judicious sense. An instance of this judicious sense is to be found in the chapter on "Luther and Walther," in which the debt owed by the theologian and poet to Walther is made admirably clear.

There is a certain amount of inevitable repetition of fact in this book, but it contains so much original matter—at any rate, matter that is new to English readers—that we can but be very grateful to Dr. Wilson for his research. Added to which is the fact that the book is well bound and printed—in these times a rare joy.

ANDANTE.

## PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

### Palestine and Mesopotamia.

The July *Adriatic Review* gives first place to an article on "Britain's new Responsibilities in the Near and Middle East," by the Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., who urges again, as he has urged in THE NEAR EAST, that a new department should be set up to deal with Mesopotamia, Palestine, and the Near East. Colonel C. E. Yate, M.P., writes interestingly on "Unrest in India: The Question of the Khalifate," and Mr. E. A. Brayley Hodgetts contributes a paper on "The Strategic Position of Armenia." We take the following paragraphs from Mr. Ormsby-Gore's interesting article:—

It must not be thought that the creation of this Jewish national home in Palestine under the auspices and guidance of the British Administration will be easy. It is a policy which has opponents both in Palestine and outside, and it undoubtedly implies the gradual transformation of the character and atmosphere of the social and political conditions in the country, which will not be always acceptable to those who were contented with the *status quo ante bellum;* and, further, as in Palestine questions of religion crop up incessantly at every turn, the British servants who will be charged with the delicate task of control and administration will require a special degree of knowledge, sympathy and tact, greater probably than in any other country where Britain has hitherto endeavoured to undertake the task of government. A mere holding of the balance and the scales of justice between rival races and creeds is not sufficient, because the Jews and the Christians in Palestine and the leading Mahommedan families are all highly educated, civilised people, and the relation between the British administrators and the people cannot be the relation of that of a superior with a subject race or races.

Similarly in Mesopotamia, our object must be the training and guidance of the native inhabitants in self-government from the outset. We must be prepared to sacrifice, if necessary, the ideal of efficiency for the sake of getting a more important political asset at the earliest possible moment. Any attempt to push the economic development of Mesopotamia too quickly, or to introduce numbers of emigrants of non-Arab race, would merely bring a host of troubles on to our shoulders. Above all it is essential that the necessary British and Indian garrisons should be reduced to a minimum at the outset, and that steps should be taken forthwith to create a locally recruited force as the main support of the Government.

### Armenia.

The most interesting parts of Mr. Brayley Hodgett's article on Armenia are those in which he deals with the Armenian character. He says:—

Very independent in character, even somewhat truculent, conservative in their habits and customs, they were proud of their ancient traditions, of their somewhat primitive but genuine culture, of their language, their literature, their achievements and their faith. They refused to relinquish any one of their national characteristics, and resisted assimilation whether by the Turks or the Russians. To do them justice, the Turks never showed much fanaticism in this direction; they were in the main content to live on the fruits of the labour of subject races, until their slow-working and not over-imaginative brains were worked upon by other external influences to suspect the loyalty of the conquered. Their vengeful suspicions once aroused, they proceeded in their clumsy way to crush out the spirit of rebellion and to massacre the native population. It was by these Oriental methods that the Turks lost their European provinces one by one throughout the nineteenth century. But the Armenians were less subtle and less fortunate than the Greeks and the Slavs or even the Egyptian fellaheen.

The Armenians had no friends, but they had many enemies, and so they were continually massacred in the hope that they might be completely exterminated. But their vitality is such that they are able to form an independent State to-day, and would, if but intelligently supported, constitute an ideal bulwark of liberty in the Near East. Their cause has not always been pleaded in the happiest manner. Too often have they been represented as poor, mean-spirited, defenceless sheep, when they have, as a matter of fact, fought like lions. Nor have they been overscrupulous in their methods of reprisal. Not always have they gently waited to be massacred; more often they have even anticipated the attack, and in some cases, instead of being the massacred, it is they who have fallen upon and slaughtered those whom they had reason to regard as their enemies.

### Articles to Note.

"The Hunter Reports," by St. Nihal Singh; and "Science in India," by Sir Alfred Hopkinson, in the *Contemporary Review* (July).

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"THROUGH DESERTS AND OASES OF CENTRAL ASIA." By Miss Ella Sykes, F.R.G.S., and Brig.-Gen. Sir Percy Sykes, K.C.I.E. C.B., C.M.G. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 21s.)

II—"HELLENISM." By Norman Bentwich. (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America. $2.)

III.—"INDIA IN CONFLICT." By P. N. F. Young and Agnes Ferrers. (London: S.P.C.K. 3s. 6d. net.)

## I.—"THROUGH DESERTS AND OASES OF CENTRAL ASIA."

Many years have passed since Russia completed the conquest of the Central Asian Khanates and carried her frontier to the Pamirs, and since then the travels of Sir Aurel Stein have robbed Chinese Turkestan of much of its former mystery, but, nevertheless, these remote lands have more than succeeded in retaining their hold on the popular imagination, and books about them can always count on a cordial welcome from every good arm-chair explorer. Books of travel, we all know, appeal to two distinct classes of reader, the first composed of people who take a general interest in geography and like to hear of other people's adventures in distant lands, the second whose interest in the particular country described is more personal. Where books about Central Asia are concerned this latter class has gained many recruits in the last two years, the Russian upheaval having brought that region of the earth into unpleasant prominence as a potential storm centre, and to-day knowledge of the conditions of life holding good in Russian and Chinese Turkestan is eagerly sought after by many who were hardly aware of the existence of these countries a few years ago. The appearance of "Through Deserts and Oases of Central Asia" could not, therefore, have been more happily timed. This joint effort of Sir Percy Sykes and his gifted sister, Miss Ella Sykes, is not merely a model of everything a book of travel should be, but it gives us an enormous amount of information about a country much in our thoughts to-day, and so merits a place in our libraries as a work of reference, indispensable to all who wish to keep their knowledge of Central Asia up to date. It is very necessary that we should do so—even at the present moment our "far flung battle line" is not so very far distant from the territories Sir Percy and Miss Sykes travelled over in 1915, and a campaign on the Pamirs is one of the many unpleasant possibilities demanding the attention of the general staff in India.

The first part of "Through Deserts and Oases of Central Asia," written by Miss Ella Sykes, gives a very vivid account of a journey from Bergen to Kashgar in 1915, in which we get some interesting glimpses of Russia in war time under the old regime, introductory to her account of her life in Kashgar and journeys in the Pamirs and Turkestan in company with her brother, Sir Percy Sykes, who contributes the second part of the book. This, composed of more solid fare than the first, is none the less palatable; the historical chapters being of quite extraordinary interest—this was, of course, to be expected from the author of "A History of Persia," but it is not every historian who is a master of the art of condensation, and the compression of the events of centuries into paragraphs only too often has no better result than the creation of confusion in the reader's mind. In this case, the author achieves his difficult task with complete success, and his happy knack of compelling the reader's attention to the historical landmarks his practised eye has been able to discern through the tumult of the ages, enables one to see the events of this chapter in the history of mankind in their right proportion. Dean Inge has lately questioned the reality of human progress, and one feels he would secure many converts to his views if the history of the race in Chinese Turkestan could be taken as typical, marked as it is by bursts of furious energy, followed by successful achievement, quiescence, torpor, and decline, until another movement brings down the tottering structure in ruin, and the chain of events is once more repeated. If this is progress, it is at best but progress within a vicious circle, bearing no resemblance to the slow ripening of the fruits of experience which marks the advance of the Western world. When one reflects that it was in these Central Asia oases that the Mohammedan movement eastward and the Chinese movement westwards each reached the limit of its force, and that it is only a short distance away that "three Empires meet," one has a feeling that the *true* hub of the universe cannot be very far off.

How many times Kashgar has been taken and retaken in the age-long conflict between the Mohammedans and the Chinese it is almost impossible to remember even with this book before us, but there is something very impressive in the unshaken purpose of Celestial policy which, disregarding the interruption of centuries, pursues its course with a patient persistence for which no parallel can be found in Western history. Time after time the onrush of the Moslem hordes sent the Chinese flying out of the country, but they always came back, and one feels that now they are likely to remain there for all time. China in 1877 was regarded in Europe as far advanced in her decline, and if anyone at the time had suggested that she still possessed considerable military power, he would have been scoffed at all round. Yet it was in 1877 that a Chinese army, after traversing more than half of Asia, marching thousands of miles over some of the most difficult country in the world, achieved the final conquest of the Kashgar oasis, and, smashing the mushroom empire of Yakub Beg, consolidated the Celestial power in Eastern Turkestan—no mean military achievement, and suggesting more than ordinary organising power on the part of some Chinese staff genius.

Miss Ella Sykes gives us a very vivid picture of the life of a great Eastern city untouched by Western civilisation in her Kashgar chapters, which awake in the reader a hundred memories of the Arabian Nights, Hajji Baba, Lalla Rookh, and all the books one can think of which deal with the unspoilt East, for this ancient centre of human life in Central Asia has so far escaped the process of vulgarisation which in the jargon of our times is called "opening up." It is, of course, horribly insanitary, and the manners and customs of the inhabitants leave much to be desired as judged by our Western standards. Neither could the most enthusiastic pro-Mongol maintain that the level of efficiency reached by the Chinese local administration is other than of the lowest, but this ancient system works, and its working engenders little friction between the rulers and the ruled. It is something in these days for a Government to be able to point to an area of the earth's surface, and a subject province at that, free from anything remotely suggestive of "unrest," and it sets one thinking hard when that Government happens to be Chinese. One can only explain the phenomenon by the enormous accumulation of administrative experience China can command in the field of Imperial Government. She must have forgotten more than we have ever learnt of this business of the management of subject races long before Mr. Lloyd George's ancestors were subject to the Romans.

Not the least interesting chapters in this most fascinating book are those in which Miss Ella Sykes tells us of her journey to the Pamirs, whither she accompanied her brother in search of the Ovis Poli. In spite of her enthusiastic descriptions of some of the finest scenery in the world and her lively accounts of her life in camp and on the march, one feels that this journey put a very severe test on the physical endurance of the travellers; but when one reads the final chapter, devoted by the brother of this intrepid lady to the great sheep of Marco Polo, one feels that for so great a trophy of the chase too high a price could never be paid. Sir Percy Sykes evidently thinks so, judging from his concluding rhapsody, and most of us will agree with him.

E. H. B.

## II.—JUDAISM AND HELLENISM.

The inditer of history has a hard task in these days of searching criticism; but his troubles are not confined to the marshalling of facts. He must select a title which will arrest attention and give some indication of his theme. Mr. Bentwich has not been happy in his choice. He set out to describe the interaction of the rigid Judaism of Moses and the culture of Greece in decadence; whereas "Hellenism" connotes the brilliant civilisation evolved by the City States of Greece during the fifth century B.C., in which the Judaism of that era had neither part nor lot. It took shape a thousand years earlier under the guiding hand of a man of genius who welded a group of Semitic tribes into an organism which has resisted the most powerful disintegrating influences for three milleniums. Moses inculcated belief in a personal God, who had chosen the Jews as his instruments; the study of his laws, and the observance of a complicated ritual. A creed such as this gives immense aggressive power to those who possess it, but raises up against them a host of enemies. In 721 B.C. ten of the twelve Hebrew tribes established in Palestine were carried into captivity by the King of Assyria, and never returned to their fatherland. One hundred and thirty-four years later Nebuchadnezzar subjugated the remnant, and transported survivors to Babylon; but their descendants were repatriated by Cyrus in 536 B.C. The process of restoring Jewry to the ancient splendour was accomplished by Ezra during the century which witnessed the rise and fall of the Athenian Republic. Building on foundations laid by Moses, that man of genius gave his compatriots a system of polity which has endured to the present day.

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During the Great Dispersion colonies of Jews took root throughout the East. Their rallying-point was the synagogue, wherein elders met for the study of God's Law, and each grouping kept in close touch with a central governing body termed the "Sanhedrim" at Jerusalem. Their isolation came to an end when Alexander linked Europe with Asia by founding the city which bears his name. It became the centre of a new civilisation, which profoundly modified the growth of Judaism without in anyway affecting its basic doctrines. Of its essential features Mr. Bentwich writes:—

Had the Jews met Hellenism on its own soil and in its prime a true harmony between the two might possibly have resulted and produced a civilisation more splendid and more complete than the world has yet known. But Providence did not work in that way, and, in fact, the Jews encountered a Hellenism debased by transplantation to a strange soil. The Greek culture with which they came in contact in Palestine was contaminated by Hellenized Syrians with their crude materialism and mysticism. Judaism, on the other hand, was in the stage of vigorous development and strongly entrenched in its national life, which gave it a mould of resistance to foreign ideas.

The persistence of this "national life" is a misfortune and a danger for the world. It renders Jews a race apart, firmly knit together by ideals and interests which do not always coincide with those of the community which shelters them. It cannot be said that Mr. Bentwich is fully alive to the evils inherent in separatism, but the effect of intensive culture in early youth can never be eradicated. No orthodox Jew can be trusted to follow the fortunes of his race with the detachment of a scientific historian. We have all seen the consequences of a presumptuous belief that the community to which one belongs has a Divine Mission to govern the world. History may well repeat itself on a vaster scale, unless enlightened Jews combine to demolish the watertight compartment in which their ancestors have lived for three millenniums. F. H. S.

## III.—INDIA IN CONFLICT.

This book describes very briefly the conditions of missionary work in the new India, which is rising so rapidly from the ruins of the old; it should prove most valuable for the recruits for whom it is, we gather, primarily intended; but it deserves a wider audience, and may be read with advantage by everyone who is interested in Indian problems. The authors have divided the ground between them, Miss Ferrers dealing with the women, and Mr. Young with the men. Miss Ferrers's contribution is about the best thing we have read on the subject; she knows and feels the horror and squalor of woman's life in the North, but she has not failed to realise its peculiar charm, and she has set out the conditions of her work with great skill. Mr. Young is on more familiar ground in dealing with the education of Indian youths, particularly of the middle classes, and the most striking part of his share of the volume is the discussion of the relation between Christianity and the national movement, a topic which has come so rapidly into prominence during the last few years. All that he says on education and organisation deserves a careful hearing; but he is less successful in his generalisations on economic topics, and if he were to study the available data he would probably be shocked at the hardihood of his assertion that in India poverty is almost certainly increasing. Such blemishes are, however, incidental, and, taken as a whole, the book is one to be read and pondered.

## TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT

*The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:*—

COTTON GROWING (SUDAN). TURKEY (GREEK OPERATIONS). SYRIA: French Ultimatum. MESOPOTAMIA (REBELLION, RUMEITHA). ALBANIA. TURKEY. SYRIA. (July 19.)

PERSIA (POLITICAL SITUATION). MESOPOTAMIA (BRITISH REINFORCEMENTS). CEYLON (CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM). EGYPT (MILNER REPORT). SYRIA (REPATRIATED PRISONERS OF WAR). INDIA: Cotton Mills (Labour). ARMENIAN REFUGEES (CYPRUS). (July 20.)

INDIA: Kut Prisoners (Regimental Allowances).—Immigration (British Subjects).—Afghanistan.—H.R.H. The Prince of Wales (Visit).—Emir Ibn Saud (Subsidy).—Railways (Committee of Inquiry).—Elections (Wage Earners).—New Councils (Convicted Persons).—Political Agitators (Removal of Restrictions). MESOPOTAMIA: Native Chiefs (Subsidies).—Civil Administration (Estimates).—Military Situation. EGYPT (MILNER COMMISSION). INDIA: Amritsar Disturbances (General Dyer).—Railway Administration (Committee of Inquiry).—15th Lancers.—38th Dogras (Shelum).—Non-co-operation.—Civil Service (Pensions).—British Women (Protection). (July 21.)

PEACE TREATIES: Roumanian Oilfields.—Armenia (Frontier Delimitations). MESOPOTAMIA: Oil.—Arab Attacks.—British Occupation.—Military Situation. SYRIA. PASSPORTS (PALESTINE). PERSIA (BRITISH MILITARY MISSION). ARMENIA: BRITISH ARMY: Palestine (Recruiting). INDIA: Government Officers (Pensions).—Maharaja of Mysore (War Contribution).—Public Works Department (Pay). MONTENEGRO. (July 22.)

# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

## CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

**Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish Dates.**

| Gregorian (New Style). | Julian (Old Style). | — | Moslem. | Jewish. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1920. July | 1920. July. | | 1338. Julkada. | 5680. Ab. |
| 29 | 16 | Thursday ..... | 13 | 14 |
| 30 | 17 | Friday ..... | 14 | 15 |
| 31 | 18 | Saturday..... | 15 | 16 |
| August. 1 | 19 | Sunday ..... | 16 | 17 |
| 2 | 20 | Monday ..... | 17 | 18 |
| 3 | 21 | Tuesday ..... | 18 | 19 |
| 4 | 22 | Wednesday ..... | 19 | 20 |

Princess Cantacuzene has left London for Roumania.

M. F. Nano, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London on July 20 for Switzerland, on leave.

Judge Cator and Mrs. Cator arrived in England from Alexandria on July 13, on leave until September.

Colonel and Mrs. Cochrane have returned from Egypt and Roumania to their house, 39, Egerton Terrace, S.W.3.

At the annual meeting of the British Academy on July 22, Mr. D. G. Hogarth was elected a Corresponding Fellow.

The Aga Khan is staying at the Hotel de Normandie, Deauville, where the summer season officially opened last week.

Dr. Trumbitch, the Minister for Foreign Affairs in Yugoslavia, and head of the Peace Mission, arrived in London from Paris on July 24.

The King has granted to Lady Maude, widow of Major-General Sir Frederick Stanley Maude (who commanded the British Forces in Mesopotamia) the use of the suite of apartments in Hampton Court Palace formerly occupied by the late Viscountess Wolseley.

The King has granted unrestricted permission to Miss Edith Mackenzie to wear the Insignia of the Fifth Class of the Order of St. Sava, conferred upon her by the King of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in recognition of her services to the Serbian sick and wounded under the auspices of the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee.

We have received from the Lord Mayor of London an appeal for the Imperial War Relief Fund. Among the countries in which this Fund is operating are the Ukraine, Roumania, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Armenia, and Asia Minor. For this very deserving purpose cheques should be addressed to the Hon. Cecil Baring, Hon. Treasurer, Imperial War Relief Fund, City of London Committee, Fishmongers' Hall, London Bridge, E.C.4.

### THE EGYPTIAN ARMY DINNER.

The Egyptian Army Dinner took place at Claridge's Hotel on July 20. There were present: Lieutenant-General Sir J. J. Asser, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B., Lieutenant-Colonel Lord J. H. G. M. Athlumney, Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. Barker, O.B.E., Major F. A. T. Bayly, D.S.O., Captain J. C. Brand, D.S.O., M.C., Lieutenant-Colonel E. N. Broadbent, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Captain F. Burges, Mr. C. H. Buxton, Lieutenant-Colonel W. Byam, O.B.E., Lieutenant-Colonel F. F. Carroll, D.S.O., M.C., Major Clive Cassidy, Captain P. K. Campbell, Lieutenant-Colonel D. P. Chapman, M.V.O., Colonel C. E. G. Charlton, C.M.G., D.S.O., Major J. A. Clark, M.B., Brigadier-General W. F. D. Cochrane, C.B., Rear-Admiral Sir W. H. Cowan, K.C.B., M.V.O., D.S.O., Mr. E. S. Crispin, Colonel S. L. Cummins, C.B., C.M.G., M.B., M.D., Major A. G. Cummins, M.C., M.B., Major D. A. Fairbairn, Mr. S. K. Flint, Major the Hon. B. A. Forbes, O.B.E., Major C. V. Fox, D.S.O., Major-General Sir T. J. Gallwey, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.D., Major C. Garvin, Colonel W. O. Gibbs, Major S. E. H. Giles, D.S.O., Major-General Lord A. E. W. Gleichen, K.C.V.O., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Field-Marshal the Right Hon. F. W. Lord Grenfell, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.

Major A. L. Hadow, C.M.G., Major R. W. Hadow, D.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel G. C. M. Hall, C.M.G., D.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel R. S. Hart, D.S.O., Major Viscount E. W. Hawarden, Colonel H. R. Headlam, C.M.G., D.S.O., Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Heath, C.M.G., D.S.O., Brigadier-General E. S. Herbert, C.M.G., C.B.E., Lieu-

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tenant-Colonel C. P. Heywood, C.M.G., D.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Sir H. B. Hill, Bart., D.S.O., Major-General Sir A. R. Hoskins, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., General Sir A. Hunter, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., D.S.O., A.D.C., Major Hutchinson, Captain the Hon. C. James, M.P., Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. V. Kelly, C.M.G., D.S.O., Colonel J. Kennedy, C.M.G., Brigadier-General H. F. E. Lewin, C.M.G., Lieutenant-Colonel M. H. Logan, Colonel H. G. Lyons, Brigadier-General Sir G. B. Macauley, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., Lieutenant-Colonel E. E. B. Mackintosh, D.S.O., General the Right Hon. Sir J. G. Maxwell, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.V.O., D.S.O., Colonel C R. G. Mayne, D.S.O., Captain C. McKey, Captain J. H. M. Mee, Colonel F. J. Nason, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel A. Olver, C.B., C.M.G., F.R.C.V.S., Captain F. G. Peake, Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. Pearson, D.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Persse, Captain B. T. Phillips, Colonel H. C. Potter, C.M.G., D.S.O.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. V. Ravenscroft, Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. Rome, C.M.G., D.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel B. H. S. Romilly, D.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel R. E. M. Russell, C.B.E., D.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. A. Hore-Ruthven, V.C., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Brigadier-General H P. Shekelton, C.B., C.M.G., Lieutenant-Colonel M. B. Savage, C.B.E., D.S.O., Captain J. P. Shelley, Major E. M. Sinauer, Brigadier-General C. L. Smith, V.C., M.C., Colonel L. K. Smith, D.S.O., Major-General Sir Nevill M. Smyth. V.C., K.C.B., Major-General Sir L. O. FitzM. Stack, K.B.E., C.M.G., Major A. Sutherland, Major C. S. Spong, Major H. F. O. Thwaites, M.C., Major J. L. F. Tweedie, D.S.O., Captain A. F. Vingoe, Major A. Wise, Lieutenant-Colonel R. S. Webber, Major M. J. Wheatley, C.B.E., Captain H. B. H. White, D.S.O., Captain H. A. B. Whitelocke, Major P. A. Wilson, M.C., Lieutenant-Colonel R. S. Wilson, Colonel C. E. Wilson, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., and General Sir F. R. Wingate, Bart., G.C.B., G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., G.B.E., D.S.O.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The Persian Government has appointed Muzaffar-al-Mamalek Ambassador in Moscow.

Ghaffar Khan Emad-ol-Molk, Persian Chargé d'Affaires in London, has been raised to the rank of Minister Resident in the Persian Diplomatic Service.

M. Paul Karovitch has been appointed First Secretary to the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. M. Karovitch was formerly a member of the Yugoslav Peace Delegation.

## OBITUARY.

Sir Henry Clark King, solicitor and notary public, and Commissioner of the High Court, Madras, has died at Hove, in his sixty-fourth year. He went to India in 1880 and became senior partner in the firm of Messrs. King and Josselyn, Madras. He was one of the secretaries appointed by the Madras Presidency in connection with the reception of the King and Queen, who, as Prince and Princess of Wales, visited Madras in 1906.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

On July 22 the Ottoman Peace Delegation embarked at Constantinople on board a French destroyer for Constanza en route for Paris.

Addressing the representatives of the Palestinian Press, Sir Herbert Samuel promised that the censorship in Palestine should be abolished.

The new stamps which have been issued in Palestine bear the inscription "Erez Israel" (Land of Israel) in Hebrew, Arabic, and English.

Mr. Sastri, says a Simla message, has notified his intention of raising a debate on the Hunter Report at the forthcoming meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council.

## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

TO Lady of good social standing visiting the East CHAPERON offers Services and berth, sailing September; interview London.—Write Box 170, The NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Sq, E.C.2.

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# WHERE TO STAY.

**For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—**

**"EASTAPROX, LONDON. TWENTIETH MATLOCK TWO**

**(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added),"**

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# THE NEAR EAST.

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*Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON."*
*Telephone No.: 618 London Wall.*

THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1920.


## INDIA AND THE TURKISH TREATY.

In former years the Indian Budget used always to provide an opportunity for a general discussion of the state of India, when the Secretary of State, or, if he happened to be a member of the House of Lords, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary laid before the House a comprehensive statement which travelled over all the most important measures of Indian Administration and policy. This year, by a strange irony, when for the first time the new Government of India Act made special provision for such a discussion, there has been none. Mr. Montagu is as secretive as most of his colleagues in the present Government, and displays the same reluctance to giving straightforward answers to Parliamentary questions, and he succeeded by his passionate opening in concentrating the attention of the House, during the only Indian debate of the Session, on the one question of General Dyer's action at Amritsar to the exclusion of all other factors in the present condition of India. We do not in the least underrate the gravity of that question, or the importance of securing the approval of Parliament for the verdict which the Imperial Government had felt constrained to pass on that gallant officer's deplorable error of judgment. But though it may have suited Mr. Montagu's convenience to side-track all other issues, we cannot but regret his success in evading the discharge of an equally important part of his duty, namely, to place Parliament in possession of the actual situation in India and of the policy by which it is proposed to deal with the menacing conditions arising out of it.

All the news that reaches this country, in spite of the Secretary of State's systematic reticence, goes unfortunately to show that the rulers of India are again confronted with an agitation as bitter and as widespread as that which ultimately led last year to such tragic results in the Punjab. It is no longer directed merely to matters of Indian internal policy, such as the Rowlatt Acts, for dealing with the more violent aspects of sedition, but to far more complex issues affecting the whole foreign policy of the Empire. The Hindu Extremists have unfortunately at last been able to capture not only the advanced Mohammedan politicians, who were already inclined to co-operate with them on the common platform of Indian Home Rule, but also a large section of the Mohammedan masses, whose confidence in British rule had been hitherto proof against their blandishments. Not for the first time have Hindu seditionists sought to wean the Mohammedans from their habitual loyalty to the British *raj*. It was chiefly Hindu brains that engineered the Indian Mutiny of 1857, though on the surface it wore the aspect of a mainly military and Mohammedan revolt. Again, in 1905, when Mr. Tilak embarked on his second great campaign of anti-British propaganda in the Deccan, he angled, quite unsuccessfully, for Mohammedan support by distorting the purpose of the Anglo-French Agreement with regard to Egypt and Morocco into a sinister bargain between the two Western Powers for the destruction of Islam. The downfall of Turkey has afforded the Hindu Extremists a fresh opportunity which the weakness of the Government of India and perhaps also the curious sympathy of the Secretary of State and of many of his co-religionists for the Turks have allowed them to exploit with great audacity and impunity. Abdul Hamid's Pan-Islamic propaganda bore at first but scanty fruits in India, and one of the greatest of Indian Mohammedan teachers of our time, Sir Seyyid Hussein of Aligarh, openly traversed the Sultan's claim to speak with the spiritual authority of a Khalif. But the seed did not fall entirely on barren soil, and though during the great war the loyalty of Indian Mohammedans never faltered any more than the gallantry of the Indian Mohammedan troops when they were fighting against the Turks, the extremists have worked up during the last eighteen months a very strong feeling against the exaction from Turkey of the penalties which her unprovoked entry into the war and the incorrigible perversity of her rulers have deservedly brought upon her. They appealed in the first instance to the sentiment of religious reverence which the Pan-Islamic propaganda had fostered amongst Indian Mohammedans for the Sultan of Turkey as the Khalif and spiritual head of at least the Sunni Mohammedans, and upon it they proceeded to graft the new and dangerous doctrine that any surrender of his temporal authority constitutes a sacrilegious attack upon his spiritual authority.

A protest addressed to the Viceroy by the Mohammedan leaders of the Khalifate agitation, backed up by a letter from Mr. Ghandi, the Hindu leader who devised the fatal Satyagraha movement last year, shows only too plainly the dangerous lengths to which this agitation has been carried. The signatories state in so many words that "Islam enjoins upon every Mohammedan to consider those who wantonly injure the states of the Khalif to be enemies of Islam and to resist them with arms if necessary." They regard apparently any curtailment of the Sultan's territorial sovereignty as imposing this duty upon all Indian Mohammedans, and though they are good enough to assure the Viceroy that "even if they had the power" they "must not resort to arms so long as any other means are available," they feel that "the least a Mohammedan can do is not to assist those who are guilty of trying to reduce the Khalifate practically to nothingness." So they proceed to deliver to the King-Emperor's representative a formal ultimatum to the effect that, if, within one month from July 1, the British Government fail to revise the Turkish peace terms in accordance with their demands, the Mohammedans of India will be obliged to withdraw co-operation from the Government and to ask their Hindu brethren to do likewise. Mr Ghandi, who roundly declares that Hindus and Mohammedans alike have lost faith in British justice and honour, admits that "non-co-operation practised by the mass of the people must be attended by grave risks," but maintains that the risks must be taken in a crisis such as has overtaken the Mohammedans. The risks are, of course, the same as those which attended his campaign of passive resistance last year and were promptly followed by the terrible outbreaks of violence and crime that in their turn provoked grievous measures of repression. Since this ultimatum was delivered, it appears that one of the forms which, in Mr. Ghandi's opinion, "non-co-operation" will have to assume is a boycott of the Prince of Wales' visit to India next winter. No more insolent demonstration of disloyalty to the British Crown itself, which the Extremists have hitherto always professed to dissociate from their attacks on the Anglo-Indian bureaucracy, can well be imagined, and we are glad to note that Mr. Montagu has been moved by it to repudiate the friendship and admiration for Mr. Ghandi in which he gloried not so long ago. But something more than that repudiation is needed, and if, as we have now, every reason to hope, the Sultan of Turkey ratifies with his signature the Treaty of Peace drafted by the Allies, and thereby finally cuts the ground from beneath the feet of Mohammedan as well as Hindu mischief-mongers, we trust that the Secretary of State will allow the Government of India to deal drastically with the promoters of a sinister agitation for which the last pretext will then have gone. We should be reluctant to believe with some of Mr. Montagu's critics that his chief interest in the impending visit of the Prince of Wales to India arises from the hope that it will create a more tranquil atmosphere for the inauguration of the new Reforms scheme, but the success of the visit itself, and perhaps even its feasibility, must depend upon a halt being definitely called to defiant threats of open hostility.

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# SOME PICTURES OF THE E.E.F.

**By Martin S. Briggs.**

*(Photographs by the Author)*

## I.—EL-ARISH.

The photograph shows a scene very familiar to all those who served with the E.E.F.—a convoy of camels carrying "fanatis" or "fantasses" filled with water. The Camel Transport Corps was a very popular and efficient arm of the Service, and at one time had over 35,000 camels. The native drivers in their blue gallabiyehs marched beside their animals, and displayed great pluck on many occasions. Camel transport was the means of enabling the lightly-equipped "Desert Column" to perform its famous *trek* from Ismailia and Kantara on the Suez Canal to Deir-el-Belah in Palestine, during the winter of 1916-17. In the subsequent operations on the Gaza front, and, indeed, up to the capture of Jerusalem at Christmas, 1917, much of the success of the military operations depended on camels and their Egyptian drivers, though when the front moved into the wild mountain-country north of Jerusalem they were not so useful, and motor transport had also improved. So also in the campaign against the Senussi, and in the outposts maintained along the Libyan coast and in the Western Oases during 1916-18, large companies of the Camel Transport Corps were employed. Apart from their function of carrying equipment, rations, and even munitions abreast of advancing troops in the march across Sinai, the Army depended on them for months for its daily rations and water supply. The latter was brought from wells in little groves of palm trees, as at Rómani and El-Arish, or from springs, as in the Wadi at Gaza, and was carried in fantasses made of galvanised iron or copper, each of a capacity of 10 to 15 gallons, two of these being a camel's proper burden. The water was treated with chloride of lime by the sanitary sections before being used by the troops.

**At El Arish.**

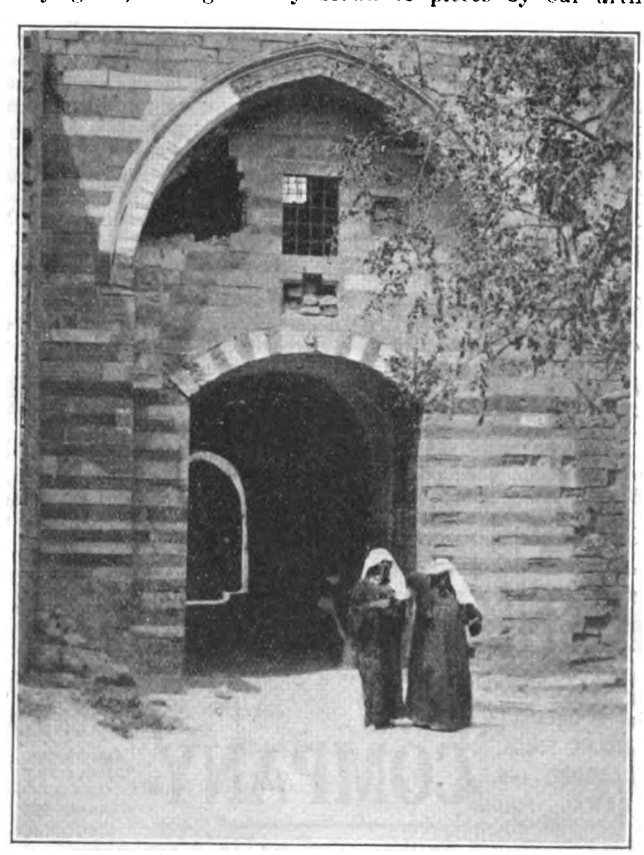
At El-Arish at Christmas, 1916, the camel convoys passed slowly along the beach every day from the great groups of wells at the mouth of the Wadi (the "River of Egypt" of the Bible), or from the other wells further west, or the wells in the "hods" among the sand dunes, to the camps dotted all round the town. El-Arish was perhaps the most interesting place that we passed through on our long journey, for though it consisted of no more than a small town with huge palm groves by the seashore, it was the only place in our long march from Kantara to Khan Yunus, a distance of 130 miles or so, where even such a limited example of civilisation met our eyes. Everywhere else was empty desert, without a sign of human life, for even the roving Bedouin had disappeared with their black tents and their goats as the great host advanced. El-Arish has a long history, going back to the most distant past, and was moreover the scene of a battle between Napoleon and the Turks in his famous expedition into Syria.* And to those of us who knew it at Christmas, 1916, and in the following months, when we set out for Gaza, it will remain in memory as the pleasantest halt in our crossing of Sinai.

*For a further description of El-Arish, its historical associations, and the "Oldest Road in the World," with maps and illustrations, see the author's "Through Egypt in War Time." (T. Fisher Unwin, 1919.)

## II.—GAZA.

To tens of thousands of workaday Englishmen the name of this old Philistine stronghold will always have a very real and sinister significance. The huge cemetery, with its nearly three thousand graves laid out in ordered squares, beyond the railway station, testifies to the part that it played in the story of the "E.E.F." For six months an army was entrenched on the bare hills surrounding the city, and its fall meant far more to the rank and file than did the entry into Jerusalem shortly afterwards, or the even more dramatic campaign culminating in the final defeat of the Turks.

We saw it first at the end of March, 1917, a line of red-tiled roofs surrounded by orchards and cactus-hedges, with the prominent minaret of the Great Mosque rising high above the city. From the great camps round Deir el-Belah it was always visible, and our doings must have been equally open to observation by the Turks. From Belah to the Wadi in those days there stretched green fields of barley, with richly-scented wild flowers and humming bees and butterflies. A few weeks later all this fair green country, so refreshing to eyes tired by a year of the Sinai desert, was trampled by horses and scorched by the Eastern sun till it became a dusty waste. The beautiul and storied hill of Ali el Muntar, whence Samson bore the city gates, was gradually blown to pieces by our artil-



**Gaza: The Bab es-Sheria.**

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lery, till at last the sheikh's tomb that crowned its summit was destroyed, and even the Austrian gunner officers who directed their fire from a dug-out near this spot must have found life very trying there. Meanwhile Gaza itself, cleared of civilians, was being bombarded from sea, land and air, and when at last it fell in the autumn of 1917 it resembled—more, perhaps, than any city outside Western Europe—the battered old towns of Flanders and Champagne. The main street was a heap of ruins, the Great Mosque itself—used as an ammunition dump by the Turks—though still retaining evidences of its splendour in

**A SARACENIC ARCH AT GAZA.**

**This beautiful arch, characteristic of the architecture of Gaza, is one of the few buildings that have survived the 8 months' siege and bombardment of the city in 1917.**

Crusading days, severely damaged. Yet even in Gaza, which before the war was one of the largest towns in Palestine, one may still find relics of Arab architecture, such as the examples illustrated here, in good preservation. There is much work to be done by archæologists in this neighbourhood, which has been of military importance since the very dawn of history. The same long slope from the Wadi up to Gaza, that cost the lives of so many British soldiers, has seen many fights in the past; and here great generals—from Napoleon to Saladin, from Saladin to Alexander, from Alexander to the Pharaohs—have found the gates of "The Oldest Road in the World."

A wireless service has been instituted between Prague and Belgrade, and an air postal service between Prague and Paris.

A deputation of East African merchants has arrived at Simla to make representations to the Viceroy on Indian questions.

Lord Braye's small collection of Egyptian mummies, coffins, and Greek vases formed part of Messrs. Sotheby's sale on July 22. The mummy of a man enclosed in a wooden coffin with polychrome decorations on a yellow ground, XXII. Dynasty, brought £20; and the mummy of a priestess, also enclosed in a wooden coffin with polychrome decoration on a yellow ground, £19—both were purchased by Mr. Andrade. A Babylonian cylindrical seal, hæmatite, very finely cut with figures of a man and his wife in the presence of a god, realised £35 (Bois).

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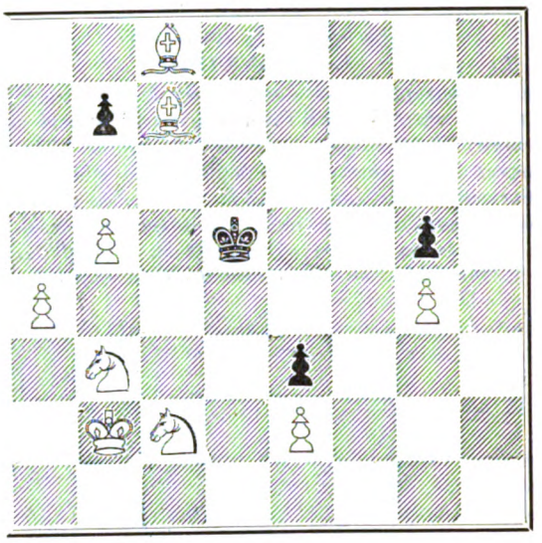
## CHESS.

PROBLEM 22.

Black.



White.

White to mate in two moves.

Solution to Problem No. 22.—1. P—B4. If 1. Q x P(ch.); 2. P x Q mate. If 1. Q—Kt5(ch.); 2. P x Q mate. If 1. K—Q5; 2 Q—B4 mate.

The City of London Chess Club's Murton Cup Handicap has been won by Mr. H. Jacobs.

The list of entries for the British Championship at Edinburgh is now available. Sir G. A. Thomas is making his first appearance in this event, and another most welcome entry is that of Mr. H. E. Atkins, who won the title seven times in succession, but who has now for several years been an absentee from this competition. I regard the championship this time as a duel between these two players. Mr. Atkins labours under the disadvantage of having been out of serious chess since he last held the title, but as he has shown so often before, he needs little practice to regain his form, and I shall expect him to credit Cambridge with an eighth victory.

CARO-KANN.

On July 20 the Orient Express service from Paris to Constantinople and Salonika, via Bucharest and Nish, was suspended owing to the beginning of Greek operations in Thrace.

Bombs and rifles were found last week by the police in the Gujranwala district, one of the most affected areas during the Amritsar disturbances. Suspicion is directed towards certain frontier Hindu tribesmen.

It is reported by the Georgian representative at Baku that the British Vice-Consul, Hewelcke, is about to be tried on a charge of speculating on the Exchange, and that the Bolshevists at Baku, led by Pankratov, are pressing for his execution. The Georgian representative has undertaken to do all he can to ensure his safety.

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**MEDITERRANEAN AND NEAR EAST**

REGULAR FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM **LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO PATRAS PIRAEUS SYRA VOLO SALONICA SMYRNA CONSTANTINOPLE ROUMANIAN PORTS** GIBRALTAR ALGIERS MALTA GENOA LEGHORN NAPLES PALERMO MESSINA CATANIA BRINDISI BARI ANCONA VENICE TRIESTE AND FIUME

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FROM LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER LONDON SWANSEA ANTWERP AND ROTTERDAM TO GREEK LEVANT AND BLACK SEA PORTS

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The memorandum embodying the results of the negotiations in regard to oil supplies in Mesopotamia and elsewhere, entered into between France and Great Britain shortly after the Armistice, will be found elsewhere in these columns. It is, all things considered, a satisfactory document, and, apart from its immediate purpose, will afford yet one more proof to the world—and to the Near East in particular—of the community of Anglo-French interests. Among its many other results, the war made evident beyond the possibility of doubt that the oil age had dawned, and that adequate oil supplies would henceforth be a matter of vital importance. Hence, the initiation of the negotiations between the two countries resulting in the present agreement, brought about by Sir John Cadman, director-in-charge of His Majesty's Petroleum Department, and M. Philippe Berthelot, Director of Political and Commercial Affairs at the French Foreign Office.

***

As to the substance of the document, the agreement deals with the interests of the two countries in Roumania, Asia Minor, the territories of the old Russian Empire, Galicia, the French Colonies, and the British Crown Colonies. With regard to Roumania, provision is made for the co-operation of their respective nationals and for equal participation in any concessions that may be obtained as the result of negotiations with the Roumanian Government. The position in Russia can interest no one at the present time, though if and when reason returns to that unfortunate country, the co-operation thus arranged for should greatly facilitate endeavours to restore that country's oil industry, in which both signatories are to no small extent interested. Of much greater immediate importance is the arrangement for reciprocity as regards the development of oilfields in the French Colonies and in the British Crown Colonies. This is from some points of view the most pregnant point of the understanding. France undertakes to permit the participation of British groups in the development of oilfields in North Africa and elsewhere, and similar facilities will be given to French subjects in the Crown Colonies.

***

But the most important part of the agreement is that which concerns Mesopotamia. Provision is therein made for the participation by "the Native Government or other native interest" to the extent of 20 per cent. of the capital of a private company formed to develop the oilfields, the shares of Great Britain and France being respectively 62 and 18 per cent. It is further provided that the said petroleum company shall be under permanent British control, and special clauses deal with the construction of pipelines for the conveyance of the oil to a port or ports in the Eastern Mediterranean. An important feature is the arrangement that no duties, wayleaves, or dues may be levied on the oil in transit or on the material necessary for the construction of the pipe-lines, railways, refineries, or other equipment required for its transport, which, of course, should mean a considerable reduction in its cost. The workable nature of this arrangement must naturally depend on the course of events in Syria and Mesopotamia.

***

The report on Roumania by Mr. Adams, Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation, Bucharest, to which I briefly referred last week, and extracts from which will be found in another column, draws special attention to the great openings for British trade enterprise in that market. Before the war the Central Powers were first and the rest nowhere as regards Roumania's import trade, one principal reason for this being the geographical position of Germany and Austria, which placed them in a position of unique advantage. The conditions brought about by the war have altered the situation very vitally, and, as Mr. Adams points out, the greater facility of access has now passed to the British exporter, for Germany not only lacks means of transport, but must henceforward export her goods to Roumania through a ring of Slav countries. In other words, British traders will no longer labour under a handicap in this market, and it only remains for them to take adequate advantage of their opportunity to build up an enduring trade.

As regards the present position in Roumania, I understand that there is no reason to fear that the crops have suffered from the recent rains, but that, on the contrary, they have probably had a very beneficial effect. The country is still suffering, however, from the lack of transport, and until this is remedied it is useless to look for any great development of the export trade. On the whole, while the outlook is not unsatisfactory, it would appear that progress in reconstruction has not been as rapid as it might have been. Still, the signs are that matters are undoubtedly moving, and once the transport difficulty is solved progress will doubtless be greatly accelerated.

***

A few weeks ago I had occasion to warn my readers against what appeared to be a recrudescence of the "Black Band" type of fraud in Smyrna and Constantinople. In the current issue of the *Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States, which has just reached me, it is stated that at least one important coup has been brought off in Constantinople from a P.O. box address. The supposed consignment was sold to a firm, and the documents were passed through a bank with draft attached. It was only some time after the payment of the draft that the fact was established that no such goods had been shipped.

***

A paragraph in the same journal brings me back to a subject which I have dealt with time and again—the irregularities in the postal service to the Near East. The note in question gives the text of a letter from a correspondent of the Chamber, quoting a letter from a newspaper firm to the effect that complaints have been received from the Near East respecting the late arrivals of English newspapers served by the British Post Office, and that arrangements have now been made "through our Paris house to have same posted in Paris and despatched by the French postal officials." The correspondent caustically concludes that "things must have reached a scandalous condition when a well-known British company has to make arrangements with the French postal authorities for the despatch of its Constantinople mail." With which, I imagine, there will be general agreement.

***

From the particulars given by our Tiflis correspondent this week, it is evident that British, American, and Italian exporters (especially the Italians) have for the most part been sending to Georgia precisely the class of goods which that region could do without at the present time. Like every other similarly situated region, Georgia requires all kinds of manufactured articles of the first necessity. Toilet soaps, buttons, sweets, perfumes, and face powders (an extraordinary amount of the last two of which have been sent from Italy), however useful, can hardly be held to compensate for the absence of other commodities of which the country is in the greatest need.

COMMENTATOR.


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# Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, July 13.

**The Present Position.**

Of the cotton situation there is nothing new to be reported. The latest advices from England are of a very conservative character, and the market has been summarised in the cables from Home as a "professional one without any decided tendency." Actual crop news from America discounts the early presage of disaster and shortage, and on balance the latest information can be compared with the harvest reports: of a hopeful nature for an average crop. This does away with the fear of a shortage, but naturally militates against any early rising movement in cotton prices. The effect of this tendency on the market in Egypt merely shows how the era of wonderful prosperity has blunted the commercial section's sense of proportion. During this time last year cotton was bringing 50 talaris per kantar, and hope and joy were unrestrained. To-day it is bringing 80, but because it is not bringing twice that amount, as it was a few months ago, market operators are wrapped in apparently impenetrable gloom. The cotton, cotton seed, and share markets are stagnant, and any little dealing is purely professional. Public interest is depressed; but, momentarily, this is for the best. Later in the year, when the new crop starts to come in, there will be considerably increased general activity. Most of the falls recorded have been due solely to technical conditions, and experienced hands are still buying quietly, knowing that when the land again starts to obtain its wealth the Bourse will be inflated.

As always, the cotton market is the barometer which records the condition of general business. At the moment it is dull; but as it recuperates other lines will join in the forward movement. Meanwhile there is a slight reduction in prices.

I have already mentioned that there is a tremendous glut in the Bonded Stores and on the quays at Alexandria. I understand that the Government is now considering the question of offering all undelivered stores upon the quays and in the Bonded Stores at auction. This must further depress prices, but most of those who will be likely to suffer on this transaction have already covered their losses, and most of the owners would be glad to have the ready money in place of their goods, notwithstanding that they may have to make a small sacrifice.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, July 15.

**Trade and the Exchange.**

Business is still in a state of stagnation. Importers have ceased to buy goods abroad, and the public have ceased to buy. The latter are probably hoping that as the leu goes up in value prices will fall, while the former are doubtless calculating that by reducing the demand for foreign currency they will help to raise the value of the leu and enable themselves to pay their foreign bills at a more reasonable rate. The exchange rate to-day is 130.5 to the £, as against 280-300 two months ago. There is still no sign, however, of prices falling to any great extent, and there seems little chance of their doing so until most of the goods purchased at the higher rate have been sold. The reports of the harvest prospects from most parts of the country are good, so that a fair surplus for export may be hoped for, and this again will have a favourable influence on the value of the currency.

**Lack of Transport.**

Many of the petrol companies are beginning to increase their boring operations, but the refineries are still badly handicapped from lack of sulphuric acid. This is mainly due to the shortage of means of transport, which makes it impossible to have the necessary quantities of pyrites, etc., delivered to them. This brings us back to the most serious impediment to Roumania's industrial progress at the present time—lack of transport; but there is hope that transport conditions will shortly be improved, as the first instalment of the locomotives ordered in America—fifty in number—are to be delivered before the end of August. Unfortunately, it can hardly be hoped, however, that this improvement will greatly affect the comfort of travellers, as there is still no rumour of any new or repaired carriages coming into use, and those now attached to local trains are in a most dilapidated condition. On some lines the first-class carriages in the ordinary passenger trains have neither window-panes nor in many cases a complete set of seats, and they are usually so crowded that it is the fate of the less "pushing" to stand in the corridor throughout the journey. The express trains are rather better equipped, but even more crowded.

**Foreign Enterprise Not Wanted.**

Foreign enterprise is not receiving any encouragement, and no mineral concessions of any kind are being granted to purely foreign companies, all such concessions having been placed by a recent decree-law under the direct control of the Ministry for Industry and Commerce.

## BULGARIA.

June 25.

**High Prices.**

The director of the Prevoyance Social has issued a report on prices of articles of the first necessity during the last twenty years. It shows that while in 1902 100 kgs. of wheat cost 12 levas, this had increased to 25 levas in 1912, and to 300 levas at the present time. 100 eggs now cost 50 to 60 levas, as against 5.20 levas; while butter, which was 4 to 5 levas the kilogramme, has risen to from 44 to 60 levas. Finally, cheese, which cost one leva the kilogramme before the war has risen to 22 levas.

## TRANS-CAUCASIA.

TIFLIS, June 24.

**Georgian Imports.**

For some time past imports from abroad have been steadily reaching Georgia. British, American, and Italian trading companies have been bringing various goods into the country, but the news regarding the possible early evacuation by the Allies of Batoum is having a disturbing effect on trade. Everyone here—and by everyone I


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mean foreigners as well as Georgians—is convinced that Batoum and the Batoum region must eventually be handed over to Georgia, and everyone feels that the presence of Allied forces in Batoum is absolutely necessary at the present critical moment. With the Bolsheviks in Azerbaijan and in the North Caucasus, and with the Turkish Nationalists in Asia Minor, Georgia would be placed in a very difficult position were the Allies to leave Batoum at the present time. For, in spite of the recently concluded peace treaty with the Soviet Government, there is no reliance to be placed on Soviet words.

Georgia is in need of practically every kind of manufactured article, but so far the imports have hardly dealt with what I can only refer to as "serious" goods. The British imports are for the most part such small articles as toilet soaps, washing blues, buttons, and a certain amount of cloth. The Americans have brought in boots and shoes, certain enamelled utensils, sweets of various kinds, socks, etc. And the Italians have brought in all sorts of shirts and other underwear for men, cheap (and nasty) boots, and an extraordinary amount of perfumes, face powders, soaps, etc., etc.

Such imports as machinery, which are badly needed, have so far not arrived. One can understand this very well: the market for machinery is naturally a limited one, and few people care to risk their capital on machinery at the present time. Things will settle, however, and then there can be no question but that the British manufacturers will be able to do big business.

**Rates of Exchange.**

The rates of exchange present a certain difficulty. With the franc at 23 roubles, the Italian lira at 18, and the British pound sterling at anything between 1,300 and 1,500 Georgian roubles, big articles necessarily run into five and six figures, but the difficulty can easily be overcome by a system of exchange in place of cash payments. In this, the British trader gains both ways. He buys in England, a comparatively cheap market, and sells in Georgia, where the goods are dear; then he gets Georgian articles in a cheap market and sells them in Europe—the dearest selling market. Small goods can be taken to Georgia to-day and sold at 100 per cent. profit: there is no reason why bigger articles should not fetch the same profit, and a system of exchange would make the profit on the double dealing at least 150 per cent. Georgia to-day has wine, wool, cotton, tobacco, leather, silk, etc., available for export. I understand that the manganese exports have already been secured by a British company.

British traders have so far been somewhat backward—the Italians have been most prominent; but it will not be hard to compete against the latter. Their goods are very trumpery, and there is a strong suspicion that many of them are "Made in Germany."

## CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, July 3.

**The Outlook.**

The season is a dull one for the business community. The want of money is much felt, and may well be attributed in large measure to the present adverse relations between exports and imports. Returns now available for the quarter ended March 31 show that imports amounted to £564,670 in value, as against £337,186 for the corresponding period of last year (an excess of £227,484), while exports reached only £262,570, as against £337,930 (a falling off of £75,360).

The patriarchal system of taking tithe on all cereal produce being still in force, one result is that while the Government, on the one hand, endeavours to reduce the cost of tithing, the peasant, on the other hand, sometimes has just occasion to complain that the staff is unduly curtailed. According to a recent order of the High Commissioner, any person who winnows his threshing-floor (generally a circle of stone-paving in the fields) without permission of the *mazir* (tithe superintendent) or his assistant *mamour*, is liable to a fine of £100 and confiscation of his produce; provided, however, that no offence is committed if the party has given three days' notice that his produce was ready to be threshed, with full particulars.

The prices of almost all produce have fallen. The price of carobs (locust beans), which were lately sold at £2 the kantar (£8 7s. 9d. the ton) is now 25s. Wine fetches £2 the load (of 128 okes) instead of £4; and spirit (*raki*), lately 20 piastres (2s. 3½d.) the oke, is now 8 piastres (11d.). It is the critical period for the carob crop, as an excess of hot winds may dry the pods and largely affect the yield, which promises to be fairly good.

**Transport for Produce.**

If farmers are proverbially grumblers, they have at times their real grievances, which are apt to be overlooked. At present, arrangements on the island's only railway, which serves the wide central plains and which should certainly aim at furthering agriculture, are causing trouble to peasants in the Western districts, who are unable to send much of their summer produce to Nicosia. One truck only is allowed for fruit transport a day. Large quantities of fruit, especially melons and the *batikh* (water melons), so largely consumed, cannot be conveyed to the capital, where the poor depend so largely on vegetable food; while the country growers are said to be losing thousands of pounds. The obstacle is that the line is required for transport of timber and fuel to Famagusta for military needs in various places outside Cyprus. Why, it is asked, cannot more trucks be supplied, or why cannot fuel be shipped at other and nearer ports, such as Karavostasi, on the northern coast, whence carobs and other produce are exported? It is certainly hard that provision cannot be made for island needs by rail, the expediency of laying which originally was so much in doubt owing to the question whether local traffic could justify the venture. It is regrettable that the needs of the peasantry cannot be met in this matter, since everything possible should be done to stimulate market-gardening and every branch of husbandry in the island.

## ROUMANIAN AGREEMENT WITH CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

It is reported that an agreement has been made between the Roumanian and Czecho-Slovak Railway authorities with the object of facilitating transport between these two countries (says the Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation, Bucharest).

The Czecho-Slovak Railway authorities have undertaken to put at the disposal of the Caile Ferate Romane five locomotives, together with the necessary coal and staff to carry oil from Campina and Ploesti to Giurgiu on the Danube for shipment in tank barges to Czecho-Slovakia. These locomotives may also be used for other traffic between Ploesti, Campina and Brashov.

The Czecho-Slovak Railway authorities have also put at the disposal of the Caile Ferate Romane the necessary locomotives, together with coal and staff, for running three weekly return trains from Oradia-Mare to Beregszasz. It is part of the agreement that these trains from Czecho-Slovakia to Roumania must contain at least 40 per cent. of goods destined for the Roumanian market. The connecting trains between Oradia-Mare and Brashov will be run by Roumanian locomotives and staff.

It has been decided to run a daily direct train on the Karlsbad-Prague Bucharest route, but the Caile Ferate Romane have not accepted the offer of the Czecho-Slovak authorities to attach a direct sleeping car to this train.


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# BRITISH CONSULAR REPORTS.

## II.—ROUMANIA.

Mr. Alexander Adams, Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation, Bucharest, in his report on the economic conditions and prospects of Roumania at the close of the past year, draws attention to the great possibilities of this country as a market for British manufactured goods. He points out that one of the principal reasons why Germany and Austria occupied such a prominent place in Roumania's import trade before the war would appear to have been their geographical position. Conditions are now, however, very different. Germany lacks marine transport, and transport by rail will continue for some time to encounter great difficulties. Moreover, German goods must pass through a ring of Slav countries to reach Roumania, and this ring "may retard that free passage of goods between Germany and Roumania which obtained in the past, and this will probably remain true, notwithstanding the administration of the navigation of the Danube by the International Commission, for here again the material difficulties of providing a sufficiency of barges and tugs may militate against the German exporter possibly for some years to come." The British exporter, on the other hand, is able to ship his goods to Roumania without any passage through other national customs houses or boundaries.

The greater facility of access thus passes to the British exporter. The implication of this is not, however, generally grasped by interested traders in the United Kingdom. "Every year British steamers arrive at the ports of Roumania for the purpose of loading grain, most of which is shipped to home ports. These steamers bring goods to the eastern Mediterranean and the east coast of Italy; indeed, the surplus of the clearances from the United Kingdom to Italy is over three million tons, of which 1.8 million tons are under the British flag. Altogether, including the surplus empty tonnage available from Malta, Port Said, and Alexandria, there is a total of three million tons of British shipping available for return cargoes in the eastern waters of the Mediterranean. Of this about one million tons goes in ballast through the Suez Canal, and something over two million tons enters the Black Sea, of which about seven hundred thousand tons, or some five hundred odd steamers, enter Roumanian ports in ballast for the purpose of loading grain.

"Since the times of the Byzantine Empire, and throughout the period of Turkish suzerainty, the trade of Roumania has been sea-borne traffic from and to the Lower Danube. Both north and south, and save where his frontier runs conterminously with that of the Magyar, the Roumanian is faced by Slav races, except on the eastern frontier, the Danube mouths, the channel through which political and economic forces will surge to and from Western Europe. It is not possible to overrate the importance of this from the point of view of the British exporter. It places him in a position of superiority, as far as regards facility of access to Roumania, over his German competitor. With a knowledge of the above facts, and a clear realisation of the unique opportunity offered to him, the British manufacturer and exporter should take full advantage of the occasion to obtain a firm foothold for his wares in the Roumanian market."

### The Financial Position.

The revenue of old Roumania for the first eight months of 1919-20 amounted to 540,600,000 lei, while the authorised expenditure, including sums expended for the new territories, amounted to 2,600,000,000 lei Thus, there was a deficit for this period of over two milliards of lei. The difficulty of compressing expenditures within safe limits is obvious, but the demobilisation, which was expected to have been completed by June, will bring about an appreciable reduction. A strict revision of salaries and posts in Government service is also promised.

"The prospect is not at all so depressing as at first sight it may seem. The 'normal' revenue of 645 million for Old Roumania, with her population of 7,600,000, shows a pre-war *per capita* revenue of 85 lei. This same basis of taxation extended to Greater Roumania would, therefore, yield a revenue of 1,487 million upon an estimated population of 17,500,000. There are factors at play which tend to increase this total rather than lessen it, and one of them is the greater material well-being of the town populations in Transylvania. It may thus be calculated that the future revenues of Greater Roumania would be 1,400 to 1,500 million lei on the pre-war basis of taxation. The Minister of Finance confirmed this sum in a recent statement that the revenues amounted to between 700 and 800 million for the Old Kingdom of Roumania alone, and he calculated the yield of present taxes when extended to the new provinces to be double this sum—or, say, 1,500 millions yearly. The Budget to be submitted for next year will contain proposals for increases of existing taxes, and it is intended by this means to bring revenues up to approximately three milliards of lei.

As regards the inflated currency, it is pointed out that the estimated net total of the currency is about 8,500,000,000 lei, and that it is proposed to reduce this by the conversion of 50 per cent. into funded debt. "This very radical measure calls for commendation, although it must be hoped the conversion will be carried out by means which do not involve too great a disturbance of the money market. Thus the resulting amount of currency left in circulation will shortly amount to four and a-quarter milliards of lei, or 242 lei *per capita*, a sum to be viewed with satisfaction in these post-war days. (In 1915 the currency in circulation in Old Roumania was 750 million, the equivalent of 100 lei *per capita*.) This is a much smaller sum than the French issue, totalling over 38 milliards, or about 800 francs *per capita*, but in any consideration of these figures it must be borne in mind that in neither Roumania nor France is the use of cheques so widely extended as in Britain. In nearly all those cases where payments would be made by cheque at home, the Roumanian or the Frenchman customarily employs currency; thus even in normal times one might expect to find, other things being equal, a larger *per capita* issue of currency in these countries than in Britain.

"The security for the enemy issued currency must be considered as non-existent. It appears to have consisted merely of deposits of marks or kronen at a conventional rate of exchange in the German Reichsbank, and this paper money to-day is of no more value than the Roumanian lei.

"The total metallic cover consists of the amounts shown in the Bank return. It must be remembered that the gold stock of 493 odd millions was deposited abroad as follows:—315,179,980 lei was deposited at Moscow, 80,469,650 lei was deposited at the Imperial Bank, Berlin, 98,105,800 lei was deposited at the Bank of England. It is therefore not available at the moment, except in theory, as a metal reserve for currency. The provision of a proper gold basis for the currency remaining in circulation presents difficulties until such time as an excess of exports calls for an inflow of the precious metal. With the unification of the currency and a reduction in its total amount the way will be clear for the resumption of more or less normal trade relations between Roumania and the United Kingdom, modified as these must be for some time by the condition of internal transport in Roumania."

# ANGLO-FRENCH OIL AGREEMENT

## POSITION IN MESOPOTAMIA.

A White Paper (Cd. 675) has just been issued giving the text of the agreement between France and Great Britain regarding oil supplies in Mesopotamia and other regions:—

The following is the text of the Memorandum of Agreement between M. Philippe Berthelot, Directeur des Affaires politiques et commerciales au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, and Professor Sir John Cadman, K.C.M.G., Director in Charge of His Majesty's Petroleum Department:—

By order of the two Governments of France and Great Britain, the undersigned representatives have resumed, by mutual consent, the consideration of an agreement regarding petroleum.

2. This agreement is based on the principles of cordial co-operation and reciprocity in those countries where the oil interests of the two nations can be usefully united. This memorandum relates to the following states or countries: Roumania, Asia Minor, territories of the old Russian Empire, Galicia, French Colonies, and British Crown Colonies.

3. The agreement may be extended to other countries by mutual consent.

4. Roumania.—The British and French Governments shall support their respective nationals in any common negotiations to be entered into with the Government of Roumania for—(*a.*)


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The acquisition of oil concessions, shares or other interests belonging to former enemy subjects or bodies in Roumania which have been sequestrated, *e.g.*, the Steaua Romana, Concordia, Vega, etc., which constituted in that country the oil groups of the Deutsche Bank, and of the Disconto Gesellschaft, together with any other interests that may be obtainable. (*b.*) Concessions over oil lands belonging to the Roumanian State.

5. All shares belonging to former enemy concessions which can be secured and all other advantages derived from these negotiations shall be divided 50 per cent. to British interests and 50 per cent. to French interests. It is understood that in the company or companies to be formed to undertake the management and the exploitation of the said shares, concessions, and other advantages, the two countries shall have the same proportion of 50 per cent. in all capital subscribed, as well as in representatives on the board, and voting power.

6. Territories of the late Russian Empire.—In the territories which belonged to the late Russian Empire, the two Governments will give their joint support to their respective nationals in their joint efforts to obtain petroleum concessions and facilities to export, and to arrange delivery of petroleum supplies.

7. Mesopotamia.—The British Government undertake to grant to the French Government or its nominee 25 per cent. of the net output of crude oil at current market rates which His Majesty's Government may secure from the Mesopotamian oilfields, in the event of their being developed by Government action; or in the event of a private petroleum company being used to develop the Mesopotamian oilfields, the British Government will place at the disposal of the French Government a share of 25 per cent. in such company. The price to be paid for such participation to be no more than that paid by any other participants to the said petroleum company. It is also understood that the said petroleum company shall be under permanent British control.

8. It is agreed that, should the private petroleum company be constituted as aforesaid, the native Government or other native interests shall be allowed, if they so desire, to participate up to a maximum of 20 per cent. of the share capital of the said company. The French shall contribute one-half of the first 10 per cent. of such native participation, and the additional participation shall be provided by each participant in proportion to his holdings.

9. The British Government agree to support arrangements by which the French Government may procure from the Anglo-Persian Company supplies of oil, which may be piped from Persia to the Mediterranean through any pipe-line which may have been constructed within the French mandated territory, and in regard to which France has given special facilities, up to the extent of 25 per cent. of the oil so piped, on such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed between the French Government and the Anglo-Persian Company.

10. In consideration of the above-mentioned arrangements, the French Government shall agree, if it is desired and as soon as application is made, to the construction of two separate pipelines and railways necessary for their construction and maintenance and for the transport of oil from Mesopotamia and Persia through French spheres of influence to a port or ports on the Eastern Mediterranean. The port or ports shall be chosen in agreement between the two Governments.

11. Should such pipe-line and railways cross territory within a French sphere of influence, France undertakes to give every facility for the rights of crossing without any royalty or wayleaves on the oil transported. Nevertheless, compensation shall be payable to the landowners for the surface occupied.

12. In the same way France will give facilities at the terminal port for the acquisition of the land necessary for the erection of depots, railways, refineries, loading wharfs, etc. Oil thus exported shall be exempt from export and transit dues. The material necessary for the construction of the pipe-lines, railways, refineries, and other equipment shall also be free from import duties and wayleaves.

13. Should the said petroleum company desire to lay a pipeline and a railway to the Persian Gulf, the British Government will use its good offices to secure similar facilities for that purpose.

14. North Africa and other Colonies.—The French Government will give facilities to any Franco-British group or groups of good standing, which furnish the necessary guarantees and comply with French laws, for the acquisition of oil concessions in the French colonies, protectorates and zones of influence, including Algeria, Tunis, and Morocco. It should be noted that the French Parliament has resolved that groups so formed must contain at least 67 per cent. French interests.

15. The French Government will facilitate the granting of any concessions in Algeria which are now under consideration as soon as the applicants have complied with all the requirements of the French laws.

16. British Crown Colonies.—In so far as existing regulations allow, the British Government will give to French subjects who may wish to prospect and exploit petroliferous lands in the Crown Colonies similar advantages to those which France is granting to British subjects in the French colonies.

17. Nothing in this agreement shall apply to concessions which may be the subject of negotiations initiated by French or British interests.

18. This agreement had to-day been initialled by M. Philippe Berthelot and Professor Sir John Cadman, subject to confirmation by the French and British Prime Ministers respectively.

J. CADMAN.
P. BERTHELOT.

San Remo, April 24, 1920.

Confirmed:
D. LLOYD GEORGE.
A. MILLERAND.
April 25, 1920.

## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

The launch took place on July 22, from the Jarrow shipyard of Palmer's Shipbuilding and Iron Co., Ltd., of the geared turbine steamer City of Pekin, built to the order of the Ellerman Lines, Ltd. The dimensions of the vessel are as follows:—Length between perpendiculars, 442 ft. 6 in.; breadth (moulded), 58 ft. 6 in.; depth (moulded) to upper deck, 34 ft. 3 in. She is of the two-deck type, with poop and combined bridge and forecastle, having cruiser stern and straight stem, and will be classed 100 A1 at Lloyd's. The 'tween decks are insulated for the carriage of meat cargoes, and the double bottom is fitted for carrying oil fuel. The vessel will have an approximate deadweight capacity of about 11,000 tons, and it is to have Parsons' single-screw double-geared turbines of the impulse reaction type, supplied and fitted by Palmer's Shipbuilding and Iron Co., Ltd., at Jarrow, there being three single-ended boilers, 230 lb. working pressure, and Howden's forced draught.

The new passenger and cargo steamer Egyptian, which has just been completed by Messrs. W. Harkess and Son, Ltd., shipbuilders, Middlesbrough, recently underwent her trials satisfactorily. Built to the order of the Ellerman Lines, Ltd., her dimensions are as follows: — Length, 316 ft.; breadth, 44 ft.; depth, 26 ft. 3 in.; with a displacement of 7,050 tons and a speed of 11¾ knots. The vessel is intended for the Mediterranean service of the Ellerman Lines, Ltd. This is the seventh steamer which Messrs. Harkess have completed for Sir John Ellerman, Bart.

The new twin-screw steamer Mashobra, built to the order of the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., was successfully launched on July 14, at the Clydeholm Yard of Messrs. Barclay Curle and Co., Ltd. Her dimensions are: Length, 464 ft.; breadth, 58 ft.; and depth, 36 ft. Her gross tonnage is 8,500 and 11,000 tons d.w. carrying capacity. Accommodation is provided amidships for about 100 first-class and 50 second-class passengers.

### Forthcoming Sailings.

The Anchor Line s.s. Circassia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Glasgow on August 13, and at Liverpool on August 23.

The Bibby Line s.s. Lancashire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on August 7.

The Harrison Line s.s. Candidate, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Liverpool on August 5.

The Johnston Line s.s. Norton, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on August 4.

The Cunard Line s.s. Sea Glory for Piræus, Constantinople, and Galatz, will close for cargo in London on July 31.

The Ellerman Lines s.s. Serbino, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on July 31.

The Moss Line s.s. Amasis, for Gibraltar, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on August 20.

The Prince Line s.s. Scottish Prince, for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast Ports, and Cyprus, will close for cargo at Manchester on August 7.

The Bibby Line s.s. Lancashire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on August 7.

The Clan Line s.s. Sultania, for Bombay and Persian Gulf, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on July 31.

The Henderson Line s.s. Burma, for Port Said and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on August 18.


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Area 43,522 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,746,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 296,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

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

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

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

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

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

**COINAGE.**—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 30·87 Drachmæ to £1.

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

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

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*Cable Address—Navigation Palios.*

*Codes used—Scott's (1905) 10th Edition; A.B.C. (1901) 5th Edition.*

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Codes Used.

Scott's 1906—10th Edition. A.B.C. 1901—5th Edition. Palios 1919

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# ENGINEERING.

## Electric Tools.

Electric power has long been recognised as being particularly suitable for driving portable tools, so many of which are used in modern engineering appliances. The range of these is very wide, including as it does high-speed drilling machines and grinders, as well as light, medium, and heavy rivetters. For several years British-made electric tools have been recognised as superior to those of German and American manufacture, and a number of exhaustive tests have shown that so far as efficiency is concerned, the electrically driven tool is superior to the competitive range of air-operated or pneumatic tools. As regards length of life, there is little to choose between the two types, and first cost is also practically even. The balance of superiority is thus with the electric models, and that is in itself sufficient to explain their rapid growth in public favour.

In fact, the opinion is expressed that any shop which delays installing the newer and more economical equipment is not only retarding progress, but is actually throwing away profit. The more truly economical is the equipment, the greater will be the amount of time saved in production.

One of the most generally useful electric tools is the two-wheeled grinder, fitted with a 2, 3, or 5 h.p. electric motor, and running throughout on ring-oiled or ball bearings. A coarse and a fine wheel are provided, and only those engineers who have tried these machines know how generally useful they are and how wide is their range of work. Larger electric grinders, with motors of 7½ or 10 h.p. capacity, will carry wheels up to 24 ins. in diameter by 4 ins. in thickness. Small grinders for sharpening twist-drills and for tool-room work are also obtainable in a wide range of sizes. These twist-drill grinders are so set that a boy can make a better job with one of these machines than an expert tool-maker could by essaying to grind a drill by hand.

A geared electric drilling machine of the portable type is from 10 to 12 ins. in length, and will weigh between 4 and 5 lbs. only. A drill of that size will cut holes up to one

**Small Electric Hand Drill for Repair Work.**

¼ in. dia. in steel, iron, aluminium, or brass, and is a most useful tool for repair-shop work. It usually has an aluminium handle, and is sold complete with length of flexible cord, plug, switch, and chuck.

A larger size drill of the bench pattern is also illustrated. This is of the sensitive type, and will drill holes up to ½ in. or even ⅝ in. in diameter through any metal. The travel of the drill is generally about 4 ins., and the feed is by means of the usual rack and pinion. The motor is sometimes mounted as shown, or almost directly over the spindle, which in that event is usually slightly offset to the extent of about ¾ in. The table of these drills is, of course, adjustable, and here again the drill is usually supplied complete with chuck, plug, switch, and suitable length of flexible cord.

## A New Speedometer.

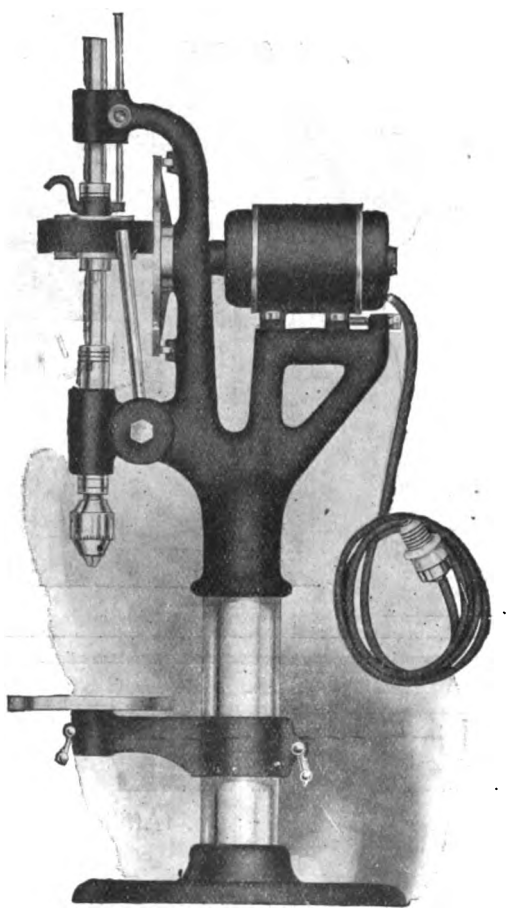
A new type of speedometer was recently brought to my notice, but, in accordance with my custom, I was unable to say anything as to its good points until I had submitted it to a lengthy test. I have now had one of these on trial for rather over 2,000 miles, during which time it has been checked at frequent intervals against an instrument which was recently calibrated with great exactitude, and which cost nearly three times as much as the instrument referred to. The result of the test is that the "Rock" speedometer, which is British made in an East London works, has not only stood up to its duties, but has never varied either as regards total mileage or miles per hour from the readings of the standard instrument. I consider it to be a remarkable instrument for its price, and it is certainly one that I can confidently recommend.

## Roadside Engineers.

For some time past the Automobile Association has provided "first aid" motor cycle combinations equipped with tools and spares with which the drivers—who are expert mechanics—assist members whose cars and motor cycles have broken down on the road through minor mechanical troubles. This unique roadside service has been of great service to many hundreds of members. The association has now issued tool kits to the road patrols in charge of the A.A. roadside telephone boxes for the use of passing members lacking tools for roadside adjustments.

## Fixing Machine Tools.

Although practically every engineer is a user of machine tools, it is safe to say that comparatively few realise the importance of erecting them properly and in situations where foundations are rigid and there is a good natural light. Many a man will pay fifty or a hundred pounds for a tool and then calmly proceed to fix it in some place where vibration will take off 20 per cent. of its life; and where the



**Electric Bench Drill with Adjustable Table.**

inconvenience of the situation or the bad lighting will take off another 50 per cent. off its efficiency.

One of the most important points, and one which is most frequently overlooked, is the correct levelling of the bed and the fixing of the legs or base so that this correct level shall be retained unimpaired during the life of the tool. There is no doubt that many engineers also feel that this work is really not necessary, being led by the apparent solidity of the tool to feel that it is sufficiently rigid in itself to withstand any strain brought upon it. This is not the case, and an accurate test for rigidity will reveal the fact that every tool vibrates and moves in accordance with the work its cutting part is called upon to do.

It would seem almost unnecessary to say that every machine tool should be bolted down to either a wood or a concrete floor were it not for the fact that a visit to many engineering establishments revealed the fact that in several cases tools were merely placed in position and held down and against the belt by their own weight. Where fixed on a wooden foundation care should be taken to see that the foundation itself is solid and sound, and if there is any doubt as to this, stout wooden battens should be used on which to fix the machine. The tool should be bolted down to these, and they in turn should be clamped down as solidly as possible. But whether the machine is fixed on a wooden floor or a concrete foundation, it should be levelled up and packed under the feet or bed to a dead level in every direction before there is any attempt to screw down the fixing bolts. When level, these should be gradually tightened up, trying the surface with the spirit-level at frequent intervals. It will probably be found that the screwing down will throw the tool out of truth, in which event more packing must be

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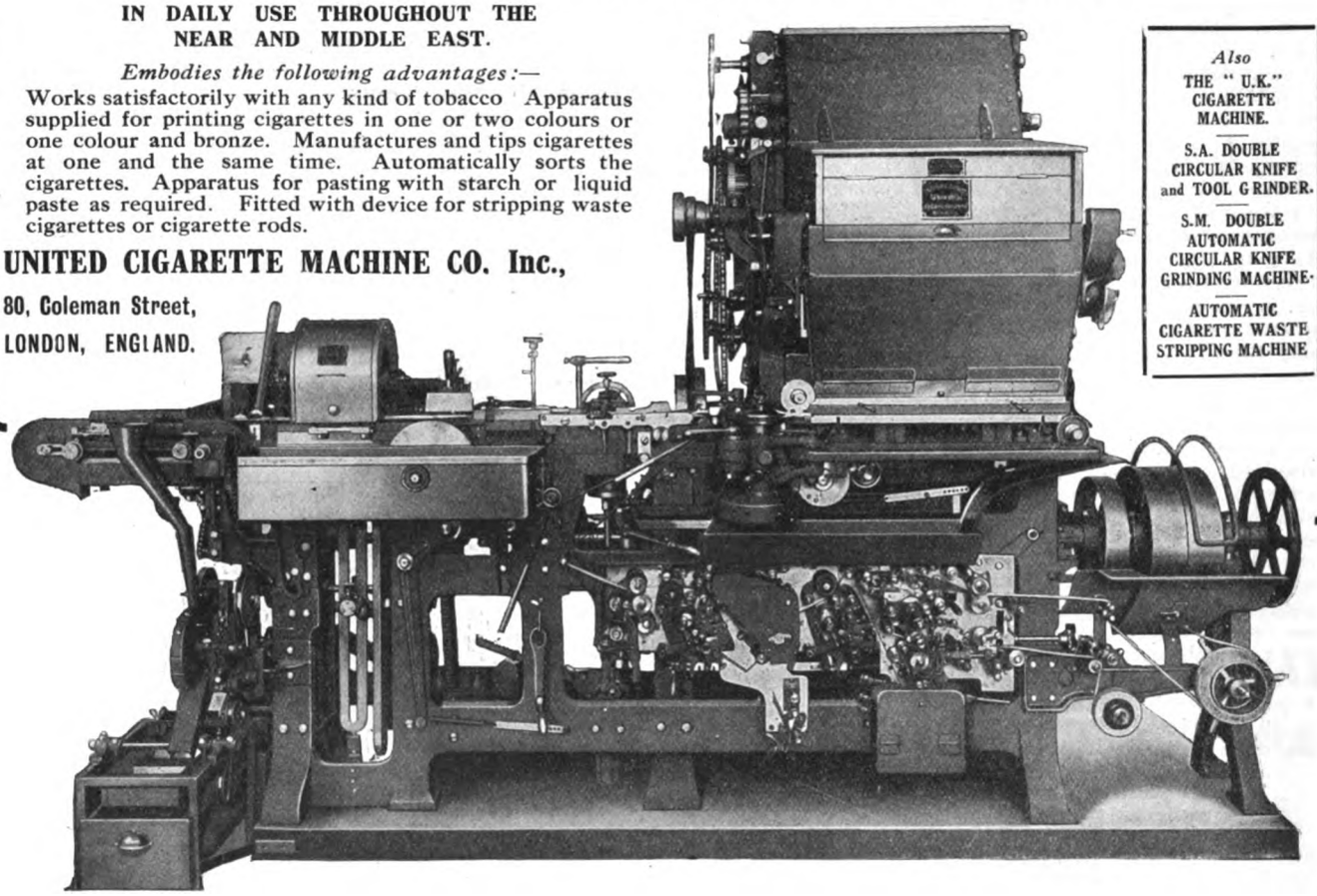

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fixed or superfluous packing taken out, so that the tool is absolutely true when screwed rigidly in place. In the majority of cases machine tools consist of two or more parts bolted to a common bedplate, and it is possibly this which has given rise to the idea that a great deal of care and attention need not be given to getting the latter truly on its foundations.

An instance was given recently of a case where a large radial drilling machine was fixed by a millwright, and as it was intended to carry out extremely accurate work on it more attention was given than usual to seeing whether it was doing its work within a sufficiently fine limit. Tests were made to see whether the spindle was square with the table, whether the arm worked perfectly parallel with the table, and whether the carriage travelled along the arm in a path perfectly parallel to the table. To the surprise of everyone, the machine, which was made by one of the foremost British makers, appeared to be inaccurate in every respect. The spindle test showed an error of 0.015 in. per ft., the arm was 0.034 in. out of parallel, and the carriage was out in its travel by 0.005 in. per ft. The maker was informed of this, and a representative was sent down, who merely confirmed the calculation of error, and then turned his attention to the levelling of the bed of the machine. The user's millwrights considered that this was wasting time, but they changed their opinion when they heard that there was an error in the setting which was throwing every other part out of line. The table was levelled up by a few pieces of thin steel, and the tests were again applied. To the surprise of the men who had fixed the machine in the first place the errors had been reduced to a maximum of 0.002 in. per ft., which was quite within the desired range of accuracy.

### A Useful Lorry.

I have recently had an opportunity of inspecting the body on the Napier 25-30 cwt. lorry. In many respects it is novel, and should prove useful to all business firms. It is built so that the sides are removable, thus enabling the body to be used as an ordinary platform type to take large cases or bulky goods, or else with the sides fitted to take smaller boxes or loose articles. This type of body, I understand, was devised after consultation with a number of owners with a view to arriving at an agreement as to the most suitable all-round body, and has now been standardised by the Napier Company.

The body is well framed up in hard wood, and mounted on stout bolsters, the edges protected with sill sides, and furnished with half-round metal-wearing plates. The rear sill hinges to facilitate loading. It is 10 ft. 6 ins. long by 6 ft. wide. Wind doors are fitted to the driver's seat, seat, shaped to meet the dash and to present a symmetrical appearance. The offside door is fixed, and the nearside arranged to hinge and fitted with a good slam lock.

The chassis is constructed to carry two tons, exclusive of the weight of the body. With the full load there is an ample margin in reserve, both in the strength of the chassis and in the power required to drive it. It will ascend without difficulty a hill of one in seven, and maintain a speed of 18 m.p.h. on the level. Every part is made standard, and has to pass a very minute examination with extremely accurate gauges before being assembled. This ensures that any spare part required will be inter-changeable with those previously supplied.

The engine is of four cylinders, cast in pairs, and is fitted with a governor of the centrifugal type, enclosed in the oil-tight engine casing. It is thus running in an oil-bath, and protected from injudicious adjustments by unauthorised hands, the owner or responsible manager deciding the maximum speed of the vehicle. The rear axle is worthy of special notice, as it is a great advance on the cast axle case method of construction, inasmuch as there is no casting to crystallise by fatigue, no bolts to stretch or shake loose, and no necessity for a tie-rod. An excellent feature of the design is that the whole of the worm gearing and differential gear is made as a unit, and can be lifted out for examination without even jacking up the car or disturbing any portion of it, except withdrawing the axle shafts.

### The Coal Repor

The second report of the British Association Committee, which is really of an interim nature, deals with the reduction of output in Great Britain since 1913 and the remarkable increase in price, and contrasts these with the average figures for the United States for the same years. It also deals with the chemistry of coal and the progress of the research work carried out, and perhaps from an engineering point of view it is of most interest where dealing with the extraction of coal with pyradine, which is not merely a process of solution, but affects the coal substances as a whole.

It appears that the action is retarded by the presence of water and of oxygen, and a method has been devised by Mr. W. A. Bone, the eminent author of "Coal and Its Scientific Uses," and his co-workers, by which the pure resinic constituents of coal can be extracted. The Committee generally is in agreement with the new method of charging for illuminating and power gas on a standard heat unit basis rather than on the number of actual cubic feet supplied, and the subject of fuel economy in blast furnaces, cupola practice, and steelworks is dealt with. In spite of the shortage of motor spirit, the Committee feels that gas undertakings should not be compelled to strip their gas of benzole unless they can obtain an adequate profit from so doing.

### A New Hoist.

Both engineers and shippers find at times that the handling of boxed machinery, especially when of an unusual size and shape, is not altogether an easy matter. In some instances it is inviting damage to attempt to lift by the ordinary means, and more or less elaborate slings and rope cradles have to be devised. The use of slings, further, is not altogether satisfactory unless handled by expert operators, as they have a tendency to slip towards the centre of the case.

One of the largest engineering firms in the world has devised a method of hoisting which is simple in the extreme, and which does away entirely with the use of slings under a case. It consists of a looped wire rope, on which are slung two substantial steel arms, fitted at the rope end with steel pulleys, so that they can slide freely. The other end of each arm has a hole, to which is hinged a bell-crank arm of stout steel, fitted at its extremity with a broad steel plate, of large size, which is corrugated or slightly toothed on its inner surface.

When the case is in position for lifting, the wire loop is lowered down from the elevator and the arms are placed one on either side of the case, with the steel plate resting against the timbers. The act of hoisting first lifts the arms, and then brings the bell-crank leverage into play. The corrugated plates then grip the case sides with considerable force, which increases as the lifting pressure increases, and the case is raised from the ground without any possibility of its slipping out of position. It is, of course, necessary for the case to be strongly constructed to prevent it from being crushed when lifted in this way, but there is usually no danger of this, as the clamping plates can be fixed against the bottom of the case if considered advisable.

H.M. Commercial Agent for Egypt reports that certain United Kingdom senders of cash on delivery parcels to clients in Egypt insist on full payment in advance on all cash on delivery orders under £1 value, and a 50 per cent. cash deposit on all such orders exceeding that value. He wishes, therefore, to draw the attention of firms and persons interested to the fact that such restrictive measures are not only unnecessary and unjustifiable in view of the insignificant proportion of British cash on delivery parcels returned by addressees in Egypt, but also cannot fail to have an adverse effect on the trade of the senders.


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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## Sudan Produce.

The following extracts are taken from the C.E.B. report for May:—

**Gum.**

The exports during May were as follows:—Via Port Sudan, 198,095 kilos of hashab of the value of £E10,797, and 20,277 kilos of talh of the value of £E671, and via Halfa, 117,388 kilos of hashab, of the value of £E6,445.

Kordofan Province.—11,589 kantars were sold in El Obeid market during May, as against 9,247 kantars during the same month last year, at an average price of £E1.478 per kantar of 100 rottles (45 kilos). Arrivals from Nahud were 4,417 kantars, as against 1,918 kantars during May last year. The amount sold at Um Ruaba was 609 kantars, as against 1,517 last year. The average price being £E1.490 per kantar. At Rahad 194 kantars were sold, as against 160 kantars last year, at prices varying from £E1.200 to £E1.300 per kantar.

**Cotton.**

Red Sea Province.—Tokar. The cotton, in kantars of 315 rottles (unginned), bought during the month of May was as follows:—First-class, 5,412; second-class, 5,970; third-class, 1,083; fourth-class, 63; total, 12,528. The exact quantity of cotton bought during April was 15,259 kantars. The quantity bought up to the end of April was 33,090 kantars of 315 rottles (unginned).

Kassala Province.—The transport of cotton seed to Sasareib on the Atbara has commenced. It is being carried out by camels from Butana district. From Sasareib the seed will be transported by steamer to Atbara.

**Dura and Dukhn.**

Blue Nile Province.—There was a distinct drop in the price of dura, highest price being 2,568 m/ms., and lowest 2,035 per ardeb of 300 rottles (135 kilos).

Berber Province.—Dura has drooped slightly in price, and averaged about P.T.390 per ardeb of 380 rottles (171 kilos).

Darfur Province.—April. The average price of dura in Fasher market during the month was £E1.200 per ardeb.

White Nile Province.—At El Dueim the average price of dura was £E2.900 m/ms. per ardeb of 384 rottles (173 kilos).

## NEW COMPANIES.

**British Levant Ships Stores.**

British Levant Ships Stores has been registered as a private company with a capital of £5,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To acquire under a licence from the Board of Trade part of the undertaking of J. W. Whittall and Co., Gilchrist Walker and Co., Walter Seager and Co. and Foscolo Mango and Co. First directors:—C. Doros, R. La Fontaine Whittall, W. C. Seager, J. E. La Fontaine, E. V. Rizzio, C. Blair and D. A. Mango, all of Constantinople. Registered office, 8, Serjeants' Inn, E.C.4.

**Near East Traffic.**

The Near East Traffic Co. was registered as a private company on July 13 with a capital of £15,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on at Constantinople and elsewhere the business of bonded and other warehousemen, etc. 8, Serjeants' Inn, Fleet Street, E.C.4

**Merchants Discount Bank.**

The Merchants Discount Bank (Constantinople) has been registered as a private company with a capital of £50,000 in £1 shares. Subscribers (each with one share): G. Luoff, 86, Addison Road, Kensington, W., banker; G. Zamanski, 38, Lime Street, E.C.3, banker.

The general meeting of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway Company will be held on September 28 at Winchester House, E.C.2.

# COMPANY MEETINGS.

## ALEXANDRIA WATER.

The forty-second annual general meeting of the Alexandria Water Company, Ltd., was held at Alexandria on June 1.

The following is the directors' report to the shareholders:—The directors have the honour to submit to the shareholders their report and statement of accounts for the past financial year ending March 31, 1920. Far from enjoying the improved conditions which it was hoped would result from the return to peace conditions, the company has had to face a continuance of high working expenses. Fuel and practically all stores have either remained at the same high level or again increased in price, whilst the continued rise in the cost of living has necessitated further increase of salaries and wages. The cost of alum on the other hand has decreased. The industrial troubles which affected so many companies in Egypt during the past twelve months reacted upon this company, but whilst there was some unrest among the company's workmen during the early part of this year, the directors are glad to record that the men, many of whom are old and valued servants, refrained from extreme measures. The existing war bonuses to workmen have been consolidated in the wages, and a further increase in wages sanctioned, whilst improvements in the conditions of employment have been introduced. These include the adoption of an eight-hour day. The Board has also authorised, as from April 1, an increase in the salaries of employees and the consolidation of part of their existing war bonuses. The full effect of the increases in wages and salaries will be felt in the coming year.

The total quantity of water pumped amounted to 23,741,843 cubic metres, the decrease of 161,912 cubic metres from the previous year being more than accounted for by the reduced demands of the British Army. The number of consumers shows the satisfactory increase of 1854, or 4.5 per cent., compared with the previous year. The revenue from the port supply has decreased by £4,665, but is still considerably above that received in pre-war years. The total receipts amount to £190,781, as compared with £189,622 realised last year, showing an increase of £1,159. The working expenses for the reasons stated above show an increase of £6,074. Whilst the revenue is swelled to a certain extent by the continued increase in the number of new consumers and by the rise in the value of rents, these increases are not at present sufficient to meet the constantly growing expenses. Increases in the charges to certain categories of consumers of unfiltered water and to consumers of high pressure water, have recently been put into force, but the full benefit of these increases will not be felt until the financial year of 1921—1922. In the profit and loss account a sum of £13,703 has been written off as depreciation of machinery and other wasting assets in accordance with the rates fixed by the board. The securities, which stood in our books at the market price of March 31, 1914, have been written down to the market value of March 31, 1920. This has absorbed the "provision for the depreciation of securities," amounting to £20,536, which thus ceases to figure in the balance-sheet, and in addition, it has been necessary to debit the profit and loss account with the sum of £6,558 to cover the depreciation.

The balance of the profit and loss account after making the above depreciations and usual allowances, and after deducting the interim dividend of 4 per cent. paid on December 15, 1919, is £45,000, from which should be deducted 6 per cent. on the capital, £36,000, leaving a balance of £9,000, of which one-half is due to the municipality according to our convention, £4,500, and the other half to our shareholders, £4,500, which represents ninepence per share, and this added to the 6 per cent. above mentioned makes a total of six shillings and ninepence per share for the dividend of June 15, 1920. The directors therefore recommend the shareholders to fix the dividend payable on June 15, 1920, at six shillings and ninepence per share.

Dr J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne

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which with the interim dividend of four shillings paid on December 15, 1919, makes a total dividend of ten shillings and ninepence for the year.

A sum of £22,761 has been spent on new works during the year, including: Machinery and filters £14,484, buildings £4,915, water mains £2,495, water meters £319. Of the extensions of machinery and filters referred to in the last report, the new pump at the Ramleh Works and the four new 21 ft. Jewell filters have been put into service with satisfactory results. The new workshop has been completed, and certain additional tools installed. Fair progress has been made with the new engine-house, but labour troubles in England have caused serious delay to the completion of the two large sets of Diesel engines and pumps, which have not yet been delivered by the makers. The following additional machinery has been ordered: Two 21 ft. Jewell filters, which will complete the installation in No. 2 filter house, an oil-driven electric-lighting set for the Rond Point Works, and a new Diesel engine for the Farkha pumping station, the board continuing their policy of replacing steam-driven sets wherever this is possible. The extension to mains has been somewhat larger than during the three previous years, amounting to 5,764 metres of low pressure mains, and 973 metres of high pressure fire mains. Further extension will be necessary in the near future for the provision of increased filtered water storage capacity and for the normal extension of mains. Should the new Diesel engines and pumps prove to be the success that is confidently expected, it is the intention of the board to instal further sets to replace the existing steam-driven pumps.

The additions to machinery which it has been necessary to make during the past few years in order to cope with the increased demands of the town, have absorbed all the available capital, and for the last three years the necessary funds have been borrowed from the reserve. The amount thus borrowed for capital expenditure to March 21 last was £15,246. The extensions which it is hoped to complete during the current year will absorb a further amount estimated at £60,000, whilst, as already stated, further extensions will be required in the immediate future to meet the normal development of the town. The directors have therefore, as announced in the notice convening this general meeting, decided to ask the shareholders to authorise the increase of the capital of the company from £600,000 to £700,000 by the creation of 20,000 shares of £5 each, to be offered at par to the shareholders and issued by the directors at such time or times as the money is required.

The directors greatly regret to report that Mr. H. R. C. Blagden has found it necessary, owing to private reasons, to resign his position as managing-director of the company. Mr. Blagden has been connected with the company for a period of 19 years, successively as engineer, manager and managing-director, and has been largely instrumental in developing the operations of the company and in improving the efficiency of its plant. The directors wish to take this opportunity of placing on record their great appreciation of his services and their sincere regret at his departure. The board has appointed Mr. K. B. Woodd Smith as manager in Mr. Blagden's place. To fill the vacancy on the board caused by Mr. Blagden's resignation the directors have elected as director Mr. J. G. Jacot-Descombes, till recently general manager of the Alexandria and Ramleh Railway Company, Limited. The general meeting will be asked to confirm his nomination. Under Article 84 of the articles of association, Messrs. H. E. Barker and R. C. Abdy are the two directors who retire by rotation, and being eligible, they offer themselves for re-election.

## BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA.

The twenty-sixth annual general meeting of the Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., was held on July 21 at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., the Right Hon. the Earl of Selborne, K.G., G.C.M.G. (the chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, first dealt with the figures appearing in the balance-sheet, and pointed out that the paid-up capital was now £800,000, as compared with £580,000 in the previous year, and that the reserve was now half the amount of the paid-up capital—namely, £400,000, as compared with £250,000. Current accounts and deposits amounted to nearly £12,000,000, as compared with £6,500,000. The profit and loss account showed that the net profit was £125,147, as against £83,767 in the previous year. Those figures certainly indicated a very remarkable increase of business, but they were greatly affected by the inflation of values which had been current throughout the period covered by the accounts. The directors had had to improve the position of the staff at all offices in view of the cost of living, which during the year under review had still further increased. It had been decided to bring into operation the staff profit-sharing scheme to which he referred two years ago.

During the period under review West Africa generally enjoyed considerable prosperity. Values all round were high, and sellers of produce obtained higher prices than probably they ever before received; their power to purchase imports was correspondingly great, thus benefiting the British exporter. This condition of affairs was not so apparent in recent months; produce had fallen in value all round, and imports must reflect that movement. West Africa, however, was fundamentally sound and prosperous, and when the new basis of values was established there would surely be a revival of trade, and statistics should disclose an increasing turnover, not based upon artificial values, but upon quantities. This fundamental soundness of trade in West Africa justified the programme of railway and harbour construction which Sir Hugh Clifford and General Guggisberg had so much at heart in Nigeria and the Gold Coast. Trade with many, and, indeed, most overseas countries involved questions of exchange, and those who were engaged in West African business hardly realised, perhaps, the advantage afforded them by the application of the British system of currency to our West African colonies. But even with this system of currency West Africa had had to put up with great inconvenience during the past year by reason of the large proportion of paper currency issued. Silver coin has been sent out in larger quantities than ever before, but it had immediately disappeared, and a high cost of living and, he feared, some discontent had resulted. When addressing the shareholders a year ago he suggested that a new coinage, other than of silver, might have to be considered, and it was satisfactory to know that a new coinage of mixed metal was now being struck for British West Africa, and supplies would be available in considerable quantities in the final quarter of the present calendar year.

An extra-ordinary general meeting would follow this one for the purpose of increasing the authorised capital of the bank. It had been their custom to issue new shares at frequent intervals, and this policy they proposed to continue, keeping pace with the bank's needs. The reduction in prices, to which he had referred, might mean that the calls upon the bank by their customers would be less in the immediate future, but the directors' confidence in the steady expansion of the business led them to ask the shareholders for authority to increase the capital. They proposed, therefore, that they should have powers to issue, as and when the board might elect, and upon such terms and to such allottees as the board might, in what they believed to be in the best interests of the bank, decide, 200,000 new shares of £10 each, £4 paid, thus doubling the existing capital of the bank. These were not times when new capital was easily obtained, and they had no intention of offering the shares at any very low price. If they had an opportunity to place a number of new shares at something like the present market value they might do so, but the claims of existing shareholders would not be overlooked if it was thought desirable to issue new shares at a price substantially less than the current market value.

Mr. Geo. W. Neville seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

At an extra-ordinary general meeting the proposal to increase the capital of the company was unanimously agreed to.

Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation.—An extraordinary general meeting will be held at 4, Broad Street Place, July 30, 11 a.m.


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The Hellenic Society of Chemical Products and Manures, Athens.
The "Titan" Cement Co., Athens.
The Soap and Oil Works, "Charilaos & Canellopoulos," Athens.

BANKERS' REFERENCES:—

The London Joint City & Midland Bank, Ltd. (Foreign Dept.), London.
The American Express Co., New York.
The Bank of Industry, Athens.

*Reference can also be made to "THE NEAR EAST."*


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## YUGOSLAVIA'S EXPORT TRADE.

The local Belgrade Press announces that in consequence of the energetic opposition from all classes, the Minister of Commerce has intimated that the proposed restriction of exports from the country will not be put into operation, and that the formation of the "Zadruga Centrale"—a semi-State export company—will be definitely abandoned, says the "Board of Trade Journal." During the period of suppression of exports it is stated that considerable harm has been suffered by the country, and the efforts made by the "Zadruga Centrale" have apparently led to much opposition and consequent disorganisation of trade. The Ministerial Council recently decided to export surplus stocks of last year's harvest within defined limits. In the absence of the "Zadruga Centrale," which was intended to deal with these exports the Department for Foreign Trade will exercise control. It has been decided that the profits accruing from this export of grain will be placed at the disposal of the Minister of Supplies with a view to affecting a reduction in the high cost of living. Similar arrangements are contemplated in regard to the ensuing harvest provided that the "Zadruga Centrale" for the monopolisation of exports is definitely and finally rejected.

## TRADE MARKS, ETC., IN THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA.

Trade marks and manufacturers' designs and models are protected in the republic of Georgia by the legislation of the former Russian Empire, supplemented by two announcements since issued by the Department of Trade and Industry of the Georgian Republic. Translations of these latter may be consulted on application to the Inquiry Room, Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

The Commercial Adviser to H.M. Chief Commissioner for Transcaucasia, in his communication on the subject, adds that on and after April 2, 1920, it became necessary that the main inscription on all trade-marks, manufacturers' designs and models submitted for sanction should be in the Georgian language. Inscriptions in any foreign language may follow the main inscription, if desired.

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**Paid-up - £5,000,000**

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| VISCOUNT GOSCHEN. | CHARLES DE CERJAT. |
| SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E. C.I.E. | LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY |
| LORD HILLINGDON. | GEORGES HEINE. |
| General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B. | A. HENRY. |
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(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

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|---|---|---|
| Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said. | Jerusalem. Jaffa. | Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos. |

**SYRIA.**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. | Beyrout. Damascus. | Hamah. Homs. | Saida. Tripoli. |

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## TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—

### Egypt.

*(The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.)*

Cotton Waste.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 200 metrical tons cotton waste. August 9. (L.)

Extension of Electrical Station of Zagazig and Belbeis.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, for the extension of the electrical station of Zagazig and Belbeis. Adjudication at noon on September 1. A copy of the specification, etc. (in French) may be consulted by British firms interested at the Enquiry Office of the Department of Overseas Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.2.

Electric Lift.—Tenders are invited for the supply and installation of an electric lift in the Kasr-el-Aini Hospital, Cairo. Tenders close on August 15. The lift is required to carry a cage 2 metres by 1.50 metres in area, with a fully loaded weight of 300 kilos, through a height of 9.40 metres with three stops (with a possible future extension to 15 metres with four stops), at a speed of 25 centimetres per second. A copy of the specification (in French) may be inspected at the Department of Overseas Trade (Room 50), 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

Blankets.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for fine white blankets. August 9. (L.)

### India.

Iron Pipes, etc.—The Madras Corporation invites tenders for the supply and delivery of about 220 tons of cast-iron spigot and socket pipes, with special castings, sluice valves, etc. (Specification, 5s., Messrs. James Mansergh and Sons, 5, Victoria Street, S.W.1.). Tenders will be received until September 8.

Wicks, Lubricating Pads, etc.—The Great Indian Peninsula Railway Co. invite tenders for the supply of the following stores:—Wicks, lubricating pads, etc., paints, drysalteries, etc., platelayers' tools, lamps and fittings, acid open hearth steel boiler plates. (Spec. 10s. for the first three, 7s. 6d. for the fourth, and 5s. for the fifth, office of the company, 48, Copthall Avenue, E.C.2.) August 10.

Bridgework.—The Burma Railways Co. invites tenders for the supply of bridgework (3 100-ft. spans). (Spec. 20s., office of the company, 199, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, E.C.2.) August 13.

### Turkey.

Telephones and Accessories.—The Commercial Secretary to the British High Commission at Constantinople has received an inquiry for the name of a United Kingdom manufacturer of telephones with magnetos, all telephone accessories, telephone wires, and a central of 500/600 lines; also electric bells, wires, batteries, etc. Correspondence and catalogues should be addressed to the British High Commissioner's representative at Samsoun, under cover to the Commercial Secretary at Constantinople.

## OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production week ended July 11, nil tons (previous total, 595 tons); Hurgada production week ended July 11, 2,291 tons (2,327 tons).

Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields.—Production for June 2,418 tons. Electric power was stopped several days during the month owing to heavy storm.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended June 30 amounted to £E12,843, making the total for the year £E103,344. For the corresponding periods of the previous year the figures were £E7,331 and £E38,377.

## LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

The better feeling in the market has continued, but demand has not developed to any important extent, and in certain departments business seems to be a little quieter than a week ago. Numerous buyers cannot make up their minds that the time is ripe for free operations, and the easier tendency in raw cotton rates has somewhat disorganised trade in yarn and cloth. A larger business has been done in Egyptian cotton than for some time back. Plenty of demand has been about in Liverpool and Alexandria from both British and American spinners. The reaction in prices, however, during the last day or two has rather upset matters. Advices from the American belt have been very mixed, but according to some authorities there is a possibility of a yield of 13,000,000 bales. In yarns made from Egyptian cotton, there has been an improved inquiry, and more trade has been done, but quotations of spinners remain irregular. Some sellers, however, are wanting distinctly more money than a week or two ago. There has not been much activity in piece goods for the Near East. Deliveries, however, are being taken on a freer scale, but the political situation abroad still causes anxiety. For India a substantial turnover has occurred in printing cloths and fancies, but practically nothing has been done in grey staples. Only isolated sales have been mentioned in dhooties and jaconets. Operations for China have been at a low ebb. An encouraging business has been done for South America. Many manufacturers have obtained some relief, but weak sellers can still be found. The larger demand in home American yarns has been maintained, and spinners are now firmer in quotation.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97 7/16 |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 30·70-31·20 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 60 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/11-1/11½ |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 140-145 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/11-1/11½ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 405-425 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅞ | 3·78½-3·79½ |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 48·40-49·40 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 190-195 |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 31 |

## OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended July 10.—The sales this week on our market amount to 15 cases (2,400 lbs.), at piastres 1,060 to 1,080 per oke as to quality, which is equivalent to-day to dollars 4.- to 4.25, and 19s. 6d. to 20s. 6d. per lb. c.i.f. The exchange to-day is piastres 410 per pound sterling for cheque and 0.97 dollars for one Turkish pound. The arrivals are 20 cases, against 6 at same date last year.

Nestor Gianaclis.—The Bank of Athens announces that debenture coupon No. 18, due on August 1, will be paid on presentation at the London offices of the bank, 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C.3.


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*(Established for the Assistance of British Trade by the Insurance of Accounts)*


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# "NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

| LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE. | Price July 19. | Price July 26. |
|---|---|---|
| **GOVERNMENT STOCKS.** | | |
| Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892 | 36 | 36 |
| Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907 | 51½ | 51½ |
| Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909 | 27 | 28 |
| City of Alexandria 4%, 1909 | 60 | 60 |
| Egyptian 4% Unified Debt | 68½ | 68 |
| Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890 | 57 | 57 |
| Greek 5%, 1881 | 55 | 55 |
| Do. 5%, 1884 | 55 | 55 |
| Do. 4% Rentes, 1889 | 40½ | 39½ |
| Do. 5% 1890 | 53 | 53 |
| Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893 | 53 | 53 |
| Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902 | 46 | 46 |
| Do. 4% Loan, 1910 | 41 | 41 |
| Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) | 56 | 54 |
| Do. 5% Currant | 90 | 90 |
| Montenegro 5% Loan | 78½ | 68½ |
| Persia 5% 1911 | 64½ | 64½ |
| Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913 | 36 | 35 |
| Serbian 4% Unified Bonds | — | — |
| Turkish 4% 1891 | 61½ | 61½ |
| Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894 | 55 | 55 |
| Do. 4% Unified | 35 | 35 |
| **BANKS.** | | |
| Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) | 4⅛ | 89/4½ |
| Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) | 5⅞xd | 5⅞xd |
| Do. 3½ Bonds Red. | 61 | 60½ |
| Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red. | 63 | 62½ |
| Bank of Abyssinia | 1½ | 1⅞ |
| Bank of Athens | 4½ | 4⅞ |
| Bank of British West Africa | 6⅜ | 6¼ |
| Bank of Roumania | 95/- | 5⅛ |
| British Trade Corporation | 8⅛ | 8⅛ |
| Imperial Ottoman Bank | 9¼ | 9⅜ |
| Imperial Bank of Persia | 7⅛-8 | 7⅛ |
| Ionian Bank, Limited | 5 | 5 3/16 |
| Land Bank of Egypt Ord. | 5 | 5⅛ |
| London County and Westminster | 14 | 14 |
| National Bank of Egypt | 19¾ | 19⅞ |
| **RAILWAYS.** | | |
| Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer | 5¾ | 5 11/16 |
| Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord. | 8 | 8 |
| Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref. | 10¼ | 9 |
| Do. Do. 4% Debs. | 34 | 39 |
| Do Do. 5% 2nd Debs. | 30½ | 35 |
| Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry. | 27 | 27 |
| Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½% | 57½ | 66¼ |
| Do. Do. 3% Bonds | 44 | 45 |
| **LAND.** | | |
| Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) | 35/6 | 35/6 |
| Do. 6% Debs | 135 | 135 |
| Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt | 12/6 | 12/6 |
| Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment | 75/- | 75/- |
| Béhéra Co. | 16 | 16 |
| Do. Pref. | 3½ | 3½ |
| Building Lands of Egypt | 1¼ | 1¼ |
| Egyptian Consol 5/- | 3/- | 3/- |
| Egyptian Delta Land and Invest. | 14/- | 14/- |
| Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs. | 73 | 73 |
| Do. Land and General Trust | 1/6 | 1/6 |
| Do. and Foreign Trust | 13/3 | 13/3 |
| Gharbieh Land Co. | 3¼ | 3¼ |
| Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt | 29/- | 29/- |
| Do. 4½% Debs. Red. | 84½ | 84½ |
| Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red | 61½ | 61½ |
| Mortgage Co. of Egypt | 6¼ | 6¼ |
| Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red. | 75 | 75 |
| New Egyptian Co. | 35/- | 35/- |
| Sidi Salem Co. | 2¼ | 2¼ |
| Sudan Plantations | 4⅜ | 4⅜ |
| Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. | 4 1/16 | 4 1/16 |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | |
| Abyssinian Corp. | ⅝ | ⅝ |
| Alexandria Water Co. | 7⅛ | 7⅛ |
| Associated Cotton Ginners | 25/- | 25/- |
| Egyptian Hotels | 2¼ | 2¼ |
| Do. Markets Ord. | 1 1/16 | 1 1/16 |
| Do. do 5% Debs. Red. | 86½ | 86¼ |
| Do. Salt and Soda Bearer | 2⅛ | 2⅛ |
| Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs. | 96⅜ | 96⅜ |
| Khediv al Mail Ord. | 5 1/32xd | 5 1/32xd |
| Do. Do. Prefs. | 3¼ | 3¼ |
| Levant Co. (fully paid) | 16/9 | 16/9 |
| Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref | 17/- | 17/- |
| Suez Canal | — | — |
| **Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.** | | |
| Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series | 94 | 95 |
| Chinese 4½% 1898 | 55 | 56 |
| Do. 5% 1896 | 70 | 71 |
| Argentine 5% 1890 | 70½ | 75½ |
| Do. 5% 1907 | 79½ | 79 |
| **OIL.** | | |
| Algerian | 2/11½ | 2/9 |
| Anglo-Bulgarian | 5/3 | 4/7½ |
| Anglo-Egyptian B | 2¾ | 57/6 |
| Anglo-Persian Pref. | 22/9 | 2/3 |
| Do. 5% Debs. | 81½ | 79½ |
| Anglo-Roumanian | 6/- | 5/3 |
| Cyprus Oil Trust | — | — |
| Maisel's Petroleum Trust | 10/7½ | 10/7½ |
| Roumanian | 18/9 | 17/6 |
| Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs. | 100 | 100 |
| Suez | 4/10½ | 5/- |
| Traian (Roumanian) | 7/6 | 7/6 |

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended July 10 amounted to £7,128.

The British-India trade returns for the month of June show that the imports amounted in value to Rs. 26,00,00,000 and the exports to Rs. 23,00,00,000.

# "NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

*(Continued.)*

| BRUSSELS BOURSE. | Price July 9. | Price July 15. |
|---|---|---|
| Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs. | 402·50 | 405 |
| Do. do. Priv. | 576 | 575 |
| Do. do. Cap. | 436 | 444·50 |
| Do. do. Div. | 400 | 400 |
| Anglo-Belgian Co. | 39·50 | 36·75 |
| Cairo Electric Railways Cap. | 217·50 | 215·25 |
| Do. do. Div. | 301·25 | 299·50 |
| Caisse Hypothécaire Act | 477·50 | 477·50 |
| Do. do. (10 eme p.b.) | 62·75 | 65·75 |
| Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½% Debs. | 355·50 | 335 |
| Do. do. Priv. | 490 | 475 |
| Do. do. Div. | 181·50 | 180 |
| Compagnie Immobiliére Deb. | 379·50 | 382·50 |
| Do. do. Cap. | 167·50 | 166·25 |
| Do. do Fond. | 254·75 | 250·50 |
| Enterprise and Development Cap. | 235 | 245 |
| Do. do. Div. | 125 | 117·50 |
| Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte) Priv. | — | — |
| Do. do. Ord. | 497·50 | 497·50 |
| Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap. | 200 | 200 |
| Do. do. Div. | 125 | 125 |
| Salonika-Constantinople Railway | 250 | 250 |
| Salonika-Monastir Railway | 200 | 200 |
| Smyrna-Cassaba Railway 4%, 1894 | 150 | 150 |
| Do. do. 4%, 1895 | 150 | 150 |
| Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv. | 115 | 115 |
| Do. do. Div. | 150 | 150 |
| Tramways du Caire Priv. | 444·50 | 450·50 |
| Do. do. Jouiss. | 691·25 | 665 |
| Travaux Publics du Caire Priv. | 272·50 | 272·50 |
| Do. do. Ord. | — | — |
| Do. do. Div. | 40 | 25 |

# INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

**INDIAN FUNDS.**

| Interest Due. | Name. | July 16. | July 23. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc. | India 3½% Stock,* 1931 | 55⅜ | 54⅜ |
| Various dates. | Do. Rupee Paper 3½% | 53 | 53¼ |
| | * Redeemable. | | |
| **CORPORATION STOCKS.** | | | |
| | Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959 | 83½ | 83½ |
| | Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40 | 65 | 64¼ |
| | Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938 | 66 | 66 |
| **BANKS.** | | | |
| | Chartered of India | 77 | 78 |
| | Eastern | 6⅞ | 7⅛ |
| | Mercantile of India A. | 27¼ | 28¼ |
| | National of India | 51 | 51 |
| **MINES.** | | | |
| | Balaghat Gold Mining | 3/16 | 3/16 |
| | Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref. | 15/1⅛ | 14/3 |
| | Burma Corp. | 9 1/16 | 9⅛ |
| | Burma Ruby Mines Ord. | 5/6 | 6/- |
| | Champion Reef Gold | 2/6 | 2/6 |
| | Mysore Gold Mining | 1/4 | 1/4 |
| | Nundydroog | 13/32 | 13/32 |
| | Ooregum Gold Mining Ord. | 3/32 | 3/32 |
| | Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf. | 21/- | 21/10½ |
| | Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.) | 24/3 | 24/3 |
| **OIL.** | | | |
| | Assam Oil | 26/10½ | 26/3 |
| | Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref. | 23/9 | 23/9 |
| | Brit. Burmah | 93 | 93 |
| | Burmah Oil Co. Ord. | 15⅜ | 15⅜ |
| | Do. 6% Cum. Pref. | 18/9 | 18/9 |
| | Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref. | 9⅛ | 9 |
| **RAILWAYS.** | | | |
| | Assam Bengal | 50 | 52 |
| | Bengal and N.-Western Ord. | 119½xd | 118¼ |
| | Do 3½% Cum. Pref. | 49 | 49 |
| | Bengal-Nagpur | 100½ | 101½ |
| | Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India | 100½ | 100¼ |
| | Burma Railways | 100 | 101 |
| | Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb. | — | — |
| | E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953 | 11 5/16 | 11⅛ |
| | East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957 | 11⅛ | 11⅛ |
| | Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948 | 10½ | 10¼ |
| | Madras and S. Mahratta | 100 | 99 |
| | Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord. | 121 | 121 |
| | Nizam's Guaranteed State | 66⅜ | 65⅜ |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | | |
| | Bengal Iron Ord. | 52/- | 52/3 |
| | Do. 7½% Cum. Pref. | 19/4½ | 19 |
| | P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P. | 75 | 75½ |
| | Do. Deferred | 472 | 470 |
| **TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.** | | | |
| | Assam Co. | 55½ | 55 7/16 |
| | Bengal United Tea Ord. | 15⅞ | 15⅝ |
| | British Indian Tea Ord. | 7 1/16 | 7 1/16 |
| | Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord. | 15 | 15 |
| | Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord. | 9/7½ | 9/7½ |
| | Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. | 54/9 | 54/9 |
| | Consolidated Estates | 40/- | 40/- |
| | Darjeeling Co. | 15/10½ | 16/10½ |
| | Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. | 37/9 | 37/9 |
| | Dooars Tea Ord. | 43/9 | 44/3 |
| | Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. | 18/1½ | 17/3 |
| | Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est. | 31/3 | 31/10½ |
| | Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber | 30/3 | 30/3 |
| | Hewagam Rubber Co. | 21/- | 21/- |
| | Jhanzie Tea Association | 9⅛ | 9⅛ |
| | Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. | 17⅞ | 15 |
| | Kepitigalla Rubber Estates | 16/- | 13/7½ |
| | Lanka Plantations Ord. | 21/6 | 21/6 |
| | Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord. | 21/3 | 17/3 |
| | Malayalam Rub. and Produce | 38/3 | 38/3 |
| | Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. | 12⅛ | 12⅛ |
| | P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates | 32/1½ | 32/1½ |

# STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

| | June 12. Rs. | June 25. Rs. |
|---|---|---|
| **GOVERNMENT LOANS.** | | |
| 3½% Government Paper | 59 | 59¼ |
| 4% Government Paper, 1916-17 | 74 | 74 |
| **BANKS.** | | |
| Alliance Bank of Simla | 300 | 300 |
| Bank of Bengal | 1735 | 1735 |
| Bank of Bombay | 2130 | 2130 |
| Bank of Madras | 1560 | 1560 |
| Bank of India | 148 | 150 |
| Tata Industrial Bank | 50¾ | 47 |
| **COAL.** | | |
| Baraboni | 16¼ | 15½ |
| Bengal | 780 | 780 |
| Burrakur | 46¾ | 47¼ |
| East Indian | 38 | 37⅛ |
| Equitable | 47¼ | 45½ |
| Pench Valley | 335 | 330ex. |
| Raneegunge | 63½ | 63½ex. |
| Standard | 76½ | 76 |
| **COTTON.** | | |
| Bengal Nagpur | 550ex | 570 |
| Bombay Dyeing, etc. | 3360 | 3355 |
| Bowreah | 1300 | 1335 |
| Buckingham | 2500 | 2580 |
| Carnatic | 1000 | 1000 |
| Cawnpore | 195ex | 195ex |
| Century | 1075 | 1060 |
| Central India | 4590 | 4550 |
| | 2295 | 2275 |
| Elgin | 225 | 230 |
| Gold Mohur | 400 | 400 |
| | 200 | 200 |
| Khatau Makanji | 725 | 710 |
| Muir | 325 | 352 |
| New Ring | 1206 | 1206 |
| Phœnix | 1000 | 950 |
| Svadeshi | 4555 | 4500 |
| **JUTE.** | | |
| Alliance | 745 | 774 |
| Barnagore | 170 | 176 |
| Budge Budge | 605 | 598 |
| Clive | 312 | 317 |
| Dalhousie | 532 | 540 |
| Delta | 660 | 660 |
| Fort Gloster | 990 | 997 |
| Gourepore | 1141ex | 1175 |
| Howrah | 47 | 46¾ |
| Kamarhatty | 1038 | 1040 |
| Kanknarrah | 836½ | 832 |
| Khardah | 600 | 600 |
| Kinnison | 1186 | 1155 |
| National | 410 | 405ex. |
| Standard | 708½ | 706 |
| Union | 890 | 885 |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | |
| Bengal Paper Mills | 125 | 126 |
| Bengal Timber Trading | 865 | 810 |
| Burn and Co. | 300 | 300 |
| Carew and Co. | 118 | 118 |
| Cawnpore Sugar | 44½ | 43 |
| Cawnpore Woollen | 150 | 150 |
| Champaran Sugar | — | 42½ |
| Howrah Oil Mills | 38 | 38 |
| India General Steam | 130 | 124ex. |
| Indian Iron and Steel | 140 | 140 |
| | 90½ | 90½ |
| Marshall Sons and Co. | 12½ | 12 |
| Titaghur Paper | 468 | 437ex. |

# ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

PRICES ON JULY 9.

| | |
|---|---|
| Agricultural Bank of Egypt | £4 1/16 |
| " " " Fond. | £370 |
| Alexandria Water Co., Ltd. | £8⅛ |
| Anglo-American Nile Steam | £4⅛ |
| Assoc. Cotton Ginners | £1 3/16 |
| Banque d'Orient | Fr. 102½ |
| Béhéra Ord. | L.E. 15⅝ |
| " Priv. | £3⅜ |
| Bonded Stores | £14⅛ |
| Brasseries d'Egypte Priv. | Fr. 215 |
| Building Lands of Egypt | £1 |
| Cairo Heliopolis Railway | £120 |
| Cassa di Sconto | Fr. 86 |
| " " Priv. | Fr. 117 |
| Ciments d'Egypte Priv. | Fr. 58 |
| " Div. | Fr. 30 |
| Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte | £1 |
| Consolidated Land | P.T. 15 |
| Crédit Foncier Egyptien | Fr. 609 |
| " Fondateur | 7900 |
| " 1886 Oblig. | 393½ |
| " 1903 " | 269 |
| " 1911 " | 269 |
| Crown Brewery Priv. | Fr. 240 |
| " Div. | Fr. 225 |
| Eaux du Caire Capital | Fr. 85 |
| " " Jouissance | Fr. 118 |
| Egypt and Levant S.S. Ord. | 32/- |
| Egyptian Delta Light Railways | £5⅝ |
| Filature Nationale d'Egypte | £18 |
| Frig. orifique d'Egypte | L.E. 2 |
| Gabbari Lands | L.E. 1 |
| Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. | £6 |
| Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv. | 108/- |
| " " " Ord. | £3 |
| Kom Ombo Ste. Ane. de Wadi | £8⅛ |
| " " Fondateur | £7 |
| Land Bank of Egypt Actions | £5⅞ |
| " " Parts de Fond. | £4 |
| Lots Turcs | Fr. 72 |
| Menzaleh Canal Navigation | P.T. 340 |
| Nungovich Hotels | £9 |
| Ramleh Railway | £2 |
| Salt and Soda | 51/10 |
| Tram d'Alexandrie Priv. | Fr. 7 |
| " " Div. | Fr. 75 |
| Union Fonciere d'Egypte | £4 |
| Upper Egypt Hotels | £1 |
| Urbaines and Rurales | |

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 483.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Turkish delegates arrived in Paris on July 30, the delay being attributed officially to the fighting in Thrace, though another account attributes it to a railway strike in Roumania. Whatever may have caused it, the delay was not unwelcome, as it has afforded an opportunity to adjust another difficulty that had arisen, rather unexpectedly, at the last moment. The fresh trouble was brought about by Greece's intimation that she would not sign until her possession of the Dodecanese is assured. Italy, who is understood to have agreed to hand over the islands in return for the abandonment of certain Greek claims in regard to Albania and for some territorial arrangements on the Turkish coast, finds the bargain a poor one, in view of developments in Albania; and consequently demands that Rhodes shall become hers definitely, instead of conditionally. The other islands, it seems, she is still prepared to hand over, as originally arranged, on the signing of the Treaty. At the time of writing, it is uncertain whether either party will give way, and until the difference is smoothed over the signing of the Treaty is indefinitely hung up, though optimistic reports speak of Thursday as the probable date.

---

The news of the Greek occupation of Adrianople was confirmed immediately after we went to press last week, and the five days' campaign was thus brought to a brilliant close. The finishing touch was not given, however, until July 28, when Jaafer Tayar, the Turkish leader, was captured while endeavouring to make his way into Bulgaria. Both in Thrace and in the Smyrna-Panderma region the Greeks have acquitted themselves most creditably. It is true that their opponents were poorly organized and but indifferently armed upon the whole; but it must be remembered that the Allied military authorities, who were presumably well informed on the subject, evidently regarded the task set them as no light one. Yet they accomplished it, quickly and—as far as can be judged—thoroughly, and they deserve credit accordingly. It is to be hoped that their success in administering their new territories will be as great as that attending their military operations, and that those people of other nationalities who have joined in welcoming their advance will never have any cause to change their opinions.

Jaafer Tayar Pasha, after his capture, admitted that he had always known that his adventure was a forlorn hope, and it is beginning to look as if Mustapha Kemal, in his heart of hearts, regards his own resistance in the same way. Indeed, unless he receives very substantial help from his Bolshevist friends, and very quickly, it is clear that his cause is hopeless. It is very easy to blame both Jaafer and Kemal for plunging their country into further difficulties—as it is not to be denied they have done—but we must in fairness acknowledge that they may both have acted from patriotic motives, and that in any case it must be difficult for their own countrymen to regard them altogether unfavourably even now. Nevertheless, the Central Government has, it is reported, determined to undertake serious operations against the Kemalists in order to repress the movement altogether, and the Allies will, it appears, give them an opportunity to make the attempt. The Cabinet has been reformed, three Ministers suspected of Nationalist sympathies being got rid of in the process; and the Sultan is reported to be at once with Damad Ferid Pasha regarding the necessity of putting an end to the existing state of affairs in Asia Minor. The report that the Government has been negotiating with certain powerful Kurdish leaders may indicate that practical measures towards securing that end are under consideration.

---

It is very unfortunate for Greece that in the hour of her triumph she should be troubled anew by rumours concerning a restoration of ex-King Constantine. If she is to do herself justice, she should now be free from all such distractions, in order to concentrate upon the task of consolidating her new territories and adjusting herself in all ways to fulfil worthily her new responsibilities; and rumours of the kind referred to can only have a harmful influence. Unfortunately, there is no room to doubt that intrigue is still rife, and that the ex-King is far from accepting the present situation. His entourage in Switzerland and his adherents in Greece maintain that he is still *de jure* King of Greece, insomuch as he signed no formal document of abdication when removed from the country. They look, or profess to look, upon the present ruler merely as his "regent," and await the moment when he will be "recalled by the voice of the people," and they will once more enjoy the sweets of office. Such, at least, is the picture drawn quite recently by a brother of the ex-King. The hopes expressed are little likely to be realised, but their existence is unsettling to some Greeks. If ex-King Constantine's professions of affection for Greece had any backing of truth, he could now do the country a real service

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by making a clear declaration that he would never return to it again.

---

The situation in Syria is little, if any, clearer than it was a week ago. Up to the present, reports that have reached us have come from the one side only; and obviously the picture must be incomplete until reports from the other side are received and examined. Meanwhile we have to record that the French troops entered Damascus on July 25, that the Emir Faisal left the town on July 28 and is reported to be coming to England, and that a new Syrian Cabinet has been formed—apparently on July 25. According to one correspondent there was a meeting on July 29 between the Emir, Lord Allenby, Sir Herbert Samuel, and General Gouraud, at Haifa; and the same report announced that a British force was advancing beyond Dera'a. A statement made by Mr. Bonar Law a few days ago will be found on another page, but it does not throw much light on the situation.

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That situation appears to be regarded with satisfaction in France, where the Emir Faisal is accused of plotting, intriguing, and generally of perfidy. In this country the satisfaction is by no means generally shared. It is not only that there is a very natural fear that the French action may react dangerously in Mesopotamia, and, indeed, throughout the Near East; but also that Englishmen have an uneasy feeling that, somehow or other, the Emir has not had fair play, and that they themselves are being kept in the dark by their own Government. They do not understand why news of what has been going on has taken so long in becoming known; and there are a good many questions to which they would like to have definite answers given. Why, for instance, was it only when General Gouraud's ultimatum had expired, or was on the point of expiring, that news of it was allowed to leak out? When was the mandate for Syria actually given to France, and is it a fact that the League of Nations has no information as yet that the mandate has been granted? How was it that nothing was made known regarding the appeals, said to be three in number, addressed to our Government, through Cairo, by the Emir? It would not be difficult to extend the list, but for the moment these examples of the questions that are being asked will suffice.

---

Two very interesting points were brought out in the course of some questioning by Mr. Lambert and some answering by Mr. Lloyd George in the House of Commons last week. The Prime Minister stated that he did not know the reason of the recent attacks by Arabs on British troops in Mesopotamia; and he attributed the great delay in setting up an Arab State to the fact that the Turkish Treaty had not yet been signed. He agreed that it seemed absurd that British troops were being attacked and killed for the purpose of supporting the Government in establishing an Arab State. Possibly some people will be inclined to wonder whether the word "absurd" quite fits the case. Others may be tempted to think that it is strange that, with all the money we are spending in Mesopotamia we are unable to ascertain why the Arabs are attacking our troops. And in view of the Premier's statement, all Englishmen will surely demand that no more time should be lost about signing the Treaty. In the meantime, little disturbances continue to break out here and there in Mesopotamia.

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We publish on another page an article on Baku, in which it is described as "an amazing city." The adjective is undoubtedly well deserved, but at the present time it would seem that there can be nothing more amazing about the place than the mystery surrounding the fate of the fifty British prisoners there. Rather more than half that number are members of a Naval Mission which was passing through the city on its way to Northern Persia, and was caught in the flood of the Bolshevist outbreak at the end of April; the other unfortunates are understood to be civilians. Reports regarding their fate are contradictory. M. Litvinoff has informed our Government that the Baku authorities claim to be treating these prisoners most humanely; but other reports from various sources present a very different picture. The state of the prisoners is said to be deplorable; they are reported to be all confined in a single room, suffering acutely from heat and vermin; and one of them, M. Hewelcke, our Vice-Consul, has been condemned to death, though there are good grounds for hoping that the sentence is not likely to be carried out.

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Twice last week the fate of these prisoners engaged the attention of the House of Commons, first Mr. Bonar Law and then Mr. Lloyd George being closely questioned on the subject. The result cannot be regarded as satisfactory. Both the Leader of the House and the Prime Minister made it clear that the Government felt they had done all they could to secure the prisoners' release, or at least their better treatment; but they both appeared to be far more conscious of the difficulties in the way than of any method of surmounting them otherwise than by working through Moscow. Moscow, on its part, declines responsibility, though it is "prepared to use its influence" with the Azerbaijan Republic. For the time being it seems impossible to do any more, but it is obvious that a British Naval Mission and a British Vice-Consul cannot with impunity be kept in any "Black Hole of Baku," to quote Mr. Ronald McNeill's alliterative phrase, by any trumpery mushroom Republic of the Caucasus. It may be done, but it must be paid for sooner or later. On that point British Labour will surely see eye to eye with the most old-fashioned Tory.

---

When he reported the arrest of Abdul Rahman Fahmy, secretary of the Cairo Committee of the Nationalist Delegation, our Cairo Correspondent hinted that sensational developments might be expected. The arrest was followed by that of Kyriakos Mikhail, a Copt, who was until lately well known in London, and of many others; and all these people are now on trial for being concerned in the direction of what is described as an "assassins' club," or "a society of vengeance." We need not here go into details of the trial which, as far as permissible, will be reported in our correspondent's letters. But we may note that it has incidentally led already to one person being convicted on a charge of intimidating witnesses, and sentenced to five years' imprisonment; and that it has produced a crop of most scurrilous attacks on all kinds of highly-placed people. These things are regrettable, but they were only what might be anticipated in the circumstances; and if, as is expected, the trial sheds light on the way in which the spirit of lawlessness has been fostered, and disturbances have been brought about in Egypt of late, it should prove a very great benefit to the country.

---

Since we last glanced at Persia affairs in that country appear to have taken a turn for the better, and Bolshevism and brigandage have suffered several checks. Thus, at Bunder Gez, a mixed force of Jingalis and Bolshevists from Enzeli was forced to take to its boats and retire. Sari and Barfrush have been retaken, and the Gendarmerie and Cossacks appear to have completely cleared Mazanderan of Bolshevists; while in the south, at Borasjun, the South Persian Rifles have inflicted a crushing defeat on a band of brigands, whose leaders have been killed. Unfortunately, against these successes, we have to note that trouble has broken out in Persian Kurdistan, where the Jaff tribe has inflicted a reverse on the Government forces, and on the Khovassan frontier, where a brigand chief, under Bolshevist patronage, has been giving considerable trouble. This gentleman has had the worst of a brush with British and Persian detachments, but it is reported that Bolshevist troops to the number of 2,000 have moved up to his assistance, and that others are concentrating on the Persian frontier. Information has been received at the War Office that martial law has been proclaimed at Teheran, and there is no word yet of any summoning of the Mejliss in the near future.

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In the present tangled state of the world's politics it is a comfort to know that even a small kink shows signs of straightening out, and some such comfort may be derived from the cable announcing that the conversations with Afghanistan have been brought to a satisfactory conclusion. We are not, of course, at the end of the negotiations, which have ranged over a wide field, from the Khalifate to the frontier tribes, and from the international status to questions of commercial development; but we may fairly conclude that each party is now in possession of the views of the other side, and that is usually a long step in the direction of final agreement. The British position is plain enough. We want a good neighbour, strong enough to resist the pressure on the North and West, and ready to do business on fair and profitable lines. Afghanistan's true interests lie in the same direction, and it is permissible to hope that the Ameer will realise the fact, but there are many cross-currents to be allowed for, and it may be some time yet before what the cable speaks of as the final treaty of friendship is actually ratified.

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It is pleasant to look a little further eastwards and congratulate our very good neighbour, the independent State of Nepal, on the news which it has recently allowed to be given to the world. The birth of an heir to the throne, an occasion which still counts for something even in the West, is a very great event in Katmandu, and even at this distance it is possible to realise something of the delight and expectation of the Gurkha nation. That Nepal is moving with the times is shown by the decision to prohibit the time-honoured practice of *sati*, or widow sacrifice, a practice which is almost incomprehensible to Europe, but in the Indian area has for a long period been accepted as both natural and praiseworthy. The Gurkha authorities are usually careful not to move too far in advance of public opinion, and if they have now penalised the old practice, it means that the mass of the people are, at any rate, prepared to acquiesce in the change.

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We wish it were possible to conclude that they are prepared to take a step further and make the widow's life worth living. India as a whole has not yet taken this step, though it is nearly a century since *sati* was forbidden by the Indian law. Indian widows still occasionally sacrifice themselves, and we have even heard it argued that they are wise to do so rather than face the life of contempt and drudgery which lies before them. The hard truth is that legislators can accomplish little in the way of social reform; the real work must be done by preachers and leaders of the people, and while it is only just to recognise that many Indians have made earnest efforts in this direction, the results of their efforts are still small, and the widow remains the most pathetic figure in a land where pathos is seldom far to seek. Nipal may move faster than India in this matter. Until it moves the beneficent legislation of the Maharaja will not have produced its full effect.

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The judicious student of Indian official literature knows that, whatever may be skipped, the publications of the Bureau of Education will repay perusal, and the note on the results of last year's work is no exception to the rule. Unfortunately, it is not very cheering. Expenditure seems to increase faster than the number of pupils, but quality of education lags still further behind quantity. Colleges, we are told, show a decline in the average of intellectual capacity, while the reports on secondary education produce a feeling of pessimism, and, though there is a brighter side, the prospect as a whole is not alluring. Worst of all, there is a significant silence regarding any improvement in the quality of primary education, the foundation of the whole structure, and apparently we are justified in concluding that nothing has been accomplished to remove the defects recognised in previous years. The last quinquennial report condemned the ordinary rural school as at the best a *crèche*. Is the Administration content that this reproach shall continue to apply?

# THE WEEK AT HOME.

**Ireland.**

The talk of conciliation in Ireland, and of negotiations with the Sinn Feiners, which seemed rather hopeful last week, has come to an abrupt and lamentable conclusion. The rioting has continued, and the rather childish exploits of the insurgents have gone on as usual—that was perhaps to be expected—but public opinion has been horrified by another brutal murder in cold blood. Mr. Frank Brooke, one of the chief citizens of Dublin, a director of the Dublin and South-Eastern Railway, member of the Irish Privy Council, and a Deputy-Lieutenant, was shot in the offices of the railway company at Westland Row Station. Several men were engaged in the murder, and eight or ten shots were fired.

Mr. Brooke's name was mentioned threateningly in a speech some time back by Mr. Barton, Sinn Fein Member of Parliament for Wicklow, and the latter is now in prison for his speech.

The position appears quite hopeless at present. The Sinn Fein leaders either cannot, or will not, repudiate these methods, and apparently they definitely rely on terrorism to enforce their demands for a Republic. The Roman Catholic Church, which has long tolerated, and in many cases been in open sympathy with Sinn Fein, has repudiated murder as a political instrument, but Sinn Fein appears more likely to disregard the thunders of the Church than to discard its methods.

The situation is likely to be still further complicated in a few days. Archbishop Mannix, a Roman prelate of Australia, and an Irish politician, has sailed from America for Ireland. He has a long record of anti-English propaganda in the Antipodes, and was particularly in evidence during the war as an opponent of conscription in Australia; he is the typical Irish firebrand in priest's clothing. The Government are not decided how to deal with him. At first they decided not to let him land at all, but legally a British subject cannot be prevented from landing in the British Isles; then it was proposed to allow him to land in one island, but not the other—a quite impossible compromise, typical of a Cabinet which is utterly distracted on this question. Probably it would be wise to allow him to land without any difficulty. His extreme opinions are not as a whole echoed by his Church, and English Roman Catholics appear to be rather restive under his propaganda.

The position of English Catholics in England seems rather difficult at the moment. The attitude of the Vatican during the war inspired a good deal of resentment, which fanned the smouldering Protestantism of Britain into a temporary flame, and the old suspicion of the Papacy appears to be rather strongly in evidence at the moment. One would imagine that Romanism has gone back in England since 1914, and episodes like these of Archbishop Mannix do not help it forward. The attitude is not very logical, for the Archbishop clearly puts his country before his Church; whereas most Irish priests, according to a dictum of Parnell's recently quoted by Mr. William O'Brien, take precisely the opposite course in the long run, but anybody who expects logic in the present position of the Irish question looks for the impossible.

**Railway Fares and Coal.**

The Government's decision as to the increased railway fares bears all the marks of compromise. It is true that the shoutings of many newspapers and the curses of every father of a large family whose holidays have been taxed have not availed to postpone the date of increase for more than a day, from the fifth to the sixth of August. But the increase is less than had been threatened. First we were told that all fares were to be double the pre-war rate; in fact, they are only to be one and three-quarters. (Probably Sir Eric Geddes, like Clive, is astonished at his own moderation.) The season ticket holder escapes more lightly still—a mere 50 per cent. increase is the toll taken from him. This means practically that everybody who travels over the same stretch of rail more than once a week will find it pays



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him to take out a season in the case of short distances; in that of long journeys, where season ticket rates are proportionately lower and the increase on the ordinary ticket mounts up substantially, a season will pay if used once a fortnight.

Even as it is, these increases will kill a certain amount of traffic, just as the trams, by raising their rates in London, found that a good many people preferred to walk. Nobody, of course, seriously believes the theory that excursion tickets and week-end fares and similar travel luxuries are to be restored; they tell us these things, as mothers give their babies a comforter, to keep us quiet. But the potential increase of revenue will not make up for the existing increased cost of operating the railways, and within a year the whole question will come up again.

Meanwhile, the miners are again threatening a strike. (It is quite six weeks since the last threat.) They want the price of coal reduced and their wages raised, and if either or both are not done they will never do another stroke of work. They argue that the Government gets some sixty millions a year out of the coal industry in the shape of excess profits—this is true, apparently, in the form of export coal, and that only—and they hold that this should be divided in the ratio of £36,000,000 to the public in reduced prices and £27,000,000 to themselves in increased wages. What they do not see—or perhaps they do see it—is that the public would have to make good the whole sixty odd millions in the shape of taxation, while they would still get the odd £27,000,000. There is a rude phase about selling a pup, which seems appropriate at this stage of the argument; but it is probable that the reduction of price is only put in as a piece of window-dressing, and that the real demand is for more wages again.

**"When Labour Rules."**

Mr. J. H. Thomas has written an article in *Pearson's Magazine*, telling us what England will be like under a Labour Government. We are to have co-partnership; mines, railways, canals, harbours, shipping lines, means of production, and roads will be nationalised; drink will be under national control—no "Pussyfoot" or Prohibition for him—the hours of labour will be shorter than ever; capital will get less interest, and the "idle rich" will be extinct; there will be work for everybody, and an old-age pension for all at sixty; motherhood will be endowed, the unfit will be cared for, and there will be work for all. Splendid!

**The America Cup.**

The final defeat of *Shamrock* for the America Cup caused no more excitement than her preliminary victory. There was little public interest in the proceedings throughout, and the newspapers recognised the fact suitably by summarising the whole thing on a back-page. Even had the result been different, it would hardly have evoked much more response.

**The Skies and Cricket.**

The weather has forgotten even the elements of decency; the sun, like the working-man, has gone on strike, and it has poured for hours and days. For all that, cricketers—who must surely be able to swim—have persisted in playing, and in the match, Essex v. Middlesex, there was a finish that one would have gone miles to see. Middlesex led by eighty runs on the first innings, but in the second Essex scored well, and beat their opponents by four runs within five minutes of stumps being drawn.

Surrey, which played a glorious game a week ago, sank into utter despair against Kent at Blackheath—they always do badly on this ground—and were beaten soundly by an innings; the fact is, that a team which is Hobbs and ten ciphers is capable of anything when Hobbs gets going, but when he fails, the rest crumple up.

The choice of the M.C.C. team for Australia seems to have given general satisfaction. Sixteen men being chosen, there was less room for grumbling than in the old days, when thirteen or fourteen was the usual number; and also, after the five years' interregnum of war, the men are more of an unknown quantity, and their backers proportionately less vocal.

**The British Shipping Recovery.**

Much gratification has been expressed at the publication of the latest shipbuilding figures. During the war America embarked on the industry, and we were told, in the flamboyant language which is popular in the other side if the Atlantic, that the United States would soon wrest the palm of the mercantile marine out of our effete hands. But acts speak louder than words. The tonnage of vessels now being built under Lloyd's register show 2,797,000 tons building in the United Kingdom, and only 2,133,000 tons building abroad. During the last quarter work was started in Great Britain on 200 vessels, of 584,000 tons; sixty-three vessels of 10,000 tons and upwards are now being built in our yards. The number of vessels launched from British yards during the same period was 154, with a total of 518,000 tons, an increase of 70,000 tons on the previous quarter.

On the other hand, the amount of tonnage under construction in the United States has fallen by 467,000 tons in comparison with the previous quarter. American tonnage building has fallen by half, British tonnage building by nearly 60 per cent. Apparently, therefore, it will only be a short time before we recover our pre-war position in most seas of the world.

**The Week's Books.**

Undoubtedly the book of the week for most readers is Lord Jellicoe's "The Crisis of the Naval War" (Cassell). His first volume dealt mainly with the Grand Fleet; this is concerned with the campaign against the submarines. Lord Jellicoe points out that a large number of destroyers were required for the anti-U-boat measures, but the quantity available was quite inadequate, and even those we had were drawn upon for convoy work. Another defensive measure was the laying of mines, but "unfortunately in January, 1917, we did not possess a mine that was satisfactory against submarines. Our deficiency in this respect was clearly shown in the course of some trials which I ordered, when one of our submarines was run against a number of our mines, with the result that only 33 per cent. of them exploded. They were fitted, of course, with only small charges. The Germans were well aware that our mines were not very effective against submarines." Of the 186 submarines lost by the Germans, Lord Jellicoe reckons that British submarines destroyed 19, destroyers and patrol craft sank at least 20 by gunfire or ramming, and four or five more by towed sweeps. Decoy ships sank about 12, men-of-war rammed 4, merchant ships 4, and 10 were destroyed by our nets. At least 7 were destroyed by aerial attack, 6 were interned; the remaining 30 cannot be definitely accounted for. Lord Jellicoe pays tribute to the work of both Sir E. Carson and Sir E. Geddes at the Admiralty. The book will become one of the classic authorities on the war, and it is not likely to give rise to such controversy as the chapters in his previous work on the battle of Jutland.

Serious scientific readers will do well to purchase "The Concept of Nature" (Cambridge University Press), by Professor A. N. Whitehead, who "professes" Applied Mathematics in the Imperial College of Science and Technology. The book, which prints for the first time the author's Tarner Lectures, can easily be followed by non-mathematical readers with a fair knowledge of philosophy. He accepts most of Einstein's work, but not the theory of non-uniform space or his assumption as to the peculiar fundamental character of light-signals; but Mr. Whitehead thinks that Professor Einstein "has cramped the development of his beautiful mathematical method in the narrow bounds of a very doubtful philosophy."

The Faith Press has published two very interesting little booklets, the one on "Assyrian Church Customs," by Surma d'Bait Mar Shimun, with a preface by the Archbishop of Canterbury; the other on "The Church and Faith of Armenia," by Dr. Abel Abrahamian, Supreme Varthapet of Armenians in England, with a preface by the Bishop of Gloucester. The Anglican Church has taken considerable interest in the Assyrian Christians since the time of, I believe, Archbishop Benson, and this account of their beliefs and discipline will probably find many readers.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, July 22.

**Making History.**

Never knowing what the day may bring forth, we are living in a time when history is being made. Though we know not what they will be, we realise that we are on the threshold of political developments the effect of which is bound to be widespread. We see before us, dim, it is true, as in a shady pool, another Constitution; the reconstitution of the Judicature in Egypt as it applies to foreign subjects; the passing away of the Capitulations, with their safeguards and their encumbrances; an era of economic development of which the foundation has been laid, and the extension of which will depend upon the development of the cotton industry, which again is dependent upon the water supply. Mention of the cotton industry induces a reference to the scheme for the maintenance and improvement of the quality of Egyptian cotton and the increase of its yield, which I have referred to elsewhere; mention of the water supply brings to mind the Nile projects and the scheme for extracting power from the Assouan Dam. Any one of these matters is in itself of very great importance to the country; together they promise to have an effect which will change the whole political structure and enlarge the economic and commercial activity of Egypt to a degree as yet only to be seen faintly.

It is only natural that with such epoch-making proposals in the air Egyptians are slightly bewildered. There is none among them who can take a bird's-eye view of the general situation. Most of them are centred in the political issues, and their interest has been but deepened by the sensational trial which opened on Tuesday last in Cairo of twenty-eight Egyptians of various positions in life, charged with having conspired to harm various exalted personages. Though the mental outlook of the masses was broadened considerably during the war, they find the trend of recent events too much for them to comprehend. They are seeking enlightenment, but momentarily they are lost in the maze of developments. The result is that, though we have furious discussions in the native Press, the various arguments follow a vicious circle, to end where they began. There is no campaign of education, no publicity bureau to distribute even partisan explanations. To attempt to portray, therefore, the views of the Egyptians in the main on the big topical questions of the day can result only in the daubing of a few disconnected strokes upon a canvas to represent obscurity.

**The Trial of the "Vengeance" Gang.**

Our latest sensation is the current trial of a body of Egyptians who are believed to have been members of an apparently bloodthirsty association known as the "Vengeance Society." Since they are charged with having conspired to cause grievous harm to the Sultan and the Ministers, and against two of them is a further charge of having incited to murder, it is patent that if the evidence which is to be produced for the prosecution be trustworthy, this body of Egyptian Nihilists will explain much that has puzzled us during the last few months. I do not say that the men who are to-day standing their trial had any hand in this anarchistic business. That remains to be seen.

Admission to court has been by ticket only. The court is not a small room, but it has been crowded to suffocation daily. There are twenty-four barristers, foreign and native, appearing for the twenty-eight accused. One hears all sorts of accents, and one hears different interpretations of points of law which could only be possible among a cosmopolitan group such as this assemblage. Judge Linton Thorpe, who is Judge Advocate, has made a very favourable impression in every way. He is sympathetic and courteous, and he has remarkably wide knowledge of the law. Prosecuting is Mr. Maxwell, who made a wide name for himself by his clever handling of the technical issues in the recent case before the Nile Projects Commission. He holds the bridge against his twenty-four brethren, and so far the honours are with him.

The case began on Tuesday morning. That is, the formalities commenced. The case proper has not commenced yet. After the formal opening Mr. Maxwell requested the court first to hear the charge of intimidation of one of the witnesses for the prosecution against a youth, who is a clerk in one of the Native Courts. The evidence for the prosecution was, that the accused, in company with a number of others, had gone to the house of this particular witness for the prosecution and threatened him that if he did not refrain from giving evidence against Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy he would be killed and his family's house burnt down. The defence sought to establish an *alibi*, and to do so brought in the sister of the accused, a girl hardly out of her teens, who appeared in the conventional black robe and white veil of the Moslem lady. Her appearance is considered unique in the history of cases before military courts in this country. The case was concluded yesterday, after Mr. Maxwell had shown that there was a strong organisation endeavouring to intimidate the witnesses for the prosecution. The decision, however, has not yet been promulgated by the Commander-in-Chief.

All to-day has been occupied in hearing a unanimous application from the whole of the counsel for the defence, for an adjournment. The court, after hearing the reply of counsel for the prosecution, refused the application. The court is to sit morning and afternoon—a decision which is bound to react upon those who have to engage in it, for the heat at the present time is more than usually trying.

**Egyptian Athletes Leave for Antwerp.**

Yesterday afternoon the party of Egyptian athletes who are going to Antwerp to represent Egypt in the Olympic games left Cairo station. The party includes a football team (Association), gymnasts, runners, a wrestler, and a weight-lifter. There has been much sorrow and heart-burning over the selection of the representatives, echoes of which still resound in the daily papers; but it is agreed that the men who left in yesterday's party comprise the flower of the athletic community of Egyptians. Sports such as those they will have to contest in are as yet but in their infancy in this country. There are no traditions, no records, no ancient champions. Some of the party, indeed, have won their Blues at the Home 'Varsities, but since their return to Egypt they have been engaged in games in which the standard of skill has been infinitely lower than at college. And so the team goes forth thus handicapped, bearing bright hopes from enthusiastic—but much younger—comrades and good wishes from every section of sportsmen in Egypt.

**Daring Theft from the Museum.**

The Cairo police are searching for two very valuable exhibits recently stolen from the Cairo Museum. The theft must have been an impudent one, since the exhibits naturally are well guarded. All that the authorities know is that one day an ancient dagger and a knife, with flint blades and gold handles, relics of the glorious past, were in their cases and the next day they were not. There is a theory that the theft is the work of some over-enthusiastic connoisseur; and in the absence of any known attempt to barter the articles the theory has not been disproved. Numbers of likely repositories of the stolen goods have been searched but without result.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, July 17.

**The King's Departure.**

King Alexander, accompanied by his A.D.C.s, left Athens on July 15 for Dedeagatch, Gumuldjina, and other important towns in Western Thrace. His original plan to proceed to the theatre of operations in Asia Minor will not be carried out, in view of the con-

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clusion of that campaign. The cruiser Averoff, with his Majesty aboard, weighed anchor at 10 p.m. The King will probably return to Athens in about ten days.

Madame Aspasia Manos, his Majesty's morganatic wife, has gone to Smyrna for the purpose of offering her services as a Red Cross nurse.

**In Asia Minor.**

The operations in Asia Minor have come to an end, and the triumphant Greek Army is now enjoying a well-earned rest. The newly occupied regions hitherto terrorised by Mustapha Kemal's hordes have found peace once again, and the population, both Christian and Mohammedan, has resumed its work free from the horrible nightmare of the past. It is rumoured here that some of the Greek regiments in Asia Minor have already been dispatched to Thrace to be held in readiness for any eventualities, and particularly to watch Bulgaria and frustrate any interference on her part in the forthcoming advance into Eastern Thrace.

General Paraskevopoulos, the Greek Commander-in-Chief, has sent the following telegram to General Milne, the Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in Constantinople: "The Greek Army and myself wish to express our warmest thanks for the precious assistance which the British Fleet rendered to the Greek troops during the recent operations. The Greeks will never forget this fresh proof of sympathy afforded by the sons of our big British ally, for which eternal gratitude will remain in the depths of our hearts."

**The 14th of July.**

The anniversary of the fall of the Bastille was celebrated as usual in Athens and Piræus. A reception yas held at the French Legation by the Ambassador, M. de Billy, and a number of appropriate speeches were delivered. The Greek Government was represented by MM. Repoulis, the Vice-President of the Council; Politis, Minister for Foreign Affairs; and M. Negrepontis, Minister of Finance. All the public buildings, banks, etc., were beflagged, and the main thoroughfares of the town were illuminated at night. A gala performance was held at the Dionysia Theatre, in the presence of the French Ambassador; General Gramat, the Chief of the French Military Mission in Greece; and many other French officers and leading members of the French colony in Athens. Two of the Greek Ministers, MM. Tsirimokos and Simos, were also present.

**The Goerlitz Officers.**

The trial of the Goerlitz officers, which lasted for nearly two months, has at last come to a close. Of the accused, Colonel Carakalos, Lieutenant-Colonel Valettas, and Second-Lieutenant Agapitos were condemned to death, whilst Majors Vlassis and Christo were acquitted.

The above officers were serving in Macedonia with the 4th Greek Army Corps, which, after handing over to the Bulgarians the town of Kavalla (September 6, 1916), itself surrendered, and was dispatched to Goerlitz, in Germany, abandoning all its guns, ammunition, and the unfortunate Greek population of Eastern Macedonia to the mercy of the invader.

Whilst in Germany, the officers in question caused proclamations to be distributed amongst the Greek troops then fighting by the side of the Allies on the Macedonian front, inciting them to desert.

**Ottoman Subjects in Macedonia.**

In accordance with a law passed some time ago, all Moslems in Macedonia had to choose between the Greek and the Ottoman nationality. Those choosing the former would be allowed to stay in Greece, but any Turks preferring to retain their own nationality would have to leave this country. The last delay granted by the Government expired on the 14th of this month. But as those who have elected to retain the Ottoman nationality, and who are, in consequence, obliged to emigrate, are unable to do so at present, owing to the unsettled situation in Turkey, the Greek Government has given them permission to remain in Greece pending the signature of peace with Turkey.

Of the many thousands of Turks residing in Macedonia, only fifty families have chosen to retain their Ottoman nationality.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, July 20.

**The Government and Strikes.**

There has still been no work accomplished in the Parliament, and the deputies continue to indulge in the most puerile and undignified personal recriminations, descending even to vulgar personalities; so that if a man rejoices in a bald head, he may expect to have it made a subject of reproach by an excited opponent. In the meantime, the employees of the Post, Telegraph, and Telephone services, and of the tramways, have all been on strike for a week. The business of the city, and, indeed, of the whole country, is becoming more and more disorganised, and the methods of the Government in dealing with the situation have so far been too autocratic and uncompromising to lead to anything but further trouble. A more conciliatory attitude was happily adopted by M. Trancu-Jassy (Minister of Labour) when he received a delegation from the Post Office employees two days ago; and it is to be hoped that some agreement may result. For the time being a few letters are being delivered by soldiers, and a number of society ladies have been serving as volunteers in the General Post Office to sort the letters and preserve some semblance of order.

The tramway conductors and drivers have come out in sympathy with the clerks who struck some time ago for better wages. And all this in spite of the recent decree-law—of which particulars were given in my last week's letter, categorically forbidding all strikes by Government employees.

It is stated that the reason for the Post Office strike is the Government's failure to fulfil promises made to the employees before the elections. If so, it is a pity the Government has so compromised itself; but, however that may be, it is a fact that the workers' unions in this country have no leaders of sufficient education or general knowledge to grasp the real significance of the political and economic situation of the country, and none, therefore, who can lead them intelligently on a reasonable course. They are still very young and irresponsible organisations, and need careful handling if they are not to be driven to wild extremes.

**Bolshevist Advance in Poland.**

The severe attitude of the Government was probably partly dictated by the old fear of Bolshevism which has been revived by the recent advances of the Russian armies in Poland. Anxious whispers that a mobilisation order had gone out have been heard on all hands this week; but the fact appears to be that troops have been concentrated along the border purely for defensive purposes, and the Bolshevist armies are stated to have orders not to go within a fifteen mile limit of the Roumanian frontier. It would indeed be hard to believe that the Bolshevists, who are so anxious for peace (even if only for the purpose of extending their insidious propaganda), should embark anew upon war with this country, and the Government would get little support from the country itself if they proposed to send Roumanian troops to the aid of the Poles. A Crown Council was held on Sunday to discuss this and other pressing questions regarding the general economic situation, including that of the unification of the currency. The main discussion appears to have been upon the latter subject, but it was agreed that Roumania would stand by her Allies in whatever course they decided to adopt towards the Bolshevists. The Council probably felt pretty safe in the assumption that no military measures would be taken.

**A Strange Balloon Accident.**

A sad accident happened last week at the practising ground of the balloon service. For some weeks an observation balloon has been noticed almost daily in the same place. Last Monday two young observers were sent up in it. While they were taking their observations a heavy thunderstorm came on, but for reasons which have not yet transpired, the balloon was not pulled down at once. It was struck by lightning and took fire, and the two men were precipitated to the ground. Their funeral took place the following day, when a large and

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sympathetic crowd followed the *cortège* to the burial ground.

**Limited Water Supply.**

It is a curious fact that during the whole of the month of June, though the weather in the morning seemed clear and cool, a thunderstorm came up almost every day between 1 and 2 o'clock. It is now much better—up to 90 degs. in the shade—but would be unbearable but for an almost constant slight breeze. One of the greatest trials of the townspeople is that, owing apparently to lack of fuel for pumping purposes, the water is turned off all over the town during at least half of each day. The Athenee Palace Hotel has some contrivance by which it has a constant supply of water, but the rest of the town has to make provision in the early morning for the first half of the day, and in most houses it is impossible to have a bath at night because the water is turned off.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, July 10.

**M. Stambolisky on Internal Reforms.**

Public opinion abroad is very badly informed regarding internal conditions in Bulgaria, and for this reason M. Stambolisky has considered it advisable to give explanations on the subject:—(1) The public labour service, which replaces military service, will pass through the school of labour all the youth of Bulgaria, and will at the same time make it possible for the Government to carry out their building programme, including the construction of public buildings, roads, etc. (2) The restriction of the quantity of land held by the producer (or cultivator) to 30 hectares, and the taking over—subject to compensation—of the land from those who do not cultivate it enables land thus set free to be distributed among the refugees from Bulgarian territories annexed to other countries, and to people who were landless. Thus, by creating a spirit of proprietorship and fostering the love of work on the soil, it is hoped to counteract Bolshevistic tendencies among the poorer classes. (3) By dispensing with the intervention of the speculator, through the organisation of producing and consuming co-operative institutions, it is intended to transfer a large part of the country's commerce into the control of public organisations. (4) High taxation of unproductive capital is dictated by purely fiscal considerations and the desire to secure the employment of available capital in productive enterprises of infant Bulgarian industry.

As to foreign capital, M. Stambolisky's Government aims at enlisting its support in the development of Bulgarian industries, and with that object will accord it every facility, by exempting it from certain taxation. Similar encouragement will be given in the case of Bulgarian capital employed in production.

Such measures, it is anticipated, will introduce a new era in the economic life of the country, and, in a purely evolutionary way, without disturbance or upheaval, will open up a new and wider horizon to the country. The labour training, the agrarian reform, the improved export, and the organised distribution, through co-operative societies and under the control of the State—all these things, it is anticipated, will improve the material condition of the villages and ensure the towns becoming producers. Thus Bulgaria will be enabled to fulfil her pledges to the victorious Powers, and to hold out the hand of friendship to those of her neighbours who are willing to take it.

**Socialist Congress.**

The Congress of the Broad Socialists was opened last Sunday, about 300 delegates being present. Two currents are observable in this party—one revolutionary, the other opportunist, and at this Congress it was the latter that preponderated. From this fact it appears to be deducible that the Broad Socialists aspire to taking part in the Government.

**The Orient Express.**

After six years' suspension direct and rapid communication between Paris and Constantinople has been restored. The first train of the resumed Orient express service passed through Sofia last Sunday morning at half-past eleven. Among those who were at the station at the time were the King and the Director of Railways, M. Karacacheff.

## CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, July 6.

**Triumphant Hellenism.**

Close upon a century ago bishops and leading men were being hanged at Nicosia on charges of assisting in the "rebellion" of Greece against Turkey. Some of their young children were sent to England and France to be brought up, and their sons and grandsons are among the island citizens. No wonder that the spirit of revenge should still survive among the classes to which they belonged and returned. There is but little going on, and the papers are chiefly filled with the prospects, politics, and preparations of Greece. Nor is it surprising that the logic of Greek ambition should be somewhat hasty, and the tone of the Press incline to be bombastic. They now argue that it is not owing to the sympathetic pity or favour of the Allies, and of the Peace Conference, and not solely to the personality and influence of M. Venizelos, that Greece is acquiring her new territories. It is because she has won them by her own valour, and by the unaided power of her own sword. Greece is the chosen instrument for carrying out the decisions of the Turkish Treaty, and so for confirming and establishing the peace of the whole world. It is, then, the Greek Army that will henceforth win back all the regions to which she is by historic right entitled. These will include all the islands of the Eastern Mediterranean, not only the Dodecanese, and will include Constantinople itself. "Forward, then, youths of Cyprus, and take part in the glories that await us!" Recruiting continues, and many who are over forty years present themselves in hope of being passed; returning to their villages, if rejected, "with tears in their eyes, and in those of their families."

**Settlement of Refugees.**

A step forward is being made by the poor refugees who, in their thousands, have found a temporary, and for many, it may probably be, a permanent home in the island. Armenians and Russians may leave lasting traces in Cyprus, as others before them have done at various epochs in the past, as proved by distinct ethnological types, and in the names of various villages. The Armenians, who have escaped from the savagery of Kemalist bands of ruffians have been, for sanitary and other reasons, located near Limassol; and have now been allowed to quit what was the military camp of Polemidia. They are settling down in various villages in its vicinity. Their support has been due to charitable aid from England through the kind relief of the Lord Mayor of London's Fund. They are chiefly from Mersina, Adana, Tarsus, and other places in Cilicia, as well as from the Smyrna district, and they have many tales of brutality and of narrow escapes to tell. They will proceed to establish chapels, schools, and other institutions of their own. The Russian refugees are in the east of the island, in the Famagusta district. They include many skilled mechanics, and artisans of many trades, such as house-building, chemistry, electricity, surveying, and agricultural work. They, too, should be able to impart a good deal of technical knowledge to the natives, who have much indeed to learn. They have formed a society at Famagusta under the name of "Orit," which is prepared to undertake work and contracts of many kinds. The new comers of

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both nationalities, besides adding usefully to the population, should be able to contribute much to local handicrafts and industries, as Syrian refugees did during the war in leading the way to a new start in tobacco cultivation.

## ALBANIA.

ALBANIA, July 18.

**Italo-Albanian Relations.**

It was hoped that Signor Giolitti desired to put an end to the Italo-Albanian conflict, for he had declared himself a supporter of an independent Albania; and it was understood that Baron Aliotti had explicit instructions. Unluckily, the choice of a plenipotentiary was not quite happy, for Baron Aliotti, who was Italian Minister here in 1914, had left a not entirely satisfactory memory, by reason of his relations with Essad Pasha.

The Italian Government, while expressing benevolent sentiments towards Albania, wishes to retain control over Valona. Just now it is ready to disclaim pretensions to the town itself, but it demands the land of Sasseno and two points on the mainland—Linguetta (Cape Karaburun) and Trepanti, north of Valona. Thus, by means of fortifications which are proposed, Italy wishes to control the port, and even the town of Valona.

The Government and the people of Albania are opposed to any concession of the kind; for, while they recognise that good relations with Italy are very necessary, they strenuously object to any infringement upon Albanian territory. In their view, if Signor Giolitti seriously renounces the imperialism of his predecessors, he should abandon all thought of dominating Valona in any way. In these circumstances, negotiations have been broken off since the day before yesterday. Baron Aliotti exerted himself to the utmost, but the Albanians stood firm. The situation at Valona is favourable to them: volunteers are flocking in from all parts, well armed; their *moral* is excellent, and they are prepared for all eventualities. The Italian garrison, on the other hand, is suffering much from malaria.

The reports regarding the bad treatment of the Italian prisoners by the Albanians are utterly false, and such ill-treatment exists only in the too active imagination of the Rome telegraph agencies.

**The Internal Situation.**

The Government's position appears to be steadily growing stronger. Its policy in regard to Valona, which conforms to the wishes of the nation, has gained general approval; and malcontents become rarer every day.

Four days before the assassination of Essad Pasha, the Government arrested some of his partisans, Omer Bey Shiaku, Veli Bey Kraya, Hamid Bey Toptani, Fuad Bey Toptani, and a score of others, whose houses were burned, in accordance with the ancient law of Dukaghin. Osman Bali, the famous agitator was not arrested, but his house was burned. He is now on the Serbian frontier, and, it is unfortunately necessary to add, the Serbian authorities are reported to be lending him help. The prisoners have been sent to Argyrokastro, where they are in prison, awaiting their trial. Bairam Tsour, the famous chieftain of Hassi (Jakova), who has returned to Albania, and to whom the Gendarmeri has been handed over, is giving proof of great energy.

## MARTIAL LAW AT TEHERAN.

Information has been received at the War Office that martial law has been proclaimed at Teheran and three small newspapers suppressed for revealing movements of troops. The situation on the Khorassan border is somewhat disturbed. The brigand Khuddu (or Khudaverdi), whose headquarters are near Shirwan, has been lavishly distributing rifles and collecting supplies, and has now proceeded to Firuzeh, on the Persian frontier, south-west of Askabad. On the 11th and 12th British and Persian detachments had a brush with some of this man's followers north-west of Bajgiran (120 miles north-west of Meshed). Both sides suffered loss, but Khuddu's men were much disheartened and departed from the area. A body of 2,000 Red Moslem troops moved forward from Askabad to Firuzeh to support Khuddu, who is making preparations for an early incursion into Khorassan. Other Red troops are being concentrated on the Persian frontier.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### ITALY AND YUGOSLAVIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST"

SIR,—As one who has lived for the last four years in the Balkans, in close contact with the Serbian and Italian Armies, I cannot refrain from protesting against the anti-Italian animus displayed by the writer of the article published in THE NEAR EAST of July 22 under the heading of "Yugoslavia." One feels so intensely that in the present state of international unrest nothing but harm can come out of such an attitude.

The first difficulty for all those who wish to mediate between contending nations is to realise distinctly their differences in national character. The Italians, as an old race, are pacific, liberal, very highly civilised, while the Serbs have all the impulsiveness of their hot national youth. Nothing could bring out this contrast more clearly than the attitude of the two armies towards one another in Macedonia. When they first came into contact there was considerable distrust on the part of the Serbs of the Italian troops, who afterwards fought shoulder-to-shoulder with them for over two years. The gratitude, however, for the salvation of the remnant of the Serbian Army by the Italian Navy at the end of 1915 somewhat mitigated the prejudice of centuries in the Serbian mind. Contact and personal acquaintance in a few months completely wiped it out. To say that the relations between the Serbs and the Italians on the Macedonian front were cordial would be to understate the actual situation. Officers of the two armies were continually giving hospitality to one another, and at every mess the eternal friendship of the two sister nations was enthusiastically toasted. During a conflict in the streets of Salonika between French and Italians, Serbian elements passing by rushed in to aid the latter, crying, "Buoni Italiani!" So high an opinion had the Serbian Crown Prince of the military qualities of the Italian force that he personally urged upon the French Command that provision should be made in order that the Italians might advance side by side with his own men to the liberation of his country and his triumphant entry into Belgrade. Had his desire been carried out, how much subsequent misunderstanding might have been avoided! All this is forgotten by the Serbs to-day.

According to your correspondent, Croats and Serbs are now uniting in holding up to contempt Italian military valour, to which the former owe the defeat which brought forth their liberation at Vittoria Veneto and the latter their victory, which could not possibly have been so complete had not the Austrian Army been pinned down to the Alps, awaiting its débâcle.

It is a pity indeed that these two contending nations should be incited one against the other by correspondents who lay far too great reliance upon reports supplied to them. By publishing such utterly untrustworthy information, by resurrecting old slanders and legends derogatory to the Italians, and exploded time after time by serious historians of the war, they are inciting Yugoslavs to fight against a race their equal in valour, though not in aggression, and their superior in all other points of civilisation. Moreover, they are alienating from Britain the sympathies of our oldest friends in Europe.—I am, etc.,

HAROLD E. GOAD
(on behalf of the British-Italian League).

74, Grosvenor Street, W.1, July 28.

### THE OCCUPATION OF THRACE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Though I am not in the habit of answering letters which are both undated and unsigned, I accept the challenge of your Bulgarian correspondent who is apparently afraid to sign his name. I have to-day written to the *Messager d'Athenes* for the copy in question and I will hold him responsible for all consequences.—I am, etc.,

THEODORE D. MOSCONAS.

32, Oxford Street, Manchester,
July 29, 1920.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—I have followed with keen interest the little dispute between your Bulgarian correspondent and M. T. Mosconas with reference to an alleged quotation from the Bulgarian journal *Zora*, and I have a few remarks to make on this point.

In all fairness to M. Mosconas, I must say that I myself have seen a copy of the *Messager d'Athenes*, giving information of a like nature as that cited in M. Mosconas' letter, and stated to be a quotation from the *Zora*. Unfortunately I cannot give the date of the copy in question, as, knowing the methods by which Bulgaria seeks publicity, I looked upon the information in question as nothing out of the ordinary, and I consequently destroyed the copy.

Anybody with the slightest knowledge of the Balkans would know full well that no Bulgarian Government could overlook so

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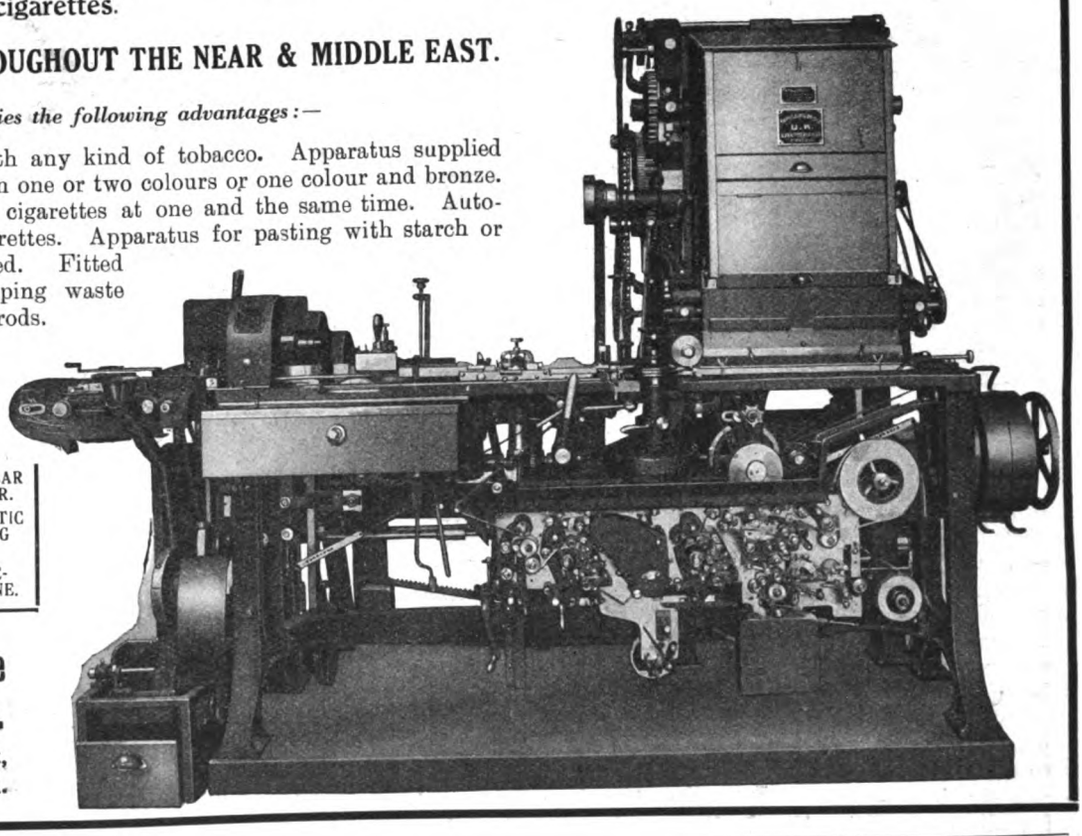

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fine an opportunity of showing themselves to be the injured party, as the return to Bulgaria of a few thousand ex-Komitaji, who, having settled themselves on appropriated Greek farms, found at the time of the Greek advance that as their spiritual home was Bulgaria it behoved the material man to remove there also. So far as I can remember, the article in the Greek paper was headed "Les Bulgares contradictent eux-memes," and I have no doubt that, with the assistance of the editress of the *Messager d'Athenes*, the matter can be satisfactorily settled. The chances of a misprint, the writing of a wrong date for the particular copy of the *Zora*, are so great that they do not warrant the use of the terms employed by your correspondents. It looks as if the Bulgarians, having unusually little to grumble about, have found a weak spot in their opponents' armour, and are trying to extract every advantage from it without using reason.

Your correspondent who anonymously signs himself "Britisher" —["A British Reader of THE NEAR EAST."—ED.]—grows sarcastic on what he terms the smiling Greek. And why should not the Greeks smile? The smile has changed faces now. The Bulgars know who it was that brought about the downfall of their "Empire" in the Great War; the Bolshevists know who it was that saved the French Army in South Russia from annihilation. When a great Power like France is compelled to sue for an armistice with a band of Anatolian brigands, which, in company with the "European" residents of Turkey, she has for so long both petted and robbed, and the much-despised "Levantine" Greek, in spite of the prophecies of Western Europe's foremost military experts, Marshals Foch and Wilson, rounds up the much-vaunted Turkish rebels in fifteen days, the Greek may well smile at the now harmless abuse of his defeated enemies and their sympathisers.—I am, etc.,

ALEXANDER T. CALLINICOS.

The Greek Church, Higher Broughton, Manchester,
July 30, 1920.

## PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

### The Arab Problem.

The *Manchester Guardian* of July 24 puts forward the two policies which are advocated in this country for dealing with Arabs. It says:—

Our policy in the Middle East, as elsewhere, has reflected the contrary influences of two schools. One school believed that the Arabs, rescued from Turkish rule, might look for a self-respecting future; the other held that they were politically incapable, bound to be under one master or another, pawns in the rivalries of the Great Powers. One school welcomed the prospect of the setting up of a series of Arab States with the promise one day of a federation of Arab communities; the other regarded the Arabs as so much raw material for the administrative industry and talent of the British race. One school held that we might play a noble and disinterested part in aiding their liberation and development; the other that it was our right to make the most of the oil and resources of Mesopotamia for our own aggrandisement, while keeping peace and order among troublesome tribes. One school inspired the famous proclamation issued by Sir Stanley Maude to the people of Bagdad: "Our armies do not come into your cities and lands as conquerors or enemies, but as liberators. . . . You people of Bagdad, whose commercial prosperity and whose safety from invasion and oppression must ever be a matter of the closest concern to the British Government, are not to understand it is the wish of the British Government to impose upon you alien institutions. It is the hope of the British Government that the aspirations of your philosophers and writers shall be realised, and that once again the people of Bagdad shall flourish, enjoying their wealth and substance under institutions which are in consonance with their sacred laws and their racial ideas." The proclamation ended by hoping that the Arabs of the vilayet of Bagdad might be united with their kinsmen in north, south, east, and west in realising the aspirations of their race. The other school has set up this purely British administration in Mesopotamia and taught the Arabs that they have merely changed their masters.

After supporting the recent suggestion of Col. T. E. Lawrence of reducing our part in the government of the Arabs to the part we play in Canada and South Africa, it states:—

We stand at a crisis in the relations of East and West. Either Europe will come to terms with this new Arab movement, a movement that we encouraged when it served our purpose, or Europe will be involved in a new and most perilous conflict. It would be the part of a statesman to use this opportunity for putting the relations of the chief Powers with the weaker races, or those less developed and less experienced in a political sense, on a new footing. He would recognise that the old method, which meant the imposition of European institutions or of European rule on foreign peoples, is suited neither to the character of the problem in the Middle East nor to the stage that we have reached in political development. What we have to find is a method of helping the Arab populations from our resources of experience without weakening their self-respect, or deflecting the course of their natural development, or taking advantage of their difficulties. Any other course will result in a perpetual conflict, which will be kept alive by the most bitter impulses of race and religion, threatening the peace of the world in other continents as well and giving endless opportunities for intrigue to discontented and disappointed peoples. No Power has so much reason to dread that calamity as ourselves. No Power has such an obligation to prevent it. It can only be prevented by giving to these Arab States real independence, and by making their European helpers advisers in status and fact. We want above all things to avoid the blunders and crimes that have disfigured the dealings of Europeans with the races of other continents in the past, and for this purpose we must keep clear of the false position that arises when European Powers undertake the management and exploitation of other peoples, under whatever disguise that relationship is veiled. For ourselves we doubt whether this can be done without putting the League of Nations itself, instead of the mandatory Powers, behind the new States.

### The Middle East.

In the *Pall Mall Gazette* of July 26, Lord Lamington, writing upon "The Syrian Crisis," urges withdrawal on the part of both Great Britain and France. He says:—

The situation is one of extraordinary complexity owing to the circumstances of the past war and the undertakings we then made to the Arabs, the French, and the Jews, undertakings which it is almost impossible to reconcile between the different parties. The problem is, in fact, so intricate that perhaps one must now admit the necessity of accepting a mandate over Palestine as well as France over Syria; but in my opinion it is a big sacrifice on our part, as I should like to see this country without any entanglements in either Palestine or Syria, as there is no material benefit which will accrue to us.

He comments upon our undertakings to the Jews and to the Arabs, and says:—

The only chance I can see of a peaceful settlement both for ourselves and others is to come to a distinct agreement with France to set up really independent States in Syria and in Mesopotamia—that is to say, we will retire from Mesopotamia and the French from Syria, but give the right to the native administration to appeal to either country for officials to help them in their work of self-government. I feel strongly, also, that some decision ought to be come to with regard to the working of the Baghdad railway, and I think it ought to be possible for ourselves and the French to have some joint arrangement for the control of this railway or of any other railway development in North Syria which would bring the Mediterranean into direct communication with Baghdad and the Persian Gulf.

### Article to Note.

"Great Britain, Mesopotamia, and the Arabs," by the Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., in the *Nineteenth Century*. (August.)

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# MUSICAL NOTES.

## YUGOSLAV POPULAR SONGS.

Yugoslav songs are not well known in this country. But the publication of a fine book, "Jugoslovenske Narodne Pesme" (London: C. P. Manojlovitch, 10s. 6d. net), should cause this ignorance to disappear, and we may not unreasonably hope that English singers will soon be including some folk-songs of Yugoslavia in their programmes.

Many judges assert that the Yugoslavs have in their folk-music some of the best tunes in existence. I myself cannot take that view, though freely admitting that my knowledge of them is by no means as extensive as it should be, being derived, like most Englishmen's, from the "Album of 138 Srpskikh Narodnikh Pesama" published by Mite Stajica at Belgrade, 1905, and the group of twenty-four songs edited by I. Bajitch and issued by the same publisher (to the first of which, incidentally, Mr. Manojlovitch's volume is considerably indebted). There is in these songs a monotony of rhythm, of interval, and of treatment, which rather palls on the Western ear—due, I suppose, to the sad fate of the Yugoslavs which has kept them in bondage for so many years, and which inevitably is reflected in their songs. This sadness seems in no way to have sapped their vitality—some of their warlike songs, for instance are extremely stirring—but it does seem to have diminished their variety of outlook. Given the knowledge of the devices of the Yugoslav folk-song, the flattened seventh, the augmented second, the sudden changes of and reversions to time, and so on, and given the subject matter of the song, you could almost guess the lines of the music. Other nations which have had no less mournful a history—the Irish (whose folk-songs are the loveliest in the world), or the Armenians, for example, which have had no more varied a fate—the Basques of the Pyrenees, or the people of the Hebrides, for instance—do not in their songs give one this sense of sameness and expectedness. It is, I daresay, a deficiency in the Western ear not to be able to let this kind of monotony penetrate one's being as it penetrates the Eastern mind. But it is probably something more than monotony, something much more subtle than I can analyse, which makes the Yugoslav folk-songs seem inferior, say, to the Russians'. One thing I am sure does not cause the difficulty, and that is the Turkish element in these songs, for, curiously enough, the monotony of Mussulman melodies does not oppress one. However, the true appreciation of folk tunes is a matter for life study, and, far from questioning the genius of Yugoslav folk music, I am quite content to stand shyly behind the opinion of most good judges, who, as I have said, appraise it highly.

To all those interested in this affair this book is certainly indispensable. Mr. K. P. Manojlovitch, who has compiled this edition, and has harmonised the melodies, has done his work far better than most previous Serbian editors. His harmonisations are ornate, but they are never out of keeping with the text: often, indeed, they increase the understanding of the tune. All his metronomic markings, his directions of *tempo*, his accents and expression marks, are most carefully done, and he has obviously done his faithfullest to demonstrate the genius of his people to Western culture. The translation into English is done by Mrs. Newmarch, whose services in the popularisation of Slav literature, art. and music are truly stupendous. Some of her verses are rather unsingable, but that appears to be scarcely her fault. There is also a translation by Austin de Croze into French, a language that takes more kindly than ours to the interpretation of Slav thought. Altogether it is a very admirable volume, being, moreover, well and clearly printed.

The songs that are most attractive in this volume are "Tsar Lazar and Tsaritsa Militsa," a Serbian lyric song; "Costly Red Roses," a marriage song; "Spare a Penny," a very beautiful tune, belonging to the group of the child bards; "Let Me Go, Mother," most melodious, with a very appealing change from $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$ time; "What News in the Town?" "Kalopero, Pero," and "Miryana," which everyone knows; "Ah, Sorrow, Sorrow," of which each note is instinct with tristfulness; and "I'll Not Grieve," a very typical Macedonian tune. Some of the songs, especially those of the heroic type, only a Slav could sing effectively; they seem to demand that realistic method which Mr. Vladimir Rosing, for example, uses in his Russian songs; that wild frenzy of singing and acting in which the Western soul cannot without artificiality indulge. But there are a few which anyone could sing, and I hope very much that English singers, who are accustomed to seize upon new sources of folk-song with jealous avidity (it is much more than fashion to include folk-songs in one's programme nowadays), will not overlook this book.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"THE VICTORY OF VENIZELOS." By Vincent J. Seligman. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 6s. net).
II.—"LETTERS OF TRAVEL" (1892-1913) By Rudyard Kipling. (London: Macmillan and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)
III.—"LIFE OF LORD KITCHENER." By Sir George Arthur. Three vols. (London: Macmillan Co. £2 12s. 6d.)

## I.—"THAT KING BUSINESS" IN GREECE.

When Mr. Wilson turned in bewilderment to his representative in Berlin for an explanation of the European imbroglio, "Mr. President," was the Ambassador's reply, "it's all owing to that King business." The world-war originated in the megalomania of hereditary rulers, and during its course every neutral country had a "Court party," whose sympathy lay wholly with the aggressors. Greece afforded a conspicuous instance of treachery and purblind folly in high places. She owed to Great Britain her liberation from the Turkish yoke; and her geographical position placed her at the mercy of a maritime Power. Gratitude, self-interest, and common-sense should have ranged her on the Entente side. Mr. Vincent Seligman has unravelled the sinister intrigues which kept Greece in the enemy's camp for three crucial years and brought her to the verge of ruin. He paints the protagonists in the struggle for right with impartiality and inside knowledge. King Constantine is credited with many seductive qualities, but it is beyond question that all were neutralised by his ingrained prejudices and fundamental weakness of character. A fatal aberration had led King George to send his heir-apparent to Berlin for military training. In that chauvinistic environment he formed a fixed idea that Germany was destined to rule the world. Coming under the Kaiser's spell, he shared the latter's notions on Divine Right, and after espousing his mentor's sister, developed into a convinced partisan of Germany. M. Venizelos stands forth in Mr. Seligman's narration as an epitome of the opposite qualities and the leading diplomat of our troublous age. He offers the extremely rare combination of an idealist who is also a man of the world. His magnetic personality and unselfish patriotism were sources of inspiration for three-fourths of his fellow-countrymen. Had this great statesman received the support which his character and service merited, he might well have been the Cavour of twentieth-century Greece. But he had ranged in opposition his fickle master, governed by Queen Sophie, who treated Greece as a pawn in the Hohenzollern game. Against him schemed the host of enemies which transcendent merit brings into the field. Some of them were heart-whole supporters of the Central Powers; others joined in the fray owing to jealousy, and others, again, from wounded self-esteem. Under the prompting of these evil counsellors, King Constantine habitually agreed to a course of action suggested by Venizelos, and straightway manœuvred to render it nugatory. Solemn engagements were treated as so many scraps of paper, huge slices of territory and important strategic points were basely surrendered to the foe; the Entente counsels were flaunted, and its forces treacherously massacred. It is unfair to judge diplomatic action by the light of after events; but with every allowance for the enormous difficulties encountered by our representative at Athens, it cannot be gainsaid that his policy was a thing of patchwork and makeshifts. Our Foreign Office persisted in negotiating with Bulgaria long after it was clear that she would join the Central Powers. We hampered Venizelos on every side, and gave far too much rope to his faithless master. British diplomacy, in fact, was tainted throughout by the opportunism and lack of imagination which are conspicuous results of party government. But if the mills of the gods grind slowly, they grind exceeding small. After three years of parleying and vacillation, the Entente removed King Constantine from the throne. The victory of Venizelos was complete, and his influence is now profoundly felt in the progress of affairs throughout the Near East. No one who realises that men are governed by emotions rather than common-sense can be surprised by the news that a movement is on foot to restore the ex-King. Personal charm is a mighty asset, especially when it is wielded by an hereditary ruler. A perusal of Mr. Seligman's impartial narrative will convince anyone who is capable of forming a just judgment that Constantine's return to power would be a calamity for Greece and for Europe. F. H. S.

## II.—THE PERFECT TOURIST.

Although these letters are divided into three parts, with many years between each group, they arrange themselves more naturally into two parts—the first two, which are about Canada, an interval of fifteen years between them—and the third which is about Egypt. The earlier letters from Canada are less concerned with politics than the second collection: not so filled with warnings to the Mother Country and anger at the littleness and shortsightedness of her notions and dealings. Their value chiefly consists in a wonderful description of the Northern winter, written in words that actually make one feel the bitter cold as well as see the white splendour of it, and for the account of an excursion to Japan, with descriptions full of delicate colour and charm—an amazing demonstration of how the obvious may be firmly grasped and made into something new and living. Also, there is one article on the failure of a bank which shows that it is, after all, the human element, the behaviour of men and women "in the fell clutch of circumstance" that really interests Mr. Kipling most, and which is pleasantly reminiscent of his early Indian stories. In the 1907 letters Mr. Kipling still urges the same message that he sent fifteen years before. It is the song of the Empire that he sings—of its greatness in size and in spirit—and there can be no doubt that it is stirring and inspiring "the fine song for singing, the rare song to hear." Although he is writing of the Elder Sister, the thought of the other colonies is never out of his mind. There are some splendidly vivid chapters on the romance of the swift springing into being of new cities and of the railways following up fresh trails. He is thrilled and warmed to the heart by the thought of the Empire's tremendous possibilities for adventure; he wants to make the people who are "too near things and a great deal too well fed" realise that "Cortes is not dead, nor Drake, and Sir Philip Sidney dies every few months if you know where to look." He turns to that other great lover of romance, writing them in Samoa, "he, crowned with roses and laurels, strings together the pearls of those parts. When he has done with this down there, perhaps he will turn to the Smoky Seas. . . . Then there will be a tale to listen to."

Again and again all through this book the way in which Mr. Kipling describes what he wants his readers to picture, leaves one with the breathless excited feeling produced by the sight of a great piece of craftsmanship. It is like some heavy piece of wood delicately carved—so solid and yet so clear cut in the details. Then there are, of course, those sentences which one finds oneself expecting in any work of his—words that shine out suddenly with a bright flash of illumination, and there are those other sentences, which unfortunately are not less typical of some of his work: aggravating mannerisms, as in the use of italics for an "and" or a "but" at the beginning of a sentence, and a certain cheapness and flippancy of expression, as if he found it almost too easy to convey his meaning. In the Canadian letters Mr. Kipling writes with bitter mockery of American Democracy. In the Egyptian letters of 1913 he again writes of the ideas and customs of his fellow-tourists from the States, but his attitude is rather more tolerant. It is in these letters from Egypt that one sees most clearly what is very noticeable throughout the book, that he has the true secret of how to be a really successful sightseer. He travels in just the right spirit—not in open-mouthed, ignorant amazement, and yet with absolute readiness to observe and to learn from the least little thing; in no spirit of preconceived prejudice and superiority, and yet with a calm sense of his ability to gain an impression and form his own opinion. Above all, he realises fully that "break into any new Hell or Heaven, and you will be met at its well-worn threshold by the bored experts in attendance," and he is not abashed nor damped, nor any less filled with joy at the romance of far lands, diverse peoples, and the eternal adventure of travel.

## III.—KITCHENER.

Sir George Arthur was charged with a very difficult task in writing the "Life of Kitchener." It is never an easy matter to get the right proportion between history and biography in this kind of work; either there is a tendency to let the history drown the biography, or to picture the hero as the very centre of the universe. Sir George Arthur on the whole avoids both these pitfalls. His book will be indispensable to the historian, not only for the unpublished documents he quotes and the new light he throws on many episodes, particularly in the South African War—in dealing with the late war he is somewhat too discreet and reticent—but it will also be essential for the comprehension of Kitchener himself.

It would be absurd to pretend that it is, in the true sense of the word, a "great" biography. It cannot rival Morley's "Gladstone" nor Boswell's "Johnson," nor is it as a piece of literature to be compared with Southey's "Nelson." But it is good sound work, written in a plain,

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straightforward fashion with no particular pretension; on the only occasion on which Sir George Arthur is betrayed into rhetoric—when he introduces "the voice of the Eternal" at the death of Kitchener, the result is so lamentable that one can only be grateful that his natural good taste has restrained his eloquence elsewhere. His account of the loss of the "Hampshire," by the way, is quite remarkably confused; and we may also add that his description of Kitchener's appointment to the War Office in 1914 is incomplete. Both these matters, however, can easily be rectified in a subsequent edition.

These things, however, are small points. He does on the whole succeed in putting before us a recognisably true Kitchener, and he makes it clear that the extraordinary position which Kitchener held in the esteem of his countrymen, and not of his countrymen only, was due essentially to his character, and not to any particular mental gifts. He had what Huxley attributed to Darwin, "a marvellous dumb sagacity" which ripened slowly, which hardly ever misled his judgment, and which a psychologist would at once attribute to intuition and not to intellect. It was the continuous exercise of that sagacity on a great stage that made men regard him as infallible—which he was not—and that led to the establishment of the "Kitchener legend"—almost the only legend of modern times.

It is given to few men, save those who found religions and dynasties, to become legends after their death; still fewer become legends in their lifetime. To that small company, which includes Saleh-ed-Din and Clive and Warren Hastings, Kitchener undoubtedly belonged, and the last proof of many was forthcoming at his death. Large sections of the public refused to admit that he was dead, and stubbornly expected his return. It was fundamentally the same belief as that which followed Arthur and Barbarossa to the grave. Yet nothing of the kind occurred when other great soldiers died. No human being expected Marlborough or Wellington or Cromwell to appear again; and history will ask what quality there was in Kitchener which linked him with Arthur and Barbarossa in the public estimation, rather than with Marlborough and Wellington.

It is easy to reply that perilous times are credulous times, and that the manner of Kitchener's death was sufficient warrant for the belief. But Nelson also lived in perilous times, and also died at sea; yet no similar legend grew up after Trafalgar. There was, then, something unique in Kitchener—or at least in the public mind concerning Kitchener—that led to this belief. It may be that history will say that the legend was unjustified, as it will assuredly say that the belief in his return was unjustified; but it will have to admit that it existed.

The Kitchener legend, like all legends, was partly true and partly false. The image of a cold, calculating, and efficient military machine was created by the brilliant letters of G. W. Steevens from Khartoum to the *Daily Mail* in 1898. Seventeen years later the *Daily Mail* tried to destroy its creation, but the public worshipped the image and destroyed the *Daily Mail* instead. But the image, however true it was of the victor of Omdurman, was in fact no longer true; it was hardly even a passable portrait. Kitchener had outgrown his likeness. To the public he was still a soldier, but to the soldier he was now an organiser. To the statesman he was now a statesman.

Something of this gradual change was indeed realised by the general public. Had the Great War broken out in 1905 there would have been a general demand for Kitchener to lead the British Armies as Commander-in-Chief in France. Nine years later no such demand was made by any section of opinion. Had Kitchener chosen to take the chief command in person, people would, it is true, have been content with his decision, because they trusted him to do the right thing. When he did not, they were content with his recognition that his proper place was at the War Office, raising and equipping the new armies.

It was not that Kitchener's age was popularly considered any objection to his employment on active service; he was not older than many of the leading commanders on both sides. The accident in India to his leg, which was a more real barrier, was forgotten by all save his friends and colleagues; the British public, which does not follow the personalia of official Indian history very closely, could hardly be expected to recollect a mishap at Simla, or to know that it detracted to some extent from his physical activity and began to weigh increasingly upon his constitution. It was not these considerations which made the public realise that he was in the right place at the War Office in 1914 when they would have expected him to take chief command in person ten years before. It was the fact that they had come to recognise slowly, and almost unconsciously, that the man who had smashed the Mahdi was something more than a professional soldier, which reconciled them to his presence in Whitehall instead of with the Expeditionary Force. Even after the retreat from Mons, when all England was nervous as to the fate of its army, there was no real call such as had come instantly after the Black Week of December, 1899, for him to go to the front. He was trusted then and subsequently by the public with the most absolute trust, to do the right thing in his own discretion and in his own manner.

This absolute trust reposed in him by a race which is more inclined to complain that it no longer breeds great men than to indulge in hero-worship, is the fundamental fact in Kitchener's public career; it was a plant of slow growth, like Kitchener's own character, and it was the direct outcome of his character. He did his work thoroughly, but he never promised more than he could perform. He never prophesied smooth things. He neither asked nor gave flattery. He kept his own counsel when it was wise, but spoke frankly when it was necessary. As a consequence, the public were ready to follow his lead without question asked or reason given.

Of no other man in England could that have been said in 1914. Kitchener was unique, and he remained unique until his death. It is probable that he never knew the extent of his own power. He cared little for popularity, and was genuinely surprised that people should wait about the streets to see him pass from the War Office to Downing Street. If this gradual growth of public confidence was the fundamental fact of Kitchener's career in its external aspect, the gradual growth and widening of the scope of his activities was the fundamental fact of his personal character. Fashoda revealed the victor of Omdurman as a diplomatist. Vereeniging revealed him as a statesman. Simla revealed him as a military reformer; Cairo as a social reformer. And London in 1914 revealed him finally as a symbol—the symbol of the man to whom England pinned her faith. It is conceivable that other men would have been as good or even better Secretaries of State for War, but the country would not have been satisfied that any other man was as good. No other man would have given England the confidence in herself that she felt from the mere fact that she had confidence in Kitchener. However great the services he rendered to the nation at the War Office, incomparably his greatest service was the fact that he was there at all.

History will recognise this, and, recognising it, will seek to analyse the reasons for it. A devil's advocate would indeed claim that Kitchener was fortunate in the circumstances of his life, and not less *felix opportunitate mortis*. The objection could, it is true, be applied to almost any man who has played a great part in history. Without the stamp tax George Washington would have been known as a respectable farmer in Virginia; without the French Revolution even Napoleon would never have been First Consul. But the objection is irrelevant, for circumstances break as well as make men, and Kitchener proved adequate for each occasion as it arose. It is fair to say that in any age he would have been a great man, although only his own age could have given him the last colossal stage in which to play his part. The secret must be sought in the man, not in his circumstances.

It was said of a certain Prime Minister that no contemporary of his at Balliol could well fail to reach the episcopal or judicial bench. Kitchener found no such easy road to eminence, nor did he make his own appointments in that light and friendly fashion. He began life with no particular social advantage; intellectually he was considered rather below the average; soundness rather than brilliance was the keynote of his character throughout. On the whole he matured slowly. He was nearly fifty before his name was known as a soldier outside his own profession. He was sixty before his capacity for statecraft was recognised outside a narrow circle.

Kitchener's position was frankly not due to any extraordinary mental endowments. His intellectual range was not conspicuously wider than the average of able men. His interest in art developed late in life, and was that of the collector rather than the connoisseur. Of the drama he knew little, of music nothing. In literature he had studied the classics of his own profession, and he had an average knowledge of history, with, of course, a close acquaintance with the historical antiquities of the Levant; but as a

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general reader his tastes lay mainly in the direction of the detective story and the ordinary novel of commerce, and his books were obviously the recreation of an idle hour. Of the deeper tendencies of modern thought he knew next to nothing.

As a writer he said what he had to say, without undue abbreviation or obscurity, but most certainly without adornment. His phrases are like his actual script—plain, bold, and clear Not a sentence is capable of a double meaning; there is nothing that can be explained away. He wrote English, in short, like a soldier, not a politician. Kitchener's later record as a statesman inevitably raises the question whether he would have gone as far had he chosen a political instead of a military career. The answer must be in the negative. He could persuade men, and he could rule men, but he had none of the suppleness of the politician, and he could never have moved men in a democratic age by an appeal to the emotions. As a great soldier he was listened to with respect because he stood above or outside of politics, and took care to emphasise his aloofness from the parties of the day; as a budding Member of Parliament thirty years before his talents would have been wasted. Early in 1915 one of his colleagues in the Asquith Government remarked that Kitchener did not understand English politics. The fact was natural in a man who had spent the greater part of his life out of England; few men who have lived long away from home possess the intimate personal knowledge and the *flair* that is indispensable for success at Westminster. But it is doubtful whether he was constitutionally fitted for the Parliamentary stage. He was as innocent of obscurity as of fine writing, and his appeal was always to the judgment, never to the feelings. Even in the famous message to the first Expeditionary Force of 1914 the stress is laid entirely on duty, not on the emotions.

His speeches have the same quality of clearness and brevity. In the last two years of his life, when he spoke from time to time at Westminster, no man had ever a more attentive audience; the House of Commons was always deserted during the half-hour or so that Kitchener was "up" across the corridor. But he had none of the arts of the orator; he coined none of those effective phrases that achieve a brief reputation in a headline; and those who only heard the carefully composed and typewritten statements which he read in the House of Lords did not consider his elocution particularly good. "What did I think of Kitchener?" said a sardonic listener after one of these speeches. "Why, when I shut my eyes it was unimpressive enough for one of the new bishops."

The inevitable surfeit of debate at Westminster is said to ruin the taste for political oratory, for the same reason that prolonged residence at Rome is proverbially dangerous to religion; but if Parliamentarians admitted that dozens of private members and even backwoodsmen spoke better than Kitchener, nobody's speeches were so carefully read or so closely discussed by London that evening or by the whole country the next morning. Every phrase was carefully scanned, and the mere fact that an obvious reference was omitted, either intentionally or purely through inadvertence, was discovered to have some mysterious significance in the clubs and tramcars and bar-parlours.

Kitchener was a loyal servant of the Crown and of the Government, but in no sense of the word was he either a courtier at Buckingham Palace or an intriguer in Downing Street. He was no politician, but if any political label were affixed to him he would be best described as a constitutionalist. He had a profound and almost instinctive respect for Parliament and the political institutions of the United Kingdom and the British Empire; the picture that was drawn of him in some quarters as a political dictator and a modern Cromwell capable of shutting up the House of Commons was not merely grotesquely absurd, but the very opposite of the truth, and it is one of the outstanding merits of Sir George Arthur's work that he brings this fact out so clearly.

Even in small details and during the turmoil of the war he was careful to indicate his respect for Parliament. As Secretary of State for War, he always wore uniform in Whitehall; the only occasion on which he changed into mufti was when he went to Westminster, and on those afternoons he donned the frock-coat, which is, or rather was, the conventional dress of Parliament. Although an extremely busy man, he always took his seat some time before the sitting actually opened, and remained some minutes after his statement was completed, in order to avoid the least appearance of haste or discourtesy to the House, a formal tribute more honoured in the breach than the observance by many other Ministers, with whom familiarity has perhaps bred contempt for the customs of a more leisured age.

Yet with these apparently ordinary endowments Kitchener was an extraordinary man, for he possessed a quality which defies analysis—a massive fund of commonsense and an absolute soundness of judgment. In his earlier life, when planning his campaign in Egypt, no detail escaped him; in later years he had necessarily to delegate much detail to others, and his work must be judged by his choice of men rather than by the scrupulous attendance to minutiæ which was no longer his business. By either test he was adequate to his work. The mathematical exactness of the Sudan advance became proverbial. The accuracy of his reading of character was less well known, but it was not less striking. It would probably be untrue to say that he never made a mistake in the choice of a subordinate. But it is the fact that those who knew him intimately cannot point to any such mistakes. The men he chose may sometimes have failed to come up to his expectations; if that were so, they were not employed again. But most of those whom he chose went far in the public service. Kitchener possessed the rare gift of picking precisely those men out of the crowd who were worth picking, at the time of their life when there was nothing particular to show they were worth picking

It is natural to attempt a comparison between Kitchener and the two greatest soldiers in modern English history, Marlborough and Wellington. But the comparison is unreal. If Kitchener's campaigns show no such splendid military genius as that of Malplaquet and Blenheim, his record is wide as the poles apart from the baseness, almost amounting to treachery, which stains indelibly the other side of Marlborough's public life. And with Wellington the contrast is equally artificial, but for a different reason. The Duke, great soldier though he was, was a statesman only by force of circumstances, and his measures were modelled on the simple but scarcely sufficient axiom that the King's Government must be carried on. If the Duke's early career in India a little resembles Kitchener's early career in the Sudan, and the doggedness with which he fought the Peninsular War reminds us of the doggedness with which Kitchener fought South Africa, it can hardly be claimed that the Duke's later record in politics shows anything of the tact and foresight of Kitchener at Vereeniging, or the combination of political firmness and interest in social welfare which Kitchener showed at Cairo.

There have been many greater soldiers in history, and it is hardly with the Marlboroughs and the Wellingtons that Kitchener can be compared. There have been many greater statesmen, and it is hardly with the Pitts and the Richelieus that he can be contrasted. But there have been relatively few men who have successfully combined the soldier with the statesman, and it is in this far rarer company, rather than with the soldier or the statesman *per se*, that Kitchener must be finally placed.

It remains to be said that the book contains several good photographs, including one taken of Kitchener on the day before his death, and that its usefulness for purposes of reference is materially augmented by an admirable index.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Dead Towns and Living Men: Being Pages from an Antiquary's Notebook." By C. Leonard Woolley. (London: Humphrey Milford. 12s. 6d. net.)

Political Map of the New Europe, 1920, according to Treaties of Paris. Showing the old States of 1914 and the new of 1920. (Edinburgh: John Bartholomew and Son, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

"Hellenic Studies." By Stanley Casson. (London: Elkin Matthews. 6s. net.)

"The Egyptian Problem." By Sir Valentine Chirol. (London: Macmillan and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Nile to Aleppo: A Record of Travel with the Australian Light Horse." By Hector W. Dinning, Captain, Australian Army. Illustrated with Etchings, Colour Plates, and Drawings. By James McBey. (London: Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 25s. net.)

"Folk-Tales of the Khasis." By Mrs. Rafy. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

"Greece on the Eve of Resurrection." By Dr. Michael D. Volonakis. With a Preface by Arnold J. Toynbee and an Introductory Letter by H.E. John Gennadius. (London: The Hesperia Press. 3s. net.)

A Bombay message states that Mr. Tilak, the Indian Nationalist Extremist, is dead.

With the coming into force of the Treaty of St. Germain, the Serbian Government has ordered the evacuation of all territory belonging to Austria and the occupation of districts ceded to the Triune Kingdom.

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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

## CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

**Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish Dates.**

| Gregorian (New Style). | Julian (Old Style). | — | Moslem. | Jewish. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1920. August | 1920. July. | | 1338. Julkada. | 5680. Ab. |
| 5 | 23 | Thursday ..... | 20 | 21 |
| 6 | 24 | Friday ..... | 21 | 22 |
| 7 | 25 | Saturday..... | 22 | 23 |
| 8 | 26 | Sunday ..... | 23 | 24 |
| 9 | 27 | Monday ..... | 24 | 2 |
| 10 | 28 | Tuesday ..... | 25 | 26 |
| 11 | 29 | Wednesday ..... | 26 | 27 |

The Gaekwar of Baroda left London on July 31 for Paris.

M. Constantin Constaninesco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, has arrived in London from Italy.

On July 26 the Crown Prince of Roumania left Tokyo for America.

M. Misu, the Roumanian Minister for Crown Lands, has arrived at Bucharest with his family from London.

The Madrid Press announces that King Alfonso will visit Tangier at the end of September. The news has not yet been officially confirmed.

Sir M. and Lady Afsur-ul-Mulk, who were received on July 23 by the King, have left London for Brighton, and will shortly return to India.

Mr. Mohammed Ali, Head of the Indian Caliphate Delegation, and Mr. Hayat, the Secretary, have had an audience of His Holiness the Pope.

Mr. Thomas Henry Stillingfleet Biddulph, C.I.E., of 8, Wynnstay Gardens, Kensington, W., formerly of 7, Nicholas Lane, E.C., left estate valued at £7,489.

M. Michel B. Boeresco, Minister Plenipotentiary of the King of Roumania, returned to London on July 31 from Bucharest and resumed his duties as Chargé d'Affaires at the Legation.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Times* reports that the American Presbyterian Board has decided to establish a university at Cairo, and has already secured a fine site for the building.

The Court of Appeal last Friday reversed the decision confiscating the English fortune of the ex-Tsar of Bulgaria. It was now held that this was his private property, and not property by reason of his sovereignty over Bulgaria.

Our Sofia Correspondent writes that M. Starcheff, the Director-General of Bulgarian Posts and Telegraphs, left Sofia on July 1 for Paris, to take part, as Bulgarian delegate, in the International Telegraphic and Postal Conference.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania, attended by an aide-de-camp, left London on July 28 for Paris on his way to Bucharest. Prince Bibesco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, and representatives from the Foreign Office were at Victoria Station to take leave.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place shortly, between Commander Sidney Beckwith Mainguy, M.V.O., Royal Navy, second son of the late Major-General F. B. Mainguy, Royal Engineers, and Mrs. Mainguy, of Les Roquettes, Guernsey, and Violet Kathleen Sybella, younger daughter of Major-General Edward Mockler, Indian Army (retired), and Mrs. Mockler, Rochford, Guernsey. Major-General Mockler was Consul-General at Baghdad from 1892 to 1897, and had held several political appointments before going there.

Our Sofia Correspondent writes (July 12).—"General Beard, the former chief of the British Military Mission in Bulgaria, has arrived from Italy, and has interviewed the War Minister, M. Stambolisky. He is now on his way to Egypt."

Prince Antoine Bibesco, the newly-appointed Roumanian Minister to Washington, and Princess Bibesco left London on July 31 for Lampston House, Winchester. It is understood that Prince Bibesco will go to Bucharest before proceeding to Washington.

The Rev. Charles Kent, the rector of Merton Rectory, Thetford, where Fitzgerald wrote much of his adaptation of Omar Khayyam's "Rubaiyat," has made a dramatised version of this poem, and it is to be performed in the rectory grounds on September 9. The part of the Poet-Astronomer will be taken by the Rev. Dr. Kirkby, of New College, Oxford, and H. H. Prince Duleep Singh will sing his part from Liza Lehmann's "In a Persian Garden."

On July 28, at the Wigmore Hall, under the auspices of the Union of East and West, the Indian Art and Dramatic Society presented five of Rabindranath Tagore's dramatic lyrics, "The Farewell Curse," "The Deserted Mother," "The Sinner," "Suttee," and "Mother's Prayer." The author himself began the entertainment by reciting a poem in the original Bengali, an invocation to the divine "Dispenser of India's destiny." Miss Alice Poomara also sang some songs.

The current *Quarterly Statement* of the Palestine Exploration Fund contains, in addition to the report of the annual general meeting of the society, an article by Dr. Frederick Bliss on "The Hopes for Palestine Exploration" and one on "The Jewish Inscription from 'Ain Duk," by Rabbi Marmorstein. The concluding portion of Miss Estelle Blyth's paper, "The Greek Easter at Jerusalem," is also given, and the "Notes and News" are varied and interesting. The society hopes to begin excavations at Ashkelon in the early autumn, and results of very great interest are expected.

A special service was held at the Greek Church of St. Sophia, Moscow Road, Bayswater, on Sunday morning, in celebration of the liberation of Adrianople and Thrace by the Greek Army. The Great Archimandrite, who officiated, was assisted by the Metropolitan of Demotika. At the conclusion of the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, a Te Deum was sung by the Greek choir. Prayers were offered for the King and Queen of England and the King of the Hellenes. The congregation included M. Demetrius Caclamanos, the Greek Minister; M. Spyridon Polychroniadis, First Secretary; Major Ambrosius Phrantzès, Military Attaché, Head of the Greek Military Mission, and Mme. Phrantzès; the *personnel* of the Legation, the staff of the Consulate, M. Calvoioressis, M. Agelasto, M. Psimenos, Dr. Lewis F. Mizzi, member of the Supreme Consular Court in Constantinople; Mme. P. Mavrogordato, Mme. Metaxas, and Mr. G. Hagopian, Chairman of the Armenian Patriotic Association.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Lieut.-General Sir C. W. Jacob has been appointed Chief of the Indian Army General Staff, in place of Lieut.-General Sir G. M. Kirkpatrick.

Sir Herbert Dering, K.C.M.G., M.V.O., British High Commissioner in Bulgaria, has been appointed His Majesty's Minister to Roumania. Sir Herbert Dering was only appointed to Sofia this year, and has had to wait for the ratification of the Bulgarian Treaty before being able to present his credentials as Minister Plenipotentiary. His early transfer will cause keen disappointment in Sofia, where both he and Lady Dering have already thrown themselves whole-heartedly into the life of the capital.

## OBITUARY.

### M. JEAN GHICA.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (July 20):—The death is announced of M. Jean Ghica, a prominent and much-respected member of the National-Liberal Party. M. Ghica was still in the prime of life, for he was not yet fifty years of age, and his loss will be much felt by his colleagues, as he was an extremely keen and energetic patriot. He is the author of a number of articles and pamphlets on the subject of the Roumanians of Transylvania, and for twenty-five years has been one of the most active members of his political party, and has held several important offices for them, including that of prefect of the district of Vlashca and deputy in the Chamber for that district.

A Reuter's message from Bermuda, dated July 30, reports:—"Vice-Admiral Sir Trevelyan D. W. Napier, K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief of the North America and West Indies stations, died at Admiralty House this morning of typhoid fever after a short illness." Admiral Napier, who was born in 1867, and entered the Navy in 1880, served in the Egyptian War of '82 on board the Minotaur. In the late war he took part in the Battle of Jutland, was in command of light cruiser squadrons from 1914 to 1917, and later was Vice-Admiral of the Light Cruiser Force.

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## TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

*The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—*

ROUMANIA (BRITISH RAILWAY MISSION). RUSSIA; Trade Union Leaders (Batoum).—Caucasus (Armenians).—British Prisoners (Baku). TURKEY: Greek Operations. MESOPOTAMIA: Arab Tribes. Revenue. INDIA: Newspapers, Burma (Government Support). (July 26.)

SYRIA: Frontiers.—Tyre (Customs).—Emir Feisul. LEAGUE OF NATIONS: Armenia. RUSSIA: British Prisoners (Baku). MESOPOTAMIA: British Troops (Health).—Military Operations.—Civil and Military Expenditure.—Persia (British Force).—INDIA: Central Labour Board, Madras. EASTERN PERSIA (British Forces). ADANA, CILICIA (SIEGE). GREEK ARMY (CYPRIOTE VOLUNTEERS). PEACE TREATIES: Akaba. PALESTINE: Nationalist Turks (Damascus).—Ottoman-born subjects (Nationality).—Arab Army (Recruiting).—Government of Damascus. INDIA: Punjab Disturbances (Firing). (July 27.)

MESOPOTAMIA: Occupation (Charges).—Oil. INDIA: Disturbances (Convictions).—Strikes (Military and Police Services).—Amritsar Disturbances.—Khalifate Agitation.—Auxiliary Force Bill.—Manual of Martial Law.—Indian Representation (African Colonies).—TURKEY: Greek Operations (British Naval Assistance). SYRIA: Southern Boundary.—Emir Faisal and Mustapha Kemal.—Damascus. PALESTINE. CEYLON (CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS). TRADE AND COMMERCE: Commercial Secretaries, Constantinople.—Roumania. INDIA: Punjab Disturbances (Inquiry). CHIMARRA. (July 28.)

## MONTENEGRO.

The Montenegrin Press Bureau in Rome has issued a report to the following effect:—

On July 18 an attempt to escape was made by some 250 Montenegrins imprisoned in Cettigne by the Serbian authorities. The prisoners overpowered their guards, but on troops being summoned to deal with the *émente*, ninety-seven were killed; the remainder escaped, and are said to have joined other insurgents in the mountains.

According to the *Mesaggero*, of Rome, the prison at Podgoritza was attacked by Montenegrins on July 24, and all the political prisoners were liberated. The tobacco factory used as the prison was set on fire.

## AFFAIRS IN SYRIA.

In a written answer to a question put by Mr. Ormsby Gore in regard to affairs in Syria, Mr. Bonar Law says:—

The Emil Faisal is reported to have left Damascus and proceeded to Deraa; it is understood that a new Syrian Ministry has been formed in Damascus. The French Government can in no case be responsible for these portions of Moab, Gilead, and the Hauran which lie south of the line separating the British from the French sphere in those regions. What will be the future relations between those districts and the Syrian Government at Damascus is a question on which I am not in a position to make a statement at present. The only representative of His Majesty's Government in occupied enemy territory since the withdrawal of British troops from that area has been the British *liaison* officer at Damascus, who was in that town at the time of the French occupation, and who is still there, and communicates freely with His Majesty's Government.

## THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL.

The Parliamentary correspondent of *The Times* writes:—Sir Ian Hamilton presided over a meeting of the Gallipoli War Memorial Committee at the House of Commons on July 28. Lord Wemyss, representing the Navy, and Sir Aylmer Hunter-Weston were also present. A sub-committee, after considering various possible sites, and keeping in view the fact that local memorials were contemplated at Anzac and Constantinople, reported that the most appropriate site was Cape Tekke Burnu, on the south-western point of the peninsula. The advantage of this site, which is strongly recommended by the Hydrographer-General to the Admiralty, is that the memorial will stand on high ground, and will be visible to ships entering the Straits. The meeting expressed approval of a design by Captain Douglas, R.N., who served in the Gallipoli Expedition, for a white marble obelisk, 67 ft. high, to be erected on Cape Tekke Burnu, but deferred coming to a final decision until the general policy of the Government with regard to the erection of war memorials at State expense has been announced.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

The town of Bucharest was mentioned in an Order of the Day which was issued by the Army authorities of July 28 for valour displayed by its inhabitants during the great war.

It is stated that the American cruiser St. Louis and six destroyers will be sent in a fortnight's time to reinforce the U.S. vessels now in Turkish waters.

The operations of the Salvation Army have recently been extended to the new Republic of Czecho-Slovakia, to Serbia, and East and West Africa.

## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

# WHERE TO STAY.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 1920.


## THE LAST OF THE TREATIES.

The Turkish Delegates have arrived at Versailles to sign the last of the Peace Treaties bringing the great war to a formal close almost exactly twenty-one months after the Mudros Armistice. It is useless now to inquire into the causes of the long delay which has allowed time for the forces of lawless resistance to recover from the first stunning effects of defeat, and organise and spread fresh havoc over large areas of the old Ottoman Empire. The Allied Powers have not, at any rate, allowed themselves to be deflected from their purpose. The retribution which has finally overtaken Turkey is undeniably stern. We set forth a few weeks ago the terms laid down by the Allies, and we need only recall them now quite briefly. With one reasonable modification, they have been rigidly maintained. Of the European Empire which fifty years ago extended to the Danube and the Adriatic, only Constantinople, with a few square miles of land behind it up to the Chatalja lines, is left to Turkey, and even within those narrow limits, the Sultan's authority is carefully circumbscribed by a variety of provisions. Over a special zone covering the waterways of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus and the Sea of Marmora and a considerable belt of land along their shores in Asia as well as in Europe, full control is to be exercised by an International Commission with its own flag, its own budget, and its own separate organisation. The original peace terms excluded Turkey from all participation in that Commission, but the final treaty has accorded to her the same representation on it as to other Balkan States directly interested in the navigation of those waterways. In Asia, Turkey not only surrenders all her Arab provinces, but specifically recognises the Hejaz as a free and independent State, though one of the Sultan's chief titles to the Khalifate is based upon his possession of Mecca and Medina, the two great shrines of Islam. In Asia Minor itself, Turkey agrees to the constitution of a free and independent State of Armenia, within boundaries to be determined by the President of the United States as arbiter, and of an autonomous Kurdish State, to the south of Armenia and east of the Euphrates, with eventual rights to complete independence. She also transfers to Greece the exercise of her rights of sovereignty over Smyrna and an important *hinterland*, and undertakes in advance to accept their ultimate incorporation in the Hellenic Kingdom, should the local Parliament, to be forthwith established, petition the League of Nations to that effect after a period of five years, and a plebiscite of the population endorse such petition. Even within the territories assigned to the new Turkish state, an elaborate system of financial and economic control to be exercised by the Powers and special safeguards for the civil and political rights of minorities as well as for religious equality provide against the revival of the accustomed forms of Turkish misrule, whilst the reduction of the Turkish army and the prohibition of any Turkish navy or air force in future are designed to eliminate all danger of Turkey again jeopardising the peace of the world.

To these terms the Sultan and his Ministers have now agreed. Any inclination there may still have been in some quarters to procrastinate very soon gave way to a reminder from the Powers that the preservation of the Sultan's authority in Constantinople itself was a concession which might be easily forfeited by recalcitrancy, whilst the rapid advance of the Greek Army, with the full sanction and authority of the Allies, first in Asia Minor and then in Eastern Thrace, showed how shallow were the forces of resistance that had responded to the rebellious call of Mustapha Kemal and his "Nationalist" followers. It is difficult to understand the scepticism which obtained even in some quarters in this country with regard to the ability of the Greek army to fulfil the task with which it was entrusted; for both in the Balkan wars, and in the last stages of the Salonika campaign during the great war the Greek troops had already abundantly shown their mettle, and M. Venizelos, whose commanding personality had stood out as conspicuously at the Paris Peace Conference as in the stormy days when he dragged his country out of the toils of Germany, would never have undertaken the task of enforcing the peace terms within the disputed areas, had he not been convinced that the Greek Army was fully equal to it. He was indeed better than his word. Within ten days of the commencement of operations the "Nationalist" bubble was pricked in the Smyrna area, and within five days in Eastern Thrace, where the Greeks were hailed as liberators from the oppression of Jaafer Tayar and the Greek flag was hoisted triumphantly at Adrianople, the first capital of the Ottoman Sultans in Europe before they conquered Constantinople. It is no doubt too much to hope that Turkish "Nationalism" will collapse at once in the more remote parts of Asia Minor, where it is in close touch with the kindred forces of Bolshevism, and it may yet, we fear, perpetrate many horrors before it is finally rooted out. But now that the Sultan has sanctioned the signature of peace, it assumes a form of open rebellion against his authority which must speedily alienate the lingering sympathy, if it has ever possessed it, of the Mohammedan populations.

The old Ottoman Empire has ceased to exist. From the Sultan and his Ministers, who have bowed to the inevitable with resignation and dignity, no one can withhold a tribute of respect and to some extent even of sympathy. For the Envers and the Talaats and most of the adventurers of the Committee of Union and Progress who staked the existence of their country on an utterly unprovoked war fled before the Armistice, and the miserable Sultan, who was but a half-witted puppet in their hands, passed away in the summer of 1918, when it was doubtless far too late for his brother and successor, the present Sultan, who reigns under the title of Mahomed VI., to arrest the impending catastrophe, even if, as there is some reason to believe, he had already realised the hopelessness and the folly of the struggle to which he found himself committed. Few if any of the present rulers of Turkey can be held to have been themselves responsible for the wanton adventure of which he has now had to pay the penalty. Yet the penalty is none the less deserved. For the Ottomans won their empire by the sword and the sword alone, and it is meet and fitting that they should have lost it by the sword. This is no figure of speech. If we look back upon the history of the Ottoman Empire, we see that its growth took place within roughly three centuries from the accession of Othman, the founder of the dynasty, to the death of Suleiman the Magnificent, and that during the whole of that period the wars of conquest on which the great Sultans were almost constantly engaged were with barely a single exception invariably victorious wars. The decline of the Ottoman Empire covers another three and a-half centuries, during which, under a succession of more or less degenerate Sultans, the Turks have almost as invariably suffered disastrous defeat, except on rare occasions when foreign powers intervened to help or to save them. Increasing inefficiency, corruption and oppression have no doubt contributed to the blunting of their sword, but, as they never sought any other sanction for their domination than that of the sword, it was doomed to perish when their sword failed them. That the Turkish race on the whole retained to the last much of its original fighting qualities was repeatedly shown during the great war, at Gallipoli, in Mesopotamia, and on many battlefields in Asia Minor. But in the hands of such men as Enver the Turkish sword was bound to fail. No one who reads, for instance, the dispassionate account which General Liman von Sanders has published of his five years in Turkey, from 1913 to the end of the war, can have any illusion as to the type of men who actually wielded the Ottoman sword during those years of destiny. In no period of Ottoman history can misrule

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have reached such a pitch of iniquity as during the war-time supremacy of the sinister junta of "Union and Progress" with Enver at its head. The American Relief Committees who have been at work all over Turkey since the Armistice believe that over a quarter of the whole population perished from war casualties, sickness, starvation and massacres. Can any sane person regret that the Turkish Treaty has wiped out an Empire which had sunk to such depths and has rendered any future attempt to revive it materially as well as morally inconceivable?

## BAKU: AN AMAZING CITY.

### By ERNEST BETTS.

Baku is a place where life is so constantly unsafe that people regard barbarism and bloodshed as part of the ordinary routine of existence. The present reign of terror instituted by the Bolshevists is not in the least a novelty, and can scarcely be disturbing to the heavy equanimity of this astonishing city. Revolution has permanent residence in Baku, whose history is one long story of confusion and feud. You have only to live there a month or two to discover that its prevailing elements are vodka and violence, conspiracy and incendiarism, racial hatred, and perpetual conflict. Under these conditions organised government is an impossibility. The only control that is understood is the control of industry, and as the passion for money-making is the dominant feature of life in Baku, it is only to this aspect of municipal activity that the inhabitants pay any real attention. Oil, and the profits to be derived from it, are the only things that matter, for it is common knowledge that Baku exists now, as it always has done, for the accumulation of enormous fortunes in the briefest possible time. This, indeed, is literally true. The working of the oil-fields, which began in 1871, and is mainly in the hands of Tartars, Swedes, and Armenians, represented in 1916 a capital investment of £30,000,000 to £40,000,000. In the town itself, however, oil is not to be seen, though the bulk of the working people are dependent on it for their maintenance.

The working people are as picturesque and villainous a set of ruffians as ever made up a mob. They are turbulent, primitive, vicious, and impulsive, and their leaders have the Oriental capacity for interminable controversy. The strain of depravity in this section of the community is, however, easily accounted for. Nobody could live long in the pernicious atmosphere of the Eastern Caucasus without becoming animal, rather than human, in character.

In December, 1918, during the British occupation, the intensest passions were aroused over conflicts between the operatives on the oilfields and the military. The workers were out to strike and destroy. We forbade it —with machine-guns. The Tartars were infuriated at a policy which did not include massacre as part of its programme; similar disgust animated the Armenians at our appropriation of the Baku-Batoum pipe-line; the Persians, Georgians, and Russians, though less hostile, were deeply suspicious of all our movements; and the English civil colony, small and powerless, but with a deep sense of its own superiority, deplored the good old days of prosperity and revelry, and predicted unparalleled calamity—unless "something happened." Something did happen. We disappeared.

But let us leave the inhabitants, and glance at the city itself. Baku lies under the heavy disadvantage of having become "civilised" too quickly. In rough outline it is quite shapeless, though this is due in great measure to the peculiar formation of the Apsheron peninsula on which it lies. Everywhere houses are packed together in squalor and deformity. With the exception of the Nikolaevskaya, with its magnificent golden-spired cathedral and quite respectable town hall, few of the streets are worthy of the name. Along this main thoroughfare there are mansions looking down on the sea which were once splendidly furnished, but have since had every room plundered and ruined by Turks or Bolshevists. Along the promenade are gardens and pavilions and avenues of electric light typical of our South Coast resorts of fashion. There is at least one first-class hotel—the Metropole—and several unutterable ones.

The general impression is one of steadily decaying magnificence, of wealth put to thoughtless purposes, of costly enterprise foolishly embarked upon—of a city without plan or purpose. And behind all this meaningless extravagance, like an approaching storm, is the blind wrath of conspiracy—of hate and high passion and vengeance constantly forcing an outlet. You cannot escape that sinister aspect of the city. Co-operative effort amid so much scheming, deception, and thorough depravity is not to be looked for.

At nightfall, however, Baku forgets the serious business of throat-cutting, to indulge in more artistic pleasures: the mantle of intrigue is thrown off; the Cossack with jewelled dagger and heavy, belted coat joins the fashionable Georgian in reckless carousal; revolver shots beat the rhythm to their songs, and the city has little sleep during these festivities. After all, vodka is cheap, and a bottle of wine but 300 roubles. In the restaurants the pallid, weary, humourless orchestras fiddle villainously till three in the morning. A vast crowd of over-jubilant officers and marvellously arrayed women assembles at the Casino for supper and the appalling variety entertainment which accompanies it. Supper is a feast of Elizabethan conviviality, for the Russian and his friends have thoroughly mastered the elaborate art of eating and drinking, and are never reluctant to show the unversed foreigner "how it is done."

From the upper windows of the big private houses in the residential quarter (an area it would be hard to define) come desolatingly sad Armenian songs, and the mad jingle of cymbals. Livelier entertainment is offered at the Mailoff Theatre, situated in a peculiarly forlorn part of the town, where Russian opera plays to a huge house every night. The performances are backed by "Society," but side by side with the perfume and jewels of aristocracy are lusty sailors of the Caspian "navy," unkempt clerks, poor cadets, porters in dusty attire, rough-coated labourers, sallow-faced Persians, and an indescribable rabble of others. During the intervals all mingle together in the *foyer*, and distinctions are swept aside in the hilarious amity that prevails. You pay about 4s. in the stalls and about 6d. in the gallery; and although I should not care to be rude to Covent Garden, the performance of "Tosca" which I saw in that Caucasian city put the London production entirely in the shade.

Now that Baku is out of British hands the Bolshevist capacity for terrorism has naturally widened its scope tenfold. A year ago life in the city was only tolerable because British authority promptly and impartially handcuffed the agents of revolution. Even then shooting and espionage were incessant. To-day the latest reports from the Caspian are woeful in the extreme; but whatever happens no spectacle can be too much for the inhabitant of Baku. He escapes or he meets death, and that is all. His is the charmed life of a city that has never known the meaning of peace, and by every portent will never be united enough to command it.

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## CHESS.

Solution to Problem 23.—1. P—Kt6; if 1 K—B3, 2 Kt—Kt4, mate; if 1 . . . K—B5, 2 B—K6, mate; if K—K5, 2 B x P, mate.

We are just coming to the end of the first period of inactivity in the chess year, and interest is now concentrating on the coming Congress at Edinburgh. The view widely taken seems to be that, while the entry for the championship does not reach the same general level of strength as in pre-war years, there should be an exceptionally fine contest for the title, given that Mr. H. E. Atkins and Sir G. A. Thomas both do justice to their reputations. Unfortunately, in a competition where there is some disparity in strength, as would appear to be the case in the present contest, the result may be of an unsatisfactory nature, as one mistake may be decisive.

As I said last week, I shall look to Mr. Atkins to regain his title, the reason why I think he will being that he is essentially a player who is capable of rising to the occasion, and he knows how to win his games. Sir George Thomas's strength lies in the inherent soundness of his play; but while he is almost unbeatable, it is not a supremely difficult matter to draw against him. That, I think, may prove the decisive factor.

Next week or the week after I shall be giving the first of a series of games played in this year's championship. In the meantime. I will add one more to the games at odds that have appeared in these columns by reproducing one of Morphy's from his match with "Alter," with a view to enabling those of my readers who take part in handicaps to see how the greatest chess player of all time faced the problem of giving the pawn and move.

Remove Black's KBP.

| White. "Alter." | Black. Morphy. | White. "Alter." | Black. Morphy. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 P—K4 | P—K3 | 25 R x R | Q x R |
| 2 P—Q4 | P—Q4 | 26 Q x B | P x P |
| 3 P—K5 | P—QB4 | 27 Q—B3 | R—K |
| 4 P—QB3 | Kt—QB3 | 28 Q x P | K—Kt2 |
| 5 Kt—B3 | Q—Kt3 | 29 Kt—B2 | Q—KKt4 |
| 6 B—Q3 | P—Kt3 | 30 R—Q (5) | R—K5 |
| 7 0—0 | B—Q2 | 31 Q—B3 | Q—B3 |
| 8 P—QR4 | P—QR4 | 32 Q - Q2 | Q—Q3 |
| 9 Kt—R3 | P—B5 (1) | 33 P—Kt3 | P—R4 |
| 10 B—B2 | Kt—R3 | 34 P—B3 | R—K2 |
| 11 Kt—QKt5 | Kt—B2 | 35 Q—KKt5 | Kt—K4 |
| 12 P—QKt3 (2) | P x P | 36 K—B2 | Kt x P (6) |
| 13 B x P | B—K2 | 37 K x Kt | Q—QB3 (ch) |
| 14 R—K (3) | 0—0 | 38 P—Q5 | R—B2 (ch) |
| 15 B x P | P x B | 39 K—Kt2 (7) | Q x Kt (ch) |
| 16 P—K6 | B—K | 40 R—Q2 | Q—K5 (ch) |
| 17 P x Kt (ch) | R x P | 41 K—R3 | Q—K8 |
| 18 B—Kt5 | B—Q2 | 42 P—Q6 | Q—B8 (ch) |
| 19 R—QKt | Q—Q | 43 K—KKt2 | R—Q2 |
| 20 B x B | R x B | 44 Q—K5 (ch) | Q—B3 |
| 21 Q—Kt3 | B—B4 | 45 Q—Kt2 | R x P (8) |
| 22 QR—B | B—Q6 | 46 Q x P (ch) | K—R3 |
| 23 Kt—R3 | B—K7 (4) | 47 Q—Kt5 | P—Kt4 |
| 24 P—B4 | B x Kt | | and wins. |

1. This move is not to be commended, for usually in these games Black's only opportunity of attack is though the open Q B file. P x P, and if 10 Kt x P, Kt x Kt, followed by R—B, is the proper mode of procedure. Still, Morphy was a law unto himself.

2. Kt—Kt5 would also be good.

3. P—QB4 should have been played. Then, after, P x P; 15 B x P with a strong game.

4. Giving White no rest.

5. Better would have been Kt—Kt3, effectually blocking the rook, and, at the same time, preparing the way for the advance of the pawn.

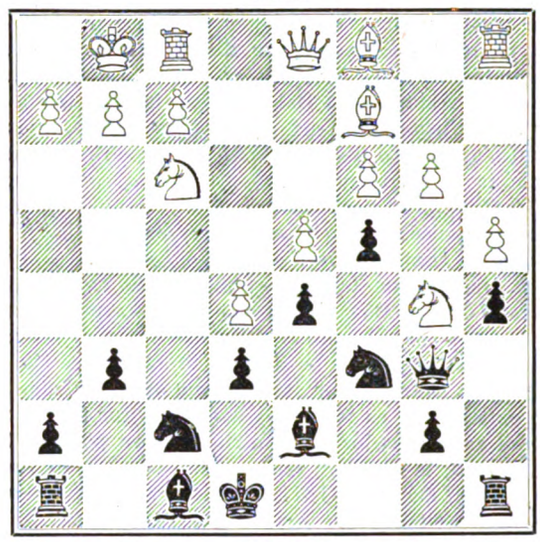
6. A very fine sacrifice.

7. K—K3 would have been no better. Black would still have taken the Kt, and then the rook would have had to be defended.

8. Obviously, if Q x Q, White would have had the superiority, for if, after 46 R x Q, R x P, then 47 R x P (ch), K—B3, and 48 R—Kt5, leaving Black with nothing better than R—R3.

Position after White's 12th move, P—QKt 3.

White.



Black.

According to a contemporary, Señor Capablanca hopes to bring about a match with Dr. Lasker for the world's championship, and is now on his way to Europe with that object in view.

Everyone would, of course, prefer to see the destination of the title settled over the board instead of by bequest, as it were, and it may be hoped that the Cuban's negotiations will be successful.

CARO-KANN.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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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Elsewhere in these columns will be found some further extracts from the report on conditions in Roumania of Mr. Adams dealing with the opportunities for the extension of British trade with that country. Attention is drawn to the scope that exists in taking over the trade that formerly fell to Germany and Austria, in which connection it is pointed out that one of the reasons for the development of the trade of these countries with Roumania was the willingness of German and Austrian houses to do business in small parcels. This class of trade is of considerable importance in Roumania, and it may be hoped, therefore, that British exporters will make an effort to cater for this market's requirements. "As a rule," says Mr. Adams, "British exporters doing a good business are slightly contemptuous of small parcels, and will not be bothered with them. In Roumania this point of view evinces a certain want of foresight and a lack of knowledge of the market's capabilities of expansion."

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Another important point raised by Mr. Adams is the question of quality. As he truly says, the word quality to the British mind usually connotes durability and reliability. Given quality in this sense, the average British manufacturer will be satisfied, overlooking the fact that the appearance of the goods is a matter of the first importance in persuading customers as to their quality. That is a matter to which our competitors have paid very close attention, and in so doing have undoubtedly gained at the expense of the British manufacturer. The Roumanian market, Mr. Adams points out, is one of those in which appearance matters, and it is from that point of view that the appeal must be made to the customer. "This means," he adds, "that of two articles in general use, the first being of superior quality according to the British idea and having a durability of, say, ten years, and the second having a superior appearance with a 'use lifetime' of, say, two years, the second article may meet with larger sales than the first."

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I wish to draw the attention of British manufacturers of agricultural machinery to the reference in the report on the economic and financial situation of Egypt in 1919 by Mr. E. H. Mulock, H.M. Commercial Agent at Cairo, to the opening for tractors in that country. Mr. Mulock states that motor tractors and tractor ploughs are badly needed owing to the scarcity and high prices of cattle, but he points out that "the policy adopted by the local agents or representatives of British manufacturers of holding sporadic demonstrations in the country districts is not conducive to bringing the machines in question to the notice of all the many farmers who are anxious to purchase." It is suggested that the tractors, etc., imported into Egypt should be tested and shown at work simultaneously on different soils in some central locality, in order that intending purchasers may be able to judge for themselves as to the capabilities of the rival machines on the market.

***

The progress made towards reconstruction in Roumania was emphasised by Lord Bessborough in his speech at the meeting of the Bank of Roumania. During the past year Roumania, he said, had passed through a difficult period, but very great progress was made despite the problem of higher prices, and the acute scarcity of labour. "In the reconstruction," he added, "the new provinces of Bessarabia, Transylvania, and the Bukovina each have taken their respective parts, Transylvania in particular, with her industries, contributing to an appreciable extent." Owing to local conditions, the development of the oil industry has not been as anticipated, and for the moment, Lord Bessborough pointed out, the production of cereals constitutes the country's chief resource.

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The movements of the Roumanian exchange in recent weeks have been rather striking. At one time the leu rose to about 120, but a retrograde process followed, and it is now back again in the region of 145. The exchange position is discussed this week by our Bucharest Correspondent, who states that the suggestion has been made that one main cause of the rise has been the development of a demand for Roumanian currency in France. A more important factor has unquestionably been the growing certainty that there will be an excellent harvest, while the restriction of imports has also assisted in this direction. The subsequent fall of the leu is to be attributed to increased activity on the part of importers. From what our correspondent says, it is evident that the new fall will not have created any surprise. The future course of the exchange is very uncertain. It is, however, clear that any great improvement in transport in the next few months would have a marked effect on the leu, for at present exports are curtailed by this factor.

***

One of the problems with which the traveller in the Balkans is confronted is the amount of currency, precious metals, etc., that may be carried over the various frontiers. It may, therefore, be useful to indicate the present position. As regards Bulgaria, the traveller is permitted to take across the frontier any amount in bank notes other than Bulgarian, the export of which is restricted to the value of 500 levas. There is no prohibition as regards personal ornaments; but, apart from these, gold and silver articles may not be exported. In the case of Roumania, travellers leaving the country may take with them one or other of the following:—1,000 lei, 1,000 francs, 1,000 lira, 1,000 marks, 1,000 drachmæ, 1,000 Polish marks 100 dollars, 100 Turkish liras, or £20 in sterling. Application for permission to export larger amounts has to be made to the Council on Exchange at Bucharest, whose decision, it is understood, will be given within five days.

***

The regulations in force in Yugoslavia are on much the same lines as those in Roumania. Travellers may take out of the country 1,000 francs, £30 in sterling, 100 dollars, 600 Swiss francs, 700 drachmæ, or 1,200 lira. In the event of a traveller being in possession of several currencies, the amount exported must not exceed 1,000 French francs. The export of gold, notes of the National Bank of Serbia, notes of the Austro-Hungarian bank bearing the Government stamp, and silver currency (beyond five dinars) is totally prohibited, while import restrictions are placed upon Austro-Hungarian and Bulgarian notes

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A recent report gives a very unfavourable picture of the agricultural position in Algeria. In the spring adequate rain fell in that region, and there were hopes of an excellent harvest. Unfortunately, a prolonged period of drought ensued, with the result that crops were seriously affected, the wheat crop, in particular, suffering severely. Last year Algeria was able to export 650,000 tons of wheat, but it has now become necessary to import it. The vineyards at the date of the report were promising, but in their case also there was reason to fear the effects of the prolonged drought.

COMMENTATOR.


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# Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, July 22.

### Economic Prosperity.

Much has been said and written regarding Egypt's economic prosperity. Now, figures talk; and the figures of the foreign trade of this country for May last speak most eloquently. The total imports for the month are estimated at £E7,700,904, and the exports at £E5,224,294. At first glance this may infer an unfavourable balance of trade, and if these figures conveyed the respective annual averages there would be an unfavourable balance of trade. But it must be remembered that there is now but little cotton, if any, being exported. Furthermore, when we take the figures for January to May, inclusive, we get a totally different result. These figures are:—Imports for the first five months of the year, £E36,692,445; exports, £E60,979,887. Both of these sets of figures make most interesting comparisons with those of similar periods of last year. For May last year imports were valued at £E3,924,993, and exports at £E3,470,320. For the first five months of last year imports were estimated to be worth £E16,265,604, and exports were valued at £E20,921,340. In other words, the value of imports into Egypt for the first five months of this year has increased by 125 per cent. over those of last year, while the respective estimates of the two total values of exports for the same comparative periods show that exports this year were more than 200 per cent. in excess of last year. True it is that goods brought in were dearer in some cases this year than last. But they were not 200 per cent. dearer, or anything like it. The figures are proof positive, if figures can prove anything, that this country's economic prosperity has an increasingly solid basis.

For the first five months of this year Egypt imported goods worth £E3,931,444 from Great Britain, against £E1,773,205 in 1919. This indicates the continued and increasing demand for British goods in this country.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, July 17.

### Trade in 1919.

According to statistics of the Ministry of National Economy the total foreign trade of Greece during the first six months of 1919 amounted to 953,966,635 drachmæ, the imports representing 645,902,773 drachmæ, and the exports 308,063,762 drachmæ. These amounts were distributed as follows:—

Imports:—Great Britain 160,599,924 drs., United States 145,096,219 drs., Italy 70,870,159 drs., France 52,642,390 drs., Spain 46,740,385 drs., Egypt 43,187,465 drs., Turkey 19,586,812 drs., Sweden 6,010,599 drs., Yugoslavia 5,610,596 drs., Switzerland 5,184,725 drs., Holland 2,337,648 drs., Russia 734,946 drs., Bulgaria 672,120 drs., and Roumania 523,908 drs. The balance, representing about 90,000,000 drs., was distributed amongst various other countries.

Exports:—Great Britain 79,940,672 drs., United States 40,944,667 drs., Turkey 39,569,449 drs., Roumania 39,314,443 drs., Yugoslavia 29,190,423 drs., France 18,344,491 drs., Holland 17,140,940 drs., Egypt 13,531,418 drs., Russia 8,094,581 drs., Sweden 2,565,823 drs., Bulgaria 2,119,005 drs., Norway 821,536 drs., etc.

The total foreign trade with each of the principal countries has, therefore, been as follows: Great Britain 240,540,596 drs., United States 186,040,886 drs., Italy 81,662,749 drs., France 70,986,883 drs., Turkey 59,156,261 drs. Egypt 56,718,983 drs., Roumania 39,838,351 drs., and Yugoslavia 34,801,019 drs.

### Customs Receipts.

The receipts of the Piræus Customs during the month of June amounted to 5,396,798.90 drs. in paper and 238,949.40 drs. in gold, as against 5,000,098.55 paper drs. and 256,161.05 drs. in gold, which were the receipts for June, 1919. There is, therefore, an increase this year of 396,700.35 paper drs. and a decrease of 17,211.65 drs. in gold.

The total receipts during the first six months of 1920 amounted to 33,477,823.50 paper drs. and 2,582,881.70 drs. in gold, as against 22,770,515.60 paper drs. and 2,150,759.65 drs. in gold collected during the first six months of 1919. There is an increase, therefore, during this year of 10,707,307.90 paper drs. and 432,122.05 drs. in gold.

### Shipping at the Piræus.

There were 418 arrivals of various steamers in the port of Piræus during June, of the following nationalities:—Greek 338, British 21, Italian 21, Inter-Allied 13, French six, American five, Roumanian four, Swedish three, Russian three, Japanese one, Dutch one, German one, Norwegian one. The number of sailing vessels of various nationalities which entered the port during June was 732.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, July 20.

### The Exchange.

It is difficult to account for the sudden rise in the value of the leu, which is still round 130 to the £1. In November last year it stood at 98, and fell rapidly for the next four months far beyond the expectations even of the most pessimistic. Many people, including bankers and experienced business men, bought lei at 120, thinking it had then reached its limit, but it continued to fall down to 300 at the end of March. In April it went up again to 260/280, and in May and June it rose rapidly and reached the present figure this month.

It is suggested that one main cause lay in the fact that a number of Roumanian banks largely increased their capital in the first quarter of the year, most of this increase being subscribed from France in lei, thus creating a demand for the Roumanian currency on the Paris market. Besides this, great hopes were entertained of the favourable conditions that would be introduced by a new and stable Government, the reports of the coming harvest have been excellent, so that some export of last year's cereal crops has begun to be allowed by the Committee for the Control of Export, while, on the other hand, nothing has lately been imported, so that there has been no demand for foreign currency. It is now suggested that, as the country certainly cannot re-establish her industries without importing machinery and other requisites, the national currency may soon fall again, to some extent, though not so far as before, and may then remain more or less stabilised for some time. But who can tell what influences may affect it in the future? At all events it is the case that several merchants are taking advantage of the present low rate, and are now making purchases abroad.

Particulars of the export of petroleum and petroleum products for the first five months of this year have now been published. The following is a short *résumé*, the figures representing tons:—

| | Benzine. Light. | Benzine. Heavy. | Lamp Oil. | Gas Oil. | Residues |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| January... | 75 | — | 7,159 | 500 | 3,500 |
| February. | 1,572 | 804 | 13,438 | 610 | 250 |
| March..... | 250 | 700 | 3,448 | 880 | — |
| April ..... | 4,060 | 1,050 | 5,867 | 1,961 | 150 |
| May ..... | 1,908 | — | 3,467 | 500 | — |
| Total ..... | 7,865 | 2,554 | 33,379 | 4,451 | 3,900 |

A large proportion of the lamp-oil has gone to Egypt from Constantza, but most of the other deliveries have been made by way of the Danube or overland to Czecho-Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Austria, and Bulgaria, while 3,500 tons of residues went to Fiume from Giurgevo in January, doubtless in fulfilment of the Government contract to supply an Italian factory there.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, July 5.

### The Chambers of Commerce.

On June 27 the Chambers of Commerce in Bulgaria celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of their establishment. The commemoration opened with a service, at which the "Te Deum" was sung, after which M. Karadjoff, the president of the Sofia Chamber of Commerce, gave a detailed survey of the development and activities of the Chambers. He called attention to the great work of the Chambers at the present time, and pointed out that it was a pledge for the part which these institutions would play in the future in the economic life of the country. The Minister for Commerce, Industry, and Labour, Dr. Raiko Daskaloff, then addressed the gathering, pointing out how indispensable the profession of commerce was in this era, and emphasising the service it rendered to the State by finding markets and thus stimulating production. Other speakers included the president of the Economic Society. The celebrations were concluded by a banquet at the Grand Hotel de Bulgarie.

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## CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, July 6.

**Exports of Fruit.**

There have already been some good shipments of fruit to Egypt, and these should be largely exceeded in the coming months. Cyprus cherries are of good quality, and these are succeeded by other kinds of fruits, including apricots and *kaishas* (which suggest a cross between apricot and nectarine) and plums—all of which find a ready sale at Port Said and Alexandria.

**Vine Cultivation.**

Peasants are now enjoying an annual season of comparative ease, enlivened by many summer fairs, which it is hoped no fresh epidemic will interfere with this year, as it did last. The next large operation is the gathering of carobs in the latter part of August, and good hopes are entertained regarding it. This is succeeded by the vintage (not to mention the olive crop), which means so much for hill villages.

The great fall in wine prices, which has disappointed villagers, might have been anticipated. But although the diminished consumption in Europe and America may adversely affect many markets, it is hoped that prices will rise again in the principal Levantine countries, especially Egypt, and a considerable extension of vine cultivation marks the confidence of the village manufacturers. The demand for Cyprus raisins should be maintained, if not increased. It is a very great pity that there should be so many wasted opportunities in the island. An improvement in the preparation of raisins would now assuredly bring about good sales in the United Kingdom. But the fact remains that while the Government cannot, or will not, take the lead, the nature of our tenure still prevents private enterprise from outside, which could do so much for all products of the vine. Knowledge and capital only are needed, and Cypriots have not sufficient of either the one or the other, while enterprise is still sadly lacking.

## EGYPTIAN COTTON.

### REPORT ON ITS YIELD AND QUALITY.—I.

(FROM OUR CAIRO CORRESPONDENT.)

Before the Cotton Research Board embarked upon the extended programme of botanical work for which provision has been made by the Egyptian Government it was deemed desirable to have the whole situation reviewed by an expert on cotton from the botanical side, and the services of Mr. Martin H. Leake (lately Economic Botanist and now Director of Agriculture in the United Provinces of India), who has had a long experience in the breeding of cotton, and who is recognised as one of the foremost authorities on the subject, were secured for the task. Mr. Leake has now published a report, based on an able and exhaustive study of the cotton of all grades in Egypt.

Referring to the botanical side of the question, Mr. Leake says that selection requires to be conducted on two independent lines, and work along both of these should be conducted simultaneously. In the first place—and this forms the most important need—selection should be directed to isolating and maintaining the purity of races yielding the standard classes of the present day. Such selection forms the basis of any scheme which aims at eliminating degeneration, which, in its ultimate form, is interpreted as due to an inherent plant character giving to the type a limited span of life. Secondly, selection must be directed to the discovery and isolation of new and hitherto unrecognised types, particularly for such varieties as develop improved lint, a higher ginning percentage, and a vigorous habit accompanied by high yield or early maturation. Such investigation, of course, comes within the jurisdiction of the Cotton Research Board.

Mr. Leake sketches eight lines upon which the Cotton Research Board should work. He suggests trial grounds for the working-up of a pure seed supply, cultural and manurial experiments, and experiments on the water requirements of the field crop; a commercial organisation to control the seed and to prevent admixture after the seed passes beyond Ministerial control; mycological investigation, contending there is a large scope for it; bacteriological investigation, as little work has been done on bacterial action on the soils in Egypt, and as the field is large, important, and practically unexplored, such investigation must be of considerable magnitude, and, if controlled, capable of exerting considerable influence on crop development; physical research, as, concerning as it does the relation between the level of the sub-soil water (water table) and the rise of the Nile, it is closely connected with the irrigation system, and, by controlling the tension flow through cultural means, irrigation could be much reduced in tracts in which the presence of salts is not marked.

Mr. Leake holds that these lines of research, based upon the commonly accepted divisions of science, cover the field presented by the cotton problem in Egypt. He emphasises that the close interrelation between them necessitates care for preserving full continuity from one stage to the next, and he lays stress on the importance of the Cotton Research Board paying strict attention to this.

The work of the botanical section will be, primarily, the isolation of the different kinds of cotton in a condition of purity. Subsequently small cultures should be grown comparatively under differing environmental conditions—for obvious reasons of research. Cultural experiments in the fields should only include those varieties which have proved satisfactory in the foregoing experiment. When the results of these experiments have yielded the most suitable varieties, arrangements should be made to secure the bulk development of a pure seed supply, and eventually the organisation of a seed supply sufficient to meet the full needs of the tract. For the purposes of these experiments a research farm will be necessary.

So far Mr. Leake has only outlined the experimental stage. Thence he proceeds to the practical issues. The agricultural section should also be provided with a farm, to be called the experimental farm. The agricultural section, having become familiar with the results of the botanical section, will make further experiments, and finally ultimate selection as to which varieties, or races, as Mr. Leake prefers to call them, are to be continued and those which are to be disregarded will rest jointly with the botanical and agricultural officers.

The seed farms, he continues, cannot be so readily allocated. Their primary function is to work up a stock of pure seed, and for this purpose botanical control and examination are desirable. But the difficulty of centralising these areas here arises; and Mr. Leake suggests that the seed farm nearest to headquarters should be under the botanical section and the rest under the respective district agricultural officers.

From the seed farm the seed should be issued to the cultivator, using that term in its widest sense. This is the first place where the public comes into actual contact with the scheme. But Mr. Leake emphasises that only those cultivators who take a personal interest in their estates should receive the seed. It would be futile to go to all this trouble only to issue the seed to a cultivator who, either through ignorance or carelessness, would allow the seed to become mixed with others the impurity of which was the very disadvantage which the experimental work had been intended to eliminate.

Mr. Leake, in the latter part of his booklet, propounds a scheme for the control of the seed subsequent to its issue to the public. It is a comprehensive scheme, worthy of study in itself. I therefore propose to discontinue the summary of his booklet at this stage, and in my next article to review the method which he proposes to ensure the further control and multiplication of that seed.

The receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended July 17 amounted to £7,399.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended July 10 amounted to £E12,793, making the total for the year £E116,137. The figures for the corresponding periods of 1919 were £E9,474 and £E47,851.

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# BRITISH CONSULAR REPORTS.

## II.—ROUMANIA (*Continued*).

The point is emphasised by Mr. Adams that in nearly every branch of business with Roumania there are opportunities for the extension of British trade. These opportunities, he remarks, are not necessarily dependent on an increase of total trade in any one line, but exist in the possible taking over of German and Austrian trade by British exporters. One reason for the predominance of German and Austrian houses before the war was their willingness to do business in smaller parcels than British exporters as a rule care to handle.

"This point is of great importance in trade with a country in the economic and social state of Roumania at the present day. As a rule, British exporters doing a good business are slightly contemptuous of small parcels and will not be bothered with them. In Roumania this point of view shows a certain want of foresight and a lack of knowledge of the market's capabilities of expansion.

"The total import trade of Roumania in 1912 was about 25½ millions sterling, and it may be expected that with the accession of the new Provinces this amount will be increased to double or more than double. British houses possessing an organisation in this country will benefit greatly thereby, and others should think seriously of entering the Roumanian market now during the period before the reconstruction of the industrial parts of Germany and Austria shall have progressed to such an extent as to make them once more possible competitors for a portion of Roumania's import trade. Firms establishing themselves now will grow with the market as well as aiding in the capture of that portion of the trade formerly held by Germany. British exporters should devote a certain amount of consideration even to small parcels, having in mind that they are but the precursors of the larger business which will follow in their train relatively with the economic growth of the country and its future greater social diversity. That this is true is shown by the figures of the import trade for the ten to fifteen years before the War, which show an increasing and progressive vitality each year.

"The fact is appreciated that small business means more work for the head of the firm, or his chiefs in the organisation, and this appears to be the real objection to its cultivation; but in the case of Roumania the future rewards are so great that the objection should not be allowed to exercise the weight it does. A good deal of the attention necessary to small business may be put on to the shoulders of a resident agent, or effected by an adequate territorial organisation in methods of trading.

"In cases where the amount of business done warrants the overhead expenditure, it is preferable that British exporting firms open a branch house in Roumania, the organisation of which could proceed either along the lines of the ordinary branch abroad, or could consist of a separate joint stock company formed under Roumanian law and figuring legally *vis-à-vis* the owning and controlling parent company as an independent concern. This course would avoid the requirements of the Roumanian law regarding the registration for business in this country of branches of British firms or joint stock companies, and proper safeguards for the conduct of the business in Roumania are available in the nomination of the directors of the local company. British commercial reputation stands high in Roumania, and business houses will find it to their advantage to have their own establishments in Roumania run by an Englishman, even in cases where the manager has had no previous experience of this country."

Mr. Adams proceeds to draw attention to two further points in regard to the marketing of British goods—(1) Consistent and continuous calling on the trade, and (2) the question of quality. As to the former, he says:—

"In cases where a national territorial organisation is adopted for conducting sales in this market, it is presumed that this organisation would have its own travellers, who would do their work thoroughly and efficiently from this end, but should the organisation take the form of a resident agent, it is advisable to supplement his efforts with those of special representatives of the firm sent from England at the selling seasons of the year. These men would not only encourage the agent in his activities, but, where necessary, could check his sales and his methods of giving credit to suit the plans and ideas of their chiefs."

In the era of great expansion of British foreign trade the reputation of the goods supplied, he points out, was built up on the British idea of quality. "This idea, however, overlooked full appreciation of the power of *appearance* of the goods in *influencing the purchaser's opinion* as to the quality of the goods. The idea of quality in the British mind often seems to be confined to durability and reliability in use. Our international competitors diagnosed this as one of the most vulnerable points of attack for competitive purposes, and in certain branches of trade have almost confined their efforts to pleasing the eye of the purchaser in the appearance of the finished goods, or, in the case of food products, in the appearance of the package, or packing of the goods. This question of the appearance of the finished article, arising in the foreign trade of all countries, has been frequently dealt with in official reports, and experience in selling goods proves the importance of this factor. British firms wishing to sell goods in Roumania must appeal to the consumer from the point of view of appearance. This means that of two articles in general use, the first being of superior quality according to the British idea, and having a durability of, say, ten years, and the second having a superior appearance with a "use lifetime" of, say, two years, the second article may meet with larger sales than the first."

## TANGIER—TETUAN ROUTE.

Direct communication between Tangier and Tetuan was finally established on July 1, when the Compania Espanola de Colonizacion, the concessionnaires for the service, despatched the first motor-car over their newly-constructed track. Thus the double crossing of the Straits of Gibraltar via Algeciras and Ceuta, a roundabout route which has been necessary since 1913, is at last obviated. A daily road service will be maintained for the present by four-seater motor-cars, the single journey costing fifty pesetas Spanish, but it is hoped to replace these by twelve-seater motor buses and reduce the fare to twenty-five pesetas. It was necessary to build several wooden bridges in the making of the track, which runs through some thirty miles of wild open country.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

This week's Indian cable states:—Rain has fallen fairly generally throughout except in North-Western India, Assam, and east coast of Madras, where fall was local. Crop conditions generally good, but more rain required in some parts. Bombay cotton market weak. Fully good broach, July-August, Rs. 421. Piece-goods market steady owing to good retail inquiry. Enormous loss caused by fire on July 22 in Mulji Jetha piece-goods market, Bombay. Must affect trade. Calcutta jute market steady, with little doing. Heavy goods quiet. Hessians very quiet, with slight decline in price. No change in bank rates.


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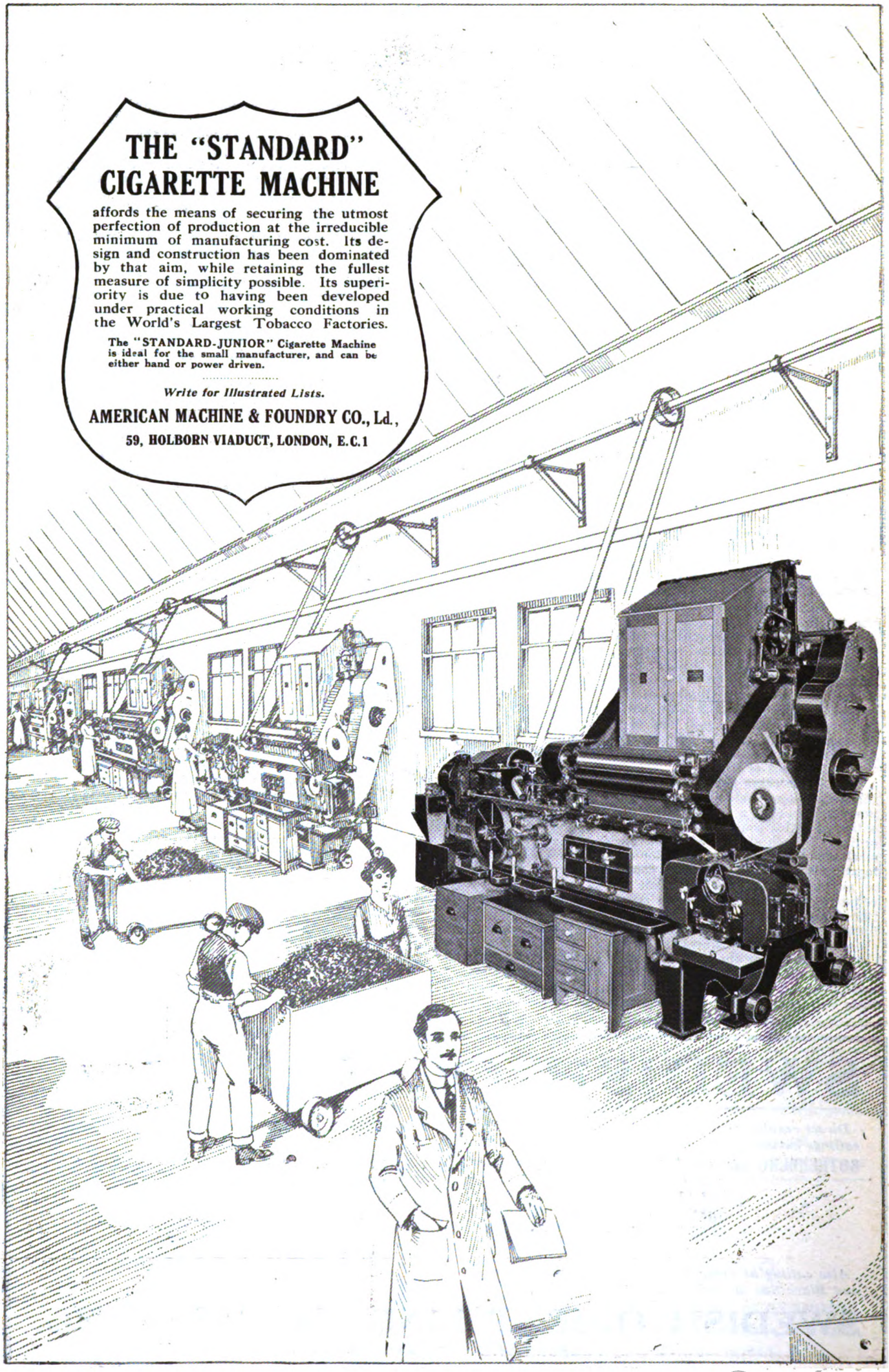


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# ENGINEERING.

### New Gas-filled Lamps.

It will be remembered that the first commercially usable Mazda gas-filled electric lamps were produced in 1914, after many years of costly research and experiment. The development of the lamp, though not speedy, was thorough, and the lamps were at once a striking success. From that day onward the engineers and chemists engaged in incandescent lamp research work have continued their labours with redoubled energy, realising that the discovery of the gas-filled principle was merely the starting point of a new line of development, the end of which was not in sight but which would have a great and far-reaching effect on the electrical industry of the country.

### Lighting Economy.

From every point of view the new gas-filled lamps are strikingly efficient and economical, and it may be said at once that there is no other known illuminant which can compare with them in certain most important respects. From a hygienic point of view alone it would seem evident that an artificial light which is produced in a sealed glass vessel from which no products of combustion can escape into the atmosphere must be more health preserving than one which gives off vitiated gases, partially consumed hydrocarbons, and which uses up the oxygen in the air. The cleanliness of a light which gives off no semi-burned particles of carbon to cause dust and dirt is so obvious as hardly to need mention, and further advantages of electricity as an illuminant are the ease with which it can be controlled, the simplicity with which it can be installed in any position and room, and the fact that electric lamps practically do away with every risk of fire.

### Small Lamps Obtainable.

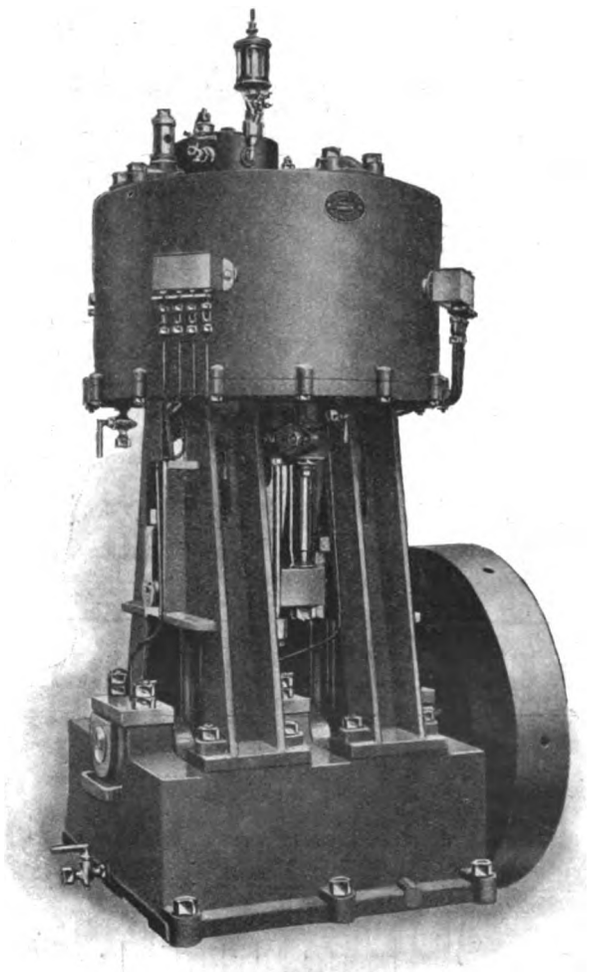
At the commencement gas-filled lamps for 100 and 200-volt circuits could only be manufactured in comparatively large sizes, consuming 500 watts and upwards. These powerful and highly efficient light-giving units represented a very great advance, it is true, but obviously they were more suited to business premises than for domestic use. Shopkeepers could use them to great advantage, and for the lighting of retail stores these lamps rapidly came into favour. In large offices, public halls, for street lighting, and for places of worship, and for the lighting of large open spaces, these lamps, almost at once, began to displace the ordinary lamp, but householders, tenants of small offices, and occupiers of small premises derived no benefit from their introduction, in that the only available sizes of lamp were too large and powerful for their requirements.

With the subsequent development of the 100-watt lamp for use on 200-volt circuits, and of the 200-watt lamp for use on circuits of 100 volts, an enormous impetus was given to the new form of electric lighting. These new lamps could be used in shops of any size and kind and in the larger rooms of private houses. Still, however, there remained many conditions in which gas-filled lamps could not be suitably employed. The successful productions, announced a few weeks ago, of a 40-watt lamp for use on 100-130-volt circuits and of a 60-watt lamp for use on circuits of from 200 to 220, or even 250 volts, has already resulted in extraordinarily heavy sales amongst householders, and now innumerable people who have not hitherto been able to take full advantage of the extremely high efficiency of the gas-filled lamp can use them in places where they have hitherto been obliged to use electric lamps of a less economical type. Apart from cellars, passages, and other places where a strictly dim or local illumination only is desirable, there seems now to be no single domestic, public, commercial, or industrial condition to which the gas-filled lamp cannot be both appropriately and conveniently applied, with striking results from the point of view of economy.

The new Mazda lamps have filaments of the ring-type, and can be used in any position, and an added convenience is that they are fitted with caps which enable them to be used in any existing lampholder. The approximate overall dimensions of the 40-watt, 100-volt lamp are: Diameter $2\frac{3}{8}$ ins., length $4\frac{3}{4}$ ins. The 60-watt, 200-220-volt type are $2\frac{3}{4}$ ins. in diameter and have an overall length of $5\frac{3}{8}$ ins.

### High-Pressure Compressing.

One of the directions in which remarkable development has been made of late is in connection with the production of high pressures which may be applied to liquids in a gaseous form. It goes without saying that the manufacture of high-pressure compressors for air and gas of various descriptions is one that cannot be brought to a successful issue without a wide knowledge of the conditions to be met and a long experience in the difficulties to be overcome.



**Open-Type High-Pressure Compressor, by Peter Brotherhood, Ltd.**

The high-pressure compressor, which has now reached so high a stage of efficiency, was called into request mainly by the introduction of the automobile torpedo some forty or fifty years ago. It may be mentioned here that by the term "high pressure" is meant a working pressure of about 1,000 lb. per square inch or more, and, as will readily be realised, the construction of machines to compress up to such enormous pressures differs very greatly from that of machines for what may be termed ordinary compressed air pressure of up to 200 lb. per square inch. In the first place, as Messrs. Peter Brotherhood, Ltd., pointed out recently to the writer, compression in a number of stages is a necessity both from the point of view of economy and of safety, and in standard type of that firm's machines up to six stages are employed according to the working pressure.

By multiplication of the stages of compression and complete inter-cooling of the air between each stage, the highest possible economy is reached, and all danger of ignition of

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any of the oil used is avoided. Further, the number of joints exposed to the air pressure is small, and where joints are unavoidable a perfectly clean metal to metal surface is made, and no jointing material is used. The whole of the pump itself is of bronze, which is of great strength and non-corrodable, except for use with acetylene and other gases which would attack copper and its alloys. In a further note on this subject I hope to be able to deal more fully with high-pressure compressors of this type in view of the important part they are now playing, and are likely to continue to play in modern engineering and industrial practice.

**The Ljungstrom Turbine.**

It is claimed that the Ljungstrom turbine, which is now being manufactured in this country, represents in its improved form the most important advance in the direction of improved efficiency that has been made in connection with prime movers since the introduction of the turbine. The Brush Electrical Engineering Co., Ltd., who are now engaged in producing these turbines at their works at Loughborough, commenced production during 1913, and during the war a number of orders were given for sets by various Government departments. These appear to have been even more successful than the majority of engineers anticipated, and the proof of their growing popularity is shown by the fact that the total capacity of plants of this type at present in service or on order is close upon 600,000 horse-power. These orders include a number of repeat orders from municipal power-stations and private concerns where this type of turbine has been employed for some little time in driving both continuous and alternating current generators producing electrical energy for lighting, power, and traction purposes.

The Brush-Ljungstrom turbo-generators are standardised at 1,000, 1,500, 3,000, and 5,000 kilowatts and a 7,000 kilowatt size is at present in operation in a large and important undertaking. I understand that two larger sets, rated at 14,000 and 35,000 kilowatts respectively, are under construction, and in regard to this I may add that I believe the latter size is, or is close to, the recognised economic limit for this class of prime mover.

**Some Details.**

Designers of turbines of the steam type were hampered for some time by the fact that the centrifugal force generated by the moving parts was so high as to render it impossible to permit of the turbine blades revolving at the speed which it would have been sound engineering practice, otherwise, to have reached. The Ljungstrom principle was recognised as a practical way out of the difficulty, and by its adoption it was possible to double the speed of the blades in relation to each other without actually increasing the running speed of the parts. The ordinary turbine was fitted, as every engineer knows, with one set of moving and one set of fixed blades. In the new turbine the fixed blades are replaced by blades which rotate in an opposite direction to the outer set of moving blades, and it is possible, accordingly, to secure the efficiency and economy of 6,000 revolutions at an actual running speed of half that number. Further, the new turbine is much lighter than the ordinary type, power capacity being equal, and it is possible as a result to mount it directly on top of the steam condenser which rests on a comparatively light and simple foundation. In this way a considerable saving in floor space is obtained, and it is obvious that this is in itself a particularly valuable feature.

The proposals made for the generation of electric power in bulk, and the suggestions that wherever possible cheap and abundant supplies of electrical energy should be produced for use in industry, should increase the demand for electrical equipment generally. Not only will turbines be required, but as most, if not all, of the big power supply stations will be turning out alternating current at high pressures, transformers of many kinds will be in demand. I hear that the works of the Brush Co. are being extended in order to cope with increasing business in transformers and motors, as well as to enable extensions to be made in the present big business of building railway and tramway rolling-stock and bodies for motor-omnibuses.

**The Uniflow Engine.**

This engine certainly represents the latest development in high-class practice, and has given some remarkable results on test. The advantage of an engine of this type, as com-


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pared with those built according to the usual methods, is that the clearance spaces in the cylinders are not reduced in temperature, because the steam is compelled to flow in one direction only. This means considerable economy in working, and the efficiency of a single cylinder engine of this type is quite equal to that of an ordinary engine of the triple-expansion type.

## NEAR EAST MARKETS.

### Sudan Produce.

Some further extracts from the C.E.B. report for May are given below :—

**Wheat.**

Dongola Province.—The Inspector of Agriculture of Nuri and Gureir pumping sites reports that the yield of wheat crops has proved to be rather better than anticipated (5 ardebs the feddan), and that several plots have yielded up to 6½ ardebs the feddan.

Darfur Province.—April. The average price of wheat in Fasher market during the month was £E1,800 per ardeb.

**Sesame.**

Kordofan Province.—208 ardebs of sesame were sold in El Obeid market at an average price of £E5,200 per ardeb of 330 rottles (148 kilos).

Kassala Province.—Market prices per ardeb of 300 rottles (135 kilos) Gedaref £E4,500, Mafaza £E3,960.

Nuba Mountains Province.—April. The Kadugli merchants have been exporting a fair quantity of sesame from the Krongo hills, etc., during the month on camel. Camel rates of hire have been high. Merchants have likewise been exporting from the Kowahila country both dura and sesame, via Kaka and Rahad.

**Ground Nuts and Tobacco.**

Kordofan Province.—117 ardebs of ground nuts were sold in El Obeid market at an average price of £E2,800 per ardeb of 280 rottles (126 kilos).

Darfur Province.—April. 353 kantars of tobacco were sold in Fasher market during the month.

**Livestock.**

Red Sea Province.—64 cattle and 54 sheep were exported during the month.

Berber Province.—2,495 sheep and 172 cattle were exported from Damer during the month.


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## LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Thursday.

No particular development can be recorded in trade in the market, and the tone continues quieter. Undoubtedly quite a change has come over buyers since a fortnight ago, and there is again distrust of current rates. Private and public telegrams relating to the Egyptian cotton crop are very satisfactory. Lancashire spinners, however, are rather concerned at the probable smaller supply of Sakellaridis, and some firms are wondering how they will go on in the future. In yarns made from Egyptian cotton buying has been very patchy, and now and again fair orders have been booked, but there has not been any general flow of business. In most counts and qualities, to buy raw cotton to-day and produce yarn is a very lean affair. The demand in piece goods for the Near East has not improved, and shippers are still adopting a waiting policy. The political outlook abroad causes nervousness, and there is a disposition to limit commitments. A considerable inquiry has been met with in piece goods for India, and a fair turnover has taken place in bleaching and printing descriptions, but grey staples are still neglected, although makers are prepared to accept less money. Useful support has been given in a variety of goods by buyers for South America. The home trade has been quiet. Cloth quotations continue to show wide variation. A distinct falling off has occurred in the turnover in home American yarns. Export bundles have been in fair request for India, and a little more business has been about for France.

## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

### Forthcoming Sailings.

The Cunard Line s.s. Sea Victory, for Pirœus, Salonika, Constantinople and Galatz, will close for cargo at Antwerp on August 18, and in London on August 25.

The Ellerman Line s.s. Asturian, for Gibraltar, Malta, Syra, Smyrna and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on August 21.

The Moss Line s.s. Amasis, for Gibraltar, Malta, Syra, Smyrna and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on August 20.

The Prince Line s.s. Scottish Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast ports and Cyprus, will close for cargo at Manchester on August 7.

The Bibby Line s.s. Lancashire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on August 7.

The Henderson Line s.s. Burma, for Port Said and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on August 18.

The trial trip took place recently at the Jarrow shipyard of Palmer's Shipbuilding and Iron Co., Ltd., of the s.s. Alipore, built to the order of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. The Alipore is 400 ft. long between perpendiculars; her breadth (moulded) is is 52 ft., and her depth (moulded) to upper deck, 31 ft. she carries about 8,200 tons d.w. on a draft of 25 ft. 3 in. The trial was in every respect successful.


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BANKERS' REFERENCES:—

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The American Express Co., New York.
The Bank of Industry, Athens.

*Reference can also be made to "THE NEAR EAST."*

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# COMPANY MEETINGS.

## BANK OF ROUMANIA.

### Increased Scope for Development.

The ordinary annual general meeting of the Bank of Roumania, Limited, was held on July 28 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, the Earl of Bessborough, K.P., C.V.O., C.B., presiding.

The Secretary ((Mr. H. Locke) having read the notice convening the meeting and the certificate of the auditors,

The Chairman said :—Gentlemen, I assume that, as usual, you will take the directors' report and the balance-sheet as read. In moving the adoption of the report and accounts up to the end of December last, I would draw your attention to the considerable growth of the figures in the balance-sheet as compared with those in our previous one. The principal increase, as you will notice, is in the cash in hand. This is due, in a large measure, to the heavy deposits in Roumanian currency which have been made in Bucharest on behalf of exporters to Roumania, either in payment of goods awaiting a more favourable rate of exchange before being remitted abroad, or in the shape of deposits by the importers as security for payments in foreign currencies to be effected at some future date. As mentioned at the foot of the balance-sheet, these deposits in lei, and also their counterpart, including cash in hand in Roumania, have been calculated at the rate of 25 lei to the pound.

As you will see by the report, the trading accounts for the year, after making provision for bad debts, etc., writing down investments in British Government securities to market value, placing £2,000 to pension fund, and valuing the lei profits at the rate ruling on December 31 last, show, after payment of income-tax, a credit balance of £2,673 5s. 3d. This sum has been carried to a special reserve account. The abnormal rate of exchange has, of course, adversely affected the result of the year's working.

Since the date of our last meeting the boundaries of Greater Roumania have been fixed by the Peace Conference, and the Kingdom of Roumania is now a country of approximately 100,000 square miles, with a population of about 15,000,000. This extension, when conditions more nearly approach the normal, will, no doubt, afford us plenty of scope for development. During the past year Roumania has, in common with other countries, passed through a difficult period of economic, financial, and commercial reconstruction, and I am pleased to say that very great progress has been made during the year, in spite of the fact that the country has been faced with the problem of higher prices and scarcity of labour in an acute degree. As an instance of the progress that has taken place, I may say that the improvement in the organisation of the Roumanian State Railways has been most marked. In the reconstruction the new provinces of Bessarabia, Transylvania, and the Bucovina have each taken their respective parts, Transylvania in particular, with her industries, contributing to an appreciable extent. The oil industry, owing to local conditions, has not so far developed to the extent that was anticipated.

For the moment the principal resource of the country is the production of cereals. With regard to the prospects for this year's crop, I may say that the full area is not under cultivation, but that the latest advices as to the prospects of the harvest are excellent. Possibly the favourable expectations of this may be responsible for the recent improvement in the rate of exchange. I am pleased to inform you that this bank has been appointed an agent for the Board of Trade in connection with their export credits scheme, and I hope the facilities offered by the Board of Trade will play an important part in the rehabilitation of the economic life of Roumania. I am asked to mention that the Ministry of Labour has requested me to refer to the question of the employment of ex-Service men. We have done all we could in that direction, and have a number of them in our employ; and I venture to hope that other employers will follow our example. In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge, with thanks, the admirable manner in which the managers and staff have conducted the business of the bank, both at home and abroad, under very trying circumstances.

Viscount Goschen seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Viscount Goschen moved the re-election of the retiring director, Lord Bessborough.

General the Hon. Sir H. A. Lawrence, K.C.B., seconded the resolution, which was unanimously agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. A. Hood, seconded by Mr. J. W. Hoskins, Messrs. Jackson, Pixley, Browning, Husey, and Co. were re-appointed auditors to the company.

Mr. J. Rosselli moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, the directors, and the management and staff for their services during the past year.

Mr. E. C. Barter seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, and the chairman having briefly responded, the proceedings terminated.

## NEW EGYPTIAN.

### Transfer of Control to Egypt.

An extraordinary general meeting of the New Egyptian Company, Limited, was held on July 28 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, to consider resolutions to transfer the control of the company to Egypt, and to make the necessary alterations in the articles of association. Mr. Arthur A. Baumann, chairman of the company, presided.

The London Manager and Secretary (Mr. Thomas Day) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said :—Gentlemen, at the last general meeting of the shareholders, in June, I told you that we had received a requisition from the Egyptian shareholders for the transfer of the control of the company to Egypt. It is only natural that people resident in Egypt should object to paying income-tax, excess profits duty, and corporation tax in this country, and that they should seek to alter that by transferring the control to their own country. According to the decision in the Egyptian Hotels Company, I think it can now be taken as settled law—if there be such a thing—that if the control and management is wholly outside the kingdom, then the company is not liable to be taxed either for income-tax or excess profits duty. Of course, the shareholders resident in England will have to pay their income-tax when their dividends are remitted from Egypt, but the shareholders in Egypt will get off the domestic English taxation altogether. With regard to the English shareholders, who are certainly half, if not more than half, of the total number, they will have the advantage of getting off the excess profits duty, and that is a very considerable advantage, and ought to increase their dividends and the value of their shares.

The result of the resolutions which the Secretary has just read out to you will be to give effect to the request of the Egyptian shareholders. The London board will cease to exist, and the Egyptian directors remaining will then become the sole board, and presumably they will elect some more directors—let us hope not too many—to manage the company's affairs in Egypt. We used to have a board of seven, but that was necessary because there were two boards, one in Alexandria and one in London, but now there is only going to be one board in Egypt. We may hope, and, I think, trust, to the discretion of the remaining directors that they will not in future exceed the number of five, because in my opinion a board of five directors is quite sufficient to manage any company.

I think, also, it is quite certain that the Egyptian directors, when they get back to Egypt, will consider the question of appointing a London committee to watch over the interests of the large English shareholders. I do not think there is anything else that I need say; therefore, I beg to move Resolution No. 1, which you have heard read. I will ask Mr. Barker, one of the Egyptian directors, and one of the remaining directors, to second it.

Mr. H. E. Barker: I beg to second the resolution.

The resolution was then put to the meeting, and was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then proposed Resolution No. 2, making various alterations in the articles of association.

Sir Westby B. Perceval, K.C.M.G., seconded the resolution, and it was unanimously carried.

The Chairman then moved the third resolution, dealing with the compensation of the English directors for their loss of office.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. E. Nathan, and was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Hacking: I have very great pleasure in rising to propose that the best thanks of this meeting be given to the Chairman and the board for the most zealous manner in which they have presided over the destinies of the New Egyptian Company. It is a very great change, but we who live in England can only be guided by the great judgment the board have shown in administering the affairs of the company in being satisfied with their decision to remove the management of the business from London to Egypt. May I say, at the same time, that I think that before August 31 the board might take into consideration the payment to the shareholders, as far as they can, of the money that has been earned by the present board of directors? With these few remarks, I am sure I am voicing the sentiments of everyone in this room when I say that the board have our entire confidence, and have worked well for the company. I have great pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to them.

Mr. Hunt seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: On behalf of my colleagues and myself, I beg to thank you for this expression of your gratitude for our past services. I did not quite gather what Mr. Hacking meant, but I am sure the shareholders will be glad to learn that the latest figures from the other side show a very large increase in the sale of land, even since the last meeting in June.

Mr. E. Nathan: As one of the remaining directors of the board,

(*Continued on page* 213.)

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# NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

(Affiliated to The British Trade Corporation).

***ESTABLISHED 1909 BY IMPERIAL FIRMAN.***

## CAPITAL - - - £1,000,000 STERLING.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

CONSTANTINOPLE.
S. DE BILINSKI, C.B.E. (Chairman).
Sir ADAM BLOCK, K.C.M.G.
F. EDWIN WHITTALL.
H.E. AHMED DJEMAL BEY.
H.E. NAIL BEY.
H.E. ISMAIL DJENANI BEY.

LONDON.
A. G. M. DICKSON (Chairman of London Committee)
Hon. HUGO BARING.
Sir HENRY BIRCHENOUGH, K.C.M.G.
C. S. GULBENKIAN.
R. H. MACAULAY.
E. N. MEYER.

**HEAD OFFICE:**

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and on behalf of my colleagues in Egypt, I should like to say how sorry we are to part company with our Chairman, Mr. Baumann, and the other directors. I only wish that this collaboration could have gone on indefinitely.

Mr. H. E. Barker: I should like to associate myself very strongly with the remarks made by Mr. Nathan. I am sure Mr. Suares, the other remaining director in Egypt, would be equally emphatic on that point.

Mr. Hacking: I should like to say that I cordially agree with the appointment of a London committee, and I hope our Chairman will be one of them.

The proceedings then terminated.

## EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

### A Difficult Period.

The twenty-third ordinary general meeting of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Limited, was held on July 28 at Winchester House, E.C., Sir William E. Garstin, G.C.M.G., G.B.E. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. J. Horne) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, when addressing you last year I felt bound to warn you that the prospects of our enterprise in Egypt for the year now under review gave cause for much thought and for considerable anxiety. This warning has been fully justified. Although the rioting and damage to property, which so unfavourably distinguished the first quarter of 1919, did not again occur, the effects of these disturbances remained, and affected the working of our railway system to a considerable degree. Unrest and general discontent prevailed among the workmen in Egypt, and on more than one occasion strikes were threatened by our staff.

Again, the political horizon in Egypt was far from clear, and the delay in settling the Peace terms with Turkey greatly aggravated the difficulties with which the Egyptian Government had to contend.

In addition to the foregoing, we were constantly faced by the very grave situation due to the high price of fuel and the difficulty of obtaining the supplies requisite for the working of our lines. Lastly, owing to the impossibility of obtaining transport, we were unable throughout the years of war to replenish our stock of railway material to anything like the necessary extent.

I now come to the question which is most vital to the future of our railways, and which has caused our chief anxiety—I mean that of our fuel supply. This question is now more serious than ever. In 1914—before the war—our coal used to cost us some £1 12s. per ton. During the war the average price we paid was £5 5s. per ton.

This last rate would have been much higher had it not been that the Admiralty throughout the war were good enough to allow us to draw upon them for coal to the extent of 1,000 tons a month at the rate which it had cost them. This privilege was withdrawn in August, 1919, and we have had since then to make the best arrangements we could. The British Government having prohibited the export of coal to Egypt, except in the shape of "bunker" coal, for the needs of the Admiralty and shipping, we have been unable to send out fuel from this country. For some time we were able to obtain briquettes of coal-dust, and with these we managed to carry on our service. That supply is, however, no longer available, and we are obliged to obtain coal wherever we can.

Owing to the cessation of the Admiralty supply, the average cost of our coal in the year 1919-20 rose to £6 7s. per ton. Even this rate has been now exceeded, it being impossible at present to obtain coal anywhere at such a rate.

We are making experiments with our locomotives to see whether oil fuel cannot be advantageously substituted for coal; but here, again, we are met by the difficulty of obtaining oil in Egypt in sufficient quantity for our requirements and by the high cost of this commodity.

Dealing with the labour position, Sir William said:—I told you last year that we had very carefully considered the demands of the workmen's committee and had come to the conclusion that, considering the changed conditions existing in Egypt, the greater portion of these demands were not unreasonable, and ought to be granted, and that only those which would in any way tend to lessen the standard of discipline ought to be rejected. The board has devoted much time and consideration to the demands of the men's committee, and has decided that it would not only be unwise, but unfair, to refuse those demands which were reasonable and similar to those granted by the Government, under like conditions, to its employees.

I now come to a matter of the greatest importance to the future of our railways—namely, the renewals and repairs that we shall have to undertake in order to bring our lines up to a standard of perfect efficiency. The time has now come for making a commencement with this work. Unfortunately it is not a favourable moment for any such undertaking. The cost of labour is double what it was previous to the war, while the price of materials is so high as to make their purchase almost prohibitive. In some cases these prices are three and even four times as high as they were before the war. Moreover, the demand for railway material throughout the world is so great that I fear we cannot expect any material fall for some years to come. In spite of these adverse conditions the work cannot be any further delayed and a commencement must be made with it. We propose, during the coming year, to spend a sum of £125,000 upon the new programme of expenditure.

You have all seen the directors' report and the accounts for the year under review. They are, I think, clear and easy to be understood. I will only, then, say here that, after paying all fixed charges and after providing for the extra retiring gratuities to our staff, as well as the Government share of profits, we are in a position to pay the full dividend of 5½ per cent. on our shares, at the same time placing £20,000 to the general reserve and carrying forward a sum of £4,146 5s. 11d.

That such a result has been possible is due in very great measure to the efficiency of our staff in Egypt. I have nothing but praise to give to the manner in which Mr. Smith—our agent and general manager—has controlled the railways and looked after our interests. He has shown himself resourceful, tactful, and strong, where strength was necessary, and he has had to pass through exceptionally trying times. In all his work he has been ably assisted by Colonel Marryat, the deputy manager. I consider that we are very fortunate in having two such men in charge of our undertaking. I would ask that your thanks should be conveyed to them and to all the members of our staff in Egypt, who have carried out their work under conditions of exceptional difficulty.

I have only one point more to mention. You will have observed in the notice calling the general meeting that a resolution will be submitted to you proposing that the directors' fees shall be paid to them in the future free of income-tax. I have not much to say on this point, as it must necessarily be one for the appreciation of the shareholders themselves. A similar privilege is being very generally granted in other companies. I leave the matter in your hands.

The Chairman then moved the adoption of the report and accounts. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Montagu Sharpe, K.C., and was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then moved the declaration of a dividend of 5½ per cent. on the preference shares. The Hon. W. B. L. Barrington seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors were re-elected, the auditors were reappointed, it was resolved that the directors' fees should be paid to them in the future free of income-tax, and, after a vote of thanks to the Chairman and his colleagues, and to the general manager and the staff in Egypt, the proceedings terminated.

## NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

**Position at May 31, 1920, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.**

**Banking Department.**

| | | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each) | | 2,925,000 |
| Reserve Fund: | | |
| Statutory Reserve | | 1,462,500 |
| Special Reserve | | 487,500 |
| Current, Deposit and other Accounts | | 18,731,793 |
| Mixed Tribunals | | 2,477,907 |
| Egyptian Government | | 6,035,915 |
| Bankers' Accounts | | 700,503 |
| Cheques and Bills payable | | 916,518 |
| Sundry other Accounts | | 863,927 |
| | | £E34,601,563 |

| | | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government | | 19,745,975 |
| Sundry Securities | | 233,370 |
| Advances on Merchandise | | 1,184,261 |
| Advances on Securities | | 1,489,114 |
| Advances otherwise Secured | | 1,777,603 |
| Sundry other Advances | | 958,629 |
| Bills of Exchange | | 3,410,274 |
| Local Bills Discounted | | 208,698 |
| Buildings and Furniture | | 228,150 |
| Money at call and at short notice | | 1,472,250 |
| Bankers' Accounts | | 979,871 |
| Sudan Government | | 25,351 |
| Sundry other Accounts | | 338,635 |
| Cash:— | | |
| Notes | £E1,962,000 | |
| Gold | 22,656 | |
| Silver, Nickel, etc. | 564,726 | |
| | | 2,549,382 |
| | | £E34,601,563 |

**Issue Department.**

| | | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Notes Issued | | 51,900,000 |
| | | £E51,900,000 |

| | | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Gold | £E3,333,190 | |
| *British Treasury Bills | 22,616,810 | |
| | | 25,950,000 |
| Securities:— | | |
| Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government | 433,359 | |
| British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds | 25,516,641 | |
| | | 25,950,000 |
| | | £E51,900,000 |

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of Gold. (See *Journal Officiel* October 30, 1916.)


# CENTRAL BANK OF GREECE

**Head Office: 12, Aristeides Street, ATHENS.**

***Paid-up Capital - - - 3,500,000 Drs.***

*Administrative Council:* LEONIDAS SKENDER (*Chairman*), GEORGE EMBIRICOS (*Vice-Chairman*), K. SALLIARIS, A. DAMBASIS, Ph. LOUKISAS, M. EVLAMBIOS (*Director of the National Bank of Greece*).

*General Manager:* GEORGE MOUSTAKAS. *Manager:* G. A. KARYSTINAKIS.

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## MARKET FOR CANNED SALMON IN GREECE.

The war has been indirectly responsible for the consumption of canned salmon in Greece. Previous to the war it was practically unknown (says an American Consular report), but during the war it was made an army ration. As a result the Greeks became familiar with this commodity, and due to the scarcity of meat at that time this article became very much in demand. To-day all grocers carry it, and all classes of people appear to purchase canned salmon. Under class 12 of the Greek tariff, the import duty on canned fish is 72.50 per 100 okes, or about 13.99 dols. per 282.15 lbs. All foods before clearing customs in Greece are examined by a Government board, but there are no published standards of purity, weight, packing, etc. Consumption has not so far been affected by high prices. However, it is said that the market is overstocked at present.

## THE METRIC SYSTEM IN TURKEY.

In 1915 the Turkish Government adopted the international metric system of weights and measures as the official standard, and since then all official statistics have been based on this system. It appears to be the object of the Government (says an American Consular report) to make this the exclusive system of weights and measures, but so far, outside of official circles, the metric unit is little used. In fact, in the interior, the system is practically unknown, and it is doubtful if it will be popularly accepted for many years to come, if at all. The people find the new system very much simpler from a mathematical point of view, but its units are meaningless to them until converted into the units of the old system, for the decimal system as applied to potatoes or sugar cannot be kept constantly before the mind as can the decimal system as applied to money. It is therefore infinitely more difficult to learn, and the attempt to introduce it has been productive of no little confusion.

## TRADE OF SALONIKA.

The first German steamer to touch Salonika since the war recently arrived from Hamburg, states the Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Athens. The vessel had on board for Salonika some 220 tons of goods, which consisted chiefly of paper, porcelain, ironware, and cutlery (scissors, etc.), weighing scales, etc.

The Commercial Secretary, in the course of his tour of the district, gathered that the principal traders in pre-war days had imported goods mainly from the countries from which they could get them cheapest. Since the Greek occupation, however, more Greek traders have settled in Salonika, and these have raised the standard of living, bringing better class as well as cheap goods.

The peasants, too, are beginning to desire European clothing, appliances, etc., so that the market should be regarded as a growing one. Spain is still doing well in the import trade, though not so well as during the war. France appears to be less actively engaged. British goods are always admired, and, as the standard of living rises, and Greeks from Athens, etc., open up business locally, so trade with the United Kingdom should increase. At present, however, stocks seem to be sufficient, and exchange fluctuations keep merchants from placing orders.


# IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

**Capital - £10,000,000**
**Paid-up - £5,000,000**

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EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E. C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

**PARIS.**

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE
J. BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
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A. HENRY.
HENRI HOTTINGUER.
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Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.
Assistant Manager: W. P. SHEPPARD.

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**MARSEILLES:**
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**CONSTANTINOPLE.**
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

**EGYPT.**
Alexandria. Cairo.
Mansourah. Minieh.
Port Said.

**PALESTINE.**
Jerusalem.
Jaffa.

**CYPRUS.**
Nicosia. Larnaca.
Limassol. Famagusta.
Paphos.

**SYRIA.**
Aleppo. Beyrout.
Alexandretta. Damascus.
Caiffa.
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Homs.
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Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

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## TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—

**Egypt.**

*(The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.)*

Cotton Waste.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 200 metrical tons cotton waste. August 9. (L.)

Extension of Electrical Station of Zagazig and Belbeis.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, for the extension of the electrical station of Zagazig and Belbeis. Adjudication at noon on September 1. A copy of the specification, etc. (in French) may be consulted by British firms interested at the Enquiry Office of the Department of Overseas Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.2.

Electric Lift.—Tenders are invited for the supply and installation of an electric lift in the Kasr-el-Aini Hospital, Cairo. Tenders close on August 15. The lift is required to carry a cage 2 metres by 1.50 metres in area, with a fully loaded weight of 300 kilos, through a height of 9.40 metres with three stops (with a possible future extension to 15 metres with four stops), at a speed of 25 centimetres per second. A copy of the specification (in French) may be inspected at the Department of Overseas Trade (Room 50), 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

Blankets.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for fine white blankets. August 9. (L.)

Braces (Web), etc.—The Egyptian Government invite tenders for the supply of: (1) Braces (Web). Tenders returnable by noon on August 16. (2) White Drill Clothing. Tenders returnable by August 25. Tenders will remain open for 14 days. (L.)

**India.**

Iron Pipes, etc.—The Madras Corporation invites tenders for the supply and delivery of about 220 tons of cast-iron spigot and socket pipes, with special castings, sluice valves, etc. (Specification, 5s., Messrs. James Mansergh and Sons, 5, Victoria Street, S.W.1.). Tenders will be received until September 8.

Wicks, Lubricating Pads, etc.—The Great Indian Peninsula Railway Co. invite tenders for the supply of the following stores :—Wicks, lubricating pads, etc., paints, drysalteries, etc., platelayers' tools, lamps and fittings, acid open hearth steel boiler plates. (Spec. 10s. for the first three, 7s. 6d. for the fourth, and 5s. for the fifth, office of the company, 48, Copthall Avenue, E.C.2.) August 10.

Bridgework.—The Burma Railways Co. invites tenders for the supply of bridgework (3 100-ft. spans). (Spec. 20s., office of the company, 199, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, E.C.2.) August 13.

**Turkey.**

Telephones and Accessories.—The Commercial Secretary to the British High Commission at Constantinople has received an inquiry for the name of a United Kingdom manufacturer of telephones with magnetos, all telephone accessories, telephone wires, and a central of 500/600 lines; also electric bells, wires, batteries, etc. Correspondence and catalogues should be addressed to the British High Commissioner's representative at Samsoun, under cover to the Commercial Secretary at Constantinople.

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Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—Dividend No. 32, bearer warrant coupon No. 29, for a dividend of 5½ per cent. for the year ended March 31, 1920, on the preference shares, less tax at 6s. in the £, will be payable on and after July 29, at the National Bank of Egypt, London, Cairo and Alexandria, at the current rate of exchange. Dividend warrants will be posted on July 29.

## GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to May 31, 1920 (new style January 14 to June 13, 1920).

| | | Monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper & Naxos emery. | Piræus Customs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Drachmae. | Drachmae. |
| Gross receipts, May, | 1920 | 5,416,104 | 4,619,240 |
| Do. do. | 1919 | 4,488,610 | 4,694,156 |
| Estimated receipts for 5 months (Law of Control) | | 12,041,666 | 4,458,333 |
| Actual do. do. | 1920 | 25,762,452 | 25,797,202 |
| Do. do. do. | 1919 | 18,792,867 | 17,959,384 |
| Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 5 months | 1920 | + 13,720,785 | + 21,338,869 |
| | 1919 | + 6,751,201 | + 13,501,051 |

Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1/5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund on the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmae at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at the average rate.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97 7/16 |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 30·70-31·00 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 61 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/11⅛-1/11⅝ |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 144-148 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/11⅛-1/11⅝ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 405-425 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅔ | 3·71-3·74 |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 48·60-48·90 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 190-195 |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 31 |

## OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Week ended July 25, Gemsah, nil (previous week nil). Hurgada, 2,448 tons (previous week 2,330 tons).

---

Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., Broadway, London, S.W.1, announce that they have opened a depot for Wales and the South-West of England at 43, Park Street, Bristol, at which address they will be glad to receive inquiries for their products.


# BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

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*Manager*, A. G. M. DICKSON.

*London Manager*, P. C. WEST. *Secretary*, G. DE B. BROUNLIE.

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# "NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

| LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE. | Price July 26. | Price Aug. 2. |
|---|---|---|
| **GOVERNMENT STOCKS.** | | |
| Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892 | 36 | 36 |
| Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907 | 51½ | 51⅜ |
| Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909 | 28 | 28 |
| City of Alexandria 4%, 1909 | 60 | 60 |
| Egyptian 4% Unified Debt | 68 | 67⅝ |
| Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890 | 57 | 57 |
| Greek 5%, 1881 | 55 | 54 |
| Do. 5%, 1884 | 56 | 54 |
| Do. 4% Rentes, 1889 | 39½ | 39⅛ |
| Do. 5% 1890 | 53 | 52 |
| Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893 | 53 | 53 |
| Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902 | 46 | 48 |
| Do. 4% Loan, 1910 | 41 | 40½ |
| Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) | 54 | 54 |
| Do. 5% Currant | 90 | 90 |
| Montenegro 5% Loan | 68 | 68½ |
| Persia 5% 1911 | 64½ | 64 |
| Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913 | 35 | 38 |
| Serbian 4% Unified Bonds | — | — |
| Turkish 4% 1891 | 61½ | 61½ |
| Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894 | 55 | 55 |
| Do. 4% Unified | 35 | 35 |
| **BANKS.** | | |
| Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) | 89/4½ | 89/6 |
| Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) | 5⅞xd | 5⅞xd |
| Do. 3½ Bonds Red. | 60½ | 61 |
| Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red. | 62½ | 63 |
| Bank of Abyssinia | 1½ | 1½ |
| Bank of Athens | 4⅛ | 3½ |
| Bank of British West Africa | 6½ | 6½ |
| Bank of Roumania | 5⅛ | 5⅛ |
| British Trade Corporation | 8½ | 8⅛ |
| Imperial Ottoman Bank | 9⅜ | 9⅜ |
| Imperial Bank of Persia | 7⅞ | 7½ |
| Ionian Bank, Limited | 5½ | 5 |
| Land Bank of Egypt Ord. | 5⅜ | 5⅜ |
| London County and Westminster | 14⅛ | 13⅞ |
| National Bank of Egypt | 19⅞ | 19½ |
| **RAILWAYS.** | | |
| Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer | 5⅛ | 6⅜ |
| Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord. | 8 | 8 |
| Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref. | 9 | 9 |
| Do. Do. 4% Debs. | 39 | 45½ |
| Do Do. 5% 2nd Debs. | 35 | 36 |
| Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry. | 27 | 27 |
| Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½% | 66½ | 66½ |
| Do. Do. 3% Bonds | 45 | 45 |
| **LAND.** | | |
| Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) | 35/6 | 37/6 |
| Do. 6% Debs | 135 | 135 |
| Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt | 12/6 | 12/3 |
| Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment | 75/- | 75/- |
| Béhéra Co. | 16 | 17⅝ |
| Do. Pref. | 3⅛ | 3⅜ |
| Building Lands of Egypt | 1⅞ | 1⅞ |
| Egyptian Consol 5/- | 3/- | 3/- |
| Egyptian Delta Land and Invest. | 14/- | 15/4½ |
| Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs. | 73 | 73 |
| Do. Land and General Trust | 1/6 | 1/6 |
| Do. and Foreign Trust | 13/3 | 13/3 |
| Gharbieh Land Co. | 3½ | 3⅜ |
| Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt | 29/- | 30 |
| Do. 4½% Debs. Red. | 84½ | 84⅛ |
| Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red | 61½ | 61⅛ |
| Mortgage Co. of Egypt | 6¾ | 6⅝ |
| Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red. | 75 | 72⅛ |
| New Egyptian Co. | 35/- | 35/9 |
| Sidi Salem Co. | 2½ | 2⅛ |
| Sudan Plantations | 4⅜ | 4⅜ |
| Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. | 4 1/16 | 4⅛ |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | |
| Abyssinian Corp. | ⅜ | ⅜ |
| Alexandria Water Co. | 7⅛ | 7⅛ |
| Associated Cotton Ginners | 25/- | 25/- |
| Egyptian Hotels | 2½ | 2½ |
| Do. Markets Ord. | 1⅛ | 1⅛ |
| Do. do 5% Debs. Red. | 86⅛ | 86⅛ |
| Do. Salt and Soda Bearer | 2⅛ | 2⅛ |
| Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs. | 96⅜ | 96⅜ |
| Khedivial Mail Ord. | 5½xd | 5½xd |
| Do. Do. Prefs. | 3½ | 3½ |
| Levant Co. (fully paid) | 16/9 | 16/1½ |
| Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref | 17/- | 17/- |
| Suez Canal | — | — |
| **Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.** | | |
| Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series | 95 | 94 |
| Chinese 4½% 1898 | 56 | 56 |
| Do. 5% 1896 | 71 | 71 |
| Argentine 5% 1890 | 75⅛ | 75 |
| Do. 5% 1907 | 79 | 79 |
| **OIL.** | | |
| Algerian | 2/9 | 2/10 |
| Anglo-Bulgarian | 4/7½ | 4/8 |
| Anglo-Egyptian B | 57/6 | 56/3 |
| Anglo-Persian Pref. | 22/3 | 22/7½ |
| Do. 5% Debs. | 79½ | 78⅝ |
| Anglo-Roumanian | 5/3 | 5/3 |
| Cyprus Oil Trust | — | — |
| Maisel's Petroleum Trust | 10/7½ | 10/7½ |
| Roumanian | 17/6 | 17/1½ |
| Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs. | 100 | 100 |
| Suez | 5/- | 5/- |
| Trajan (Roumanian) | 7/6 | 7/6 |

Aden is not an important market for shoes and shoe accessories (says an American Consular report). The European population is small and the natives do not generally wear shoes. There is no rain and the climate is hot throughout the year. During the fiscal year ended March 31, 1919, Aden imported 8,729 pairs of leather shoes or sandals valued at 8,971 dols

# "NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

*(Continued.)*

| BRUSSELS BOURSE. | Price July 15. | Price July 28. |
|---|---|---|
| Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs. | 405 | 424 |
| Do. do. Priv. | 575 | 570 |
| Do. do. Cap. | 444·50 | 440 |
| Do. do. Div. | 400 | 390 |
| Anglo-Belgian Co. | 36·75 | 39 |
| Cairo Electric Railways Cap. | 215·25 | 225·50 |
| Do. do. Div. | 299·50 | 305·50 |
| Caisse Hypothécaire Act | 477·50 | 477·50 |
| Do. do. (10 eme p.b.) | 65·75 | 68·75 |
| Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½% Debs. | 335 | 362·50 |
| Do. do. Priv. | 475 | 476 |
| Do. do. Div. | 180 | 176·50 |
| Compagnie Immobiliére Deb. | 382·50 | 399·50 |
| Do. do. Cap. | 166·25 | 157·50 |
| Do. do Fond. | 250·50 | — |
| Enterprise and Development Cap. | 245 | 234·50 |
| Do. do. Div. | 117·50 | 115·50 |
| Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte) Priv. | — | — |
| Do. do. Ord. | 497·50 | 395 |
| Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap. | 200 | 200 |
| Do. do. Div. | 125 | 125 |
| Salonika-Constantinople Railway | 250 | 250 |
| Salonika-Monastir Railway | 200 | 200 |
| Smyrna-Cassaba Railway 4%, 1894 | 150 | 150 |
| Do. do. 4%, 1895 | 150 | 150 |
| Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv. | 115 | 115 |
| Do. do. Div. | 150 | 150 |
| Tramways du Caire Priv. | 450·50 | 442·50 |
| Do. do. Jouiss | 665 | 635 |
| Travaux Publics du Caire Priv. | 272·50 | 215 |
| Do. do. Ord. | — | — |
| Do. do. Div. | 25 | 25·50 |

# INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

**INDIAN FUNDS.**

| Interest Due. | Name. | July 23. | July 30. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc. | India 3½% Stock,* 1931 | 54⅜ | 54½ |
| Various dates.. | Do. Rupee Paper 3½% | 53¼ | 54¼ |
| | * Redeemable. | | |
| **CORPORATION STOCKS.** | | | |
| | Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959 | 83½ | 83½ |
| | Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40 | 64 | 64 |
| | Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938 | 66 | 66 |
| **BANKS.** | | | |
| | Chartered of India | 78 | 76 |
| | Eastern | 7⅛ | 5 1/16 |
| | Mercantile of India A | 28½ | 28½ |
| | National of India | 51 | 52 |
| **MINES.** | | | |
| | Balaghat Gold Mining | 3/32 | 7/3 |
| | Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref. | 14/3 | 14/3 |
| | Burma Corp. | 9⅛ | 9 1/16 |
| | Burma Ruby Mines Ord. | 6/- | 7/3 |
| | Champion Reef Gold | 2/6 | 2/7½ |
| | Mysore Gold Mining | 1/32 | 14/3 |
| | Nundydroog | 3/32 | 11/1½ |
| | Ooregum Gold Mining Ord. | 3/32 | 14/3 |
| | Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf. | 21/10½ | 20/- |
| | Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.) | 24/3 | — |
| **OIL.** | | | |
| | Assam Oil | 26/3 | 26/3 |
| | Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref. | 23/9 | 23/9 |
| | Brit. Burmah | 93 | 93 |
| | Burmah Oil Co. Ord. | 15 3/32 | 14 31/32 |
| | Do. 6% Cum. Pref. | 18/9 | 18/9 |
| | Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref. | 9 | 8⅞ |
| **RAILWAYS.** | | | |
| | Assam Bengal | 52 | 52 |
| | Bengal and N.-Western Ord. | 118½ | 118½ |
| | Do 3½% Cum. Pref. | 49 | 48½ |
| | Bengal-Nagpur | 101½ | 102 |
| | Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India | 100½ | 100½ |
| | Burma Railways | 101 | 101½ |
| | Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb. | — | — |
| | E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953 | 11½ | 11 7/16 |
| | East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957 | 11½ | 11⅛ |
| | Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948 | 10⅜ | 10⅜ |
| | Madras and S. Mahratta | 99 | 99½ |
| | Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord. | 121 | 121 |
| | Nizam's Guaranteed State | 65⅜ | 65½ |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | | |
| | Bengal Iron Ord. | 52/3 | 52/3 |
| | Do. 7½% Cum. Pref. | 19 | 19 |
| | P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P. | 75½ | 77 |
| | Do. Deferred | 470 | 455 |
| **TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.** | | | |
| | Assam Co. | 55 7/16 | 55 7/16 |
| | Bengal United Tea Ord. | 15⅝ | 15⅝ |
| | British Indian Tea Ord. | 7 1/16 | 6 |
| | Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord. | 15 | 15 |
| | Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord. | 9/7⅛ | 9/7⅛ |
| | Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. | 54/9 | 54/9 |
| | Consolidated Estates | 40/- | 39/- |
| | Darjeeling Co. | 16/10½ | 16/10½ |
| | Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. | 37/9 | 35/- |
| | Dooars Tea Ord. | 44/3 | 43/9 |
| | Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. | 17/3 | 17/3 |
| | Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est. | 31/10½ | 31/10½ |
| | Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber | 30/3 | 29/- |
| | Hewagam Rubber Co. | 21/- | 21/- |
| | Jhanzie Tea Association | 9⅜ | 8 11/16 |
| | Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. | 15 | 15 |
| | Kepitigalla Rubber Estates | 13/7½ | 14/6 |
| | Lanka Plantations Ord. | 21/6 | 22/- |
| | Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord. | 17/3 | 17/7½ |
| | Malayalam Rub. and Produce | 38/3 | 36/3 |
| | Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. | 12½ | 12⅜ |
| | P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates | 32/1½ | 32/9 |

# STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

| | June 12. Rs. | June 25. Rs. |
|---|---|---|
| **GOVERNMENT LOANS.** | | |
| 3½% Government Paper | 59 | 59½ |
| 4% Government Paper, 1916-17 | 74 | 74 |
| **BANKS.** | | |
| Alliance Bank of Simla | 300 | 300 |
| Bank of Bengal | 1735 | 1735 |
| Bank of Bombay | 2130 | 2130 |
| Bank of Madras | 1560 | 1560 |
| Bank of India | 148 | 150 |
| Tata Industrial Bank | 50¾ | 47 |
| **COAL.** | | |
| Baraboni | 16½ | 15½ |
| Bengal | 780 | 780 |
| Burrakur | 46¾ | 47½ |
| East Indian | 38 | 37½ |
| Equitable | 47½ | 45½ |
| Pench Valley | 335 | 330ex. |
| Raneegunge | 63¾ | 63½ex. |
| Standard | 76½ | 76 |
| **COTTON.** | | |
| Bengal Nagpur | 550ex | 570 |
| Bombay Dyeing, etc. | 3360 | 3355 |
| Bowreah | 1300 | 1335 |
| Buckingham | 2500 | 2580 |
| Carnatic | 1000 | 1000 |
| Cawnpore | 195ex | 195ex. |
| Century | 1075 | 1060 |
| Central India | 4590 | 4550 |
| | 2295 | 2275 |
| Elgin | 225 | 230 |
| Gold Mohur | 400 | 400 |
| | 200 | 200 |
| Khatau Makanji | 725 | 710 |
| Muir | 325 | 352 |
| New Ring | 1206 | 1206 |
| Phœnix | 1000 | 950 |
| Svadeshi | 4555 | 4500 |
| **JUTE.** | | |
| Alliance | 745 | 774 |
| Barnagore | 170 | 176 |
| Budge Budge | 605 | 598 |
| Clive | 312 | 317 |
| Dalhousie | 532 | 540 |
| Delta | 660 | 660 |
| Fort Gloster | 990 | 997 |
| Gourepore | 1141ex | 1175 |
| Howrah | 47 | 46¾ |
| Kamarhatty | 1038 | 1040 |
| Kanknarrah | 836½ | 832 |
| Khardah | 600 | 600 |
| Kinnison | 1186 | 1155 |
| National | 410 | 405ex. |
| Standard | 708½ | 706 |
| Union | 890 | 885 |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | |
| Bengal Paper Mills | 125 | 126 |
| Bengal Timber Trading | 865 | 810 |
| Burn and Co. | 300 | 300 |
| Carew and Co. | 118 | 118 |
| Cawnpore Sugar | 44½ | 43 |
| Cawnpore Woollen | 150 | 150 |
| Champaran Sugar | — | 42½ |
| Howrah Oil Mills | 38 | 38 |
| India General Steam | 130 | 124ex. |
| Indian Iron and Steel | 140 | 140 |
| | 90¾ | 90½ |
| Marshall Sons and Co. | 12½ | 12 |
| Titaghur Paper | 468 | 437ex |

# ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

PRICES ON JULY 23.

| | |
|---|---|
| Agricultural Bank of Egypt | £4 1/16 |
| " " " Fond. | £370 |
| Alexandria Water Co., Ltd. | £7 1/16 |
| Anglo-American Nile Steam | £4 |
| Assoc. Cotton Ginners | £1 |
| Banque d'Orient | Fr. 99 |
| Béhéra Ord. | L.E. 16 |
| " Priv. | £3 |
| Bonded Stores | £14 |
| Brasseries d'Egypte Priv. | Fr. 218 |
| Building Lands of Egypt | £ |
| Cairo Heliopolis Railway | £120 |
| Cassa di Sconto | Fr. 86 |
| " " Priv. | Fr. 108 |
| Ciments d'Egypte Priv. | Fr. 58 |
| " " Div. | Fr. 30 |
| Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte | £1 |
| Consolidated Land | P.T. 13 |
| Crédit Foncier Egyptien | Fr. 609 |
| " Fondateur | 7900 |
| " 1886 Oblig. | 384 |
| " 1903 " | 266 |
| " 1911 " | 267 |
| Crown Brewery Priv. | Fr. 240 |
| " " Div. | Fr. 225 |
| Eaux du Caire Capital | Fr. 81½ |
| " " Jouissance | Fr. 115 |
| Egypt and Levant S.S. Ord. | 31/1½ |
| Egyptian Delta Light Railways | £5 |
| Filature Nationale d'Egypte | £18 |
| Frig. orifique d'Egypte | L.E. 2 |
| Gabbari Lands | L.E. |
| Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. | £6 |
| Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv. | 108/- |
| " " Ord. | £3 |
| Kom Ombo Ste. Ane. de Wadi | £8 |
| " " Fondateur | £7 |
| Land Bank of Egypt Actions | £5 |
| " " Parts de Fond. | £46 |
| Lots Turcs | Fr. 72 |
| Menzaleh Canal Navigation | P.T. 340 |
| Nungovich Hotels | £9 |
| Ramleh Railway | £2 |
| Salt and Soda | 51/9 |
| Tram d'Alexandrie Priv. | Fr. 58 |
| " " Div. | Fr. 70 |
| Union Foncière d'Egypte | £4 |
| Upper Egypt Hotels | £1 |
| Urbaines and Rurales | £3 |

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 484.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Mesopotamia has provided some unpleasant surprises for the British public during the past week. The War Office has received information that our casualties in an engagement near Hilla on July 24 amounted to very nearly 400; the garrison at Diwanieh has been withdrawn to Ibn Ali; and the garrison at Kufa is, or has been, closely invested. Bad in themselves, these things are not improved by the semi-official manner of referring to them. It is satisfactory to learn that "the invested Kufa garrison is still holding out," that a fire in that small town has been extinguished, and that "prisoners taken in Mesopotamia in the attack on the British column near Hilla are receiving good treatment." But it would be much more satisfactory to be informed how and why the Kufa garrison came to be invested, how Hilla itself is threatened, and how such a large number of British prisoners fell into the hands of the Arabs. The last-mentioned point is indeed almost inexplicable. Colonel Wedgwood asked in the House of Commons whether it might be ascribed to an ambush. We make bold to say that a successful ambush on any scale in the vicinity of Hilla would—or ought to—be practically impossible.

On another page an attempt is made to shed some light on the causes that have led up to the present deplorable situation in Mesopotamia, and we need not go further into the matter here and now. It is impossible, however, to avoid reference to a rumour that the British Government may invite the Emir Abdullah to assume the sovereignty of the Mesopotamian State, due regard being paid to our position as Mandatory. Such a step would solve more difficulties than one, and would undoubtedly be welcomed by a very large section of Mesopotamian opinion; and it is understood it would be taken with the approval of the Emir's brother, Abdullah, who was invited a little while ago by a deputation of notables to assume the kingship. It is less certain that opinion in the Nejd and El Hasa would approve; but recent events should serve to show the Arabs the necessity of standing shoulder to shoulder, and a good understanding between the principal rulers should not be impossible of attainment. The fact that the Emir was received with honour on his arrival in the British zone lends some colour to the rumour referred to; and in point of fact such an arrangement as that suggested would have much to recommend it.

It is satisfactory to note that our Government has invited the Emir to come to England, since this implies that, whatever may be the case elsewhere, in this country his services to the Allies at a critical time are not forgotten. In this connection it may be observed that his Highness has expressed the opinion that "the Zionistic policy of England was responsible for the defeat of his government in Damascus." That may be an overstatement of the case, but it cannot be denied that the Emir's loyalty to the Allied cause did create a great deal of trouble for him with the hotheads, and that but for his restraining influence an anti-French outbreak would have taken place long ago—before France had sent General Gouraud the reinforcements that enabled him to occupy Damascus.

No news of a solution of the Ministerial crisis in Yugoslavia has yet reached this country. M. Vesnitch wished to resign his mandate, but has been charged by the Prince Regent to continue his efforts to form a Cabinet. The chief trouble, it is understood, is over the policy to be adopted regarding exports, one school of thought favouring a large measure of free export, while the other looks to the export trade under Government control proving a useful source of revenue for the Exchequer. Although both parties would probably admit that the chief thing is for Yugoslavia to sell her products as quickly as possible, in order that she may obtain in exchange or by subsequent purchase the goods she needs from abroad, neither of these equal forces can bring itself to compromise on the relatively unimportant question of the amount to be obtained by the Government from the sale of the products. Meanwhile the country suffers from these chronic ministerial crises; public works and legislation that are urgently required are indefinitely postponed, and there is a danger that foreign trade with Yugoslavia will be permanently affected. By an extremely fortunate arrangement, Dr. Trumbitch remains in charge of Yugoslavia's foreign policy, which has been characterised by such phenomenal tact and patience during recent months. Most of his time has to be spent between Paris and London, with a view to taking the earliest advantage of any symptoms of a more accommodating spirit that may be shown by Italy.

The Greco-Italian dispute regarding the Dodecanese delayed the signing of the Turkish Treaty longer than the optimists expected, but at the time of writing it appears to be safe to conclude that it really will have been signed ere these lines are in print. An Italo-Greek Convention, to be signed at the same time as the Turkish

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Treaty, provides for the immediate transfer of the smaller islands to Greece; while if Cyprus is ever given to Greece the inhabitants of Rhodes are, within fifteen years from its cession, to have the opportunity of deciding by means of a plebiscite whether they wish to be under Italy or Greece. The Italian Archæological School at Athens is also to have exceptional privileges in the way of excavations at the island of Cos. Thus ends an incident that threatened at one time to postpone indefinitely the signing of the Turkish Treaty; for, according to Paris reports, Italy, shifting her ground once more, made an attempt to secure certain privileges in the Smyrna region as "compensation" for her disappointments elsewhere, thus opening up all manner of unpleasing possibilities. Greece, feeling that Italy's misfortunes were to be attributed to Albanian activities rather than her own, still showed a commendable desire to find a way out of the difficulty; and fortunately goodwill carried the day. There is all the more reason to be thankful that such is the case, since in some quarters a disposition was becoming manifest to demand for France and Great Britain commercial and other rights equal to any that might be granted to Italy at Smyrna. The conclusion of the agreement will, it is to be hoped, put an end to such a despicable spirit of petty bargaining.

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Italians, it must be acknowledged, have some reason to feel disappointed, or at any rate, a little sore just now; though the disappointment must be laid at the door of certain of their own statesmen, who have misled them in regard to both Albania and the Dodecanese. The Italian claim to the islands never rested on any good foundation, and has always been opposed by the whole of the islanders. Similarly it is impossible to justify any attempt on the part of Italy to rule in Albania, though something may be said for her very natural desire to ward off possible danger to herself from the growth of any naval Power across the Adriatic. Moderate Albanian opinion recognises the latter fact, but Albanians strongly resented the attempt to turn their country into a jumping-off ground for any adventures in the Balkan peninsula, however splendid that idea may have looked to some Italian statesmen.

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Having regard to all the circumstances, Italy is to be sincerely congratulated upon having had the courage to abandon vague pretensions and to come to an agreement with Albania. This consummation was achieved on August 2. Baron Aliotti, the Italian representative, had been recalled because, it is said, he exceeded his instructions in abandoning all claims on Valona itself—which confirms what our Albanian Correspondent wrote on July 18 regarding the Baron's eagerness to reach an understanding. He was replaced by Count Manzoni, who succeeded in concluding the negotiations with the Tirana Government, by which Italy abandons Valona, but retains the island of Sasseno, and is granted the right to fortify Cape Linguetta and Cape Trepanti. The arrangement appears to be as satisfactory as any that could have been expected in the given circumstances and if, as is to be hoped and expected, it makes for the establishment of really good relations between Italy and Albania in the near future, it will surely prove more advantageous to the former country than any occupation of Albania could possibly be.

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It is not easy to comment on the news of Mr. Tilak's death without transgressing the canons of reticence imposed by a kindly tradition. A man of outstanding ability, and commanding large resources, he might have led India a long distance on the road to freedom and self-respect: he chose otherwise, and history will know him as in essence a reactionary, who devoted his means and energies to the task of restoring the old régime, spiritual ascendancy of a privileged class, and social and economic servitude of the masses of the people. His persistent antipathy to the English was thus inevitable, for our administration has been one long struggle against the strongholds of privilege, which are destined eventually to fall before the principles we have introduced. The struggle is by no means over. It is true that the new constitution gives an opening for the people to exercise power such as they have never possessed in the whole history of the country, but we have still to see how they will use the opportunity, and the chief interest of the next few years will lie in the indications they furnish of the attitude of India as a whole towards the parasitic growths which she has endured so long.

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Mr. Tilak's death leaves Mr. Gandhi as the most prominent champion of the principle of spiritual ascendancy, and people who are interested in Indian progress have been watching the cables of the last few days in order to learn how far he has succeeded in putting back the clock by the campaign of "non-co-operation" which he started on Sunday week. So far the news is satisfactory. There has been little or no disorder, and while we must be prepared for outbreaks among the dangerous classes in the towns, it is something to the good that the first anxious day is safely over. More important in the long run is the obvious alarm aroused among men of substance and position, and the increased outspokenness of the Indian Press. Mr. Gandhi has so far definitely failed to stampede the educated classes, while he appears to have offended the religious susceptibilities of many thinking men, both Hindus and Moslems. He may still find powerful allies among the criminal sections of the community, but it does not appear at present that he will secure much support in more reputable quarters.

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Possibly the recognition of this fact accounts for the change in emphasis observable in Mr. Gandhi's latest allocations. At the outset, non-co-operation was contemplated as a protest against the Turkish Treaty, designed to bring pressure to bear on England and, through England, on the Allies. Now the Khalifate question is little more than a makeweight; the appeal is made to everyone who is discontented or bitter of heart, and the road to the cave of Adullam is clearly pointed out. This may possibly be the beginning of the end, for there is a very large volume of quiet satisfaction in India just now, but it would be rash to prophesy while the Punjab sore is not yet healed, and the amount of discontent in existence is sufficiently great to make active incitement a very real danger. The clouds still threaten, and it is rather too early to decide whether they will shortly lift, but there are grounds for hope.

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Western readers may perhaps think that we lay too much stress on the forces of spiritual ascendancy in India. If so, we may refer them to the provisions of the Indian Elections Offences Bill, which has now been published, and which includes among the acts punishable by imprisonment any inducement to a person to "believe that he will be rendered the object of Divine displeasure or of spiritual censure." Threats of excommunication, or even of hell-fire, are happily now obsolete weapons in English party warfare, but the possibility of their employment is one of the gravest dangers to the success of the new constitutional experiment. It is almost certain that Hindu ascetics and Moslem fanatics will be exceedingly busy in the elections to be held this winter, and it is well that illegitimate activities on their part should be heavily penalised if—a big if—evidence sufficient to secure a conviction should be forthcoming.

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Apart from this provision, the new Bill runs on familiar lines, and appears to be on the whole adequate. The offences of bribery, undue influence (including all kinds of threats), personation, and false statements of fact regarding candidates, are clearly defined and heavily penalised; the Election Commissioners are granted very wide powers; and we welcome in particular the provision giving them authority to charge the costs of inquiries, which are likely to be heavy, in accordance with their absolute discretion. The practical working of the measure cannot, of course, be forecasted; inquiries under it will be of the kind in which Indian lawyers revel, and might easily be protracted for indefinite periods, and we must await the result of the first batch of petitions before we can conclude whether the machinery provided is adequate to protect individual electors, but so far as can be judged at present the draughtsmen have done their work well.

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# THE WEEK AT HOME.

**Peace or War?**

The past week has been a repetition *in petto* of the same week of the year in 1914. The same papers have urged war; the same papers have urged peace; the *Westminster Gazette*, now as then, has explored both sides, and gravely advocated impotence as the best of all possible solutions. But the difference in temper has been marked throughout. Once the country was convinced that it was its duty to fight Germany six years ago it went into the war with eagerness; but there has been no sign that a war with Russia on behalf of Poland would be anything but extraordinarily unpopular, and that for several reasons.

Labour is rather disillusioned about Lenin and Bolshevism, but it still preserves its sentimental feeling in favour of Soviet Russia; it has no feeling whatever for Poland, which put itself in the wrong by its aggressive policy in overrunning the Ukraine three months ago, and is now paying the penalty. After all, those who challenge their neighbours to fight cannot complain very much if they get their heads punched. It was that feeling which defeated the peace-by-negotiation people in 1914-18, and the same feeling naturally is ranged against Poland to-day. Further, there is an overwhelming conviction—it is in the air rather than openly expressed—that not only has this generation had enough of war on the grand scale, but that for some years to come the only real chance for civilisation to recover is for peace to be maintained. England is ready to defend her own possessions if need be, but she does not feel called upon to undertake further Continental adventures.

**The Mannix Mystery.**

Archbishop Mannix, forbidden to land in Ireland or at Liverpool, was taken off the Baltic in mid-Channel, put ashore at Penzance, and permitted to come to London. A great deal too much publicity has been given to the doings and sayings of this excitable ecclesiastic, who is more politician than priest, and the Government's action has not been generally approved by their supporters. The sequel—for there is bound to be a sequel—is awaited with some curiosity.

**The County Championship.**

August Bank Holiday distinguished itself by a downpour of rain, and the wise sat over the fire; the bulk of the population appear to have postponed their celebrations to the remainder of the week, when the weather was slightly less deplorable, although still in an evil mood. But cricketers made the best of the few fine hours, and the Canterbury week was fairly successful. Kent, who are shaping well for the championship, after leading by five runs against Middlesex in the first innings, lost the match finally by five runs. The finish was a most exciting one, and leaves the championship still open between Kent, Yorkshire and Surrey, with Lancashire close on their heels; Derbyshire steadily remaining at the bottom, with a consistent record of twelve matches lost out of twelve played.

There was a curious game at Leicester, where the home team made 202, and Yorkshire scored 201 for nine wickets. Owing to a defect in the percentage system of scoring for the championship, if Yorkshire had scored two more runs, and so beaten Leicester on the first and only innings played, they would only have received two points in the championship reckoning, and so have weakened their general average; as it is, the match was inconclusive, and so does not count at all. Yorkshire therefore did better by not beating Leicester on the first innings than if they had done so. This peculiar result has given rise to a good deal of discussion, but it is impossible to reduce cricket to exact mathematics.

The match between Sussex and Essex at Leyton was signalised by the return of Ranjitsinjhi, whom London steadily refuses to call the Maharajah of Nawanagar. "Ranji" is a little stouter and not quite so fleet between the wickets as of old; but his gracefulness remains. With excessive modesty, he exercised the captain's right, and put himself in seventh wicket down. He scored sixteen, but had no chance of a second innings, for the Sussex bowling and fielding was altogether too much for Essex, who were beaten by an innings and forty runs.

**Oxford Circus.**

If one had discovered the house-breakers demolishing St. Paul's Cathedral one would hardly have been more astonished than I was when I found some of the great buildings in Oxford Circus being pulled down last week. Peter Robinson's is, it is understood, one of the patron saints of womankind, only rivalled by Dickins and Jones, the Castor and Pollox of the feminine world; and both are being razed to the ground. But they will only "reculer pour mieux sauter"; new buildings will arise, more magnificent than ever, from the ruins. It is the beginning of the rebuilding of London—which badly needs it—and the new shops and blocks of offices will be higher than the old. Further east, in the City by Monument Station, a new bank has already been built, and although it does not rival the New York skyscraper, it has got nearer heaven than any joint-stock bank has ever got before.

These things are signs and portents. In looking through an old illustrated account of London the other day, which was dated 1900, I realised how much the streets had changed since I first knew the capital as a boy; but another ten years will see a revolution in the buildings of London itself. The main streets will come more and more to resemble Kingsway, which is the new model; the buildings will be higher and more convenient, most of them will have lifts—one will have less cause to repeat Dante's lament about the bitterness of climbing another man's stairs—and the streets will be rather less sunless. But this dismal summer one does not mention the sun; like the domestic servant, it seems to be becoming extinct.

**Rubber Roads.**

The increase of motor traffic, to say nothing of the increased prices of materials, is making the problem of road repair a serious one. In order to carry the heavy goods lorries it is necessary to lay the foundations of the roads much deeper than in the old days of horse-drawn vehicles; and an interesting experiment is being tried in London to reduce vibration and, it is hoped, wear and tear. One half of the main roads is to be paved with wood blocks, after the old fashion; the other half with rubber. This material has previously only been used for the roadway under hotels and hospitals and in places where quiet is essential. If it should prove to be practicable to repave the whole of London with rubber, it would be a most excellent reform. It is much to be hoped that the experiment will prove successful.

**A City Statue.**

One of the best-known landmarks in the City, the statue to William IV. at the bottom of King William Street, is to be removed by the City Corporation on account of the congestion of traffic. There has been

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no outcry, and nobody has yet whispered "Vandalism"; the statues of London are indeed beyond defence, or even ridicule. But they are often being added to—it is the triumph of hope over experience—and I notice near Westminster a new statue to Abraham Lincoln. What it is doing in the neighbourhood of the Caxton Hall passes the imagination.

On the other hand, that absurd statue of James II., which looks like a Roman Emperor in a Scotch kilt, has now been removed from its old home at Gwydyr House to the St. James's Park, where the exiled monarch is in a position to catch a distant view of Buckingham Palace—as tactless a site to choose as that one of Mr. Gladstone in the Strand, where the statesman is made to turn his back to the church and his face to the Gaiety Theatre. It is a pity we cannot nationalise Madame Tussauds and put all these things in an enlarged Chamber of Horrors.

**The Week's Books.**

The old tradition that the publishing trade was dead in August seems, like so many old traditions, to have died itself. It used to be understood that August publishers retired to their country mansions to count their gains, and authors to their country cottages to meditate fresh masterpieces; but in these days both gains and masterpieces are more problematic. But, at least, books come out in August.

A translation has been published by the Hogarth Press of Maxim Gorki's "Reminiscences of Tolstoi." It adds a great deal to our knowledge of that extraordinary man, giving us a glimpse of a hitherto unsuspected coarseness of speech in conversation—"from the ordinary point of view, what he said was a string of indecent words"—and of the vagueness of that new gospel which he thought out at Yasnaya Polyana. The more he thought, the more passive did his thought become, and in Gorki's view, more sentimental. He thought Christ was too positive in his teaching; he was afraid that if Christ appeared in a Russian village, the girls would laugh at him. (But that might be true, not only of a Russian village.) And beneath all his renunciation of the privileges and position of the aristocrat, he still remained the aristocrat at heart. "Peasant to him," says Gorki, "means merely—bad smell; he always feels it, and involuntarily has to talk of it. Suddenly, under his peasant's beard, under his democratic, crumpled blouse, there would rise the old Russian *barin*."

A very valuable book, which I am reading rather slowly, but with great interest, is "A History of the English Agricultural Labourer, 1870-1920" (P. S. King), by F. E. Green. It gives an admirable conspectus of the low economic position of the peasant in the latter half of the nineteenth century, and the struggle to improve his lot; from another point of view, it fully explains the reason for the exodus into the towns and the emigration from the villages to the Dominions.

In "A History of Modern Colloquial English" (T. Fisher Unwin), by Professor H. Cecil Wyld, the difficult task is attempted of explaining the growth of English as she is spoke. It is a book of considerable learning and ingenuity of argument.

One of the books which one supposes everybody ought to read, but which nothing short of physical constraint and penal servitude would make me read, is "A Constitution for the Socialist Commonwealth of Great Britain, by Beatrice and Sidney Webb (Longmans). It is, no doubt, a very admirable summary of the Webb political point of view.

Perhaps the most disconcerting book I have ever come across is "Who Was Who?" (Black). It is a reprint of the biographies of the dead men in past issues of "Who's Who?" a mausoleum of past notabilities. Its very title contains the materials for a sermon of the "All flesh is grass" type, but it is, in fact, a very useful book of reference.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, July 30.

**"Sinn Fein" in Egypt.**

In my last letter I mentioned that the trial of the 28 Egyptians accused of having conspired to overthrow the Government and kill the Sultan, the Cabinet Ministers, and other persons had begun. The case is being heard before a military court, of which Brigadier-General Lawson is president, and Judge Linton Thorpe is Judge Advocate. There are now 26 barristers defending the accused, and two more—Mr. Mitchell Innes, K.C., and Major Hedley, of the English Bar—are expected to arrive on Wednesday next to defend Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy, who, together with another accused, is also charged with having incited to murder.

The proceedings opened ten days ago with a unanimous application from the defending counsel for a postponement of the trial. Mr. Devonshire was selected to make the application, and in a very able submission he directed the attention of the Court to the fact that the accused had not had sufficient time to prepare their defence. He mentioned that he had never ceased to be surprised at the fact that a Military Court was guided by no set procedure. If the accused were enemy prisoners of war they would be tried in a certain way; or, if they were Egyptian subjects being tried by a court-martial there would also be a certain procedure adopted; or if, as Egyptian subjects, they were to be tried before the Native Courts of their country, there would again be a definite form of trial. He suggested to the Court that the procedure should be not less favourable to the accused than if they were being tried as enemy prisoners of war or as Egyptian subjects before a court-martial. Furthermore, Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy had had eminent counsel engaged in England, who were now on their way to Egypt to conduct his defence. Some of the accused, even up to that very day, had not been supplied with their charge-sheets, and consequently did not know what they were being charged with. It had invariably been the practice before courts in this country for a summary of evidence for the prosecution to be taken, so that the accused should be aware of the case against them, and thus be in a position to meet the charges. Arrangements had been made for the holding of a preliminary inquiry, but as counsel for the accused had considered that the procedure at that inquiry was illegal they had submitted a protest and retired.

The argument occupied six hours, and at the conclusion the Court adjourned for a few minutes to consider its decision. On the resumption, the Judge Advocate stated that the accused had had time to prepare their defence, but some of them had not even attempted to employ legal assistance till fourteen days after they were arrested. Referring to the action of counsel for the defence in withdrawing from the preliminary inquiry, the Judge Advocate expressed his surprise and disapprobation in caustic terms. The withdrawal of counsel, because they considered that the proceedings were illegal, that is at the very time when their clients were most in need of their assistance, was, in his experience, unique. The convenience of counsel for the defence had never been considered a valid reason for adjournment. Furthermore, after having heard the remarks of counsel for the prosecution with reference to the policy of intimidation which was being actively carried on against the witnesses for the prosecution, it was obviously undesirable to have any unnecessary delay. Upon these grounds the Court had decided that there would be no adjournment.

**"Intimidation."**

The first case which came up for consideration before the Court was that of an Egyptian who had intimidated one of the witnesses for the prosecution by threatening him that if he gave evidence against the "patriotic accused," he would be killed, and his father's house burned. The intimidator was found guilty, and sentenced to five years' penal servitude. In opening his case, counsel for the prosecution (Mr. F. M. Maxwell) stated that on the night of the attempt on Darwish Pasha, in May, the police had been called to the house of a student who died during the night. A search of his house was made, and certain papers issued by the "Society of Vengeance" were seized. Armed with these clues, the secret police had made further investigations, with the result that the accused, who were then in the dock, had been arrested. A student at Al Azhar, whose name was upon the papers as a member of the Society, had turned "King's evidence," and would tell the Court that a few days subsequent to the return of the Milner Commission from Alexandria, four men had held a meeting at an hotel in Cairo, and there had decided to form the "Society of Vengeance," the objects of which were to work for the country by any means, to overthrow the Government, to threaten traitors, to dethrone the Sultan, to foster love of the ex-Khedive, and to propagate sedition. Gradually, the Society had grown. It was later divided into three parts. The first was for the dissemination of seditious literature, the second was for procuring and distributing arms, and the third part had charge of such "direct action" as the Society might decide upon. Mr. Maxwell read to the Court numerous circulars published by the Society, in which were the most venomous and disgusting accusations against the King of England, the Sultan of Egypt, the Egyptian Cabinet, Lord Milner, the High Commissioner, and many other prominent persons. Apparently, all the members of the Society have not been arrested as the Judge Advocate, the Members of the Military Court, and the counsel for the prosecution, are receiving letters threatening them with the direst consequences should the accused be convicted.

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PORT SAID, July 17.

**Unpopular Bahais.**

There has been a good deal of unrest in the place recently owing to the activities, real or suspected, of the Bahais. These Persian mystics, whose doctrines appear to be more ethical than religious, are looked upon by the Moslems as a heretical sect of Islam, and consequently they have roused the ire of those in this place who are not usually very keen on the strict tenets of Islam, but who are always glad of an excuse for "a row," and if a few opportunities for looting come along—well! The native recognises four religions—Mohammedans, Christians, Jews, and Heathens, but the Bahais are known as "Numero Khamsah" (No. 5). It seems that on several occasions, the place where the Bahais hold their meetings has been besieged by a mob, and had its windows broken, and on at least one occasion shops kept by Bahais have been looted. Also, two mission schools have been the subject of demonstrations by the mob, and windows have been smashed. The gist of the matter is that the native considers any religious service not held in a recognised building, such as a church or mosque, is suspect, and consequently, as he cannot understand it, it ought to be destroyed. These ebullitions of feeling, whether against Bahais or Christians, are a significant commentary on the declarations of the Egyptian Delegation in London regarding liberty, equality, and fraternity for non-Moslems if the Egyptians got Home Rule, or perhaps it would be more correct to say if the Nationalist party got the reins of government, which is a different thing altogether.

**July 14.**

On July 14 the usual French fête to celebrate the founding of the Republic was held here with its wonted gaiety. The streets and most of the big places of business, as well as the French Consulate, were decorated with flags and designs, and at night the illuminations with coloured lights gave a most pleasing effect. The shooting galleries, Aunt Sallys, swings, round-abouts, and a greasy pole, which were erected on the beach opposite the Casino Palace Hotel, were the centre of attraction during the day, and the happy, good-humoured crowd made the roads almost impassable. In the evening there was the customary procession of illumin-

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ated boats in the harbour, organised by the Canal Company, which showed to great advantage owing to the blackness of the night, there being no moon. However, the grand climax was the firework display from lighters moored in the harbour. This is always looked forward to, and certainly this year there was no excuse for disappointment, for during the exhibitions ships at sea could easily have found Port Said without the aid of the lighthouse.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, August 2.

**The Cabinet.**

The first phase of the Cabinet crisis is over, and M. Vesnitch has returned to the Regent the mandate entrusted to him to form a Coalition Government. It will be remembered that the immediate occasion of the crisis was what seems a trifling affair: a snap division on a minor point of internal organisation, to wit, whether or no schoolmasters should have the "passive right of voting" as they call it here, that is, the right of being elected as members of the Skupshtina, and yet retain their functions as teachers, i.e., civil servants. On this snap division, without a quorum present, the Government was defeated by four votes. M. Vesnitch at once declared that he interpreted this as a vote of want of confidence, and handed in the resignation of the Cabinet.

What the inner history was is not definitely known; it is imagined that there must have been serious divergencies in the heterogeneous team; one very persistent rumour in well-informed circles found its way into the Press, that M. Vesnitch returned to Serbia from Paris with the definite object of forming a Yugoslav-Roumanian-Hungarian-Polish alliance against the Bolshevists. Such a scheme was foredoomed to failure. The people here have had enough fighting to last them a long time; they have no ambition to take the field alongside the Roumanians; an alliance with the detested Magyars is unthinkable, and finally, nothing would induce them to take arms against Russia, whether pro or anti-Bolshevist. The suggestion is that, having done his best in this respect, M. Vesnitch will return to his post in Paris.

For ten days the representatives of the leading parties have been holding conferences. Everybody seemed anxious to make terms, and in this somewhat unusual atmosphere of sweet reasonableness, everybody was confident, asserting that the crisis would be over in a day, and only formalities remained. But on Friday M. Stoyan Protitch refused to yield on the burning question of Agrarian Reform. A dozen thorny points had been compromised, but on this he would not budge, for he cannot afford to lose the support of the conservative land-owning *begs* of Bosnia. The Democrats and Socialists could not sacrifice their fundamental principles, and so on the eleventh day the negotiations broke down, and M. Protitch added one more to the list of Cabinets which he has pulled down since the union.

The Regent will consult the leaders of the various parties, and Dr. Trumbitch and M. Pashitch have been wired for. Probably one or other party will govern without Parliament, by decree, until the elections can be held, and so invoke a flood of rhetoric from its opponents. Fortunately, the new electoral law has passed the first reading.

**Albania.**

Some of the warring factions in Albania have invaded Yugoslav territory on the flat lands near Podgoritsa and Plavnitsa on the north side of the Lake of Skadar. The attack seems to have been organised at Tirana, and it is stated that Italian uniforms were seen among the invaders. The weak frontier guards were driven back, and the invaders looted freely till reinforcements sent them about their business.

**Col. Dimitrievitch.**

It is reported that the famous Treason Trial of Salonika is to be re-opened, and there is a proposal to erect a statue to Col. Dimitrievitch, nicknamed "Apis." According to the *Belgradski Drevnik*, this is at the desire of the Crown Prince himself, who wishes to see this unhappy chapter in the country's history finally closed before the meeting of the Constituent Assembly.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, July 29.

**The Budget.**

At last one all-important measure has been laid before the Chamber. M. Take Jonescu, interim Minister of Finance, in the absence of M. Titulescu at the Spa Conference, introduced the Budget Bill on July 19. It runs to the enormous figure of 8 milliards, 100 millions on the revenue side, and six milliards, 600 millions on the expenses side. The Minister hastened to explain that it had been thought wiser to underestimate rather than overestimate the revenues, so that the rather staggering deficit of half a milliard may ultimately be reduced. He also explained that it had not been possible to prepare a complete budget in the short time available, and the present measure must be regarded as provisory and subject to modification. The revenues from the different provinces have been calculated as follows:—Old Kingdom, 4 milliard 470 million; Transylvania, 1 milliard 250 million; Bessarabia, 270 million; Bukovina, 90 million. The principal sources of income are estimated thus:—Direct taxes, 460 million; indirect taxes, 1 milliard 900 million; public services, 1 milliard 650 million; railways, 1 milliard 400 million.

This Budget provides for the upkeep of the Army on a peace footing only; whereas comparatively few soldiers have as yet been demobilised. Moreover, it does not take into consideration the sum required for paying interest on the Treasury Bonds already issued; this it is doubtless hoped to raise by a foreign loan. Again, the introduction of a graduated income tax has been postponed, but possibly it may be included among the subsequent modifications.

The enormous sum budgeted for, and the incompleteness of the whole project, have raised a storm of criticism in the Liberal and other Opposition Press, but considering the unsettled conditions which have obtained in the Government Departments for the last six months (the Ministers have changed three times within that period) it would have been little short of a miracle if a complete and homogeneous Budget had been produced. Those responsible for its preparation have certainly not been inspired mainly by ideas of economy, which, we are told, ought to form the ruling principle in the lives both of men and nations in these times. It is certain that in Roumania it was expected that important economies would be arranged for; but, on the contrary, the expenses have been largely increased.

**Co-operation with Transylvanians.**

There have been rumours for some time of an attempt on the part of the Government to conciliate the leaders of the Transylvanian parties with a view to obtaining

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their support, and this is indeed "a consummation devoutly to be wished." It is a thousand pities that the representatives of Transylvania should have no place in a Cabinet Council, one of the first duties of which is to arrange for the systematic incorporation of that province into the Roumanian State. It may safely be said that one of the greatest weaknesses of this Government lies in the fact that M. Vaida-Voevod and M. Julius Maniu and their followers are so bitterly opposed to it, because there is the danger that, unless the Transylvanians receive proper consideration, they will remain dissatisfied with their union to the Mother Country. As matters stand at present, Dr. Vaida has announced that, having in view the arbitrary methods adopted by General Averescu's Government in regard to the solution of economic problems, there can be no question of any amalgamation between his own party and that of the General.

**Roumania and the Soviet Government.**

In a very able and moderately expressed speech through which, however, some bitterness could be felt, Dr. Vaida-Voevod told the Chamber this week that he considered it vital to the present interests of Roumania to make peace immediately with all her neighbours; and he expressed the keenest regret that the Cabinets which had succeeded his had not deemed it expedient to continue the negotiations which he had begun with the Russian Soviet Government. He hoped the mistake would be retrieved now that a fresh incentive had been given by the prospective pourparlers with Poland.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, July 23.

**The King's Tour.**

The King has been very busy these last few days visiting his new subjects in some of the recently liberated towns. His Majesty left Phaleron on July 15, on board the Averoff, and arrived at Smyrna on the following morning. But the Smyrniotes, who had from early morning taken up positions along the quay in order to see their Sovereign, were doomed to disappointment, as his Majesty did not go ashore, and the Averoff weighed anchor two hours after her arrival. On Saturday morning (July 17), the cruiser passed through the Dardanelles, and in the afternoon of the same day appeared before Panderma. The people of Panderma had never before seen a Greek king, and I do not think his Majesty will ever forget the enthusiastic reception which he was given when, on the following day, he went ashore. He lunched with the Commander-in-Chief, General Paraskevopoulos, and in the afternoon received Greek and Turkish deputations, which conveyed to him the gratitude of the population for the liberation of the town from Moustapha Kemal's hordes.

On Monday afternoon, Vice-Admiral Freemantle visited the King on board the Averoff, his Majesty returning the visit shortly afterwards on H.M.S. Revenge.

On Tuesday morning (July 20) the Averoff appeared before Rodosto. During the naval bombardment of the Turkish positions, which preceded the occupation of the town by the Greek landing parties, the King remained on the bridge, telescope in hand, and paying no attention to the repeated warnings of his A.D.C.'s and the captain of the ship. His Majesty visited the town during the afternoon, and the reception he was given surpassed in enthusiasm even that of Panderma. The whole operation of occupying the place was so unexpected, and so quickly accomplished, that the people of Rodosto, who were, but a few hours ago, under the yoke of Jaafer Tayar's cruel partisans, could hardly realise that they were at last free, and that their King was in their midst. The Averoff, with King Alexander aboard, left Rodosto on the following morning for Dedeagatch.

**More Officers Called Up.**

The Minister of War has issued an order calling up all the Sanitary Reserve Officers of the 1908 class. All Infantry Reserve Officers and Warrant Officers of the 1914 class have also been called up. These will report on July 31.

The Greek Government has received information from Cyprus to the effect that 8,000 Greek volunteers are ready there to proceed to Smyrna for the purpose of joining the Hellenic forces, but their departure had been postponed pending the granting of the necessary permission by the British Government.

**Roumanian Students.**

A party of 155 Roumanian students, including 25 ladies, from the Jassy and Bucharest Universities, arrived here from Roumania on July 21, accompanied by their professors. They were received by a number of professors and students of the University of Athens who conducted them to the Acropolis, the museums and other places of interest in the town. In the evening a dinner was given in honour of the visitors at the "Luna Park" in Old Phaleron. An official reception, which was to have been held at the University here, was postponed, as the Roumanian students left Piræus on the following day for Italy on their way to Grenoble, where they will stay for about two months.

**A Greek University in Smyrna.**

A Royal decree has just been published in the *Government Gazette* authorising the creation of a University in Smyrna. A Greek patriot, M. S. Palantzis, has presented the Government with the substantial sum of two million drachmæ for the construction of this University, and a further sum of 250,000 dr. towards the upkeep of the establishment.

The Athens Press, commenting on the above, points out that it is the Government's duty to establish both commercial and agricultural colleges in the capital of Ionia.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, July 12.

**New Taxes.**

A great many of the Agrarian Parliamentary group consider that the new taxation thus far imposed will be insufficient in proportion to the expenditure under this year's budget. The question has been raised also getary deficit will be very largely diminished in the Ministry of Finance with the appointment of a Commission for the preparation of law projects for the new taxes, which will be submitted to the Cabinet. The new taxes will be for the greater part of an indirect character, and it is hoped that through them the budgetary deficit will be very largely diminished in the next three or four years, or even wiped out. In comparison with the budgets of neighbouring States, even the present budget of Bulgaria closes with the smallest deficit.

**Parliamentary Vacation.**

Last Friday the Chamber held its last sitting of the session. The following measures passed their third reading without debate:—Law for itinerant peace law courts, the restriction of robbery, pillage, and incendiarism; law legalising the payment in bank notes of taxes on registration, renewal and transfer of commercial and industrial marks; a law in connection with taxes and fees collected by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Public Worship and by Bulgarian legations and consulates abroad. Afterwards, the decision taken by the Radoslavoff Government to hand over the

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land near the National Assembly to Germany, for the erection of a legation, was brought up for consideration, and was quashed; the land being required for the formation of a park in which to place monuments to the champions of Bulgarian regeneration. Then, on the proposals of M. Stambolisky, the Chamber adjourned until September 1.

M. Stambolisky is leaving to-day for Varna, for a fortnight's rest. During his absence the Minister of the Interior, M. Dimitroff, is in charge of the Ministry of War and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

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SOFIA, July 25.

**Bulgarian Prisoners From Greece.**

Following upon the representations made by the British and French representatives at Athens, the Greek Government has begun to repatriate the Bulgarian prisoners of war. Seven hundred of them have already returned, and the remainder are to follow in parties of about two hundred daily.

**Dr. Daneff and the Chamber.**

The Bulgarian Government has asked the French Government to agree to the appointment of Dr. Christo Montafoff, a leading member of the Progressist Party, as Bulgarian Minister Plenipotentiary at Paris. This will allow Dr. Daneff to re-enter the Chamber as Deputy of the Sofia district, for which he was elected, but for which he gave up the seat to Dr. Montafeff.

**The Mobilization Rumours.**

The Director of the Bulgarian Press Bureau has been authorised to announce that the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied troops in Bulgaria has declared in conversation with the correspondent of the *Temps* that the rumour about a mobilization in Bulgaria is baseless. Bulgaria, it is added, is, on the contrary, applying herself sincerely to carrying out the Treaty of Peace, and demobilizing in the prescribed manner.

**The Thracian Situation.**

The *Zemledeltchesko Znamé*, the organ of the Agrarian League, commenting on the latest phases of the Thracian question, writes:—

It may be said that Bulgaria has survived the critical period, and that Bulgaria, broken by two wars, nevertheless quickly regained conciousness and got rid of those parties which, since she began to live a free and independent life, had been preparing her for bloodshed. First of all the nations, hard-working Bulgaria was able to get rid of her oppressors and to take the task of government into her own hands. Unlike all other parties, the national Bulgarian Agrarian League has carried on an obstinate combat against bloody national engagements; it has always been the most resolute foe to war, and it remains so to-day. Now when fresh conflagrations are beginning to blaze up, Bulgaria will remain uninfluenced by them, because at the head of the Government stands the Agrarian League, which will not, under any circumstances, allow a repetition of past follies. The Bulgarian Imperialists are smashed; the nation has secured its rights, that it alone shall be master of its destinies. Henceforth Bulgaria will march on and concentrate on peaceful economic developments. It is desirable that the industrious Bulgarian people should rally round their Government and let it feel sure that nobody will trouble its tranquillity.

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## TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, July 20.

**The Peace Treaty.**

One of the most remarkable factors in Near Eastern politics is the somewhat puerile nature of public opinion, which is as changeable as the wind. Scarcely a month ago, the voice of those who were in favour of the signing of the Peace Treaty more or less as it stood were drowned by cries of "Traitors and cowards!" It then looked as if it were impossible to find any Turkish statesman willing to put his signature to what was universally described as Turkey's death sentence. A fortnight ago there was a slight revulsion of feeling, and this has now developed to such a degree that it seems quite certain that the Turkish Government will sign without further ado. There is very little doubt that there have been two principal reasons for the change. The weightiest of these was the complete collapse of the Nationalist Forces on the Smyrna Front. Had they put up a fairly stiff fight, things might have been different, but when it was realised that the advance of the Greeks had been in the nature of a walk-over, it became clear enough that all hope of a readjustment by force was vain. The second reason for the change of opinion was no less important; for the uncompromising nature of the reply to the Turkish demand for even a few days' further delay, and the general attitude towards Turkey proved the utter futility of relying upon differences among the Allies themselves to bring about a change in the conditions of the Treaty. It is impossible to say exactly how much this idea has been encouraged among the Turks by certain persons with axes to grind, but the final result has not been to enhance the prestige of their governments. The utter futility of further resistance was made plain to the Sublime Porte as soon as Damad Ferid Pasha returned, and it has been decided to assemble a "Diwan" or Council of Notables to take the final decision. This Council will, in all probability, include only those who are opposed to the Nationalists, and the result will therefore be a foregone conclusion. In fact, the principal object of holding the Council will be to distribute the responsibility for the acceptance of the Allies' terms as much as possible. It is also very probable that there will be some changes in the Cabinet; but unless Damad Ferid Pasha breaks down at the last moment, he is likely to remain at the head of the administration.

**The Nationalists.**

The advance of the Greek Army has certainly shaken the prestige of Mustapha Kemal, but apparently has not weakened the determination of the Nationalist leaders to push matters to the end of the path which they have marked out. There have been revolts in certain parts of Anatolia, notably in the Yozgat region, but it appears that they have been stifled, for the time being, at all events. The Nationalists, apart from their losses in men, must have been embarrassed by their losses in material, and now, more than ever, resistance in the field must be out of the question. Still, it is a far cry from Brusa, the most easterly point of the Greek advance, to Angora, and there is still plenty of country behind Angora. In Nationalist circles it is said that Nationalist tactics will in future be confined to guerilla warfare, carried on by bands which will seek to harry Greek communications and thus hamper any advance. At the same time, Mustapha Kemal has been publishing appeals to "Our Communist and Moslem Brethren," which can only be described as hysterical, and it would appear that the Nationalist leaders, in the gambling spirit of true adventurers, are placing all their hopes upon Bolshevist help. The Soviet Government would probably like nothing better than to undertake the "liberation" of the "proletariat" of Anatolia, but it's a long way from Baku to Angora. Once again the command of the sea has saved the situation for the Allies; for otherwise there would be no obstacle to supplying the Nationalists with all the arms and munitions they require.

**Thrace.**

It is reported that the Greeks are about to proceed to occupy Eastern Thrace, and it will then be seen whether Jaafar Tayar's "army" will make a better stand than that of Mustapha Kemal. In this respect there have been some curious rumours in circulation. In the first place, it is said that the Bulgarians have been making preparations to assist the Turks to resist the Greeks, and that the Roumanians intimated at Sofia that any such action on the part of Bulgaria would not, in diplomatic jargon, leave Roumania indifferent. Fast upon the heels of this story came a report that the Bolshevists had made a military demonstration upon the frontier of Bessarabia, and had intimated to Roumania that any action on her part against Bulgaria would not leave the Soviet Government indifferent. All that is now required to clear the ring is for Rome to have a heart-to-heart talk on the same lines with Belgrade!

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## TRANS-CAUCASIA.

TIFLIS, July 10.

**Batoum, Georgia.**

The outstanding event during the past fortnight was the signing on June 28 of the agreement whereby the province and town of Batoum are handed over to Georgia. So that at long last, after very much anti-Georgian propaganda, Georgia comes into her own. Certainly the Georgians are very satisfied, but at the same time they are not a little concerned at the departure of the Allied troops in consequence of the transfer. This concern is due to their fear of possible aggression on the part of the Adjarians and the Turks, whose agents and propagandists have been displaying considerable activity of late, and with this fear is coupled distrust of the "Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan." Of course, everyone realises that Baku to-day is simply a part of Soviet Russia, but the Moscow leaders are cunning enough to refer to Azerbaijan as a separate "republic," so that they can at any time continue their underhand schemes in Trans-Caucasia and at the same time deny all responsibility.

Georgian troops entered Batoum town on July 5 without any noteworthy incident. The Adjarians had been warned by the British Military authorities that the transfer of the town and province was decided by the Supreme Council, and that any opposition would be considered as an act hostile to the Allies. It is expected that wise counsels will prevail and that the Adjarians will work in with the Georgians, who, while proclaiming that the Adjarians will be treated on an equal footing with the Christian Georgians, have issued a warning that any act of disloyalty will be ruthlessly suppressed and punished by death and confiscation of goods.

The Mayor of Tiflis, B. Tchkhikvishvili, has been appointed Governor of Batoum Province, and Mr. A. I. Kandelaki has been appointed to co-ordinate the local administrations in Batoum with the central ministerial departments in Tiflis. The formal ceremony of handing over took place in Batoum on the 8th inst., in the presence of the Georgian Ministers and the foreign diplomatic representatives.

**Bolshevist Propaganda.**

Bolshevist propaganda has been spreading considerably in Georgia during the past month, especially since the arrival of Kiroff, the Soviet "ambassador," and his numerous staff. Every day Bolshevist agents are arrested with printed pamphlets and huge sums of paper money, mostly Romanovsky, in their possession, and are deported to Vladikavkaz. The consensus of opinion in Government circles is that the present state of things must end in the expulsion of Kiroff and his mission, members of which figure amongst the arrested persons. Should the position ease in South Russia and on the Polish and Ukrainian fronts, the Georgians will take heart of grace and turn out all the known Bolshevist adherents in the country. Meantime, the Georgians are using considerable tact and working energetically and watchfully to preserve their existence as an independent state.

Any tendency there may have been amongst the Georgian population to welcome the Bolshevists has now departed owing to the circumstantial reports brought in by refugees from Baku and Elisavetopol. Wholesale executions are still being carried out by the Bolshevists in both towns, while confirmation is to hand of the seizure and exportation from Baku of enormous quantities of oil, rice, cotton, manufactured goods, cattle, nuts, etc., which are shipped to Astrakhan and Krasnavodsk. On the other hand, the Bolshevists have brought down flour in small quantities from the North Caucasus, mostly for their own use, but it is sold to their "friends" at very high prices. Since the rising in Azerbaijan everyone living in the larger towns has to be in doors by 8 p.m., at which hour all windows and doors giving out on to the street must be closed.

**"United Russia."**

The Bolshevists openly avow their intention to restore to Soviet Russia the old Russian frontiers, and to take Georgia, including Batoum, and also Armenia. They are further busily preparing in Baku an army recruited amongst the Persian and Tartar workmen for operations in Persia, believing that Moslem soldiers will easily achieve the end they have in view.

**Georgia's Thorny Path.**

It must be conceded that Georgia has to tread a thorny path in organising a government and in establishing a workable economic system on top of the chaotic conditions left by the collapse of the old Russian Empire, what time she has to guard against the perpetual disaster threatened by the spread of the Bolshevist incubus. Surrounded by peoples who bear her little good will, and who will simultaneously prove a drain on her resources as they grow, only supreme wisdom, boundless energy and an iron will to make good will enable Georgia to accomplish her task. That Georgia is to-day the best conducted of all the former states of the old Russia says very much for her legislators and for the common-sense of the people. Should Georgia now rise prudently to the occasion and refrain from legislation that may scare away foreign capital and assistance, she will find in Great Britain all the help and resources she needs in order to increase her own wealth and welfare, and she will find that the British will not turn an unsympathetic ear to her nor misunderstand the real difficulties that Georgia herself has to overcome.

## ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA, July 26.

The Hellenic Government have enrolled all Smyrna Hellenic subjects up to the age of thirty-six, a measure which has considerably perturbed business in this province. The strenuous efforts made by the European Consuls to obtain exemption for a few principal employees of their respective subjects have so far been abortive. British subjects especially feel that they have been harshly treated, hence bitter criticism prevails.

The Greek advance along the British railway has once more lapsed into the "wait and see" phase. When the Greeks cleared the Kemalists out of their trenches around Omurlu (near Aidin) it was expected that they would keep them on the run to the end of the line Egedir. But the Greeks appear to have been enjoined by the Allies not to advance beyond Nazli; which measure has given ample time to the Kemalists to destroy towns and villages between Nazli and Dineir—their present headquarters—besides damaging the main bridges so that the Greeks cannot very easily advance, even if they get permission to do so. To the man on the spot it is impossible to appreciate the policy of allowing the Greeks to advance along the British railway just far enough to irritate the Kemalists into ill-treating (if not massacring) all the Christians living along the 150 miles of railway still in the Kemalists' hands. If the Greeks had been left untrammelled to give the Kemalists a "knock-out" blow and clear the British railway, as they have cleared the French railway from Smyrna to Panderma, it would have re-established commerce in this province and saved the lives of the unfortunate Christian population at the mercy of Kemal and his brigands. At least one Briton is known to be among the prisoners at Dineir.

The Dutch Consul has at last relinquished his charge of French interests in Smyrna, a duty he has fulfilled since August, 1914. Henceforth French interests will devolve upon the French High Commissioner's delegate. British interests still remain in the hands of the Dutch Consul, but should peace with Turkey be signed in the near future, the newly appointed British Consul-General, Sir Henry Lamb, will presumably take charge of British interests in Smyrna.

## CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, July 5.

**Activity of the Deputation.**

Letters from members of the mission to London describe their visit to Mr. Asquith at his home. The leader of the Liberals, they state, expressed "with enthusiasm" the favourable view he takes of the Cyprus questions, and his confidence that the British Government would deal sympathetically with Greek aspirations. They also report another interview with M. Venizelos, prior to the Hythe meeting, in which the Greek Premier appears to have repeated his assurance that all will go well, and that patience is necessary. The deputation urge that efforts should no

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be for a moment relaxed in the island, or in any quarter where the cause can be in any way promoted.

**More Volunteers for Greece.**

The enrolment of Cypriots continues, more than 8,000 having offered themselves up to July 10. The number includes over fifty women who wish to serve in hospitals and camps. This total will be considerably increased. The Bishop of Kitium has issued a circular, and he is aided by some of the leading men in all the six districts, who are visiting every village in which Greeks are found. The acting Hellenic consul, M. Artémis, is very busy, and frequent telegrams are being exchanged with the authorities in Athens. In a telegram from Smyrna, the High Commissioner, M. Stergiades, asked for information respecting the number of Cypriots who were engaged as muleteers and connected service by the British Military forces operating in Macedonia in the late war. The Government has replied that this information could not be given unless applied for through the British Minister in Athens. The consul, therefore, after consulting the last edition of the "Cyprus Handbook," in which details are published, has replied that the number was about 10,000.

**General News.**

There are many arrivals from Egypt, especially of families who come to spend the summer in the hills. All hotels and resorts are now well filled on Mount Troodos, and in many villages. Some residents, as well as officials, are getting to Europe as they can. They include Fuad Bey, the Turkish judge at Nicosia, and some leading Greeks.

More Armenian refugees continue to arrive: 1,000 more are expected shortly, most of whom will be placed in vacated War Office buildings and stores, outside Limassol, in what was the Royal Engineer and Ordnance Depot, which is still called the "Commissariat." Among late arrivals are various fever cases, which are being strictly watched and isolated. All the refugees are promptly vaccinated. A large quantity of personal property belonging to the Russian refugees is being offered for sale at Famagusta.

Indignant denials are being given to the statements made in a Greek paper, published in Alexandria, to the effect that a strong anti-Venizelist feeling exists among some island Greeks (various persons being named). These persons not only repudiate the charge in the *Voice of Cyprus*, but have sent telegrams to Greek papers in Egypt, denouncing the malicious fabrications. The Greek Cypriot community very thoroughly and ardently supports the Greek Premier.

## TROUBLED CILICIA.

A correspondent in Alexandria sends us some extracts from a letter written by an Armenian correspondent in Adana, and dated July 5. The writer refers first to the Mersina-Tarsus-Adana railway, which, he declares, has passed to the Kemalists, thanks to the French. There is no hope of its recovery, he thinks; and he and his countrymen are expecting a second "horrible Marash." After animadverting strongly upon the "Turcophil policy" of the French, and their "double-faced politics towards us," he goes on to say:—

"The political situation of the country is becoming worse and worse every day. The French have allowed the Kemalists to approach within gunshot of the town, and attempts on our side to drive them off are not favoured, or, rather, are not allowed. The number of arms given to the Christians does not exceed 150, and those the oldest model, single-shot, 1875 rifles. The Armenians are only permitted to form militias to protect their houses, no ammunition being given to them. The assurances given to England by the French, that they would restore order and protect the Armenians are disregarded, as mere words. Communication between the different towns of Cilicia is impossible; telegraph and telephone lines, like the railway, are broken; and the only means of communication is the aerial service three times a week. As a result of the declaration of independence in the Amanus zone the inhabitants enjoy partial liberty. We thought that our only enemy was the Turk, but we have learned most regretfully that our friends act towards us in no Christian manner."

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—M. Artémis has received, for transmission to M. Venizelos, a long telegram from Armenians and Maronite Catholic Christians in Cilicia. They describe the slaughter, burning, and outraging of 10,000 Christians, who were surrounded by Turkish bands, the desperate plight of many places (the names of which are enumerated) in Cilicia. In Mersina, Tarsus, and Adana, 150,000 are cut off under a reign of terror and of food shortage. Hitherto hopes of aid from the Entente have buoyed up these people; but they now see with pain and sorrow that the Allied Powers have decided, in spite of Armenia's right and historical claims, to subject the most important part of Cilicia to a continuance of Turkish rule. They would prefer death to this red tyranny. In this critical moment, should France abandon the country, they will shed their last drop of blood with a view to establishing an administration of which the programme of the Allies held out definite hopes. They pray that M. Venizelos will furnish the means which will enable them to safeguard their rights and prevent further hecatombs, which have already so terribly reduced the unfortunate Christians. The telegram, dated July 5, is signed by Nasri Zabet, President of the Mazonite Catholic Community, and M. Zelebian, President of the Armenian Union.


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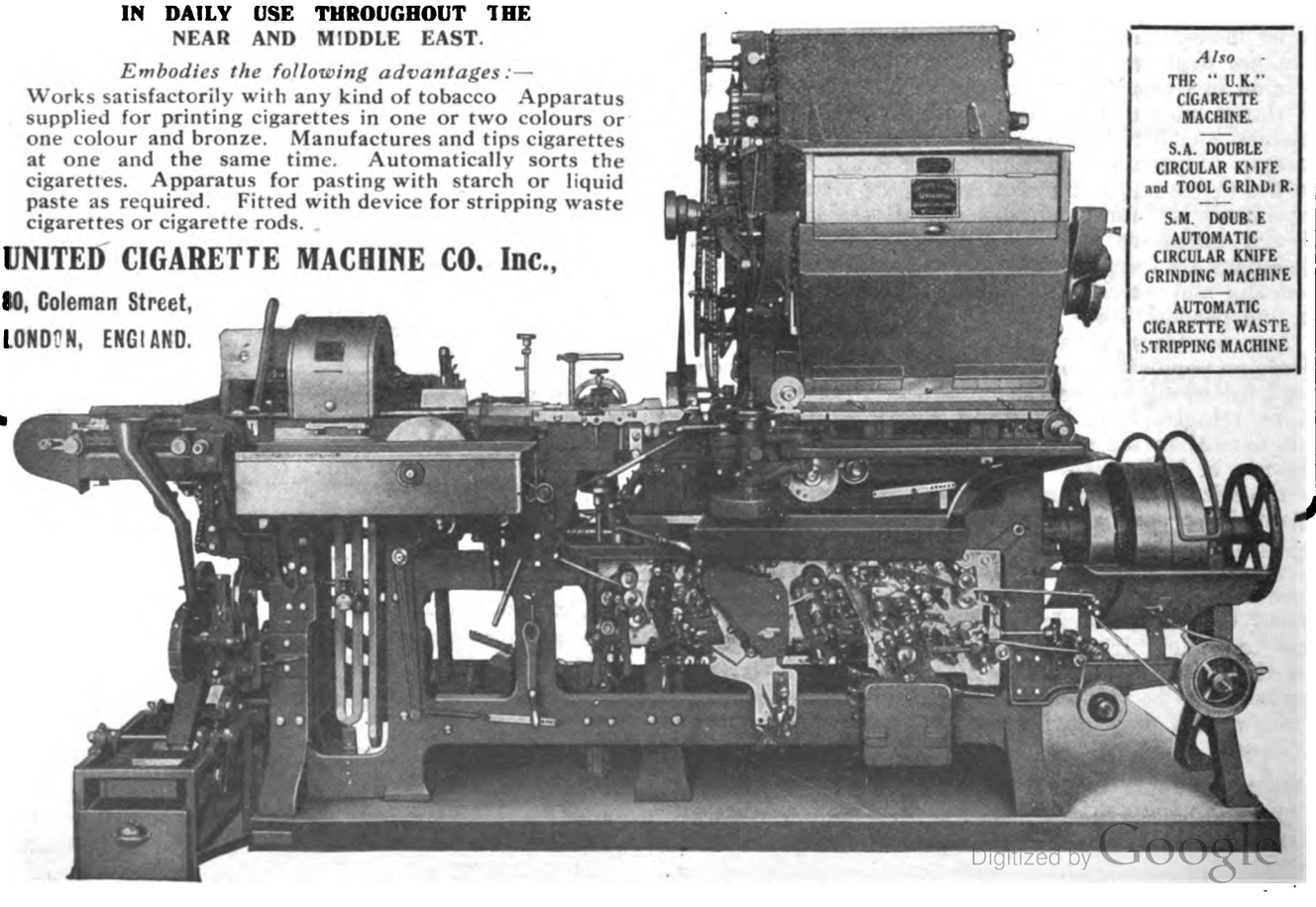

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# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

## The Allies and the Arabs.

The *New Statesman* of July 24 has an interesting article on "Mandates *à la Mode*." It points out the tremendous responsibility in this matter of Great Britain and France, and illustrates its case by Syria. Commenting upon this, and upon General Gouraud's recent action in particular, it says:—

Is the French action so utterly outrageous? They have a case. The Arabs have murdered large numbers of French soldiers. Feisul has steadily refused the use of the railway, which is vitally necessary for the French troops operating against Mustapha Kemal in Cilicia. And, obviously, if the mandate was rightly conferred, the French are entitled to claim that it shall be recognised, especially when they have stated categorically that it "will respect the independence of Syria and will remain wholly compatible with the principle of government by Syrian authorities properly invested with powers by the popular will; it will only entail on the part of the mandatory Power co-operation in the form of collaboration and assistance, and will not assume the colonial form of annexation or direct administration."

But there is also a Syrian case. The vast majority of the Syrian people, so far as can be ascertained, do not want to be under French tutelage, any more than the Arabs of Mesopotamia want to be under ours. They desire neither the collaboration nor the assistance of France. It is no secret that French administration is disliked in Syria. The French themselves are perfectly well aware of this, and it is vain to pretend, as it has been the fashion of a section of the Parisian Press to pretend, that British intrigue has deliberately destroyed the amicable feelings of the Syrians for France. The unpopularity of the French is a fact which was patent in Syria immediately after the Armistice, and this country has no responsibility for it whatever. It is a fact which we sincerely regret. But we do not see what service we can do to France by concealing from ourselves and from Europe at large a motive which is all powerful in Syria. There have been many insinuations in France that we desired a mandate for Syria ourselves. There is no shadow of foundation for such an idea. Nor do the Syrian people, we believe, want us. Rightly or wrongly, they want independence, and rightly or wrongly they have derived enormous encouragement from the undertakings we gave to the Hedjaz Arabs in the first year of the war. It is argued that these undertakings do not conflict with the recognition, to which we pledged ourselves at the same time, of French rights over Arab territories and populations. Maybe they do not, on paper. But no amount of argument, we fear, will remove the unfortunate impression produced on the Arab mind by this glimpse of European diplomacy, or persuade the Nationalists of Damascust that an "independent Arab State" is only possible under a French mandate "for the whole of Syria."

It proceeds to state that, however the Syrian matter be settled, "the opposition to the French will remain, and there is no way out of the difficulty by pretending that this opposition is merely the work of agitators, and that the Syrian Nationalists, who have crowned Faisal king, are a group of Sinn Feiners whose prompt suppression will be acclaimed with joy by the vast mass of well-effected Arabs. The lesson of Ireland, if not of Egypt, ought to be a warning against comfortable illusions of that sort."

The article ends with a logical paragraph:—

What, then, is to be done? We believe that nothing useful will be done until Europe—which means, at this moment and for all practical purposes, ourselves and France—makes up its mind to a definite policy in the East. The Supreme Council, our Foreign Offices and General Staffs, the Government of India and various business interests, all have their own axes to grind. We are experimenting on every people from the Black Sea to the Persian Gulf, and neither we, nor any of them, are satisfied. There are really only two practical alternatives. The one is to rule by the sword—to apply Dyerism in India or Egypt or any other country inhabited by "niggers." The other is to dominate by moral force. The attempt to mix the two systems will breed nothing but unrest and disaster. And we put it to the French that it is precisely that which they are attempting now in Syria, just as we are attempting it in Mesopotamia. But what, it will be asked, does using moral force mean? It means what those who drafted the Covenant of the League of Nations meant—or perhaps we should say, what those who believe in the League of Nations mean. It implies at the outset that, if a European Power is going to exercise a mandate over Arabs, the European Power must be honest and the Arabs must be willing. Is it not a *reductio ad absurdum* of the mandate to impose it with tanks and bombs? . . . If it is oil and moral and economic interests that require our presence in Asia, well and good. Only let us then have done with humbug; do not let us call an army a mandate, or a machine-gun battalion "administrative advice." If, on the other hand, there is any sincerity in our professions, we are surely bound to remind ourselves of the words of the Covenant, that "the wishes of these communities (*i.e.*, communities formerly belonging to the Turkish Empire) must be a principal consideration in the selection of the mandatory." Should the Arabs insist on their absolute independence, there are, it seems to us, only two alternatives. Either they must have it or an attempt must be made to conciliate them by doing what the Supreme Council suggested in the case of Armenia—that is to say, by making the League of Nations itself the mandatory, and equipping it, of course (as the Supreme Council did not suggest in the Armenian case), with the necessary resources. Neither of these alternatives, we suppose, will strike the French Government or our own as particularly agreeable. But either of them is preferable to the moral and material damage that the present conception of mandates promises to the French and British peoples.

## France and Syria.

The *Birmingham Post* of July 21 shows much sympathy with the Allies, particularly with France, in their troubles in the East. On the matter of France and Syria it says:—

France, apparently, has no disposition to claim either sovereignty or administrative authority. The aim of the French Government in Syria, like that of the British Government in Mesopotamia, is to set up an independent and stable Arab State capable of taking its established place among the civilised and progressive communities of the East. But Syria under the Emir Feisul is clearly incapable of standing thus alone without tutelage: and if the Emir and his friends could but see it, they would be best serving the interests of their country by consenting to co-operate with the mandatory of the League of Nations until the Near East generally is quieter and their own social development a little further advanced. We can only regret their blunders, the first result of which is that a state of war now exists between the Arab King of Syria and the French Republic. But we are bound to say that this open breach, deplorable as it is, cannot be reckoned unexpected; and we must reckon with the fact that Great Britain has taken a certain part in the events leading up to the quarrel which cannot now be viewed with an altogether easy mind. When General Allenby was fighting in Palestine he was glad enough of Arab assistance. Great Britain was then regarded as the liberator of Syria from Turkish overlordship; and the British Government explicitly approved of the idea of the creation of an independent Arab State, including within its boundaries the four cities of Damascus, Homs, Hamah, and Aleppo. It is true that this approval was without prejudice to French claims, and it is true that the Peace Conference recognised these claims, and gave to France a mandate over Syria as a whole. But the fact remains that the Arabs, or a great many of them, expected something more. Ambitious for immediate and unconditional independence, they feel that they have but exchanged one overlordship for another; and they would be more than human if they did not feel aggrieved over the failure, as it must seem to them, of British promises and assurances, accompanied by conditions on which perhaps too little stress was laid.

## Articles to Note.

"Turkey for the Turks," by Jack Leonard: and "Gun-Running in the Gulf," by Brigadier-General H. H. Austin, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., in *Blackwood's* (August).

"The Nahrwan Canal," by F. Kingdon Ward: and "The Story of Sadi," by J. G. Lockhart, in the *Cornhill* (August).

"The Story of Essad Pasha," by M. E. Durham, in the *Contemporary Review* (August).

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## MUSICAL NOTES.

Messrs. Keith, Prowse and Co. have sent me a further selection from Landon Ronald's music to the play "The Garden of Allah." It is a pianoforte suite, consisting of five pieces—Prelude, Incidental Music to Act 1, Kyrie Eleison, Dance of the Ouled Nail and Music to Sand Storm. The promise that the previous piece sent to me ("In an Eastern Garden") showed is not borne out in this longer selection. Mr. Ronald has not made the Eastern idiom his own, and the devices that he uses to infuse local colour are there because they ought to be, no because they must be. In a word, it is clever artificiality and not spontaneous originality upon which Mr. Ronald must congratulate himself.

In these stifling days of exoticism, when the spectacle-loving public prefers any music to its own, nearly every popular English composer has dabbled in Eastern music. (Apropos of this, it will be interesting to see whether the run of "The Beggar's Opera" equals that of "Chu Chin Chow." If it does, what follows must, of course, be taken as rubbish.) If the music is strange and not too incomprehensible, and if, moreover, is provided with it an orgy of wild colour and dancing, the simple English public is overwhelmed, and night after night will revel in scenes by which the true Oriental is bewildered and bored. The number of English composers who have really done something with Eastern methods are extremely few—Granville Bantock, of course, is the best exponent, with Cyril Scott perhaps a tired second—and certainly Mr. Ronald does not add to that number.

His chief trick is naturally the repetition of the lower chord, but he works it far beyond the merciful stage of death. It is legitimate in a thing like the "Dance of the Ouled Nail," but in the "Music to Sandstorm," ought the scurrying of the tempest really to remain on the same note all the way through? The method is pseudo-realistic, and is not true. However, I have not read Mr. Hichens' book, nor have I seen the Drury Lane production of "The Garden of Allah," but I should imagine that Mr. Ronald's music is at least worthy of them. Occasional music judged absolutely is not often good, and though this music belongs to the majority of such pieces, it undoubtedly should help to give to the uncritical the illusion that they are witnessing something really oriental, something really different from anything else.

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Last week I noticed the collection, by Mr. Manilovitch, of the better known Yugoslav folk songs. Now the distinction that a small volume published by Messrs. Cary and Co., at 4s. net., and compiled by Mr. R. J. C. Chanter, bears is that all the songs in it have hitherto been unpublished. Its title is "Serbian and Macedonian Folk-Songs," but it should be explained for the benefit of those who, like myself, do not know to whom Macedonia should rightly belong that in this volume and in succeeding ones are to be found melodies which Mr. Chanter heard from the lips not only of Serbians, but of Bulgarians and Turks as well.

Mr. Chanter's work is most interesting, and, being done in the English fashion, it is the more easily appreciated. His harmonisations are extremely simple and neat, and, unlike Serbian editors, he finishes his songs on the common chord of the tonic and does not leave them unresolved on the dominant chord. There are twelve songs in this book, and all are certainly worth putting down. Each one has a different attraction, but the most appealing are "A Mother's Song," in which an inextricable mingling of joy and sorrow is beautifully brought out by a skilful accompaniment; "A Song of the Flower," a joyous, unexpected melody; "I Love a Maiden," an artless little tune in $\frac{5}{8}$ time; and "A Lament," given to the compiler by a Bulgar-Turk whose home was in Bosnia, in which one supposes that a good deal is lost through the translation of the words.

Mr. Chanter says that he found difficulty in getting the words translated, but his own efforts are not the least creditable. To most of the songs he himself has supplied words, but one bears the name of W. G. Winget, and two the name of E. M. Burr (Mr. Burr, incidentally, appears to have made a spirited translation of "By Ochrida's Stream," a very pleasing little song in waltz time). Naturally, Mr. Chanter wants as good words as possible to his settings, but if he gives some more tunes equal to these we can forgive the words, however poor. It is a very valuable work that he is doing in publishing these unknown songs (unknown, that is, outside the countries of their origin), and one looks forward eagerly to volume two of his collection.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE OCCUPATION OF THRACE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Mr. Mosconas is welcome to sing the praises of Greece, but he is not entitled to point to Bulgaria as condoning Greece's action over the question of Thrace. Mr. Mosconas has not been fortunate in the choice of the attitudes he has assumed. He began by being "amused," and in his letter of July 29 becomes positively threatening. This is not an encouraging method of conducting a serious controversy, least of all, when Mr. Mosconas has not proved his case.

May I be permitted to put the whole question in its proper light?

In his first letter, Mr. Mosconas tried to score off his own bat by quoting right away, as it appeared on his own authority, from the Bulgarian paper *Zora*. When he was pulled up by "A Bulgarian," with the identical copy of the *Zora* in hand, he turned round and admitted that he had borrowed the quotation from the *Messager d'Athènes*. As he had been challenged on a question of fact, one would have thought he would have withdrawn from the controversy with as little clamour as possible. Instead, he now informs your readers that he is writing to Athens for a copy of the *Messager d'Athènes*, upon which he has relied for his information.

The saying goes, "two blacks don't make a white," Mr. Mosconas having quoted the *Messager d'Athènes*, and the latter publication having misquoted the *Zora* will not alter the question of fact, namely, that no such statement as quoted by Mr. Mosconas, appeared in the *Zora*, a copy of which, as "A Bulgarian," has informed us, is in his possession. More conclusive evidence than this, surely, cannot exist.—I am, etc.,

V. V. CHRISTOFF.

London, August 6, 1920.

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TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—It pleases me very much that your Greek correspondent, M. Theodore Mosconas, has accepted "the challenge" for an inquiry about his "textual quotation" from the Bulgarian journal *Zora* of June 3.

At this moment I have seen in *Zora* of July 31 a formal *démenti*, on the part of that newspaper, of M. Mosconas' alleged quotation in THE NEAR EAST from *Zora* of June 3. On this occasion *Zora* of July 31 writes:—

". . . . . From where the compatriot of M. Venizelos has obtained the quotation, with which he aims at deceiving English public opinion, we do not know. However, the fact that he makes use of a fallacious quotation, alleged to have been published by us, is indisputable."

As for holding the [me?] "responsible for all consequences," it is an excellent suggestion on the part of M. Mosconas, and I only hope that it will not take him long time to procure his copy of the *Messager d'Athènes*, when we shall be able to see who is "responsible" for falsification.—I am, etc.,

A BULGARIAN IN ENGLAND.

### THE UNKNOWN NEAR EAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—Why are we never given any film pictures of the Near East? Popular ideas of the Balkan States in this country are so fearful and wonderful that it is really surprising that any section of the public is able to take an intelligent interest in the politics of South-Eastern Europe, and one cannot help thinking that if the cinema was intelligently utilised as a means for getting the people in touch with realities in this instance much good would result to the nations with whose aspirations we so cordially sympathise, but with whose actual life we are so profoundly ignorant. I hope the day is not far distant when we will have a Near East exhibition at the White City; but while we are waiting for it to arrive we might well be given some good film pictures of the scenery, the cities, and the industrial and social life of Greece, Roumania, Yugoslavia, and Bulgaria. The legend that the Near East is relatively uncivilised persists in this country, even among people who esteem themselves educated, and the efforts of your excellent paper to dispel it might well be supplemented by that best of popular educators, the cinema.—I am, etc.,

PRO-BALKAN.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"A HISTORY OF PERSIAN LITERATURE UNDER TARTAR DOMINION." By Prof. E. G. Browne, M.A., M.B., F.B.A., etc. (Cambridge University Press. 35s. net.)

II.—"THE LIFE OF LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR STANLEY MAUDE." By Major-General Sir C. E. Callwell, K.C.B. (London: Constable. 21s. net.)

III.—FOUR BLIND MICE." By C. C. Lowis. (London: John Lane. 7s net.)

## I.—PERSIAN LITERATURE UNDER THE TARTARS.

After prolonged unavoidable delay the Sir Thomas Adams Professor of Arabic at Cambridge has published the continuation of his classic history of Persian literature. The present volume covers the period of the dominion of the "Tatars," whom popular etymology connected with the infernal regions of Tartarus. It extends from the height of the Mongol ascendancy to the ebb of the tide of Turanian invasion inaugurated by the infamous Tamerlane or Timur-i-Lang, "limping Timur"—he is said to have been wounded while stealing sheep! The period (A.D. 1265-1502) follows upon that of the invasion of the Arabs (seventh century); but while the foe from the south-west replaced the civilisation they destroyed by a new one, and their Spanish opponents admitted them to be "knights . . . and gentlemen, albeit Moors," the hordes from the north-east devastated far and wide and left an undying memory of their massacres. And if the Arabs were inspired by a fiery religious enthusiasm, it is difficult to see that the Tartars were moved by more than lust of conquest, although Timur himself was reputed to be religious and pious (p.182). The face of history was changed by these hordes, not unhelped by intrigues between Christians, Mohammedans, and Mongols, and the judgment of historians is influenced either by the ferocity of the invaders or by the contrast between the new age that arose after them, and the dying age to which they gave the death-blow. Thus Sir Henry Howorth ("History of the Mongols," 1876-1888) regarded the Tartars as a terrible though necessary scourge, and a painful cure for a hollow and demoralised civilisation.

If it is instructive to notice how time will mellow one's view of past cataclysms and to compare our own attitude to the present threatening unrest in the East, Prof. Browne's admirable volume enables one to understand something of the inner history of the age in question. Timur, like the notorious Chingiz Khan, left a son as engaging as the father was ferocious, and the conditions under the Timurid princes repeat that strange mingling of artistic and literary taste, of murder, drunkenness, and decadence, which recurs from Oriental despotisms in the East to the dying Paladins and other degenerate scions of heroic ages in the West (pp. 394, 501). The Tartars encouraged medical and other knowledge; competent historians were occupied in describing their deeds, and discreet poets flourished at the numerous little courts. There has never been a dearth of poets and poetasters in Persia, and even the worst years of anarchy produced a galaxy of poets of whom Hafiz was "merely the brightest of many brilliant stars" (p. 207). But although Hafiz witnessed what would have stirred the most ordinary moralist, there is scarcely an echo of current events in his poems (p. 292); and if his own character is hardly less paradoxical than Timur's (p.182), we are not to be surprised, since in Persia "it is common enough to meet with persons who in the course of a single day will alternately present themselves as pious Muslims, heedless libertines, confirmed sceptics, and mystical pantheists, or even incarnations of the Deity" (p. 299).

After all, "it is to Metaphysics and Mysticism, rather than to Ethics, that the Persian genius turns" (p. 443); and if men were driven to wine, wit, wisdom and women for solace in that trying period, an ethical teacher like Ubayd-i-Zakani found that to be successful it was necessary to pose as anything but that. An excellent account is given of this remarkable parodist and satirist, whose "Ethics of the Aristocracy" contrasts the old "obsolete"—as we should say, "Victorian"—views of the virtues with the "adopted view," and under the form of ribaldry sought to awaken people to the state of affairs.

Prof. Browne gives numerous selections from the literature. Hafiz himself warned men that there is no musician to whose music both the drunk and the sober can dance; and there is much that is merely florid and artificial, and to Western readers tasteless and offensive (pp. 497, 499). It is interesting to note, in passing, that less attention is paid to diversity of ideas than to the diversity of form in which the same idea is expressed by different poets (p. 298). It is little wonder, then, to find Katibi denouncing the plagiarist who so admired his poems as to publish them under his own name: "he ate the salt and stole the salt-cellar" (p. 493). Space forbids further quotation. It must suffice to refer to Amir's fine lament (p. 110), the poems on evolution (p. 217 *seq.*), and the prayer of Jami, whom Prof. Browne considers one of the greatest of Persian writers (p. 448). Mention must also be made of Jami's elegant poem on the humiliation of the poet, whose brilliant verse was insulted by being rewarded with the applause only of a lewd ignoramus (p. 520). Nor can we pass over the charming poem of the little-known Imami, the opening couplet of which rounds off Prof. Browne's dedication of the volume to his wife (p. 117).

Prof. Browne's concluding volume on the Persian literature of the last four hundred years will be keenly awaited. Meanwhile, one welcomes this book, scholarly and delightful as is the author's wont, not only for its detail and wealth of illustrative material, but also for its contribution to a closer study of some of the characteristics of Oriental mentality and of some aspects of a fateful age.

S. A. C.

## II.—THE SOUL OF THE GUARDS.

In February, 1915, General Maude noted in his diary:—"Thirty-one years' service, but don't feel like it. What an eventful life to look back upon, and how interesting." This entry occurs nearly half-way through this book, when the reader is wondering when the interest is to begin, and is feeling that, so far, a less eventful life it has never been his fate to study. The fact is that, in being asked to write this book as a "Life" of the regulation pattern, General Sir Charles Callwell has been set a task which is beyond even his very capable pen. Apart from his profession, Sir Stanley Maude's life included little that the public had any right to have laid before it, and little that would have been of interest to anyone outside the small circle of his most intimate friends. The author has thus found himself unable to do little more than give an account of his subject's professional career, most of which was, until near the end, of very little general interest.

We cannot but wish that this difficulty had been more squarely faced. A brilliant chance seems to us to have been lost, which no one was better fitted than General Callwell to carry through. The accounts of Maude's doings with the Coldstreams at home and in the Sudan, as Brigade-Major of the Guards Brigade in the South African war, as Military Secretary to Lord Minto in Canada and in various important War Office appointments at home, might well have been told very much more briefly. Nor need much space have been given to his exploits, fine as they were, in France and the Dardanelles. Instead of this—if the truth be told, somewhat dry matter—we should have been grateful if the author had set out deliberately and clearly to trace the growth of the splendid spirit which animated the man, and to show how his soul gradually became more and more at one with the soul of the Guards, so that a man who began as an ardent "Parade soldier" grew to become an accomplished strategist, a real leader of men, and a great general whose name will never be forgotten.

For this seems to us to be the root of the matter. A keen soldier, a zealous military student, almost meticulously interested in detail, a stickler for "correctness" even to the extent of wearing the full regulation uniform in his tent with the thermometer at 126° in the shade; a very strict but just disciplinarian, with no thought but for the "Service," and none for himself except to keep himself constantly in the best possible physical and mental condition in order that the "Service" might benefit; a man of simple and sincere piety and of the most scrupulous honour, self-suppressing and unselfish, always intent on the welfare of his men, always eager to give his subordinate officers and men the fullest possible credit for their share in his successes, filled with an overwhelming sense of duty and yet willing to take risks for great ends, he possessed a combination of military and personal qualities typical of the best Guards officer and represented that type at its best.

We cannot, therefore, but regret that our author has felt

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it his duty to devote over 180 pages of his book to a vain attempt to write a pre-Mesopotamian biography of his hero on the nearest approach possible to orthodox lines. For the last 150 pages we have nothing but the highest praise. The whole of Maude's share in the Mesopotamian campaign, from the time of his arrival as a Divisional General, is related with a perspicacity and fairness which might well serve as a model to others. No attempt is made to minimise in any way the very great advantages which Maude enjoyed over his predecessors, or to conceal the grave military defect in his character of insisting on doing his staff work himself. At the same time, it is made abundantly clear that his brilliant successes were due not to luck but to sheer ability, while his military qualities easily outshone his one great military defect. A short extract will perhaps best show General Callwell's grasp of his subject in summarising Maude's achievements:—

In the estimation of posterity, Maude will inevitably be judged by the campaign which virtually gave him Mesopotamia. That campaign was a masterpiece. . . . Recognising from the outset how neither skill nor valour in the absence of effective organisation will command success, the Army Commander invariably made strategy and administration move hand in hand throughout its progress. The plan was bold; some of its details—the crossing of the Tigris at Shumran, for instance—might be characterised as audacious. But it was as comprehensive as it was bold, and its designer ever had the destruction of the foe for objective rather than mere winning of territory or the achieving of some local triumph. Victory, until hostile resistance had been beaten down, was not victory to him. The Turks were appalled by the relentless energy of this formidable antagonist, who was as vehement in treading a fugitive enemy underfoot as he had been calculating in his preparations for putting the antagonist to flight. Maude was as thorough as a conqueror as he had been thorough in elaborating his scheme for making himself master in the theatre of war, and this, more perhaps than anything else, singles him out as one of the foremost soldiers of his time.

Incidentally, we would point out that the official account of Maude's death differs considerably from the picturesque legend which has already attached itself to that tragic and dramatic event, to which Claverhouse's famous words in "Old Mortality" are so apt:—"When I think of death as a thing worth thinking of, it is in the hope of passing one day some well-fought and hard-won field of battle, and dying with the shout of victory in my ear—*that* would be worth dying for; and more, it would be worth having lived for."

### III.—A STORY OF RANGOON.

The reader of "Four Blind Mice" will have no doubt whatever that Mr. Lowis knows Burma thoroughly, both from the point of view of the European and of the native. He will be convinced of this on the very first page in the description of Mrs. Selbridge in Rangoon trying to get through an afternoon in the rains, equally oppressed by the moist, enervating heat and the persistent mosquitoes. Later, the author seems equally sure of his ground in the home of So Min and his family. But it is with his Eurasians that he is most successful of all; "Malaber" boarding-house, with its proprietress, Mrs. Carlos, is a delightfully clever sketch.

This is a novel with a good solid plot, which is worked out thoughtfully and in a very workmanlike and unflustered style. Its course is so smoothly planned and runs so placidly that we are rather surprised to find that the plot turns on a murder and the difficulty of identifying the body. The author's method of showing the principal events through the eyes of one of his characters is decidedly effective. Mr. Lowis has drawn his chief characters very carefully, with an almost photographic truth to life, and an evident desire not to throw any of the glamour of romance about them. The result, however, is a certain flatness and tonelessness, which has, on the whole, a depressing effect, and it is some of the less important people who seem more truly living. Consequently our feeling on closing this novel is largely one of disappointment that the author could not after all arouse our interest more definitely in the men and women whose doings are set before us with such leisured clearness and against such a powerfully suggested background.

### BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Land of Ararat." By S. M. Gregory. (London: The Chiswick Press. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Cashmere: Three Weeks in a Houseboat." By A. Petrocokino, F.R.G.S. With 25 plates. (London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 6s. net.)

"In the Clouds Above Baghdad." By Lieut.-Col. J. E. Tennant. (London: Cecil Palmer. 15s. net.)

"The Rebuke of Islam." By W. H. T. Gairdner. (London: United Council for Missionary Education. 3s. net.)

"Women Workers of the Orient." By Margaret E. Burton. (London: United Council for Missionary Education. 2s. 6d. net.,


# WHERE TO STAY.

**For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—**

**"EASTAPROX, LONDON. TWENTIETH MATLOCK TWO**

**(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."**

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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

## CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

| Gregorian (New Style). | Julian (Old Style). | — | Moslem. | Jewish. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1920. August | 1920. July. | | 1338. Julkada. | 5680. Ab. |
| 12 | 30 | Thursday | 27 | 28 |
| 13 | 31 | Friday | 28 | 29 |
| | August | | | |
| 14 | 1 | Saturday | 29 | 30 |
| | | | Julhijja | Elul |
| 15 | 2 | Sunday | 1 | 1 |
| 16 | 3 | Monday | 2 | 2 |
| 17 | 4 | Tuesday | 3 | 3 |
| 18 | 5 | Wednesday | 4 | 4 |

Prince Paul of Serbia left London on August 5 for Paris.

Both Dr. Trumbitch and M. Pashitch were in London during the last week.

Lord Allenby is on his way to England, and arrived at Marseilles on August 8.

M. Dasatch, the head of the Serbian Delegation in Paris, has arrived at Claridge's Hotel.

The Greek Minister visited Olympia on August 7 and inspected the Greek troop of Boy Scouts.

Earl Winterton sailed on August 6 from Southampton for Cape Town in the R.M.S. Carisbrook Castle.

M. Venizelos arrived in London on August 5, stayed at the Greek Legation (51, Upper Brook Street), and left for Paris the following day.

Vice-Admiral Sir Sydney Fremantle, on board his flagship Revenge, accompanied by the Royal Sovereign, has left Constantinople for England.

The King of the Hellenes visited Kirk Kilisse on July 31, and was received by General Maxarakis and his staff. He has since returned to Athens.

The King of the Hellenes has conferred upon the Chief Scout, Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the honour of Commander of the Order of the Redeemer.

General Milne, Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the Black Sea, who since last March has been in command at Constantinople, is now in England.

It is announced that Sir George Macartney, K.C.I.E., is permitted to retire from the service of the Indian Government, with effect from November 26, 1920.

Mme. Ostoitch, wife of Colonel George Ostoïtch, Military Attaché to the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, left London on August 8 for Vienna.

Mme. Trumbitch, wife of Dr. Ante Trumbitch, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, arrived in London on August 9 from Paris.

Dr. Mastny, the newly appointed Czecho-Slovak Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James, will arrive in London in the early part of next month.

Sir Henry Cunningham, K.C.I.E., has had a serious relapse, and has been obliged to leave East Sheen for his London residence, 83, Eaton Place. His condition causes great anxiety.

M. Michel B. Boeresco, Minister Plenipotentiary and Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, entertained at dinner on August 6 M. Titulesco, Roumanian Minister of Finance, and the personnel of the Legation.

Dr. Reiss, the representative of the Allied Council for War Criminals, is shortly leaving for Athens at the request of the Greek Government, to investigate the misdeeds of the Turks and Bulgarians in Asia Minor and Thrace.

M Michel Gavrilovitch, the Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, and Mme. Gavrilovitch entertained, on August 5, at luncheon M. Nicolas P. Pashitch, formerly Serbian Prime Minister, and the personnel of the Legation.

Mr. Theodore D. Mosconas, M.M.E.O.S., of the Dodecanesian Delegation, Manchester, gave a lecture on August 8 at the County Forum Debating Society, Manchester, on the Islands of the Dodecanese, illustrated by lantern slides.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (August 2):—Everyone will be relieved to hear that the health of Field-Marshal Sir Zhivoyin Mishitch, K.C.M.G., is improving. The gallant Voivoda has been lying ill at the Vrachar Sanatorium ever since his return from France, and now it is reported that his health is taking a turn for the better, and hopes are expressed for his successful convalescence.

Our Tiflis Correspondent writes (July 10):—"Mr. David Ghambashidze, F.R.G.S., delegate of the Georgian Government in Europe, arrived a fortnight ago from London, and at once set to work to straighten out many of the difficulties that had arisen during his absence abroad. The invaluable experience he acquired during years of residence in England, added to his complete knowledge of the psychology of his own countrymen, makes Mr. Ghambashidze an admirable adviser for the Georgians, and he is by far the best person available to bring about increased friendly relations between Great Britain and Georgia. While fully aware of the weaknesses of the Georgians and of the difficulties besetting the path of the administrators of Georgia in these early days of her independent existence, he is at the same time not without knowledge of the problems confronting Great Britain herself. Therefore his moderating and enlightening influence, supported by his natural cheery optimism, will go a long way towards putting things right and to setting aside or mitigating many of the vexatious regulations and formalities which might well be calculated to hinder the promotion of good relations abroad." Mr. Ghambashidze, it will be remembered, has contributed to the columns of THE NEAR EAST.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Mohammed Sultaneh has been appointed Secretary to the Persian Legation in London.

Mr. W. L. Lowrie, American Consul-General at Lisbon, has been appointed American Consul-General at Athens.

Major W. N. Bolton (Commissioner of Limassol) has been appointed a member of the Legislative Council of the Island of Cyprus.

Mr. Lesseps Loisidis, the Vice-Consul of Portugal at Port Said, has been promoted to the grade of Consul, and the Vice-Consulate of the town of Port Said has been raised to the rank of Consulate. Mr. Loisidis has given twenty years of service to his Government.

The King has made the following promotion in the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire for services during the operations against Afghanistan. To be dated January 1, 1920:—K.C.I.E., Major-General P. Hehir, C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., M.D., Indian Medical Service.

M. Paraskevopoulo, Acting Diplomatic Agent for Greece, and Consul-General in Cairo, has been appointed by the Hellenic Government political adviser to the Hellenic Residency in Thrace. He is joining his new post after the arrival of Mr. Argyropoulo, the newly-appointed Diplomatic Agent in Cairo.

## OBITUARY.

It is announced that Captain R. C. Geard, 15th Cavalry, Indian Army, Assistant Political Officer at Tabriz, has been killed by Shahsevand tribesmen on the Tabriz-Mianeh road. He served with the Indian Cavalry Division in France until its return to India in 1916. He was then sent to Busreh, and was second-in-command of an expedition sent in support of General Sir Percy Sykes's great march from Bandar Abbas to Ispahan. He was afterwards attached to the Persian Political Service, and served as Political Officer at Shustar, Urmia, and Enzeli, remaining at the last-named Caspian coast town until within a few weeks of its occupation by the Bolshevists, when he was despatched as Special Service Officer on a mission to the Maku Anratile Shahsevand tribesmen, which was accomplished with success. Captain Geard was a splendid linguist, with a wide knowledge of Eastern tongues.


## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.


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# THE NEAR EAST.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1920.


## GREAT BRITAIN'S HANDICAP IN THE NEAR EAST.

British interests in the Near East are being handicapped by the condition of postal comunications with that part of the world far more seriously than either the public in this country or the Government seem to appreciate. While a slight improvement—by no means a constant factor—in the period occupied in the transmission of letters has to be recorded in recent months, the position in regard to the newspaper post has remained more or less stationary—with a possible exception in the case of Belgrade—since the Armistice. Three, or even four, weeks may still be taken by British newspapers to reach Bucharest, or Sofia, or Constantinople, and it is not an uncommon occurrence for the newspapers of one week to arrive before those published a week later. Even when full allowance is made for strikes of railway or postal officials in one or other of the countries traversed, the service can only be described as chaotic; and it constitutes a legitimate grievance, not only for the British communities and British trade interests in the countries concerned, but also for the nation as a whole, which has realised as a result of the war something of the significance of South-Eastern Europe in the general scheme of the British Empire. The handicap to trade caused by indifferent postal communications is sufficiently obvious not to require special emphasis. What is not so apparent to those at a distance is the moral damage suffered by Great Britain in having her point of view with regard to the political questions of the day practically unrepresented among the peoples of the Near East. A controversy arises in international politics—as a concrete instance we may take the recent difference of opinion between France and Great Britain regarding the Allied attitude towards German intransigence, or the visit of Krassin to London—and the more enlightened sections of the Balkan people require fuller information than is supplied by their own exiguous Press. For ten days or a fortnight the only source available to them will be the newspapers of France, Germany, and Italy. Is it likely that when their interest in the subject has begun to evaporate they will turn to belated English newspapers in order to study the whole question afresh, and, perhaps, modify the opinions they have already formed? The delay in the arrival of the mail robs the English Press of the value it possesses as an educative factor in Near Eastern opinion, because a large number of people will not read a newspaper two or three weeks old, which ought to have reached them within five or six days.

The reason of the unsatisfactory postal service between Great Britain and the Balkans is well known. The train service is in the hands of our French Allies, who look after their own interests first, and are not minded to trouble themselves overmuch regarding a matter which does not seem to lie particularly near to the heart of the British Government. Where the mystery comes in is that a condition of things so manifestly unfair to British interests should have been tolerated so long, in spite of the constant protests that have been made both at home and abroad. For an explanation we have to turn to the tragic ignorance prevailing in high quarters of the importance of South-Eastern Europe in its relationship to the British Empire. In the general settlement the opinion of one or other of the peoples concerned has been accepted uncritically, and no attempt has been made to master the problem as a whole with a view to imposing a settlement which would be fairer than any dictated by the interested parties. In such circumstances, the matter of the delay of a few days or weeks in the postal communications with that part of the world would necessarily be held to be of no account. At the same time indifference to the subject would fit in with the easy policy of playing second fiddle to the more vigorous politicians of France, whose intimate knowledge of what they conceive to be be their country's interests in the Near East could only be countered by the careful study of Near Eastern affairs which Great Britain's representatives in the Allied Councils have had neither the time nor the inclination to make. To-day, however, the injustice to British interests in connection with the postal question is so glaring that there can be no excuse for failure on the part of the British Government to bring the matter to a head. Further negotiations between the post office authorities on the two sides of the Channel are of no avail. A certain weight of mail matter daily is allowed the British Post Office, and there for the present the matter ends. The fact that it is wholly inadequate to British requirements, and that it is a mere fraction of the weight allotted to the French service, which is apparently regulated solely by French needs, is overlooked. Until Great Britain can impress upon the French Government that the provision of adequate mail facilities with the Near East is as important in British eyes as the supply of coal or any other commodity to France, the existing unsatisfactory state of affairs is likely to continue.

## MESOPOTAMIA.

It is evident that Great Britain is confronted with an awkward problem in Mesopotamia, but a moment's reflection will show that the first panic suggestion will not necessarily provide the best solution. A policy of ignominious scuttle will, no doubt, reduce the expenditure on the Army in the Middle East, and will obviate the recurrence of regrettable incidents; it will satisfy the faint-hearted among us who forget that the British nation has come successfully through far more formidable difficulties in the past: and it will be another nail in the present Government's coffin. Whether the evacuation could be justified on any higher ground is another question with which its advocates do not seem to trouble themselves. We went to Mesopotamia under the conviction, born of the war, that the old policy of indifference and *laissez faire* in the Near and Middle East was a definite menace to the safety of the Empire; we counted on being instrumental in building up an enlightened and progressive Arab State, which would be an additional bulwark of peace in the place of the disintegrating influences of the old Turkish Empire. To our surprise we find that the Arabs not only refuse to display the least partiality for the régime we have imposed upon them, but actually attack our troops and inflict reverses upon them.

In dealing with such a situation the first point of inquiry should be whether the principle which prompted the occupation of Mesopotamia still holds good. If it does, we must next examine whether the régime inaugurated has been a satisfactory one, and whether the hostility shown to us is due to transient causes or is ineradicable. The right of the Arabs to form an Arab State is not likely to be challenged nowadays, and there will be the same consensus of opinion regarding the inability of such a State to stand alone in its earlier years. In other words, the mandatory system adopted by the Allied Conference does violence neither to common sense nor to Arab interests. It is, therefore, possible that in some way or other the British administration of the last year or two in Mesopotamia has fallen short of the theoretical principle that it was supposed to embody. There can be little doubt that it has. For a long time the authorities in Mesopotamia were left entirely in ignorance of the British Government's intentions regarding the country. An administration was set up which did not feel called upon to concern itself with ill-defined theories of modern State-building. Under the ægis of military rule it aimed at efficiency,

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and, as the Home Government grudged non-military expenditure, it set out to obtain as much revenue locally as possible. The result was that Mesopotamia made rapid progress; but the ordered methods of government were altogether above the heads of the people; they cared little for the benefits for which they were taxed far too heavily for their liking, and they were easily persuaded that a régime which they could not understand must needs be a bad one. Add to this sympathy with their compatriots in Syria, who were also having trouble with a European occupation, as well as the insidious intrigues of Mustapha Kemal's agents, and there is little cause for wonder that there has been unrest or worse in Mesopotamia.

There could be no more fatal policy than precipitate evacuation at the present moment. It is essential that Great Britain should re-establish her military prestige. The whole administration requires to be overhauled. Where the people were entitled to look, in their own parlance, for their "father and mother," they have found an unimaginative martinet, who was probably as much disliked by his fellow-countrymen as by the natives; the country has suffered from a bureaucracy, which, while admittedly efficient, has been unsympathetic; and far too little attention was paid to instructing the Army of Occupation to play its part in the difficult role of adapting military exigencies to the theory of the mandate. It is inconceivable that Great Britain should simply leave the Arabs to their own devices. Such a course would mean an immediate outcrop of internecine feuds, which would inevitably react on neighbouring States. A middle way is surely possible between evacuation and the continuance of the régime that has brought us into conflict with the people; but it can only be indicated by those who have knowledge of, and sympathy with, the Arabs.

## MOSLEM TALES FROM JERUSALEM.

**By Estelle Blyth.**

### THE STORY OF ABU QUIK.

There once lived a man and his wife. The man was good and honest, but very foolish, and because he had no brain his work grew less and less, and at last he had to sell his cow—the only one he had—to buy bread and to pay his rent. He set forth for the market, driving the cow before him, and on the way he became weary and sat down to rest awhile under a big tree. Now in this tree an owl had built its nest, and it was disturbed by the man who sat in the shade, groaning and lamenting his hard fate in having to sell his cow; and the owl began to move in its hole, and to cry, "Abu Quik! Abu Quik!"—which is what the owls say. Then the man Mustapha, who was a good man and kind, but very foolish, looked around him and said, "Who spoke to me?"

"Abu Quik! Abu Quik!" cried the owl.

"Oh, Abu Quik, I know you not," said the man.

"Abu Quik! Abu Quik!" replied the owl.

"Oh, my lord, Abu Quik," said Mustapha, "since you are willing to speak with me, who am but a poor man, let me tell you my trouble. I have lost all my money, and now I am going to the town to sell my cow. To whom shall I sell it?"

"Abu Quik!" said the owl.

"Will you buy it, O my lord?" cried Mustapha, delighted. "Will you then save me the trouble of going all the long way to town?"

"Abu Quik! Abu Quik!" said the owl.

"You shall indeed buy the cow," said Mustapha, "but perhaps I had better ask my wife about it first, for she told me to be sure and sell it in the market."

He tied the cow to a branch, and ran quickly back to his house to tell his wife; and she, not knowing who Abu Quik might be, said: "Let who will buy it, only see that you bring back a good sum, for it is our last hope."

So Mustapha returned to the tree; but, alas! while he was away, someone had taken pity on the lonely cow and had removed the beast to his own stall. Then Mustapha began to beat his head, and to cry aloud: "Abu Quik! O my lord, Abu Quik!" until he awoke the owl, which began to cry in its turn: "Abu Quik! Abu Quik!"

"Oh, Abu Quik, who has taken my cow?" asked Mustapha, weeping.

"Abu Quik! Abu Quik!" answered the owl.

"But where is the money, O my father?"

"Abu Quik!" said the owl. And that was all that "Abu Quik" would say.

"Have you hidden the money for fear of thieves, O wise Abu Quik?" at length suggested the man. "Shall I then dig for it?"

"Abu Quik!" replied the owl, in a hoarse voice, for it was getting tired of the stupid, noisy fellow who would not let it rest.

Then the poor man, not knowing what else he could do, began to dig in the shade of the tree, and, Heaven being merciful to the poor, before very long he found a pot full of gold pieces. With this he hastened home to his wife.

"See here," he cried, "and count how much gold my lord Abu Quik has given me for the cow!"

So the man and his wife were very happy.

But gold is like truth and like murder in that it cannot be hidden, and presently it came to the ears of the police that Mustapha, whom all men knew to be a good man but very foolish, had dug gold out of the ground. The police straightway went to Mustapha's house, and said: "What is this that we hear, O Mustapha? Know you not that all gold which is dug out of the ground belongs by right to our lord the Sultan, and shall we not take charge of it for him till we can learn his will concerning it?"

But it chanced that Mustapha had gone to the bath, and his wife came to the door, and she was a woman with a strong head. She said: "Know you not that Mustapha is but a foolish man and has no mind? If he says that he dug gold out of the ground, believe him not, for his words are not the words of a wise man; they tumble from an empty mind. Come again to-morrow morning at this hour, when he will be at home, and you will then see for yourselves that what I have told you is the truth."

So at last she persuaded the police to go away for the present, though they assured her that they would return without fail the next morning to test the truth of her words; for they were the guardians of the law, and were they going to stand by in silence and see the Sultan robbed?

When Mustapha came home his wife said to him: "The police have heard that you found gold in the ground, and they want to take it from you, but I have told them that you are such a wonderful man that you can do anything you like—you can even cause the sky to rain bread at your word. Now, listen to me, O Mustapha: to-morrow, when the police come, I will throw out all our bread from the roof into the courtyard, and you must cry out that it is raining bread; and when they see that they will be afraid to ask you for the gold. On your head be it!"

And Mustapha promised to do exactly as she told him.

The next morning when the police came, Mustapha's wife threw the loaves of bread down from the roof, and Mustapha ran out into the courtyard and began to pick them up, crying: "Oh, see how good the sky is to-day! It is raining bread upon us as I commanded it to do!"

Then the police looked at each other and shook their heads, and they said: "It is true what the woman told us. The man is surely mad. He could not have found gold, for he is too stupid. Let us go away, for here we shall reap nothing for our pains."

So the police went sadly away, and the man Mustapha and his wife were troubled by them no more.

*These tales were told to the writer by a Moslem in Jerusalem. Previous tales in the series appeared in* THE NEAR EAST, *Nos.* 451, 453, *and* 470.

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## TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

*The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—*

EGYPT: Cairo Police Force. PEACE TREATIES: Bulgaria. SYRIA. RUSSIA: British Prisoners (Baku). TURKEY (GREEK OPERATIONS). INDIA: Army Instruction (Amendment).—30th Baluchi's Regiment (Insubordination). EGYPT: Nationalist Delegation.—Administrative and Judicial Systems. ITALY (MUSTAPHA KEMEL). SALONIKA (EXPORTS TO GREAT BRITAIN). (July 29).

ALBANIA. CABLE MESSAGES. INDIA. RUSSIA: British Prisoners (Baku). (August 2.)

INDIA: Army Officers (Invalid Pensions).—Police Pay. (August 3.)

INDIA: Army Pensions (Increase).—Riots (Ball Ammunition).—Compulsory Military Training.—Punjab Disturbances.—Cables. ROYAL NAVY: Naval Mission, Teheran. RUSSIA: British Warships (Crimea). MALTA (RELIGIOUS FREEDOM). (August 4.)

RUSSIA: British Prisoners (Baku). MESOPOTAMIA: British Casualties.—Oil. INDIA: Punjab Disturbances. MIDDLE EAST (INDIAN TROOPS). MESOPOTAMIA (CIVIL ADMINISTRATION). ROUMANIAN LOANS (UNPAID COUPONS). ARMENIAN REFUGEES, BAKOUBA. (August 5.)

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

Fishermen have discovered a complete German wireless apparatus off the coast of Malta, which was anchored below the surface.

Damage estimated at £500,000 has been caused by large fires at Damascus.

An English steamship company has just secured the mail service between Malta and Syracuse for a period of three years at £16,000 per year. The mails are to be delivered three times a week.

At the invitation of the Socialist Government of Georgia, a Labour Mission will visit the country next month to investigate the social and political conditions there. The Mission will include MM. Vandervelde, Huysmans, and de Brouckere (Belgium), Messrs. Ramsay Macdonald and Tom Shaw, and Mrs. Snowden (Great Britain), and possibly Herr Kautsky (Germany). The object of the visit is to compare the conditions in Georgia with those in other countries. The Mission will leave on September 1.

Roumania continues to suffer from the heat. Our Bucharest Correspondent writes that on July 27 the temperature was 40 deg. centigrade (104 deg. Fahrenheit) in the shade.

A Supplement to the *London Gazette*, issued on August 5, contains a dispatch from the Commander-in-Chief in India on the military operations in Aden, South Persia, of the Bushire Field Force, Assam, and Burma, Transcaspia and East Persia, and the Protection of the Indian Coasts. The dispatch is dated September 29, 1919.

A Simla message states that the Government of India is considering a Bill to constitute an Indian Territorial Force on the lines of the old Militia in England, and an Auxiliary Officers' Corps.

A Belgrade message states that Dr. Benes, Czecho-Slovakian Foreign Minister, and M. Take Jonescu, Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Roumanian Cabinet, were to meet there on August 10 for an important conversation, after which M. Jonescu will continue his journey to Athens, Paris, and London.

Railway communication between Bulgaria and Western Thrace has been resumed, and the first train to Dedeagatch ran on August 6.

The *Zionist Bulletin* states:—The "Pro-Jerusalem" Society is publishing a periodical in English, Hebrew and French which will contain a general survey of the holy places, antiquities, and the environs of Jerusalem. Mr. Ashbee, civil engineer of the Administration, will edit the English, and Dr. Slousch the Hebrew part. Members of the Hebrew Exploration Society who visited the tombs of King Herod found everything quite in order.

The exchange of the ratifications of the Bulgarian Peace Treaty took place on August 9 in Paris at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

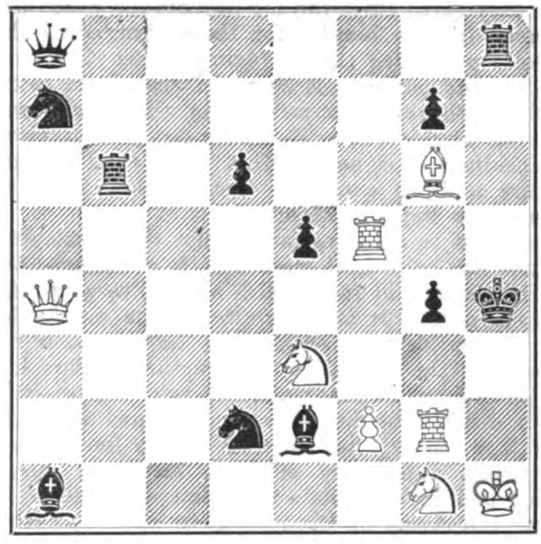
The latest news concerning the British prisoners at Baku is that they are still in prison, but safe.

The presence in London of the Greek delegation to the Lambeth Conference provided the opportunity for holding, in Southwark Cathedral on August 5, a solemn service of intercession for the liberation of the Christians in the countries of the Near East from oppression and the danger of death at the hands of the Turks; for the persecuted Russian Church; and for the reunion of the Anglican and Eastern Churches. Taking part in the service with the Bishop of Southwark were the Metropolitan of Demoticon, Thrace, the Great Archimandrite Const. Pagonis, and the Archpriest Const. Callinicos (members of the delegation); and there were also present the Bishop of Coventry, the Bishop of Woolwich, the Bishop of Harrisburg, U.S.A., the Archimandrite Serge (Dean of the Russian Church at Athens), the Archimandrite Vasdekas and the Rev. V. I. Theokritoff (of the Greek Church in London), Archbishop Mathew Indjiean (the Armenian Archbishop of Smyrna), and Bishop Francis Hodur (Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church of America)

## CHESS.

Problem No. 24.

Black.



White.

White to mate in two.

The above problem by Valentine Marin took the first prize in the Third National Spanish Tourney.

Monday saw the commencement of the Edinburgh Congress, which has attracted 92 entries for the various contests, as against the 123 players who competed at Hastings. Unfortunately, the championship does not now promise such an interesting contest as appeared probable, as Mr. H. E. Atkins, who has held the title seven times in succession, and was to attempt to make the seven into eight, has withdrawn under medical advice. As my readers know, I had anticipated his victory after a keen struggle with Sir George Thomas, who should now have a comparatively easy task.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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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The unsatisfactory condition of the postal services between this country and the Near East is dealt with this week in a leading article, in which it is emphasised that British interests are suffering severely from this handicap. The subject is one to which I have had occasion to refer again and again, for while from time to time there has been an improvement in the communications it has proved only temporary, and at the present juncture the position is again giving rise to widespread complaints. As regards the letter post, it is true that, with the exception of one or two regions, mails are arriving here and in the Near East with some semblance of regularity (though how long that will continue is another matter); but the newspaper mails are in a state which may justifiably be described as chaotic. There is no certainty here regarding their arrival. Sometimes in a rare spasm of generosity one is deluged with two, or perhaps three, mails in one week, and then a long period passes with "nothing of interest to report," and, what is most aggravating of all, it is a common experience for the mails to arrive out of their order. In the Near East, as I have excellent reason for knowing, things are much worse.

***

The responsibility for the irregularity of the services, it is pointed out in our leading article, rests with France, who has been putting her own interests in the foreground to the exclusion of other considerations. But the principal blame must naturally attach to the home authorities, who during the past year might surely have been able to make effective representations to our Ally in this matter, which so vitally affects Great Britain's interests in the Near East. Evidently such action as may have been taken has been quite inadequate, and more determined representations will have to be made to convince our Ally that postal communications between the Balkans and this country must be brought to something approaching the normal. Obviously things cannot be left as they are, for (apart from numerous other considerations) it would be impossible to compete satisfactorily with other countries in the Near Eastern markets faced by this handicap, and we do not desire to see the unedifying picture of more British firms having to make arrangements for the despatch of their mails in Paris because the authorities here are unable to guarantee a satisfactory service.

***

Whatever may be the case in the future, for next year the plan is again to be adopted of holding the British Industries fair simultaneously at London, Birmingham, and Glasgow. The London section of the fair is, however, again to have a new home, as this time it is to be held at the White City instead of at the Crystal Palace. From many points of view this change is for the better. The White City is certainly much more accessible than the Crystal Palace, and provides ample scope for an exhibition, the available floor space amounting to considerably over four million square feet. This section of the fair, as before, covers what may be called the smaller exhibits, such as cutlery, glassware, paper, leather, scientific instruments, musical instruments, and fancy goods. Since its inauguration the fair has been steadily growing in favour, and there is no doubt that a record number of applications will be received from firms anxious to exhibit.

***

A very satisfactory report is forthcoming from the Bank of Athens for the past year. The net profits are about double at 13,388,510 drachmæ, out of which 7,308,050 drachmæ is written off against "loans on sundry guarantees" and "loans on securities," leaving a balance of rather over 6,000,000 drachmæ, which is being utilised to pay a final dividend of 3 per cent., making 8 per cent. for the year. Noteworthy features of the balance-sheet are the increase in the total of 116,207,306 drachmæ to 486,359,963 drachmæ, and the marked growth of the immediately available assets from 154,131,000 drachmæ to 215,350,000 drachmæ. It will be remembered that recently the bank formed an influential London Committee, which consists of Mr. O. V. G. Hoare, Mr. W. H. Hollis, Mr. E. M. Rodocanachi, and Mr. P. M. Caridia, and the improvement in the position of the institution is doubtless to be attributed in no small degree to this step.

***

The interesting announcement has just been made that of the new capital of the Bank of British West Africa, consisting of 200,000 £10 shares, half has been subscribed for in equal proportions by the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, the National Provincial and Union Bank of England, and the Standard Bank of South Africa at the price of £6 5s. per share, this representing a premium of £2 5s. per share which has been placed to the reserve. It will be recalled that not very long ago Lloyds Bank acquired a substantial interest in the bank, taking up 37,500 shares, and this new development means that three of the great joint stock institutions are now associated with one of the most progressive of British overseas banks, while the association of the Standard Bank means for the two banks representation throughout Africa. The importance of the transaction to the Bank of British West Africa should be very considerable, for it will mean infinitely greater scope for expansion and for the extension of its influence.

***

Last week saw the issue of the prospectus of the Phœnix Oil and Transport Company, Ltd., which has been formed for the development of various Roumanian oil properties. The company has a capital of £2,050,000, consisting of 2,000,000 £1 shares and 1,000,000 1s. shares, and its assets include shareholdings in the Beciu (Roumania) Oil Fields, the Traian Roumanian Oil Company, the Anglo-Roumanian Oil Company, and the Stavropoleo Moreni (Roumania) Oil Properties, while it has also acquired the businesses of the Anglo-Continental Oil Company, and the Masterson Roumanian Oil Syndicate. It has a very strong board of directors, which includes Mr. E. Manville, M.P., of the B.S.A., who is the chairman; Mr. T. J. Callaghan, Lieut.-Col. Sir John Norton Griffiths, and Mr. F. H. Houlder, of Houlder Brothers and Furness Withy and Co. Mr. Houlder's association with the company is particularly interesting in view of the Danube shipping scheme; and as other shipping interests are represented on the board it is evident that the question of transporting the oil by sea from Roumania will present few difficulties.

***

As I have had occasion to point out recently, for local reasons Roumania's oil industry has not kept pace with the general reconstruction of the country. In recent months, however, conditions have shown considerable improvement, and there is every reason to hope that within a reasonable time Roumania's chief industry will soon be nearing its pre-war position. In furthering this development the new company should have a wide field of useful endeavour, especially as a considerable portion of the 10,000 odd acres worked by the various concerns now taken over is situated in the rich Moreni fields. This enterprise is specially satisfactory in view of the interest other countries are showing in the Roumanian oilfields, notably America.

COMMENTATOR.


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


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# Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

## EGYPT.

Port Said, July 16.

**Teutonic Enterprise.**

One of the signs that the war is officially over is an advertisement that recently appeared in the local Press of a German who wanted agents for his manufactures in Egypt. Many Austrians are back in Port Said, attempting to regain lost business. However, it is not surprising that both of our former enemies should find a welcome in this country, where a large proportion of the inhabitants prefer a continuance of the evils of the Capitulations and Mixed Courts rather than a unified judiciary.

Port Said, July 31.

**Surplus of French Money.**

Considerable inconvenience is being caused in the town by the refusal of the banks to accept any more French money. In this cosmopolitan place at least five kinds of coins pass current freely, viz., English, French, Italian, Greek, and, of course, Egyptian; also, at one time during the war, Indian rupees were legal tender as well. Naturally, this free exchange of all sorts of money was a great convenience to the trade of the town, as passengers would give or take in change whatever money they had or would be likely to want. Also the fact of the circulation of large numbers of 5-franc, 2-franc, 1-franc, and ½-franc pieces materially helped to relieve the inconvenience of the small change shortage, and we in Port Said never had to resort to the postage stamp expedient that was necessary in other places.

However, it seems that the banks here have been accumulating large quantities of French silver, either because of the surreptitious export of it from France, or other causes, and now find it difficult to get rid of it, as many of the firms who draw big sums for the payment of their workpeople do not want French money, as, perhaps, a good proportion has to be paid in the Delta, where only Egyptian money is current. The banks accordingly, to protect themselves, have been obliged to refuse any more French silver. No doubt it will not prevent the circulation of these coins in the town, and probably things will adjust themselves very shortly. It might pay the French Government to buy up this bullion, and re-export it to France, to help to redeem their paper circulation.

**Prices.**

Trade, although not at a standstill, yet does not seem to be bounding ahead, and as the ultimate factor in healthy trade is the buyer, anything that makes him shy tends to militate against prosperity. To give an instance that was related to your correspondent last week; a man wished to buy a type of stove which is imported from America by one firm only, and by them is distributed to retailers in Egypt. The man went to one retailer in the place, and £18 was quoted as the price. Another shop asked £25, and eventually he got the same thing in another town in Egypt for £11! There could be no question as to a difference in quality, and assuming that the man who sold it for £11 made a fair profit, what adjective should be applied to the profit of the man who asked £25? It is an interesting philological and ethical question.

Another case that was brought to the writer's notice was of some leather goods which were imported and sold to retailers in Egypt at £1 14s. each. The retail price of these articles in at least one large store in Egypt is £6 15s. Naturally, the buyer, in other words the general public, does not spend freely, as whatever price is asked there is always the haunting wonder whether it could not be got elsewhere for 50 per cent. less. This sort of uncertainty does not tend to the encouragement of trade.

**An Unusual Vessel.**

A rare type of vessel arrived here a few days ago from Buenos Ayres, the City of Pascagoula, a five-masted barquentine with auxiliary engines. This rig is extremely unusual, at any rate in the Eastern Hemisphere.

## GREECE.

Athens, July 23.

**Production of Wines.**

The Statistics Department of the Ministry of National Economy has issued details regarding the production of Greek wines from 1914 to 1918, and the quantities in kilos exported from 1915 to the end of March, 1920. The total production in 1914 amounted to 300,410,971 okes, in 1915 to 265,021,802 okes, in 1916 to 214,643,543 okes, in 1917 to 236,445,309 okes, and in 1918 to 247,960,462 okes. The total quantity of wine exported was as follows:—In 1915 32,146,190 kilos, in 1916 20,001,188 kilos, in 1917 10,223,517 kilos, in 1918 9,673,097 kilos, in 1919 18,326,651 kilos, and in 1920 (up to March 31) 9,341,876 kilos.

**Custom House Receipts.**

The receipts of the Custom House at Volo during June last amounted to 377,115.75 drachmæ. At Patras the receipts from Custom duties during June amounted to 821,912.50 drachmæ, as against 312,222.10 drachmæ collected during the corresponding period last year.

Athens, July 31.

**Moratorium in House Rents.**

The principal clauses of a moratorium which has been published in the Government Gazette are as follows:—This does not embrace any building for which the monthly rent is or exceeds 1,200 drachmæ. The rent of dwelling houses for which less than 1,200 drachmæ is paid per month can be increased by 60 per cent. if let before September 1, 1915, 40 per cent. if let between September 1, 1916, and September 1, 1917; 20 per cent. between September 1, 1917, and September 1, 1918, and 10 per cent. if between September 1, 1918, and September 1, 1919. The rent for any house let after the last-mentioned date cannot be increased. The rent of houses for which 100 drachmæ or less is paid per month, can only be increased by 30 per cent., this including any increase which has taken place since the moratorium came into force. In Salonika an increase of 10 per cent. on dwelling houses and 15 per cent. on shops is authorised. if let before the fire (August 18, 1917). There will be no increase for houses or shops let after that date.

**Receipts from Tobacco Taxes.**

The receipts from taxes on tobacco consumption during the month of May last are considered very satisfactory. 217,800 kilos of tobacco were consumed in Old Greece during May as against 215,000 kilos. during the corresponding period of last year. The receipts amounted to 3,683,000 drachmæ, as against 2,075,000 drachmæ in May, 1919, an increase of 1,608,000 drachmæ.


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In New Greece only 166,000 kilos. were consumed in May this year, against 235,000 kilos. during the corresponding period of last year. Despite this decrease the receipts from taxes show an increase of 330,000 drachmæ, the total being 2,330,000 drachmæ in May, as against 2,000,000 drachmæ during the same month last year. The decrease in the consumption of tobacco in New Greece is due to the departure from that region of the demobilised soldiers who returned to their homes.

**Forecasts of Tobacco Production.**

The Direction of Statistics at the Ministry of National Economy has given the following figures in connection with the anticipated tobacco production in 1920: Mitylene, 39,000 okes as against 288,000 okes last year. Lemnos 115,000 okes as against 375,000 okes; Imbros, 450 okes as against 8,000 okes; Samothrace, 5,500 okes as against 70,000 okes.

The cultivated tobacco area in the whole of the Provinces of Lesbos is 92 per cent. less than that of last year. This is due to the complete deadlock in the tobacco trade caused by very little demand for the 1918 and 1919 production. In the province of Trikala the cultivated area is about 20 per cent. smaller than that of last year, and the production there is anticipated to reach 2,800,000 okes. In the province of Larissa the cultivated area is equal to that of last year, and the production is expected to reach 3,800,000 okes. In the Cyclades Islands 77 per cent. less than last year was cultivated. This year's production will only be about 58,000 okes.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, July 29.

**Relations with Ex-Enemy Countries.**

The Roumanian Government has announced its intention of resuming commercial relations with Austria and also with Germany. A delegation of fifteen Austrians, representing various industries, was received a few days ago by the Minister for Industry and Commerce, and it is understood that proposals were made for the supply by Austria of locomotives in exchange for food and petrol products. A small deal of this kind has already been made, and the Minister has now requested the delegates to draw up a definite plan to form a basis for a further exchange on a larger scale. A German and a Czecho-Slovak delegation have also been received for the same purpose, and the Minister has appointed a special committee to carry out the negotiations.

**Trade with Czecho-Slovakia.**

A number of deals have been concluded with Czecho-Slovakia during the past few months, including an exchange of maize for agricultural machinery, and the petrol and locomotive agreement referred to a few weeks ago by the writer. The Roumanian Government have now placed their second order for locomotives with the Skoda Engineering Works in Czecho-Slovakia (the first having gone to Baldwin's, of Philadelphia, as will be remembered). The contract is for the repair of 500 old Roumanian locomotives and the delivery of 80 new ones within a period of three years. There is still no word of any British firm having secured an order, the arrangement of terms for payment having apparently proved an insuperable obstacle.

**Redemption of Kronen Currency.**

The Minister of Finance has published instructions regarding the withdrawal and exchange of the kronen currency in Transylvania. All holders of crowns must notify the Ministry of the sum in their possession between August 1 and 6, and the rate of exchange will be fixed after stock has been taken of the quantity in hand. Crowns bearing a false stamp will not be considered valid.

According to some rumours, the rate of two crowns to the leu will probably be allowed, but this would involve a sacrifice on the part of the State of 1,986,000,000 lei, whereas, in his statement on the subject this week, the Minister of Finance estimated that according to his project the sacrifice would amount to 1½ milliards. It is clear that the Government is faced with the alternative of reducing the fortunes of its Transylvanian subjects by 50 or more per cent., which is neither to their advantage nor to that of the State as a whole, or of making a sacrifice far too great for the Treasury to bear, for if the kronen were exchanged at par the sum required to pay for them would be 3,972,000,000 lei. After all, it may well be argued, why should Roumania charge herself with so enormous a debt in order to meet the obligations of the Banque Austro-Hongroise towards the citizens of Transylvania?

**Handicap to Trade.**

The export taxes on all exportable commodities, *e.g.*, grain, petrol, and timber, are still very high, and render trade almost impossible except under certain conditions and with special permits. A bill for the freeing from control of the export and import trade has, however, been presented to the Chamber, and awaits its decision. No discussion has as yet taken place, and it is difficult to foresee how it will be received by the majority. Several delegations from different branches of trade have been received by the Minister of Industry and Commerce, who protested against the very high rate of the export taxes, and several Ministers have expressed the view that they ought to be abolished.

**Exploitation of Mines.**

By a decision of the Ministry for Industry and Commerce, all permits for the exploitation of mines which have expired between November 26, 1906, and the present date shall be prolonged for one year after the publication of the present decision. In order to benefit by this regulation, those interested must apply to the above Ministry within two months from the present date. After that term all permits for which renewals have not been applied will be considered cancelled. This decision applies both to the Old Kingdom and to the annexed provinces.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, August 2.

**Credit for Agricultural Machinery.**

A credit of one million dinars has been voted to the Ministry of Agriculture for the purchase of agricultural machinery and apparatus. A Commission has been appointed which will proceed to Austria to make the necessary purchases. It is unfortunate to see the Serbs looking once more to Central Europe for these supplies, but Great Britain does not appear to be able to compete, either in delivery, credit, or prices; the exchange, of course, has an enormous influence on the latter.

**Housing Schemes.**

Contracts have been placed by the municipality of Belgrade for the construction of new houses, chiefly for the poor, who are suffering severely from overcrowding and lack of accommodation. Six contractors have been commissioned to erect ten houses each.

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## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, July 25.

### Czecho-Slovak Delegation.

The Czecho-Slovak commercial delegation to arrange for the exchange of goods between Bulgaria and Czecho-Slovakia arrived here last Monday. A banquet was given in their honour at the Grand Hotel de Bulgarie, at which M Tourlakoff, the Finance Minister, and Dr. Raiko Daskaloff, the Minister of Commerce and Labour, and M. Tzanko Bakaloff, the Minister for Public Works, were present. The speakers urged the broad development of the commercial relations between the two countries.

### Flour for Export.

The Direction of Prevoyance Social, after providing for the needs of the population, has a surplus of 6,000,000 kilogrammes of flour. The Consortium has offered the flour to Czecho-Slovak and Greek merchants.

The Consortium has concluded a contract for the sale of 2,250 tons of barley to a French firm.

The cereals stored at the port of Varna sell at a higher price than those stored at the Danubian ports because the Consortium has instructed its agencies to expedite the dispatch of grains for Varna.

## ALBANIA.

ALBANIA, July 27.

### Favourable Harvest Prospects.

The harvest this year is magnificent and the maize harvest promises to be equally good. If nothing unforeseen happens, the olive crop will be very plentiful, which has not been the case for some ten years. It is estimated that Albania will have some 3,000,000 kilos of olive oil for export and some 8,000,000 kilos of maize. There are also great quantities of skins, wool and furs. Thus there will be fine openings for trade, of which Great Britain should avail itself, both in regard to exports and imports. What Albania chiefly needs just now are glass and glazed ware, cotton and piece goods, woollen goods, footwear, telegraphic and telephonic material and agricultural machinery.

Unfortunately there are only Italian vessels serving the country at present, save for a few rare Greek boats calling at Semani (between Valona and Durazzo).

Cattle, of which the numbers had fallen off during the war, are beginning to increase again. The price of horses and of oxen has fallen by 50 per cent.

## CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, July 15.

### An Agricultural Union.

In recent notes attention has been drawn to the decided awakening of interest in the matter of agricultural progress. As Cyprus lives almost entirely on its agricultural resources, and as it must be honestly admitted that the Agricultural Department has never been either properly equipped or supported by adequate funds, any genuine and public-spirited movement is deserving of praise and encouragement. An association is in process of formation which aims at introducing real reforms in the methods of island husbandry, at carrying out expert selection of cereal and other seeds (a matter almost entirely neglected hitherto), and at increasing knowledge among the ranks of intelligent agriculturists. The centre of the movement is at Lefkóniko, a large and industrious village in the Famagusta district. As it is impossible that delegates can attend from all parts of the island it is proposed to confine preliminary meetings to the two districts of Nicosia and Famagusta for the purpose of organising the society. But the other four districts are invited to form branch committees, which will co-operate. In Turkish villages only Ottoman representatives will be chosen, and "mixed" villages will appoint both Turkish and Greek associates.

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# EGYPTIAN COTTON.

## REPORT ON ITS YIELD AND QUALITY.—II.

(From Our Cairo Correspondent.)

In the first of this series of two articles I outlined the proposals made by Mr. Martin H. Leake, Director of Agriculture, United Provinces, India, on the methods to be adopted to secure finer and greater yields of Egyptian cotton up to the time the seed goes to the cultivator. It will be evident that such an organisation as described for maintaining the purity of the proved seed up to the stage when the first issue is made to the public should not offer any great difficulty. What we have now to consider is the organisation required for the further multiplication of that seed. And it is here that the work of the Commercial Section will commence.

The initial work, as already outlined, devolves to a large extent upon the agricultural section. This organisation's duty is to secure proved pure seed sufficient to sow 500 acres. Allowing a margin for cases in which doubt attaches, Mr. Leake considers that the circle officer should be able to recover seed to sow 4,000 acres in the succeeding year. His plan is that the circle officer should intercept a fair proportion of the crop grown from the proved seed as it comes into the ginneries, and by arrangement with the ginner have the seed kept separate. Such seed would then receive a Government mark indicating that it had been passed as *taqawi*. The ginner will be allowed to dispose of this *taqawi* as he deems fit, and in the normal course of his business, but he will keep a record of the purchasers. The circle officer will thus be able, by a system of inspections in the succeeding year, to draw up a list of cultivators whose crop is sufficiently pure to serve as a source of *taqawi*.

But in order to make certain that the requisite information will be kept, certain ginneries only will be licensed to gin *taqawi*. The licensee of each ginnery will keep a record (*a*) of the cultivators whose crops have gone to the production of *taqawi*; and (*b*) of the persons to whom he has disposed of that seed. These two lists, suggests Mr. Leake, should go to the Commercial Section. Under this scheme the circle officer will be able to exercise control over the bulk of the cotton crop of his circle, with the minimum of effort. It is obvious at once that the success or failure of the scheme will depend, to a large extent, upon the goodwill of the licensees. But Mr. Leake appears confident that there is a body of responsible ginners who fully recognise the importance of seed control, and who would willingly undertake to make such returns. The position really seems to be one of a co-partnership for mutual benefit than enforcement of a restrictive order. For the service provided, of course, the Government would guarantee the ginners a partial monopoly.

It is also apparent that for the scheme to attain a due measure of success there must be continuity in the organisation. Up to this stage we have considered the work of three sections of the Ministry of Agriculture—the Botanical, the Agricultural, and the Commercial. Yet in spite of the discontinuity of agents there must be continuity of work; the only way to prevent that discontinuity is to ensure that there shall be no hiatus where the work of two sections meet, meanwhile providing the maximum of freedom within the sections themselves.

It is this consideration that makes Mr. Leake question the present jurisdiction of the Cotton Research Board. As it appears to him, the underlying idea is that the control of cotton research shall be undertaken by the Board and the practical aspects of the problem by the Ministry. He holds that such a division of functions is hardly consistent with the development of continuity, since it institutes a duality of control, and contributes to the establishment of the very hiatus which it is necessary to avoid

To meet this danger Mr. Leake suggests that a cotton committee should be instituted within the Ministry itself. The functions of this committee should in effect be those of a nerve centre, which shall tend to control all matters affecting more than one section, and decide all questions of general principle. He recognises that this proposal appears to undermine the position of the Cotton Research Board as at present instituted; but at the same time it indicates the desirability of a board occupying the same position with respect to the Ministry as the existing board but with somewhat different functions. In other words, Mr. Leake's conception of the functions of the board is that it should fulfil the duties of liaison agent between the Ministry of Agriculture and such extra-Ministerial bodies as are concerned with the cotton problem. The present instructions to the Board include directions to maintain close touch with growers, ginners, and spinners, so as to know their needs. Mr. Leake considers that this comes under the heading of economic effort, and therefore should be left to the Commercial Section.

Mr. Leake's formal recommendations include—(1) Maintenance of the purity of Sakel; (2) the establishment of one or more types with the same intrinsic merit as Sakel, but with an improved vegetative habit; (3) the maintenance of the present classes by a system of purification and establishment of pure races; (4) the development of types agriculturally better suited to the environment, including the demarcation of type tracts; (5) the development of a class of cotton superior in quality to the best Sakel; (6) the division of the country into the circles determined, as far as possible, by climatic considerations and each with its experimental farm; (7) the establishment of a seed farm in each of the circles so defined; (8) the introduction of a system of licensing ginneries for *taqawi;* (9) the introduction of a system licensing persons desirous of introducing new varieties; (10) the division of the Ministry of Agriculture into a series of sections; (11) the establishment of a Ministerial Cotton Committee, composed of the head of sections concerned and possessing power to co-opt; and (12) the establishment of an extra-Ministerial Cotton Board.

In the course of the two articles I have dealt with all of these recommendations seriatim, giving the reasons for and potential results of each recommendation, if carried into effect—with the exception of (12): the establishment of an extra-Ministerial Board. This Board is necessary to provide co-ordination between the multitudinous sections each of which have their appointed sphere in the general scheme. Mr. Leake has preferred to refer to this as a new board rather than as a reconstitution of the existing Cotton Research Board. The function of the Research Board is "to combine and co-ordinate scientific researches." Mr. Leake holds that the duty of such an institution should be to co-ordinate practice with the results of those researches.

He does not imply a wholesale and immediate condemnation of the present Board, since he considers that it has a useful function at the moment. Therefore he urges that his proposals be regarded in the light of an ultimate policy, requesting that no interim proposals be adopted which will vitiate the eventual adoption of his policy, or yet of these individual interim proposals.

The scheme is a comprehensive one. It starts at the beginning with experiments upon the soil in which the cotton will be grown; and it progresses, by logical stages, to the time when the cotton is ginned. It provides for practical research, experiments, and cultural development. Those who, outside the Ministry, engage in it stand to lose nothing by it. On the other hand, Mr. Leake has made out a case for his scheme, leaving those who know the problem of cotton development in this country with the feeling that his proposals, sweeping as they are, and necessitating time before they can be co-ordinated into one working whole, seem to point the way to an enhanced yield of Egyptian cotton of greater purity.


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# BRITISH CONSULAR REPORTS

## III.—EGYPT.

Mr. E H. Mulock, H.M. Commercial Agent, Cairo, in his report on the economic and financial situation of Egypt for 1919, emphasises the flourishing financial position of the country as the result of a series of favourable trade balances, the rise in the price of cotton, and other factors.

Regarding the fuel shortage, Mr. Mulock says that owners and users of engines are wondering where their fuel is coming from now that cotton-seed cake is no longer available, coal so expensive and hard to obtain, and the supply of Egyptian mazout so uncertain

"As early in 1918," he points out, "there were 11,100 engines of all kinds of 50 I.H.P. upwards, driven by steam, kerosene, crude oil, or suction gas, and as the steam engines (which amounted to nearly 70 per cent. of the total number) were then burning fuels of such various kinds, as coal, cotton, cotton cake, oil fuel, vegetable refuse, wood and mixed fuel, the withdrawal of two and the difficulty of obtaining three of these combustibles are very serious considerations. The supply of cotton sticks, which run to about one ton per feddan, and which proved their value as fuel during the war, will probably be large owing to the increased acreage under cotton, but wheat and maize straw, if their use is allowed, in view of their consumption during the war for portable engines especially, will probably be short for the same reason.

"The amount of fuel required depends, in the case of engines working pumps, on the Nile flood, which, if high reduces their work, but in view of the conversion during the war of large numbers of engines of all kinds to the use of oil fuel, and the necessity for reconverting to coal in order to cope with the threatened shortage of mazout, the solution of the fuel problem would seem to be the importation of crude oil or the problematical alternative of obtaining coal at satisfactory prices. The former alternative is the most practical so long as coal costs more than mazout, since two tons of the latter used with burners are equal to about three tons of the former, and 1,173,000 tons of coal or their equivalent are needed annually for the steam engines alone."

### Labour Difficulties.

The most important recent developments in the sphere of labour during the year were, Mr. Mulock remarks, a Syndicalist movement, strikes, hitherto practically unknown in the country, and the formation of the Labour Disputes Conciliation Board.

"It is difficult," he adds, "to determine the extent to which Syndicalism on the part of the native labour element is likely to become a force in Egypt; on the one hand, the mutual distrust prevailing among the men themselves which is not conducive to the selection either of delegates or of treasurers of strike funds, and the fact that a considerable proportion of the labour employed at Alexandria is casual and seasonal, militate against the possibility of real trades' union organisation among native workmen; on the other hand, in trades and industries where there is a majority, or even a leaven of European employees or workmen, the Syndicalist movement is naturally more pronounced, since an educated minority is sufficient to counterbalance the fact that the average native workman is only slightly educated, if at all, and to ensure a more or less reasoned presentation of the workers' claims. However, it is to be hoped that the success of the Conciliation Board in meeting the brunt of the first strike wave will be repeated in dealing with subsequent strikes, and that they will be curtailed, where they cannot be averted, by the men's use of it as a forum where they can air their grievances and obtain an impartial hearing of their demands and explanations.

"That the relations between masters and men have greatly improved is shown by the fact that several strikes have been curtailed and even averted by personal and direct negotiations between the two parties; and the adoption by enlightened employers of co-operative schemes for furnishing the men with foodstuffs and clothing at reasonable prices should do much to forestall demands for increased wages to meet the increased cost of living. Schemes of this kind, however, are attended by difficulties in the case of employers who depend to a considerable extent on casual labour, as the men engaged under this category do not appear in the regular pay-sheets, and the fluctuations in their numbers, depending as they do on the needs of the moment, would make it impossible to fix, on any given date or for any given period, the number of men to be catered for under any co-operative scheme."

### Shipping Shortage.

"The present situation as regards shipping resolves itself into an acute shortage of passenger accommodation, owing to the fact that homeward-bound liners from countries east of Suez are so booked up with passengers from India and the Far East that the passenger from Egypt is almost entirely dependent on the fortnightly services run by the Lloyd Triestino, Marittima Italiana, and Sicilia steamship lines. The first-named calls at Brindisi and Taranto, between Alexandria and Trieste, the two latter at Genoa and Naples. The French Messageries Maritimes boats are very irregular, and as the transport service run by the British authorities during 1919 between Marseilles and Port Said, calling sometimes at Alexandria, has been stopped, it is Italian steamers that will reap the harvest during the coming season, unless some enterprising British shipping concern undertakes to inaugurate a frequent and regular service of fast passenger steamers between Alexandria and Marseilles, combining it with a cargo service between Alexandria and the United Kingdom, as it is impossible to live by passengers alone in the absence of a Government subsidy. It should also be borne in mind that the home-going passenger season coincides with a poor homeward cargo season, and that outward-bound boats often bring very few passengers to Egypt during the summer months.

"In view, however, of the probability that the intention of the Lloyd Triestino to run a weekly service for passengers during the coming season will secure for an Italian steamship line the virtual monopoly of the English passenger traffic, British shipping and commercial interests will suffer unless either the authorities can see their way to the renewal of the transport service or a new British shipping line steps into the breach.

"As regards tonnage for exports to the United Kingdom and for British imports, cargoes have been amply catered for. Cotton has been shipped by the Ellerman, Moss, Owen Phillips, Prince Line, Furness Withy and Cunard boats; while there has been enough casual tonnage, in the shape of steamers chartered in the open market, for the transport of cotton-seed, cotton-seed cakes, onions, etc., owing to the demand for Egyptian produce other than cotton not having been great. Had it been so, tonnage would have been short."


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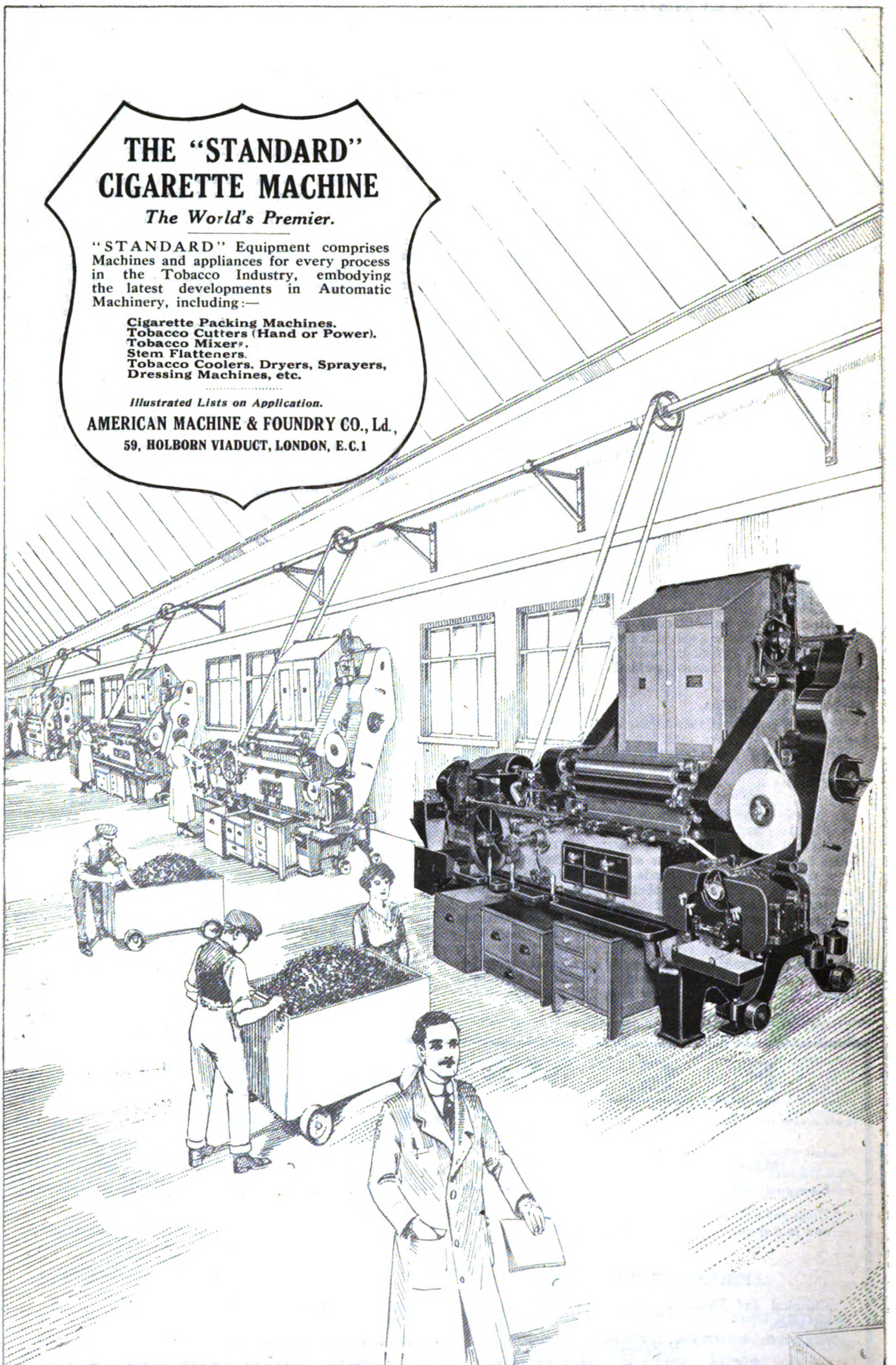


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## ENGINEERING.

### Impulse Starters.

One of the most interesting contrivances I have had brought to my notice recently is the type G magneto with impulse starter, made at Coventry by the British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., and which is suitable for four or six cylinder engines. It generates high-tension current, can be made for rotating in either a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction, and for fixed or variable ignition, and with four-cylinder engines it revolves at engine speed, and at one and a-half times engine speed with engines of six cylinders. For the four-cylinder engine its weight is 11 lb. and for the six-cylinder 11½ lb.

I may say that the B.T.H. Impulse Starter can only be supplied as an integral part of the type G magneto made by the same company. In brief, the function of the device is greatly to simplify the problem of engine starting, and by its means any size of engine can be started with comparative ease under even the worst of conditions, such as being out of tune, using low-grade spirit, or starting up from cold in cold weather. Anyone who has had experience of anything of this kind in the case of a large engine provided with handle starting, as, for example, with a heavy commercial vehicle, knows that the human energy that has to be expended in rotating the engine at a sufficiently high speed to enable the magneto to produce a hot enough spark to bring about ignition, is only too frequently of a very distressing character. On a motor-lorry fitted with an electric starter it is often a lengthy job to get the engine to start up on a cold morning, and the drain and strain on the battery is far greater than anyone would believe. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that this sort of work shortens the life of any battery, no matter how robust its construction may be.

In either case the adoption of an impulse starter will greatly improve matters, because once an explosive mixture has been sucked or injected into the cylinders the impulse starting device causes the magneto armature to receive a very sharp and sudden flick over, which ensures that an intense spark is produced. This invariably brings about satisfactory ignition. The use of a B.T.H. Impulse Starter will therefore greatly reduce the fatigue of starting an engine provided only with hand starting, and it will prolong the life of a battery if applied to an engine fitted with electric starting.

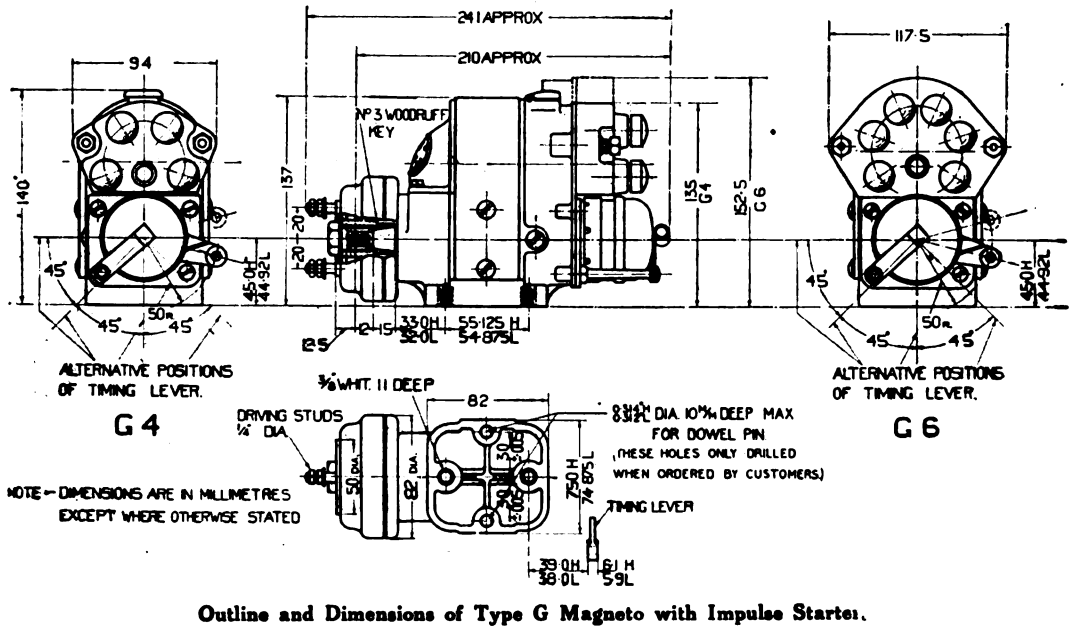
The device, which is of compact cylindrical form, with no protuberances, has no openings through which dirt or other foreign matter can gain access to the working parts. I am assured by the firm—by whose courtesy I am able to reproduce a diagram of dimensions of the device—that all the wearing parts are made of special steel, and all that require machining are tooled to very fine limits of accuracy. I understand that the makers anticipate that this device will find its most immediate application on commercial vehicles, tractors, etc., where electric starting is not provided, although it can undoubtedly serve a most useful purpose on engines provided with an electric starting motor if the slowest running speed is not less than 250 r.p.m., on a four-cylinder engine, and 180 r.p.m. on a six-cylinder engine.

### Pneumatics for Lorries.

A good deal has been said regarding the giant pneumatic tyres which are to be used on certain motor-buses in the near future, and a number of those who have only had experience with solids are somewhat dubious regarding the success of the experiment. Their view is that punctures may be more frequent than is anticipated, and that the covers may burst at the bead, with possibly disastrous results, under the strain of turning a corner. The advocates of the pneumatic, who are many, consider that the puncture danger is greatly over-rated, and that the possibility even of a burst bead is remote. They point out that pneumatics on big racing cars have to stand a greater strain than would be put on the covers of commercial vehicles; but so far few supporters of the big pneumatic have mentioned that the experiment is not a new one, and that giant covers of the kind have been in use on heavy lorries since 1911.

The first big pneumatic covers were fitted during that year to a big Reliance lorry, and were of the beaded edge type introduced years ago by the Clincher people, and which are now made by many other large firms. For some reason it was found that the beaded edge was not so suitable as had been hoped, and that they did not seem quite the thing for the heavy air pressure they had to withstand. Straight-edge tyres, such as are now used on a number of American cars, were then tried, and it was found that they gave much better results on commercial vehicles than did the solid rubber tyres hitherto used. It was found that they greatly reduced vibration, and that the vehicles to which they were fitted did not require such constant overhauling. Springs stood up to their work better; metal parts had not the same tendency to crystallise and fail; and there was not so much damage to the cargo carried. A further and most important point was that both the petrol and the oil consumption was less, whilst greater speeds could be attained. As a result of all this, it was found that the chassis could be lightened considerably.

On the other hand, it was found that the inner tyre carried more than its share of weight, and that it was a matter of practical impossibility to ensure that all tyres could be

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inflated to and maintained at the same air-pressure unless connecting-valves were used, a drawback to which was that if one tyre was punctured the corresponding tyre on the other side went flat. Taking all these points into consideration, however, it is generally agreed that there is an appreciable gain in using giant pneumatics, and up-to-date tyre-makers should have no difficulty in building pneumatics that will stand up to their work and give no trouble.

**Motor Accessories.**

A further indication of the progressive policy adopted by the British Motor Trading Corporation, Ltd., is afforded by the opening the other day of new showrooms at King Street, London, S.W., to deal exclusively in accessories. The depôt is well appointed throughout, and carries a comprehensive range of the latest accessories and tools, including everything of use on the car or in the private garage.

**Continental Motor Tours.**

Notwithstanding difficulties in connection with bad roads and occasional shortage of petrol, motoring in France and Belgium is steadily increasing in volume. Members of the Automobile Association who intend to take their cars or motor cycles to the Continent are advised to give the Touring Department at least ten days' notice to ensure reservation of space on the steamers, and to allow sufficient time for the preparation of all necessary papers.

**Wasting Oil Fuel.**

A good deal of comment has been aroused in engineering circles (says a correspondent) by Professor H. E. Armstrong's remarks in connection with the conversion of steamers to oil fuel. The point is that the process adopted renders an extremely lavish and actually uneconomical use of oil unavoidable, and in view of the possible shortage of oil which may exist more quickly than we imagine, there is much in his argument. He says that such profiteering at the expense of future generations should not be possible. "If we are believers in the importance of the internal combustion engine. . . . it behoves us to economise in the use of oil in every possible way."

It should be noted that oil used for firing ordinary steam boilers, burned in the furnaces by air or steam draught, and used in every way as would coal be used in the same boilers, is a wasteful method by which to obtain the heat value, and that a fraction of that amount of oil used in a Diesel or other efficient type of oil engine would generate the same power. It is felt that we have no right, knowingly and willingly, to make a wasteful use of our oil reserves, but that it is our duty to conserve them as much as possible, and to take care that such use as we do make is not open to a charge of extravagance.

It is to be hoped that shipowners, shipbuilders, and marine architects alike will ponder this aspect of the question, and it may be of some assistance if the facts of the case are resolved to plain figures. The largest Diesel-engined vessel uses only 126 tons of oil per week, and for this she will carry 14,000 tons of cargo at the extremely high speed of 14 knots. With the fuel burned under the boilers of two big liners a fleet of 70 Diesel-engined cargo boats, carrying over a million tons of freight, could be driven at a rate of 14 knots.

## OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Hurgada production, week to August 1, 2,441 tons (last week, 2,448 tons).


**Banque Franco-Serbe.**

**Capital Frs. 20,000,000.**

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## LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

Although the tone of the market has continued more hopeful business has not developed to any important extent during the past week. Inquiry has been abundant, but there is still much difficulty in arranging terms of fresh contracts, and numerous buyers refuse to operate freely at current rates. There is some uneasiness with regard to political matters in Europe, and financial stringency still hampers trade. A rather steadier feeling has prevailed in Egyptian cotton prices. Although buying continues irregular a fair business has been done during the week. In yarns made from Egyptian cotton operations have been patchy and there has not been any general flow of orders. Prices remain irregular when tested. There has not been much activity in piece goods for the Near East, but a few more offers are now being met with for Egypt. According to letters and telegrams from the other side clearances of goods are not coming up to expectations, and, of course, there are many unsettling influences in that part of the world. A large inquiry has been reported in piece goods for India, and a very fair turnover has taken place in bleaching descriptions, with steady buying in printing materials. Sized goods, however, lag behind, and producers of shirtings are in urgent need of relief. A moderate trade has been done for South America in sheetings and printed and dyed goods. Business for China has been practically at a standstill. There continues much variation in the quotations of manufacturers. American yarns for home use have moved off quietly at irregular rates. Twists remain stronger than wefts. Export business in yarns has been restricted, but rather more inquiry has been about for India.

**Egyptian Cotton Crop.**

Some particulars are now available of the Egyptian cotton crop for the season ended July 31. The growth may be put down at 5,654,000 kantars, against 4,826,342 kantars in the previous year, and 6,315,841 kantars in 1917-18. Shipments to Great Britain amounted to 401,250 bales, as compared with 385,650 bales in 1918-19, and 346,000 bales in the previous season. An important feature of the past year was the larger takings of spinners in the United States, and shipments from Alexandria to America amounted to 291,000 bales, against 65,230 bales in 1918-19, and 75,420 bales in 1917-18. Exports from Alexandria to all parts amounted to 834,000 bales, against 624,000 bales in the previous season, and 656,000 bales in 1917-18. Very favourable news continues to be received with regard to the outlook for the growth for 1920-21, and if the conditions remain satisfactory there is a probability of the output being over 7,000,000 kantars.

## OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended July 17:—The sales this week on our market amount to 35 cases manufacturing druggist at 19s. to 20s. per lb. c.i.f. as to quality. The exchange is piastres 410 per pound sterling for cheque, and 0.97 dollars for one Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are 28 cases, against 75 at same date last year.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for week ended July 24:—The sales this week amount to 12 cases at 20s. 6d. for extra selected manufacturing, and 19s. for lower grades. The exchange to-day is piastres 420 per pound sterling for cheque on London, and 0.92 dollars for one Turkish pound. The arrivals are 28 cases against 115 at same date last year.


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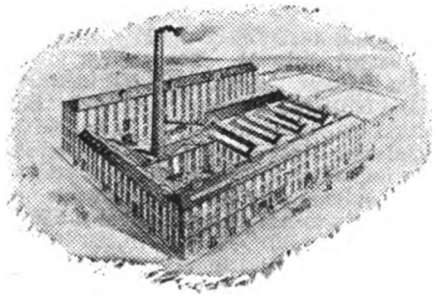
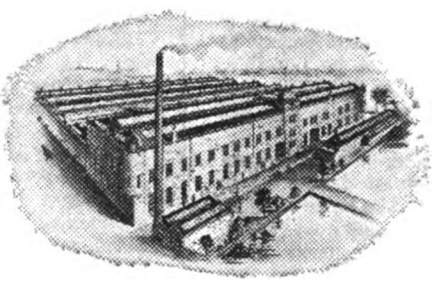
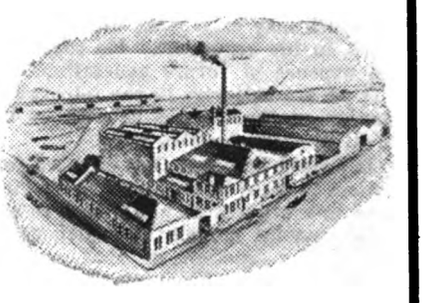

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# COMPANY MEETINGS.

## GHARBIEH LAND.

The report of the Gharbieh Land Company, Ltd., read at the ordinary general meeting held at Cairo on June 10, states:—

The salient fact of the period has been the exceptional rise in the price of cotton, which has reached levels never hitherto attained, and which has had a most favourable influence on the economic situation of Egypt. Occurring towards the end of the cotton season it was especially the business community which profited by this rise, but the cultivators have also obtained from their crop a much greater profit than in previous years. If the price is maintained they will reap a greater profit this year, and the prosperity of the country will be considerably increased.

It is a known fact that the savings of the average Egyptian are usually invested in real estate, and more particularly in cultivated land. The increase of wealth as a result of the rise of cotton ought then to have, and, in fact, has had, as its direct consequence, a marked increase in the price of certain classes of lands. The sales of the year amounted to 1875 feddans, an area much above the total of our sales since the establishment of the company.

In consequence of the transactions carried out during the year, the lands of the company at February 29, 1920, did not represent more than an area of 6022f., 17h., 09s., figuring in our books at that date for a total sum of £E338,358.628.

It will be recalled that a certain slackening was produced in the progress of the work of development under the stress of adverse circumstances, which we have recorded in detail in previous reports (notably those of 1912-13 and 1913-14). The war accentuated this slackening, and during the years which followed the board of directors concentrated its attention and energies on the means of meeting the most urgent needs and engagements of the company. It neglected nothing, however, that was necessary for the maintenance in good condition of the company's lands, and in our reports for the years of war, notably those of 1917-18 and 1918-19, will be found the enumeration of important works carried out during that period, and more particularly the perfecting of our system of irrigation.

The system of rotation of 1919 has been more strict than usual, but we have been able to supplement the insufficiency of water from the El Sahel canal by using our machines on the Nile. It is that which in part explains the increase in the expenses of irrigation. We have constructed at North Wastani a new drain about 1,000 metres in length to assure the better drainage of a part of the land, and we have continued the cleaning out and repair of the large drains and canals of the properties.

In previous reports we have indicated the reasons which during a certain period, especially since the war, compelled us to reduce the expenses for works of construction to what was absolutely necessary. The want of accommodation made itself felt with growing intensity each year, and what we have been able to do to remedy it has been by no means sufficient to meet the needs of the position and to assure the good development of certain parts of the property newly opened up. The cost of materials and labour remains very high, but in view of the imperative necessity for increasing the number of houses for creating new centres and for enlarging those already existing, we have taken steps to put into operation immediately a programme drawn up to that effect. The increased population which will result is a vital question for the development of our lands, and will fully justify the expense necessitated for the work.

The operations of the year left a net profit of £E92,394.400 after the deduction of £E12,000 for the credit of the account "Provision for sales for the account and for doubtful credits." Net profit is composed as follows:—Receipts profits from development, £E16,451.422; profit on sales of lands, £E102,503.089; interest collected, £E8,191.223; total, £E127,145.734. Expenditure interest on 5 per cent. debentures, £E13,145.841; general expenses, £E5,717.067; interest paid or due, £E3, 824.727; various payments, £E63.699; total, £E22,751.334, leaving £E104,394.400. Deducting provision for sales and doubtful credits, £E12,000, there remains £E92,394.400. From the net total there has to be deducted the remuneration of the board of directors, £E1,000, leaving £E91,394.400. Deducting the debit brought forward from the previous year of £E94,554.560, there remains a debit of £E3,160.160.

The debit balance of the profit and loss account has then fallen from £E94,554.560 to £E3,160.160, and the company, definitely freed from the difficulties of all kinds with which it has been faced in recent years, can to-day regard the future with confidence. The small debit balance which remains can already be considered as counterbalanced by the increased value of the portfolio, and the real value of the lands of the company is much above that at which they figure in the balance sheet. The results already obtained, and the efforts which we are unceasingly making to promote the development of the company's lands enable us to count upon a period of prosperity which will compensate our shareholders for their waiting.

The balance sheet and the accounts were unanimously approved by the meeting, and resolutions were also passed re-electing M. A. Nourrisson Bey and M. L. Robin as directors, and appointing Messrs. F. H. Russell and J. C. Sidley, of Messrs. Russell, Harris and Co., chartered accountants, as auditors for the current financial year.

# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

## Forthcoming Sailings.

The Anchor Line s.s. Circassia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Glasgow on August 13, and at Liverpool on August 23.

The Cunard Line s.s. Tyria, for Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina, will close for cargo at Liverpool on September 4.

The Cunard Line s.s. Sea Victory, for Piræus, Salonika, Constantinople, and Galatz, will close for cargo at Antwerp on August 18, and in London on August 25.

The Ellerman Lines s.s. Trentino, for Patras, will close for cargo at Liverpool on August 26.

The Ellerman Lines s.s. Andalusian, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on August 21.

The Ellerman Lines s.s. Asturian, for Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on August 21.

The Papayanni Line (Ellerman Lines, Ltd.) s.s. Malatian, for Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on August 28.

The Moss Line s.s. Amasis, for Gibraltar, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on August 14.

The Bibby Line s.s. Derbyshire, for Rangoon, will leave London on August 17.

The Clan Line s.s. Clan Chisholm, for Bombay and Persian Gulf (cargo for Persian Gulf transhipped at Bombay), will leave Glasgow on August 19, and Birkenhead on August 28.

The Henderson Line s.s. Burma, for Port Said and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on August 18.

## DEMAND FOR BRITISH MOTORS IN INDIA.

H.M. Trade Commissioner in Calcutta reports that the Government of India Department of Posts and Telegraphs has experienced considerable difficulty in obtaining motor vehicles of United Kingdom manufacture. So far as motor cars are concerned, this difficulty has not been felt acutely, as the American cars have given satisfaction, but in the case of motor lorries the position has been entirely different; experience going to show that a lorry manufactured in the United Kingdom has a considerably longer life than lorries of foreign manufacture. It is further stated that at the close of the current year lorries will be required for the Kashmir service. The immediate requirements will be in the neighbourhood of six 3 to 4 ton lorries and nine one ton lorries. It is suggested that United Kingdom firms in a position to quote for these vehicles should communicate at once with the Director-General of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Council House Street, Calcutta.

Algeria is suffering from a severe house shortage.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended July 24 amounted to £7.799.

The French authorities have authorised the export from Morocco of 60.000 tons of barley and 10.000 tons of maize.

The directors of the Bengal-Nagpu Railway Co. notify holders of debentures, bonds to bearer, amounting to £448,900, falling due on August 18, that they are prepared to renew such debentures at £98 5s. (1¾ per cent. discount) for a further period of two years, at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum, provided the holders send their bonds to the office, 132, Gresham House, E.C., before noon on August 16. A commission of 5s. per £100 will be allowed to brokers and other recognised agents.

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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

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

JAFFA.

The report for May states:—Business inactivity continues to rule in our market, and is more accentuated than in the previous month, that being due to the cautious attitude of the financial houses here—an attitude very generally adopted each year during the slack season—as well as to the considerable fall in the prices of many manufactures, especially cotton goods, in the European markets.

ADANA.

The report for May states:—The crop of barley, of good quality, has made its appearance on the market, where 150,000 okes have already been sold at Ps. 8 per oke, and were it not for the insecurity outside the town and the uncertainty regarding permits for the export of this commodity one could look for an improvement in the price.

The recent abundant rains, although they have delayed the wheat crop, have, on the other hand, proved very favourable for the sowing of cotton, regarding which it seems more and more probable that the yield will justify previous forecasts. The crop of wheat will commence about the beginning of June.

In order that this region may profit by these good crops, it is essential that security should reign outside the towns, and that the local disquiet should be ended. Everything points to the fact that once the treaty of peace with Turkey is concluded and signed, calm and security will not be long in making their effect felt in our market.

ALEPPO, June 25.

The market was inactive and quiet during May. There were practically no transactions, and the principal exporters maintain a waiting attitude, and are watching closely the variations in the foreign exchanges. Despite the interruption of communications with the interior, some little business has taken place in English manufactures, following the arrival of merchants from the interior to make purchases in this market.

STAMBOUL, July 3.

The situation in this market shows no improvement. The prices of nearly all the articles of import and export tend to fall. There is general inactivity.

Manufactures. — The stagnation continues. Prices are weak, and buyers are lacking.

SALONIKA, June 30.

The crops of certain products have suffered from the recent rains.

The crop of wheat is good, and superior by about 50 per cent. to that of last year. The quality is rather worse, owing to the abundant rains.

The production of cocoons is estimated at from 80,000 to 100,000 okes. The prices vary from 10 to 15 drachmæ per oke.

White wool is quoted at seven to eight drachmæ per oke. The quantity is sufficient only for local needs. Black wool is quoted at from 3.60 to 3.80 drachmæ per oke. The stock is from 50,000 to 60,000 okes.

Forecasts of this year's crop are favourable, and a decrease in the price is to be foreseen. The current prices vary between 7.50 and 8 drachmæ per oke.

The crop of opium has been damaged by the rains. The quantity gathered is estimated at from 3,000 to 4,000 okes.


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**Paid-up - £5,000,000**

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LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE
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The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

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

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.
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## TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—

**Egypt.**

*(The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.)*

Extension of Electrical Station of Zagazig and Belbeis.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, for the extension of the electrical station of Zagazig and Belbeis. Adjudication at noon on September 1. A copy of the specification, etc. (in French) may be consulted by British firms interested at the Enquiry Office of the Department of Overseas Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.2.

Braces (Web), etc.—The Egyptian Government invite tenders for the supply of: (1) Braces (Web). Tenders returnable by noon on August 16. (2) White Drill Clothing. Tenders returnable by August 25. Tenders will remain open for 14 days. (L.)

Tunics, etc.—The Financial Secretary of the Egyptian Army, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of tunics, pantaloons, trousers, etc., to the Ordnance Services Department, Egyptian Army, Citadel, Cairo. August 28. (L.)

Motor Launch.—The Inspector-General of Irrigation, Upper Egypt, invites tenders for the supply of a motor launch for 4th Circle of Irrigation. September 18. (L.)

Surface Condenser, etc.—The Director-General, Mechanical Dept., Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply, delivery, and erection at Amriya Pumping Station, Zeitûn, of a surface condenser, together with air and circulating pump, a feed pump, oil separators, pipe work, valves, and accessories; plant to be capable of dealing with about 3,200 lb. of steam per hour. August 31. (L.)

Sewage Main.—The Chief Engineer, Main Drainage Dept., Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and laying of a 12-in. cast-iron sealed sewage main. September 21. (L.)

Paper, Etc.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper and office requisites. September 9. (L.)

Air Compressing Plant.—The Chief Engineer, Main Drainage Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of an air compressing plant at Mansûra, consisting of two crude oil engines, driving two single-stage air compressors, complete with auxiliary machinery, water cooling plant, a travelling crane, machine tools, air mains, electric wiring, etc. October 1.

**India.**

Iron Pipes, etc.—The Madras Corporation invites tenders for the supply and delivery of about 220 tons of cast-iron spigot and socket pipes, with special castings, sluice valves, etc. (Specification, 5s., Messrs. James Mansergh and Sons, 5, Victoria Street, S.W.1.). Tenders will be received until September 8.

**Morocco.**

Road.—A call for tenders has appeared in the *Boletin Oficiel de la Zona de Protectorado Espanol* for the construction of a road between Alcazaquiver and the French zone on the Tangier-Rabat route. Tenders, which should be within 318,000 pesetas, must be lodged with the Departmento de Formento, Tetuan, not later than August 14

This week's Indian cable states :—Rain has fallen fairly generally throughout except in North-West Frontier and South-Eastern India where local. General crop conditions good, but more rain required in parts. Bombay cotton market weak. Fully good broach, August, Rs. 415 8 annas. Piece-goods market firmer tone with advancing prices. Calcutta jute market firm with fair business in new crop. Hessians very firm with prices advanced. Heavy goods slightly firmer but quiet. Bank rate is Bengal and Bombay, 5 per cent.; Madras, 6 per cent.

## ON CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

Our market has been upset this week by the renewed political uneasiness, and transactions have been on rather an unimportant scale. There has been a general reaction in prices, but all offerings have been taken, and there has at no time been any undue pressure to sell.

In Government stocks Egyptian Unifieds close ¾ down at 67 and the 3½ per cent. Prefs. have lost a like fraction at 56¼. Turkish Fours of 1891 and 3½'s of 1894 have been in steady demand, and are exceptionally higher than last week, both being 2½ points up at 64 and 57½ respectively. Turkish Unifieds, on the other hand, are ¾ down at 34¼. In Greek securities there has been irregularity; the Rente Loan has jumped 1½ points to 41 and the 1914 Loan a similar fraction to 55½. On the other hand, the 1881, 1884 and 1887 Loans are all half a point down at 53½ for the two former and 43½ for the latter. The 1890 Loan has dropped back one point to 51, and the 1902 Loan half a point, to 47½. "Currant" Bonds are quoted at 89 ex.-div.

In Bank shares Nationals close a quarter down at 19½ and Agriculturals are fractionally easier at 4 7-16, the latter's Preference shares have eased a trifle to 5⅛. Ottoman Banks are ⅜ down at 9¼ and Land Bank of Egypt remain at 5.

In Railways Delta Lights remain at 5⅜ ex. div., while Piræus-Athens Bonds have become a nominal market at 55 for the 4½ per cent. and 40 for the 3 per cent. respectively.

Amongst Land shares, in Aboukirs after a certain amount of firmness there was a reaction to-day, and the price closes 1s. 3d. down at 36s. 3d. Béhéras have dropped a half to 17¼, and Consolidated Lands on local realisations have fallen 6d. to 2s. 6d. Delta Lands have been in demand for Egypt, being strong buyers at one time at 15s. 6d. and closing unchanged at 15s. 3d. bid. There has been a smart advance of 7 points in Egyptian Agricultural Bonds to 80. A few Gharbieh Land shares changed hands to-day as high as 3½. Land and Mortgage of Egypt Ordinary are a weaker market and are quoted about 26s. Mortgage Company of Egypt Pref. have been in demand and close ⅜ higher at 6½. New Egyptians, after rising to about 38s. 9d., finish 1s. 3d. down at 37s. 3d. Sidi Salems have remained about 2½. Sudan Plantations have dropped 3-16 to 4⅝. Union Fonciere are unaltered after having been done up to 5¼.

In Miscellaneous descriptions Salt and Sodas have receded 3-32 to 50s., while Morum's have been an improving market and are closing about 9d. better at 17s. 9d.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptian B are a quarter down at 2 9-16, and Roumanians are 4½d. better at 17s. 6d.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97 7/16 |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 31·00-31·30 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 66 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/10⅜-1/11 |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 165-170 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/10⅜-1/11 |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 405-425 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅜ | 3·59-3·65 |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 50·50-51·25 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 190-195 |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 31½ |

The registered offices of the Oilfields of Egypt, Ltd., were removed to 145, Dashwood House, New Broad Street, E.C.2, on August 11, from which date Messrs. F. W. Bishop, F.C.I.S., and James Rennie, A.C.I.S., will act as managing secretaries.


# BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

Telegrams: "TRABANQUE, LONDON."

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.)
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*Manager*, A. G. M. Dickson.

*London Manager*, P. C. West. *Secretary*, G. de B. Brounlie.

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# "NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

| LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE. | Price Aug. 2. | Price Aug. 9. |
|---|---|---|
| **GOVERNMENT STOCKS.** | | |
| Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892 | 36 | 38 |
| Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907 | 51½ | 51½ |
| Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909 | 28 | 28 |
| City of Alexandria 4%, 1909 | 60 | 60 |
| Egyptian 4% Unified Debt | 67¾ | 67 |
| Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890 | 57 | 56½ |
| Greek 5%, 1881 | 54 | 53½ |
| Do. 5%, 1884 | 54 | 53½ |
| Do. 4%, 1887 | 44 | 43½ |
| Do. 4% Rentes, 1889 | 39½ | 41 |
| Do. 5% 1890 | 52 | 51 |
| Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893 | 53 | 53 |
| Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902 | 48 | 47½ |
| Do. 4% Loan, 1910 | 40¼ | 40½ |
| Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) | 54 | 55½ |
| Do. 5% Currant | 90 | 89xd |
| Montenegro 5% Loan | 68½ | 68½ |
| Persia 5% 1911 | 64 | 64 |
| Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913 | 38 | 38 |
| Serbian 4% Unified Bonds | — | — |
| Turkish 4% 1891 | 61½ | 64 |
| Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894 | 55 | 57⅞ |
| Do. 4% Unified | 35 | 34¼ |
| **BANKS.** | | |
| Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) | 89/6 | 4 7/16 |
| Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) | 5 1/16xd | 5⅛ |
| Do. 3½ Bonds Red. | 61 | 61 |
| Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red. | 63 | 63 |
| Bank of Abyssinia | 1¼ | 1¼ |
| Bank of Athens | 4 | 4 |
| Bank of British West Africa | 6¼ | 6⅜ |
| Bank of Roumania | 5⅛ | 5⅛ |
| British Trade Corporation | 8 1/16 | 8 1/16 |
| Imperial Ottoman Bank | 9⅜ | 9¼ |
| Imperial Bank of Persia | 7¼ | 7½ |
| Ionian Bank, Limited | 5 | 5 |
| Land Bank of Egypt Ord. | 5 | 5 |
| London County and Westminster | 13 1/16 | 13 1/16 |
| National Bank of Egypt | 19¾ | 19⅞ |
| **RAILWAYS.** | | |
| Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer | 5⅜xd | 5⅜xd |
| Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord. | 8 | 9¾ |
| Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref. | 9 | 9 |
| Do. Do. 4% Debs. | 45⅜ | 45⅜ |
| Do Do 5% 2nd Debs. | 36 | 41 |
| Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry. | 27 | 27 |
| Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½% | 60 | 55 |
| Do. Do. 3% Bonds | 45 | 40 |
| **LAND.** | | |
| Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) | 37/6 | 36/3 |
| Do. 6% Debs | 135 | 135 |
| Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt | 12/3 | 12/3 |
| Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment | 75/- | 75/- |
| Béhéra Co. | 17⅜ | 17½ |
| Do. Pref. | 3⅜ | 3⅜ |
| Building Lands of Egypt | 1½ | 1½ |
| Egyptian Consol 5/- | 3/- | 2/6 |
| Egyptian Delta Land and Invest. | 15/4½ | 15/4½ |
| Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs. | 73 | 80 |
| Do. Land and General Trust | 1/6 | 1/6 |
| Do. and Foreign Trust | 13/3 | 13/3 |
| Gharbieh Land Co. | 3⅜ | 3⅜ |
| Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt | 30 | 26/- |
| Do. 4½% Debs. Red. | 84⅛ | 84⅛ |
| Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red | 61⅛ | 61⅛ |
| Mortgage Co. of Egypt | 6⅛ | 6⅛ |
| Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red. | 72⅛ | 7 7/16 |
| New Egyptian Co. | 38/6 | 37/3 |
| Sidi Salem Co. | 2¼ | 2⅛ |
| Sudan Plantations | 4 1/16 | 4⅛ |
| Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. | 5⅛ | 5⅛ |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | |
| Abyssinian Corp. | 7/16 | 7/16 |
| Alexandria Water Co. | 7 1/16 | 7 1/16 |
| Associated Cotton Ginners | 25/- | 25/- |
| Egyptian Hotels | 2⅛ | 2⅛ |
| Do. Markets Ord. | 1 1/16 | 1 1/16 |
| Do. do 5% Debs. Red. | 86⅛ | 86⅛ |
| Do. Salt and Soda Bearer | 2 3/32 | 50/- |
| Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs. | 92 | 92 |
| Khediv al Mail Ord. | 5 17/32xd | 5 17/32xd |
| Do. Do. Prefs. | 3¼ | 3¼ |
| Levant Co. (fully paid) | 16/1⅛ | 16/1⅛ |
| Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref | 17/- | 17,9 |
| Suez Canal | — | — |
| **Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.** | | |
| Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series | 94 | 96¾ |
| Chinese 4½% 1898 | 54 | 53½ |
| Do. 5% 1896 | 71 | 68 |
| Argentine 5% 1890 | 75 | 76 |
| Do. 5% 1907 | 79 | 80½ |
| **OIL.** | | |
| Algerian | 2/10 | 2/7½ |
| Anglo-Bulgarian | 4/8 | 5/1½ |
| Anglo-Egyptian B | 56/3 | 2 1/16 |
| Anglo-Persian Pref. | 22/7½ | 22/1½ |
| Do. 5% Debs. | 78⅛ | 78⅛ |
| Anglo-Roumanian | 5/3 | 5/3 |
| Cyprus Oil Trust | — | — |
| Maisel's Petroleum Trust | 10/7½ | 10/7½ |
| Roumanian | 17/1½ | 17/6 |
| Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs. | 100 | 100 |
| Suez | 5/- | 3/9 |

The accounts of the Bank of Athens for 1919 show that net profits amounted to Dr.13,388,510. A sum of Dr.7,308,050 is written off "loans on sundry guarantees" and "loans on securities." Out of the balance of about Dr.6,000,000, a final dividend of 3 per cent. is paid, making 8 per cent. for the year. The sum of Dr.600,000 is placed to reserve.

# "NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

*(Continued.)*

| BRUSSELS BOURSE. | Price July 28. | Price Aug. 5. |
|---|---|---|
| Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs. | 424 | 412·50 |
| Do. do. Priv. | 570 | 599·50 |
| Do. do. Cap. | 440 | 450 |
| Do. do. Div. | 390 | 390 |
| Anglo-Belgian Co. | 39 | 35·50 |
| Cairo Electric Railways Cap. | 225·50 | 225·25 |
| Do. do. Div. | 305·50 | 310 |
| Caisse Hypothécaire Act | 477·50 | 477·50 |
| Do. do. (10 eme p.b.) | 68·75 | 69·75 |
| Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½% Debs. | 362·50 | 362·50 |
| Do. do. Priv. | 476 | 475 |
| Do. do. Div. | 176·50 | 180 |
| Compagnie Immobiliére Deb. | 399·50 | 399·50 |
| Do. do. Cap. | 157·50 | 167·50 |
| Do. do. Fond. | — | 192·50 |
| Enterprise and Development Cap. | 234·50 | 245 |
| Do. do. Div. | 115·50 | 120 |
| Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte) Priv. | — | — |
| Do. do. Ord. | 395 | 395 |
| Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap. | 200 | 209 |
| Do. do. Div. | 125 | 110 |
| Salonika-Constantinople Railway | 250 | 252·50 |
| Salonika-Monastir Railway | 200 | 250 |
| Smyrna-Cassaba Railway 4%, 1894 | 150 | 285 |
| Do. do. 4%, 1895 | 150 | 260 |
| Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv. | 115 | 115 |
| Do. do. Div. | 150 | 150 |
| Tramways du Caire Priv. | 442·50 | 442·50 |
| Do. do. Jouiss | 635 | 615 |
| Travaux Publics du Caire Priv. | 215 | 236 |
| Do. do. Ord. | — | — |
| Do. do. Div. | 25·50 | 32·50 |

# INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

**INDIAN FUNDS.**

| Interest Due. | Name. | July 30. | Aug. 9. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc. | India 3½% Stock,* 1931 | 54¼ | 63⅜ |
| Various dates. | Do. Rupee Paper 3½% | 54¼ | 54⅜ |
| | * Redeemable. | | |
| **CORPORATION STOCKS.** | | | |
| Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959 | | 83½ | 83½ |
| Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40 | | 64 | 64 |
| Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938 | | 66 | 64½ |
| **BANKS.** | | | |
| Chartered of India | | 76 | 74½ |
| Eastern | | 5 1/16 | 7 1/16 |
| Mercantile of India A. | | 28¼ | 28½ |
| National of India | | 52 | 51⅜ |
| **MINES.** | | | |
| Balaghat Gold Mining | | 7/3 | 8/3 |
| Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref. | | 14/3 | 14/0¾ |
| Burma Corp. | | 9 1/16 | 10 1/16 |
| Burma Ruby Mines Ord. | | 7/3 | 7/- |
| Champion Reef Gold | | 2/7½ | 2/9 |
| Mysore Gold Mining | | 14/3 | 9/3 |
| Nundydroog | | 11/1½ | 14/- |
| Ooregum Gold Mining Ord. | | 14/3 | 10/3 |
| Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf. | | 20/- | 19/3 |
| Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.) | | — | 12/6 |
| **OIL.** | | | |
| Assam Oil | | 26/3 | 30/9 |
| Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref. | | 23/9 | 23/9 |
| Brit. Burmah | | 93 | 93 |
| Burmah Oil Co. Ord. | | 14 3/32 | 7 1/32 |
| Do. 6% Cum. Pref. | | 18/9 | 18/9 |
| Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref. | | 8⅞ | 8⅞ |
| **RAILWAYS.** | | | |
| Assam Bengal | | 52 | 50 |
| Bengal and N.-Western Ord. | | 118½ | 117 |
| Do 1½% Cum. Pref. | | 48¼ | 48¼ |
| Bengal-Nagpur | | 102 | 102 |
| Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India | | 100½ | 100 |
| Burma Railways | | 101½ | 102½ |
| Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb. | | — | — |
| E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953 | | 11 7/16 | 11 7/16 |
| East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957 | | 11⅛ | 11⅛ |
| Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948 | | 10⅜ | 10⅜ |
| Madras and S. Mahratta | | 99½ | 98½ |
| Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord. | | 121 | 121 |
| Nizam's Guaranteed State | | 65½ | 64 |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | | |
| Bengal Iron Ord. | | 52/3 | 16/10½ |
| Do. 7½% Cum. Pref. | | 19 | 18/10½ |
| P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P. | | 77 | 75½ |
| Do. Deferred | | 455 | 445 |
| **TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.** | | | |
| Assam Co. | | 55 7/16 | 56 |
| Bengal United Tea Ord. | | 15⅝ | 15⅝ |
| British Indian Tea Ord. | | 6 | 6 |
| Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord. | | 15 | 15 |
| Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord. | | 9/7½ | 8 9 |
| Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. | | 54/9 | 54/9 |
| Consolidated Estates | | 39/- | 38/- |
| Darjeeling Co. | | 16/10½ | 16/9 |
| Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. | | 35/- | 35/- |
| Dooars Tea Ord. | | 43/9 | 4 6/6 |
| Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. | | 17/5 | 17/3 |
| Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est | | 31/10½ | 31/10½ |
| Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber | | 29/- | 28/9 |
| Hewagam Rubber Co. | | 21/- | 21/- |
| Jhanzie Tea Association | | 8½ | 9 |
| Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. | | 15 | 15 |
| Kepitigalla Rubber Estates | | 14/6 | 14/6 |
| Lanka Plantations Ord. | | 22/- | 22/- |
| Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord. | | 17/7½ | 17/7½ |
| Malayalam Rub. and Produce | | 36/3 | 36/6 |
| Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. | | 12⅜ | 12⅜ |
| P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates | | 32/9 | 34/- |

# STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

| | June 25. Rs. | July 3. Rs. |
|---|---|---|
| **GOVERNMENT LOANS.** | | |
| 3½% Government Paper | 59¼ | 59¼ |
| 4% Government Paper, 1916-17 | 74 | 74 |
| **BANKS.** | | |
| Alliance Bank of Simla | 300 | 300 |
| Bank of Bengal | 1735 | 1730 |
| Bank of Bombay | 2130 | 2130 |
| Bank of Madras | 1560 | 1560 |
| Bank of India | 150 | 150 |
| Tata Industrial Bank | 47 | 48 |
| **COAL.** | | |
| Baraboni | 15⅜ | 15⅜ |
| Bengal | 780 | 7·0 |
| Burrakur | 47½ | 48½ |
| East Indian | 37½ | 37½ |
| Equitable | 45¼ | 45¼ |
| Pench Valley | 330ex | 330ex |
| Raneegunge | 63¼ex | 63¼ex |
| Standard | 76 | 77½ |
| **COTTON.** | | |
| Bengal Nagpur | 570 | 570 |
| Bombay Dyeing, etc. | 3355 | 3310 |
| Bowreah | 1335 | 1335 |
| Buckingham | 2580 | 2580 |
| Carnatic | 1000 | 1000 |
| Cawnpore | 195ex | 195ex |
| Century | 1060 | 1092 |
| Central India | 4550 | 4580 |
| Elgin | 2275 | 2290 |
| Gold Mohur | 230 | 230 |
| Khatau Makanji | 400 | 400 |
| Muir | 200 | 200 |
| New Ring | 710 | 710 |
| Phœnix | 352 | 345 |
| Svadeshi | 1206 | 1206 |
| | 950 | 950 |
| | 4500 | 4580 |
| **JUTE.** | | |
| Alliance | 774 | 770½ |
| Barnagore | 176 | 176 |
| Budge Budge | 598 | 618½ |
| Clive | 317 | 313 |
| Dalhousie | 540 | 542 |
| Delta | 660 | 635ex |
| Fort Gloster | 997 | 1015 |
| Gourepore | 1175 | 1175 |
| Howrah | 46⅜ | 47 |
| Kamarhatty | 1040 | 1074 |
| Kanknarrah | 832 | 853 |
| Khardah | 600 | 660 |
| Kinnison | 1155 | 1186 |
| National | 405ex | 415ex |
| Standard | 706 | 712 |
| Union | 885 | 910 |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | |
| Bengal Paper Mills | 126 | 137 |
| Bengal Timber Trading | 810 | 810 |
| Burn and Co. | 300 | 300 |
| Carew and Co. | 118 | 101 |
| Cawnpore Sugar | 43 | 42⅜ |
| Cawnpore Woollen | 150 | — |
| Champaran Sugar | 42½ | 42½ |
| Howrah Oil Mills | 38 | 35½ |
| India General Steam | 124ex | 130 |
| Indian Iron and Steel | 140 | 140 |
| Marshall Sons and Co. | 90½ | 90 |
| Titaghur Paper | 12 | 12½ |
| | 437ex | 492½ |

# ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

PRICES ON JULY 23.

| | |
|---|---|
| Agricultural Bank of Egypt | £41⅜ |
| " " " Fond. | £370 |
| Alexandria Water Co., Ltd. | £7 1/16 |
| Anglo-American Nile Steam | £4⅜ |
| Assoc. Cotton Ginners | £1⅛ |
| Banque d'Orient | Fr. 99½ |
| Béhéra Ord. | L.E. 16⅜ |
| " Priv. | £3⅜ |
| Bonded Stores | £14⅛ |
| Brasseries d'Egypte Priv. | Fr. 218 |
| Building Lands of Egypt | £⅛ |
| Cairo Heliopolis Railway | £120⅜ |
| Cassa di Sconto | Fr. 86 |
| " " Priv. | Fr. 108 |
| Ciments d'Egypte Priv. | Fr. 58 |
| " " Div. | Fr. 30 |
| Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte | £1⅜ |
| Consolidated Land | P.T. 13 |
| Crédit Foncier Egyptien | Fr. 609 |
| " Fondateur | 7900 |
| " 1886 Oblig. | 384 |
| " 1903 " | 266 |
| " 1911 " | 267 |
| Crown Brewery Priv. | Fr. 240 |
| " " Div. | Fr. 223 |
| Eaux du Caire Capital | Fr. 81½ |
| " " Jouissance | Fr. 115 |
| Egypt and Levant S.S. Ord. | 31/1½ |
| Egyptian Delta Light Railways | £5⅜ |
| Filature Nationale d'Egypte | £18½ |
| Frig. orifique d'Egypte | L.E. 2⅜ |
| Gabbari Lands | L.E. ⅞ |
| Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. | £6⅜ |
| Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv. | 108/- |
| " " " Ord. | £3⅜ |
| Kom Ombo Ste. Anc. de Wadi | £8½ |
| " " Fondateur | £77 |
| Land Bank of Egypt Actions | £5⅜ |
| " " Parts de Fond. | £46⅜ |
| Lots Turcs | Fr. 72⅜ |
| Menzaleh Canal Navigation | P.T. 340 |
| Nungovich Hotels | £9 |
| Ramleh Railway | £2⅞ |
| Salt and Soda | 51/9 |
| Tram d'Alexandrie Priv. | Fr. 58 |
| " " Div. | Fr. 70 |
| Union Foncière d'Egypte | £4⅞ |
| Upper Egypt Hotels | £1⅛ |
| Urbaines and Rurales | £3 |

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 485.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

News that the Turkish Treaty was actually signed reached us too late for inclusion in last week's NEAR EAST. The event took place at Sèvres in the afternoon of August 10, M. Millerand presiding at the ceremony. The signatories were: Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, Greece, Roumania, Belgium, Armenia, Portugal, Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, and Turkey. The Hejaz was unrepresented, King Hussein having withdrawn his delegate in consequence of the French occupation of Damascus; while Serbia held aloof because she is unwilling to assume that part of the Turkish debt which was to fall to her share with former Turkish territory. The absence of their signatures is to be regretted, but obviously it was impossible to delay the ceremony any longer. At the same time the Italo-Greek Protocol was signed, as was a Protocol regarding zones of influence in Asia Minor.

The last-named document, it seems, delimits the "zones of occupation," and is described as having for its object "the rendering of assistance to Turkey in the development of its resources in response to the request of the Turkish Government for the constant aid necessary for the reorganisation of its administrative services." If this is the manner in which the Turkish Government prefers to be helped, there is, of course, no more to be said on the subject; but it is to be remarked that such particulars of the Agreement as have been published up to the present seem to suggest that Turkey's admiration for the contracting parties is almost unbounded. For, according to the said particulars, the agreement is chiefly concerned to secure (1) The equal representation of the contracting parties on all international commissions in Turkey, and (2) their "common diplomatic support for the maintenance of their respective influence in the zones where their particular interests are already recognised." Of the "interests" of Turkey, the reports that we have seen fail to make mention, though it is true they refer to "other things" included in the agreement. Until we know what those "other things" are we find it difficult to be enthusiastic over a document which bears a strong resemblance to pre-war efforts of the old diplomacy, which we all hoped was discredited.

Two days after the signing of the Turkish Treaty, which was so great a triumph for him personally as well as for his country, M. Venizelos was the victim of a dastardly attempt at assassination by two Greek ex-officers. The attempt was made at the Gare de Lyon, whence the Greek Prime Minister was about to set out for Marseilles; and though, happily, it failed, M. Venizelos was wounded in two places, and had, of course, to abandon his journey. One of his assailants, Georges Kyrikis, is a reserve lieutenant of the Greek Engineers; the other, Apostolos Tseropis, was formerly a lieutenant in the Greek Navy. They appear to have been very well informed about M. Venizelos' movements, for at the time of the outrage he was entering the station by an unusual route; and they showed considerable determination in their wrong-doing, for they contrived to five seven shots altogether before the police who were guarding him could secure them. They confessed that the crime was premeditated, and declared that they had wished to "free Greece" from an "oppressor" who will not let the country have peace.

It would be a happy thing for Greece if the investigations which are now being made into the antecedents of the would-be assassins should confirm their story to the extent of showing that they acted on their own initiative; but Paris reports all tend in the opposite direction. The two men are known to have been together recently at Stettin, and to have arrived in Paris on July 22; and a search of their rooms has resulted in the discovery of documents that are said to point to the conclusion that they are instruments of a widespread conspiracy to restore ex-King Constantine to the throne of Greece. There are variations of the story, one being that Prince George, not the ex-King, would replace King Alexander; but whatever the details may be there seems to be no room to doubt that the crime is due to instigation from the quarter indicated. That the attempt should be made at the very time when M. Venizelos' popularity with his countrymen might safely be reckoned higher than ever would fit in well with the clumsiness that has marked other manœuvres of the Constantinists.

The attempt has served to show that, although ex-King Constantine and his circle may be stirred to nothing but envy by the great things that M. Venizelos has been able to accomplish for Greece, an overwhelming majority of Greeks in Greece and in other lands has at last realised his marvellous skill and his strength of character, and is resolved that he, not Constantine, shall shape the policy of the Greater Greece which he has done so much to create. The demonstrations of popular indignation which took place in Athens when the news of the outrage was received there show how M. Venizelos has regained the ground that he lost as a result of the "Royalist" intrigues against him; nor can the Constantinists comfort themselves with the fiction that they

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were "made to order"; for extraordinary demonstrations of rejoicing at the happy escape are reported from Constantinople, where the Greek community could not possibly have been coerced into any display of the kind by the Athens Government, and from other cities where Greeks congregate. It is most unfortunate that in Athens the excitement led to the shooting of a former Greek Minister at Petrograd, and to some other excesses; but clearly the Government cannot be blamed for being caught unprepared to deal with such an ebullition at a moment's notice. For the rest, the sympathy of the Allies with M. Venizelos has been suitably expressed by their proper representatives; while the accounts of his good progress towards recovery have been received with a satisfaction which shows that Europe knows well what the loss of his influence just now would mean to the peace of the world.

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The latest reports regarding the situation in Albania are distinctly disturbing. According to them, no sooner has Italy recognised Albanian independence and withdrawn her troops than Yugoslavia and Greece have violated that independence by invading Albania and putting forward claims to territories they have already occupied. The reports, which come by way of Rome, may very well be exaggerated, but it is known that Albania, as well as Italy, has been extremely nervous lest something of the kind reported should occur; and it is certain that until it is made clear that no encroachments beyond the frontiers of Albania laid down in 1913 will be tolerated the temptation to trespass will always be present. In a letter to the Press, Mr. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., Miss Durham, and other influential friends of Albania ask that those frontiers may be speedily recognised and guaranteed by the Powers against any further aggression. In the interests of the peace of Europe and of fair play for Albania it is much to be hoped that such recognition and guarantee may be given.

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We publish elsewhere an official *communiqué* about the first meeting of a committee called to Baghdad to frame proposals for an electoral law for Mesopotamia. This is a step in the right direction, towards fittings the Arabs to govern themselves; and as we are told that the Committee, when completed by the co-option of additional members, will provide a source to which the Administration will be able to look for advice on points connected with the welfare of the country, we shall hope that its completion will not be long delayed. Meanwhile most of the news that comes to us from Mesopotamia is unsatisfactory, and indicates that unrest is prevalent throughout the country. The Shammar Arabs have again been giving trouble, and at Tel Afar a British officer and six troopers have been treacherously killed by men of that tribe while a parley was in progress. As we have observed before, such incidents must be expected, but the frequency with which they have occurred of late is rather disconcerting; and taken in conjunction with the organised attacks on the lower Euphrates they indicate that there is something very wrong indeed. Admittedly the Bedouin must always be particularly difficult to deal with, owing to the facility with which they escape into the desert. But the trouble in the Kufa-Hillah district is not, we understand, purely, or chiefly, due to the Bedouin; and another recent report, that the railway between Baghdad and the Persian frontier has been cut, seems to suggest that all sections of the population are suffering from the unrest.

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With the forces of disorder gaining successes in so many directions, it is particularly pleasing to learn that the reverse is the case in Persia. Kutchik Khan has fallen out with his friends the Bolshevists, and as a result most of the Jangalis withdrew from the field of operations; and simultaneously two or three powerful tribes, laying aside their differences, turned on the "Reds" and made things highly uncomfortable for them. The latter looted and set fire to Resht: but between Menzil and Kasvin they have been severely handled by Government troops, while the Cossacks are expected to capture Resht very shortly, and British troops are moving on Menzil, with the intention of occupying it. Thus far, it will be seen, the Bolshevists have achieved next to nothing in Persia, and the Persians are to be congratulated upon the successful resistance they have put up in difficult circumstances.

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A further step towards the new order of things in India is marked by the announcement that Dr. Tej Bahadur Sapru has been selected to succeed Sir George Lowndes as Legal Member of the Viceroy's Council. Dr. Sapru will be the third Indian Councillor, so that the promise made not long ago has been promptly fulfilled, and, apart from that consideration, the selection is a good one; the new member belongs to the United Provinces, which have not hitherto secured one of these appointments, so that the principle of rotatavism, so dear to Indian politicians, receives further recognition, while no one is likely to suggest that Dr. Sapru's legal attainments are inadequate to the departmental duties which he will have to perform. What is more important just now, his recent public activities have been marked by a distinctive quality of statesmanship, and we are justified in anticipating that he will prove a valuable adviser to the present Viceroy and his successor.

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It has been known for some time that the India Office is to lose the services of Lord Sinha almost at once, and it is now announced that he will shortly become Governor of Bihar and Orissa, the smallest of the major Indian provinces, but one which has difficulties and perplexities of its own. We notice in the Indian Press a certain amount of uneasiness regarding this appointment; provincial patriotism is, as we have said before, a force of rapidly increasing importance, and patriotic Biharis would like not merely an Indian Governor, but a Governor born in their own province, while they look with suspicion on anything which emanates from their great neighbour on the East. We think they may accept Lord Sinha with confidence. He must by now be effectively de-provincialised, or it would be fairer to say imperialised, and his success in offices not previously held by Indians has been so marked that there is every reason to anticipate a fortunate outcome to this, his latest enterprise.

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We have so often insisted on the need for a forward Labour policy in India that we may be pardoned for recording with satisfaction a small step which has now been taken in that direction in the decision to set up works committees in the official printing presses, in order to ensure closer touch between "hands" and staff. The arrangement is described as experimental, which means, we take it, that the practical difficulties of forming and working such committees will be explored first of all in the presses, and that the results will then be applied to State factories of other kinds. We may be reasonably confident that other employers who are now harassed by almost daily strikes and disputes, will be quick to learn by this experiment, and to apply its results in their own concerns. It may therefore mark the beginning of a new era, and we trust that the authorities will put their very best men on to the first committees, and spare no pains to make them a genuine success.

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One important point about this experiment is that it is initiated while workers' unions are still in their infancy. In England the trades unions came first, and the later developments of works committees, Whitley Councils, and the rest, are devoted in great measure to counteracting the evil effects which incidentally resulted, particularly the spread of the disastrous doctrine that masters

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## A CORRECTION.

By a slip of the pen, we wrote last week of "a rumour that the British Government may invite the Emir Abdullah to assume the sovereignty of the Mesopotamian State," when the rumour actually referred to the Emir Faisal. The mistake must have been detected at once by anyone in touch with recent developments in Syria and Mesopotamia, but others may have been puzzled by the reference, later in the note, to "the Emir's brother, Abdullah," and we apologise for our error.

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and men are necessarily enemies. The trades unions, which are now springing up in India, take that doctrine as an axiom, but it is not yet firmly established in the mentality of Indian workers, and there are grounds for hoping that the development of works committees, concurrently with, or even in advance of trades unions, may lead to an attitude in closer agreement with the fundamental facts of organised industry. Employers will be well advised to seize this chance: it may not come their way again, and every class of Indians would benefit if the new principle of solidarity within the works could be placed on at least an equal footing with the older one of solidarity within the craft.

# THE WEEK AT HOME.

**The Future of Europe.**

There has been some talk of Dominion Home Rule for Ireland during the week, but even the Irish question has had to take a back seat before the critical European situation. Opinion in England was perfectly definite against war on behalf of Poland, and as nearly unanimous as it is ever likely to be; and there was very general regret that France should have aggravated a situation already sufficiently difficult by her recognition of General Wrangel. There is no desire whatever to break with France, for it is universally felt that our tried Allies in war should be our first friends in peace; but people here are strongly of opinion that for France, as for ourselves, the first requisite is peace, and an absolute refusal to engage in foreign adventures. If France sees the future differently, then we are sorry, but we believe that she will come round to our opinion in the end. Moreover, we believe—such is our insular pride and prejudice—that a good many Frenchmen are of our opinion already.

As regards Poland and the other new States, it is impossible not to recognise that there is a certain disillusionment of opinion at home. Every Englishman believed in freeing the oppressed nationalities; but having freed them he did not precisely expect them to embark on careers of conquest before they were out of their swaddling clothes, and to prove themselves more Imperialist than Berlin. It is a little disconcerting, to say the least, when the crushed worm of 1914 turns into the tiger of Riga in 1920, but in a sense it might have been foreseen. One remembers, during the very darkest days of the war in 1917, when Polish independence seemed about as probable as a flight to Uranus, a map of the proposed new Poland was being shown round by the Polish politicians in London, and it included not only legitimate Polish territory and Lithuania, but also the whole of the Ukraine from Kieff to Odessa. Happening to have some personal acquaintance with those countries, I thought then that if the Poles were ever in a position to indulge in a campaign of conquest from the Baltic to the Black Sea, they would not only get themselves into trouble, but stir up trouble all round; and within a year of securing their independence they have done it thoroughly.

There never was any case for the Poles holding the Ukraine, or Eastern Galicia, and the sooner they abandon that idea the better for themselves and everybody else. Not many Englishmen, perhaps, knew much of the history or the rights of the case, but our political instinct was dead against the Polish invasion from the start. I doubt whether the very lavish propaganda that has been indulged in has made the slightest difference to anybody's judgment in the fundamentals of the situation; the fact is that political propaganda has not only been overdone, but it has overshot the mark. The theory that the Englishman takes his opinions ready-made for him, which is often advanced by superior critics of this country, is in fact only partially true. He takes his opinions ready-made so long as he agrees with them; after that he is not taking any more. At the present time, no sensible man believes a word of the Polish and Russian propaganda; he cannot disprove it, but he has a feeling that neither side can be trusted to tell him the elementary truth about the situation. And once an Englishman comes to that conclusion, he is the most obstinate mule on earth.

**Labour and Direct Action.**

When the European crisis was discussed in the House of Commons last week, Mr. Adamson, the nominal Labour leader, was highly indignant because Mr. Asquith "caught the Speaker's eye" first; and after an ineffectual protest he stalked from the Chamber, in a spirit of righteous wrath or inarticulate fury, according to one's sympathies. Mr. Clynes followed with a judicious speech, in which he declared that Russia must respect the independence of Poland, but that on no other ground would England intervene.

As this was the common sentiment of the Government and the man in the street, there seemed no particular occasion for anything further. But Labour does not trust Mr. Winston Churchill not to spike the Prime Minister's gun; it looks upon the Secretary for War as a fire-eater in the most dangerous place in England, and is always afraid that he will commit us to war with Russia while we sleep. Accordingly, Labour assembled a Council of Action—it should have been called a Council of Direct Action—and for once it demonstrated its unity, for the Smillie lion lay down with the Thomas and Clynes lambs, and all threatened a general strike if England went to war.

It was a fairly safe threat, since no war was contemplated; and it was safeguarded by a reference to the independence of Poland, to pacify Mr. Clynes—in other words, the direct action was in support of the Government's policy. But the fact that it was direct action could not be, and was not in essence, denied; and every leader-writer pointed out that it formed a dangerous precedent, since it was outside the ordinary contitutional channels. That is perfectly true, and its significance is not to be minimised. But these are days when precedents are made and broken every week, and it seems to me to prove the weakness of direct action rather than of the constitution. Mr. Smillie and the extremists have threatened direct action about once a fortnight for the last five years, and it has always been opposed and rejected by Labour; it is only approved when the whole nation is unanimous in favour of the policy which it advocates. If it were to be employed on every occasion when the Government is faced with a difficult problem, it would, of course, be intolerable, and the next Labour Government would be the first to find it out; but if, as one suspects, it proves a broken reed, then it is of little account.

We shall hear more of it this autumn, when the miners threaten to go on strike again; and since a good many industrial troubles are threatened in the rather difficult winter that lies ahead at home the relation of both official Labour and the Government to direct action may be more closely defined. On the whole, the Labour Party in Parliament seems to be strongly against it, if only for the reason that its extra-constitutional character (which they recognise clearly) would prevent them from securing a majority, and so holding political power. In this world one can have one thing or the other, but not both things, and it is the Labour Party that will eventually have to choose between direct action and political power.

**Rising Prices Again.**

The price of bread is again to be increased, in order to reduce the Government subsidy to the bakers, and this synchronises with an anticipated general increase in prices, owing to the higher railway freight rates which come in force on the first of September. The inevitable consequence will be a further demand for increased wages all round, but it is understood that this will be strenuously resisted by the employers on the ground that industry has reached its limits. In that event there will be a series of industrial crises later in the year. There is, in fact, a good deal of pessimism at the moment among manufacturers and traders, but perhaps the optimists may derive a crumb of comfort from the fact that the July returns for both imports and exports were the highest in the history of the country.

Incidentally, the increased railway rates for passenger fares have most certainly reduced traffic, and the half-



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empty condition of many of the long-distance expresses to holiday resorts has been marked. It will be very surprising if the railways secure anything like the increase of revenue they anticipated from the additional twopence in the shilling; and a proof, if proof were needed, of their nervousness at motor competition has been the sudden inauguration of a few excursion trains to the South and East Coast. A couple of months ago we were told that excursions were utterly impossible; then they suddenly became very desirable indeed, but neither locomotives nor rolling-stock were available; a week later some locomotives had been miraculously discovered—asleep on a siding, one supposes—and coaches to fit the locomotives suddenly materialised. One suspects that, even in these matters, where there's a will there's a way—particularly when the motor bus finds the way first.

**The Village Parson.**

Some hard things are said about the village parson by a Committee which has reported upon him at the request of the Archbishop of Canterbury. "The Church has failed," they say, "owing to lack of vision, timidity, love of compromise, and class-selfishness, to champion the weak against the strong, as was the wont of the Church in days long gone by." The weakness is ascribed very largely to the personal factor, and it is said that the village parson is now looked on not with hostility, but with indifference. All that is, no doubt, true, but the Committee might also have added that one cause of the failure is the lack of response in rural congregations.

It happens that I know a good many parsons; and, while the town clergy admit that they can fill their churches and arouse enthusiasm by good music, bright services, and forcible preaching, the rural clergy assert as one man that it is hopeless to rouse a village congregation out of their rut. They resent innovations; they want "the same old thing in the same old way"; their interests are limited, and after a few years the parson either sinks to their level or takes up some branch of study to keep himself abreast of the times. But it is difficult to do so, because he is hampered by poverty; the rural clergy are scandalously underpaid. One cure, of course, would be to amalgamate parishes, but when this was tried tentatively during the war, every village was up in arms at the idea. One does not wonder that the rural clergy lose heart; they are buried alive.

The discussion is bound to stimulate once again the old controversy as to the desirability of country life. Theoretically, we all worship the country, but in practice not one Englishman in ten tolerates it. It was more lively during the war, when soldiers were billeted in the villages, but now that peace has returned, the rural torpor has returned, and for eight or nine months in the year the country is dead, and for twelve months in the year the country town is a hotbed of scandal, and nothing else. The country is all very well for people like Virgil and Horace, who can meditate on its beauties, and, above all, leave it whenever they are tired of it—which probably happened much more frequently than those immortals allowed us to suspect: but for those who have to make a living out of the soil it is a hard and ungrateful taskmaster. I never met a countryman yet who did not long to live in London, and I respected him for it. On this matter Dr. Johnson talked sounder common-sense than all the poets, and the little chemist in "Tono-Bungay" who compared a country town to "cold mutton fat" was a true philosopher.

**The Week's Publishing.**

The book of the week, and of a good many weeks, is Professor Einstein's "The Theory of Relativity" (Methuen). It contains a detailed account of both the special and the general theories of relativity, with an appendix discussing the experimental confirmation of the theory by recent astronomical observations. These matters are not for every reader, nor should I advise anybody not acquainted with non-Euclidean geometry to tackle it. On the further question which arises, "whether the universe in which we live is infinite, or whether it is finite in the manner of the spherical universe," Mr. Einstein admits that "our experience is far from being sufficient to enable us to answer this question," but he thinks that the theory of relativity permits us to answer with "a moderate degree of certainty" that "if matter be distributed uniformly, the universe would necessarily be spherical (or elliptical): since in reality the detailed distribution of matter is not uniform, the real universe will deviate in individual parts from the spherical—i.e., the universe will be quasi-spherical. But it will be necessarily finite." He does not enter into the wider metaphysical question on which his theory impinges.

In "Arrows of Desire"—how many will recognise the source of the quotation?—Mr. J. S. Mackenzie discusses the long-debated question as to the real character of the Englishman, the Scot, the Irishman, and the Welsh. Of course, his discussion is neither conclusive nor final, but it amasses an amount of very interesting information, and his comments are often acute. The book is published through George Allen and Unwin.

Miss Mary Johnston is one of the best known American writers, and "The Old Dominion" and other stories have had many thousands of readers. Her latest novel, "Michael Forth" (Constable) breaks fresh ground, in that it touches on psychic sympathy and love on another plane. According to the nature of the reader, it will be found either beautiful or incomprehensible; it is a type of fiction that is, perhaps, a little ahead of its time, and the author is quite obviously struggling to express herself through a new medium, of which she has not yet altogether obtained the mastery.

OCELLUS.

## TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

*The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:*—

PERSIA:—Anglo-Persian Agreement.—Tabriz and Kasvin (situation). MESOPOTAMIA: Oil.—British Policy.—Military Situation. MANDATES (MESOPOTAMIA AND SYRIA). EGYPT (MILNER REPORT). CEYLON (FRANCHISE REFORM). BRITISH ARMY: Educational Training (Troops in Mesopotamia).—Mesopotamia (British Prisoners). CEYLON. INDIA: Hague Convention (Dangerous Drugs).—Military Works Services (Rates of Pay). MIDDLE EAST (INDIAN TROOPS). (August 9). MIDDLE EAST (RAILWAY PROGRESS). SYRIA: French Action. ROUMANIA: Government Bonds (British Holders).—British Railway Mission. PERSIA. (August 10.)

INDIA: Government of India Act, 1919 (Draft Rules).—Non-Co-operative Movement.—General Officers (Pensions).—All-India Khalifate Committee.—Punjab Disturbances. MESOPOTAMIA.—Administration. INDIA: Civil Service Pensions.—Suppression of Riots (Ball Ammunition).—Auxiliary Force Bill.—Drugs and Surgical Dressings (Army Supplies).—Rupee Pensioners. MONTENEGRO. (August 11.)

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, August 10.

**Statistics of Population.**

The Minister of Social Policy has recently published statistics on the area and population of Yugoslavia for the month of June in the current year. The figures are as follows:—

| Province. | Area. Sq. kilom. | | Population. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Serbia | 87,358 | ..... | 4,456,919 |
| Voivodina | 41,750 | ..... | 2,675,232 |
| Montenegro | 14,180 | ..... | 435,000 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 51,199 | ..... | 1,898,044 |
| Dalmatia | 12,831 | ..... | 645,666 |
| Croatia and Slavonia | 42,533 | ..... | 2,621,954 |
| Slovenia | 21,681 | ..... | 1,610,082 |
| Total | 271,532 | ..... | 14,343,987 |

It must be remembered that while the new provinces include a certain number of non-Slavs, such as Jews, Germans, Magyar, and a few Roumanians in the Banat, there are over 100,000 Serbs included on the Roumanian side of the demarcation line of the Banat, and that the Treaty of Neuilly gives 400,000 Slovenes to Italy. It is not stated what frontier line has been taken in the neighbourhood of Rijeka (Fiume).

The figures for density work out approximately as follows:—Serbia, 51 per square kilometre; Voivodina, 64 per square kilometre; Montenegro, 31 per square kilometre; Bosnia and Herzegovina, 37 per square kilometre; Dalmatia, 50.3 per square kilometre; Croatia and Slavonia, 61.4 per square kilometre; Slovenia, 74 per square kilometre. The average density is thus 52.4 per square kilometre. There is a marked difference in population between the population of the northern and older parts of Serbia and the wilder districts of Macedonia recently liberated from Turkish rule.

**The Political Deadlock.**

As the *Pravda* points out, the young united kingdom has now spent just one quarter of its life in a state of political crisis. The present crisis has now lasted just three weeks, and is running the usual course—conferences of party leaders, resolutions of party clubs, audiences with the Regent, rumours of settlement, optimism and assurances that it will certainly be over in two days and the same Cabinet returned. About a week ago M. Vesnitch returned his mandate to the Regent, who requested him to make one more attempt. It was generally reported that a settlement had been reached on all points except Agrarian Reform, on which M. Stoyan Protitch was adamant. The difficult questions of the provincial governments and of exports were reported settled. Everybody was smiling and hopeful. Yesterday there was a Council meeting at the Palace, but to-day it is stated in the papers that the Radicals and Democrats cannot agree on the question of exports, and that M. Vesnitch is once more returning his mandate. What the next phase will be it is hard to say. Dr. Trumbitch, the Minister of Foreign Affairs—the only portfolio which has not changed hands since the union—has arrived in Belgrade, and M. Pashitch is expected soon. Perhaps that old veteran will be successful where M. Vesnitch failed.

It is generally believed that the origin of the crisis was not so much the disagreement between the members of the Cabinet, as unwillingness to take arms against Russia, to which the country is persistently reported to have been invited by the Entente. It is stated now that M. Také Jonescu has arrived from Bucharest to enlist the help of the Yugoslavs against the Bolshevists; but even he can hardly hope to succeed. Apart from the fact that the Serbs and Croats have had enough fighting to last them a long time, they now recognise that the Bolshevist army to-day represents Russia, and the Serbs say they will never fight their "brother Russians" in whatever form they appear.

It is difficult to foretell what form the crisis will now take. The Democratic journals claim that the mandate will be offered to their party, as they recommended the Crown many months ago to dissolve this Parliament as incompetent, and at once proceed to elections. This Parliament certainly is out of date and incompetent. The Serbian members represent a very different electorate from that of 1912; the ranks of the electors have been so sadly thinned, and a new generation has grown up; and it is quite time that a new Skupshtina were elected. It is anticipated that in this case the Radicals will lose heavily in the old frontiers of Serbia. But the members for the new provinces were elected under totally different conditions, and for different Parliaments and Diets. How many of them would be returned in a new election it is hard to say, probably very few. And that is one reason, the cynics say, why the politicians, who notoriously think of their own interests first in all countries, are postponing the evil day as long as possible.

It is stated that the indispensable new electoral law has passed the first reading, and therefore it is considered probable that the second and third readings will be passed by decree, and the elections carried out under the new law, as the new members will probably retrospectively approve their own birth certificates. What the general results of the elections will be, it is hard to prophesy.

**News Items.**

The United States have appointed a consul at Zagreb.

It is reported that the French Government has recalled all military missions from Yugoslavia.

Italian carrier pigeons with important despatches are reported to have been brought down in Slovenia, and Italian aeroplanes have again been flying over Yugoslav territory near Bakar.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, July 31.

**The Occupation of Adrianople.**

Although certain newspapers here had received the news in the early hours of Monday morning (July 26), the occupation of Adrianople by the Greek troops was not officially known until about 11 a.m. The Athenians, of course, expected the news, but they also expected that some sort of resistance would be offered by Jaafar Tayar, especially after the bombastic statements which he made but a few days ago to the effect that both he and his men were prepared to die rather than let the Greeks enter the capital of Thrace. The unexpected tidings, therefore, that the Greek forces had entered the town without bloodshed caused considerable relief to everybody. Shortly after the official announcement was made, the bells of the numerous churches in Athens began ringing, simultaneously Greek and Allied flags were displayed from every public building and most of the shops and private houses, and 21 shots were fired from the Lycabetus hill. At 7 p.m. a Te Deum was held at the Cathedral, at which the Council of Ministers, the Foreign Diplomatic Corps, the Allied Military Missions, and many other officials were present. The Archbishop of Athens officiated at the service. There was an enormous crowd outside the Cathedral continuously cheering for the King, the Army, M. Venizelos, and the Allied Nations. At night Stadium Street and Omonia and Constitution Squares were brilliantly illuminated, while a number of military bands passed through the main thoroughfares playing patriotic airs.

King Alexander, accompanied by his A.D.C.s, the Commander-in-Chief of the Greek Armies in Thrace, the High Commissioner for Greece, M. Sachtouris, and numerous Greek and foreign war correspondents, entered Adrianople at 11 o'clock on Monday morning. A thanksgiving service was immediately held at the Greek Cathedral in the presence of the Turkish Mufti, the Armenian and Bulgarian Archimandrites, and the

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Chief Rabbi. The Bulgarian Archimandrite, after congratulating the Greek Monarch upon his entry into Adrianople, expressed himself very strongly against the oppressive and unjust Turkish administration, and assured His Majesty that the Bulgarian element will always remain loyal to the new *regime*. Further, the Bulgarian Archimandrite expressed his wish that King Alexander should definitely liberate Constantinople from the Turkish yoke and restore the Empire of Byzantium, of which he would be proclaimed Emperor in the famous church of Saint Sophia. These words, spoken by the head of the Bulgarian Church in Adrianople, created a favourable impression in Athens, and the *Estia*, in a leading article, states that they denote a promise for the future which Greece accepts with joy.

On this historic occasion it may be interesting to review briefly the history of Adrianople ("Edirneh" in Turkish). The town was called "Orestia" by the ancient Greeks, and subsequently received its present name from the Roman Emperor Adrian. Later on, when Constantine the Great formed the Greek Empire, Adrianople became one of its largest and most important towns, resisting the repeated attempts of the Goths, the Germans, and the Bulgars, who knew that they could never cherish any hope of reaching the city of their dreams—Constantinople—as long as Adrianople held its own.

Finally, in 1361, this famous town fell into the hands of Murad the Second and became the residence of the Sultans from 1362 to 1453, when Constantinople itself fell. In 1829 Adrianople was temporarily occupied by the Russians, and it was there and then that the famous treaty ceding the mouth of the Danube to Russia and recognising the independence of Greece was signed.

**Jaafar Tayar.**

The official announcement that Jaafar Tayar was a prisoner in the hands of the Greeks caused much amusement here. Everybody thought that after playing so successfully his great game of bluff he would make good his escape, taking with him into safety as much money as he could possibly carry. Or did he find the banks empty? Jaafar Tayar was making in all haste for Bulgaria, but a nasty fall from his horse resulted in his capture by Greek soldiers, who conveyed him to Adrianople and thence to Dedeagatch. He is very depressed, and attributes the unfortunate issue of his defensive campaign to his officers, who, he states, abandoned him soon after the Greeks commenced their advance. Tayar admits that although official Bulgaria did not afford him any assistance his numerous friends over the border were able to supply him with many guns, machine guns, and other war materials, in addition to a few thousand *Komitajis*. The Greek Press is informed that the "Hero of Adrianople" will be brought to Athens to spend his summer holidays.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, August 4.

**Political.**

The reply to the Speech from the Throne has been presented, and in his reply the King took the opportunity of again expressing the hope that, putting aside all other considerations, all parties of the Chamber would realise the importance of uniting and getting to work on the important measures awaiting decisions. In this connection His Majesty specially mentioned the Agrarian Reform Bill and the Budget. It is satisfactory to be able to report that, in view of the persistent protests of the Opposition, the Government has consented to cancel the recent alterations in the regulations governing the procedure in the Chamber, which, it was claimed, were carried in a high-handed manner without proper regard to existing rules. The Chamber is, however, unanimous in considering that some revision is necessary, and the Federation has now expressed its willingness to co-operate with the Government to this end, but until such revisions have been passed the Opposition is withholding its vote on other business. The suggestion has even been put forward by several Ministers that one of the leaders of the Federation should be made a member of the Council, and such a step would no doubt go far towards conciliating that body. It is probable that one of the Transylvanian members would be chosen. This would, of course, involve a reconstruction of the Ministerial Council.

In the present Government M. Také Jonescu still plays a leading part. He made a very able speech in the House this week in reply to some criticisms advanced by M. Mihalache, whose statements he described as incomplete, and in some cases unjust. In carefully-worded sentences, calculated to give a minimum of offence in any quarter, M. Také Jonescu deprecated recent biassed and unjust criticisms of this and preceding governments; and by claiming for each its due measure both of praise and blame he succeeded in drawing applause from all sections of the Chamber. He said the main object of all must now be to work for the future, so full of promise. M. Také Jonescu's foreign policy is, however, still regarded with some distrust in many quarters, and he is also freely criticised for his continued advocacy of "the open door" in relation to foreign trade. He is one of the chief supporters of the Bill recently introduced by the Ministry for Industry and Commerce for making both export and import trade free from State control. It is feared that if the export of petrol, for instance, is freed from control, there will soon be a shortage in Roumania itself.

**Post Office Strike.**

Up to August 2, some 700 to 800 Post Office employees had returned to work, and the telephone service was at full strength; but many officials still remained "out," the soldiers continued to deliver the letters (under the greatest difficulties, poor fellows, for they did not know the streets), and many ladies still gave their services daily at the General Post Office. Cartloads of letters and newspapers await delivery in the cellars, where for weeks they have been a prey to rats and mice. For about a week the current correspondence has been passed out fairly regularly, and efforts are being made gradually to reduce the piles of delayed letters. It was announced yesterday that the strike was over and the officials returned to work, but they immediately came into collision with the military authorities temporarily in charge, who tried to continue their control, and again left in a body. To-day, however, it is rumoured that this difference also has been settled to the satisfaction of the employees, who will begin work to-morrow. It is said that no concessions have been made by the Government.

The tramway strike still continues, to the great inconvenience of the public this hot weather. Some attempt has been made to replace them by running motor lorries on certain routes for the use principally of workers in the city, but these have no seating accommodation, and it is pathetic to see the passengers, generally packed like sardines, being swung along the rough streets in the blazing sun.

**Case of M. Schina.**

Judgment was pronounced this week in the case of M. Schina, President of the Court of Appeal, who was accused of encouraging the employees at the Court of Justice to strike for higher wages. His public statements in this connection were declared by the Court to have been false. However this may be, it is a fact that many educated officials in the service receive lower pay than the tramway conductors and drivers who are now on strike. The proceedings of the Court were private, so that few details are known, but M. Schina has been condemned to two years' suspension from office. During the hearing some 3,000 employees assembled outside the Court, greatly excited, and on the appearance of their ex-Chief after sentence had been passed they received him with shouts of enthusiasm, and carried him shoulder high to his house amid loud demonstrations of loyalty.

It is true that this is one of the worst paid of Government departments, but conditions will be improved if the Bill introduced to the Chamber by M. Také Jonescu (in his capacity of interim Minister for Finance) on July 26 for increasing the emoluments of Government employees by 63 to 90 per cent. becomes law. From the

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point of view of the officials such a measure is necessary to meet the very high cost of living at the present time, but in its present state the Treasury can ill afford to meet the extra expenditure involved, and on this account the measure has already been severely criticised in the Press.

**Constantin Brancovan.**

Many proofs exist of the virility of the Roumanian race, which has retained its national character and consciousness in spite of foreign invasions and centuries of subjugation to foreign rule. A remarkable instance of the persistence of the national patriotism was given the other day when with great solemnity the 200th anniversary was celebrated of the transfer of the remains of the Voevod Constantin Brancovan from Constantinople, where he was decapitated, to Bucharest where he was buried. The King was represented at the service by his aide-de-camp.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, July 21.

**The Fate of Tsaribrod.**

Belgrade reports state that the Serbian Government announces that the Inter-Allied Commission charged with the establishment of the frontier line between Bulgaria and Serbia will meet shortly at Tsaribrod. The Serbian representative, General Doushan Stefanovitch, will meet the Bulgarian representative several days before the arrival of the Commission.

**Prisoners of War From Greece.**

The Bulgarian Government has taken energetic steps for the release of the Bulgarian prisoners of war in Greece. Communications were made viâ the French representative in Bulgaria, who on July 17 asked his Government to intercede on behalf of these prisoners. At the present moment they are in Demir-Hissar: their condition is very miserable, and many of them are suffering from malaria.

**The Requisitioned Steamships.**

The Government here has, through the French command, addressed a note to the Supreme Council for the removal of the requisition upon Bulgarian steamships. In the present state of affairs not even a motor-boat can be employed without the consent of the Allies.

**Greece, Turkey and Bulgaria.**

All the reports concerning the mobilisation and the movement of Bulgarian troops towards Thrace are apparently of Greek origin, and are certainly false; for the Bulgarian Government is firmly resolved to maintain an absolute neutrality.

Since the vacation of the Chamber, the Premier, M. Stambolisky, has been enjoying a well-deserved rest in the country. His colleague, M. Alexander Dimitroff, Minister of the Interior, now takes over the duties of President of the Chamber, and is responsible for the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and War.

The harvest is at its height; and more than two-thirds of the standing army is on six weeks' leave in order to help the garnering of a very rich harvest.

**Bulgarian Communists and the Bolshevists.**

In response to the invitation given to the Bulgarian Communists by the Russian Soviet Government to participate in the great Bolshevist "International," which opens its sittings to-day at Moscow, the Bulgarian Communist party three weeks ago delegated four members, two of whom are members of the Bulgarian Chamber. They started from Varna in two motor-boats, but without the necessary legal documents from the home authorities. The first boat, carrying the two deputies, MM. Kolaroff and Dimitroff, having met with unfavourable weather, was caught by the Roumanian authorities, and the two deputies were arrested and sent to Bucharest. However, the second boat, after many days' wandering, reached Odessa, and the other two delegates, MM. Maxinioff and Kalaktchieff, were able to proceed safely to Petrograd and Moscow, where they will represent the Bulgarian Communists.

July 31.

**Bulgaria and Events in Thrace.**

During the recent events in Thrace, Bulgaria played the part of a spectator pure and simple and loyally preserved her neutrality. The Government, knowing that Greece had behind her, in overcoming the Turkish resistance, the approval and support of the Great Powers, refused to help the Turks in any way; and under M. Stambolisky's direction adopted rigorous measures to prevent the formation of bands. The country is against any warlike policy, and believes that by an understanding with her neighbours she will yet be able to secure a revision of some of the most onerous of the Peace terms.

Perfect order reigns throughout the kingdom. The Cabinet has granted a credit of two million levas for the maintenance of the Turkish refugees from Thrace, who number 30,000. The number of Turkish soldiers who gave up their arms at the Bulgarian frontier is put at 15,000. They have been sent to the prisoners' depots at Yamboli and Tirnova Symen, under the supervision of Entente officers.

**Sir Herbert Dering's Transfer.**

Yesterday morning M. Stambolisky had an interview with Sir Herbert Dering, the British High Commissioner, news of whose transfer to Bucharest, as H.B.M. Minister Plenipotentiary, has been received here with great regret. Sir Herbert and Lady Dering during their too short stay here have, by their kindness and constant readiness to help, won the regard of all who have been privileged to meet them.

**A Russian Visitor.**

M. P. Struvé, the "Foreign Minister" in General Wrangel's Government, arrived here the day before yesterday, and yesterday morning, accompanied by the Russian representative, M. Petroen, visited the Prime Minister, M. Stambolisky, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also had interviews with some of the former Ministers and party leaders. Yesterday evening he left for Varna, where an Allied torpedo-boat was in readiness to take him to the Crimea.

**MM. Kolaroff and Dimitroff.**

The delegates of the Bulgarian Communistic party to the Second Congress of the Third International at Moscow, MM. V. Kolaroff and G. Dimitroff, who were captured by the Roumanian authorities on the Black Sea, and were released a few days ago, have arrived here. Yesterday they addressed a large audience at the Communistic Club, narrating their adventures and escape.

**Fire at the Arsenal.**

A fire broke out at about half-past two this morning in the foundry department of the military arsenal, and, spreading with extraordinary rapidity, involved the whole building and passed on to the intrument-making department. In spite of great efforts by the firemen and soldiers of the garrison, the two buildings were completely destroyed. The Prime Minister was very early on the scene, and took an active part in directing operations. Unfortunately the cold wind blowing gave him a chill, with the result that the Cabinet meeting was not held to-day. The losses caused by the fire are considerable. An inquiry has been opened, in the hope of detecting the perpetrators of what is regarded as an abominable crime.

## TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, July 13.*

**The Greek Advance.**

It is announced that with the occupation of Brusa the operations of the Greek Army have for the moment come to an end, and that M. Venizelos is discussing with the Allies under what conditions further operations may be undertaken. It will be remembered that it was stated in a previous letter, that the principal reason

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why the Turks objected to the presence of the Greeks in Anatolia was that they were sure that, whatever might be the conditions attaching to such an occupation, it would merely be the prelude to further territorial aggression. We are apparently committed to the support of the *megala idéa*, and it is therefore not surprising to hear that the Greeks regard the annexation of Constantinople itself as a foregone conclusion. In spite of one's admiration for M. Venizelos and the truly excellent performance of the Greek Army, one cannot help feeling some qualms as to the wisdom of allowing such a great estate to be under the unrestricted control of a minor—a brilliant minor, admittedly, but nevertheless a minor.

**The Nationalists' Discomfiture.**

The explanation given by the Nationalists of the complete discomfiture of their forces is that they were themselves actually caught in the act of concentrating for an offensive in the Smyrna area, and were taken completely by surprise. Be this as it may, it is reported that they do not intend to risk a fight in the open if they can possibly avoid it, but it is difficult to see how they will be able to avoid it. The Greek Army possesses the initiative, and unless the Nationalists are prepared to see the greater part of Anatolia overrun by the enemy they will have to make a stand somewhere.

It is difficult to believe that the whole Nationalist movement was nothing more than a gigantic bluff, for there have been no lack of witnesses of various nationalities, friendly and unfriendly to the movement. The Greeks have maintained from the beginning that it was nothing more than bluff, while Nationalist partisans told wild stories of the strength of the forces at Mustapha Kemal's disposal. Impartial observers, however, while discounting the wilder stories, have been unanimous in their estimates of the National forces as a force to be considered. At the same time, there can never have been any serious question of the superiority of the Greek Army in numbers, organisation, equipment, and *moral*, and the National forces have never stood any chance of success in the open field. But it has certainly been a surprise that their whole position should have gone to pieces without a fight worthy of the name. It now remains to be seen whether, if and when a further advance is decided upon, they will be able to hinder the Greeks from taking Afion Karahissar and Eski Shehir, the centre of Bolshevism, and, what is more important still, the location of the Nationalist arsenal.

One effect of the disasters on the Smyrna front has been the outbreak of anti-Nationalist disturbances of a serious nature in the Yozgat district. The position of affairs became so dangerous that guns were turned on to the town, and much damage was done: but the outbreak has not even yet been quelled. It is believed that the movement is in reality one of revolt against the dictatorship of Mustapha Kemal himself by the leaders in Anatolia of the Moderate Party mentioned in last week's letter. Exactly who these leaders are is not yet quite clear, but there have been rumours of differences between the Nationalist dictator and the Commander of the Fifteenth Army Corps at Erzerum, Kiazim Karabekir Pasha. If this is true, the position of the Nationalists is indeed critical, for Kiazim Karabekir is a good soldier and a man of strong personality. In spite of the fact that at one time or another he must have had tempting opportunties of attacking the Armenians, he appears to have behaved with considerable discretion. It is true that there have been reports from time to time of aggression on the part of the Turkish troops on the Eastern frontier against the Armenians; but to judge from the language of the Armenian Press which, on the occasion of the Greek advance, talked in grandiose fashion of the entry into action of the Armenian "army," and of the impending conquest of Erzerum, it would appear that the aggression has not been all on one side. Even the devil must be given his due, and if Kiazim Karabekir can make an end of the mild men in Anatolia who have brought final ruin upon their country, he will have deserved well of his country—what little there will be left of it!

**The Raid on Beykos.**

Much excitement seems to have been caused abroad by the exploits of the Nationalist band that raided the Bosphorus suburb of Beykos last week, but in reality it amounted to nothing more than an impertinent demonstration, of which the objects were pillage and bluff. Metaphorically, the Nationalists came to make faces at the British High Commission over the Bosphorus at Yenikeuy. They were very severely punished for their temerity, for 110 of them were caught in the forest on the other side of the Alem Dagh, about twenty miles inland, and were shot out of hand. The Asiatic shore of the Bosphorus has been made a war zone, and has been evacuated by Turkish troops, while Greek troops have been landed at various points.

The Nationalists seem fated to do the wrong thing, whatever they undertake.

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July 25.

**The Decision to Sign.**

The Crown Council that was assembled at Yildiz Palace on Thursday, July 22, with the single exception of General Riza Pasha, agreed unanimously that the Peace Treaty should be signed in accordance with the demand of the Allies. The Sultan himself presided over the proceedings, but in many other respects the "Diwan" differed profoundly from similar councils that have been held from time to time in the past, with the exception of the Council that was held in January, 1913, to consider the note from the Powers calling upon Turkey to yield to the demands of the Balkan States whose armies had conquered the whole of European Turkey. In days gone by, it was customary when the Empire was in danger for the Sultan to convoke a special council at the Palace. The Diwan consisted not only of all the highest military and civil officials in the Empire, but also of all the principal Ulema and Mollahs, the presidents of corporations, heads of the various orders of dervishes, leading merchants and land owners and peasant delegates from all parts of the country. The present Sultan, then second in succession to the Sultanate, attended the Diwan of 1913, but the Diwan held last week was even less of a representative assembly than that convoked by the wily Kiamil Pasha. Less than fifty persons were present, of whom twenty-nine were senators, including six Christians. The rest, with the exception of the Kazasker and the Fetwa-emini, were marshals and generals. The alternative, which the Diwan was asked to decide, was worded as follows:—

> To accept the clauses of the Treaty, and thus to preserve Constantinople as the capital of a small State surrounded by regenerated or restored countries, or to reject them, and by recommencing hostilities, to risk the final destruction of Ottoman sovereignty.

After the proceedings had commenced with the reading of various documents relative to the situation, Damad Ferid Pasha made a moving speech, in which he rightly pointed that the real question at stake was, "to be or not to be," and compared the present phase of history with that of the fall of the Roman Empire, 1,700 years ago. After a few short speeches, all in favour of the acceptance of the Treaty, the matter was put to the vote, with the above-mentioned result. Dr. Riza Tewfik, and Hadi Pasha, who, with Reshad Halid Bey, Turkish Minister at Berne, will be the Turkish plenipotentiaries for the signature of the Treaty, left for Paris, via Constanza, in a French torpedo-boat on the afternoon of the 23rd.

**The Nationalists.**

The Great National Assembly, as the Nationalists call the Angora Government, has already announced that no agreements entered into by the Sublime Porte since the Armistice will be considered by them as binding. This decision was intended to apply especially not only to the Peace Treaty, but also to a supposed secret agreement between the British Government and Damad Ferid Pasha, which has been the subject of a former letter. By whom this story was originally invented is not

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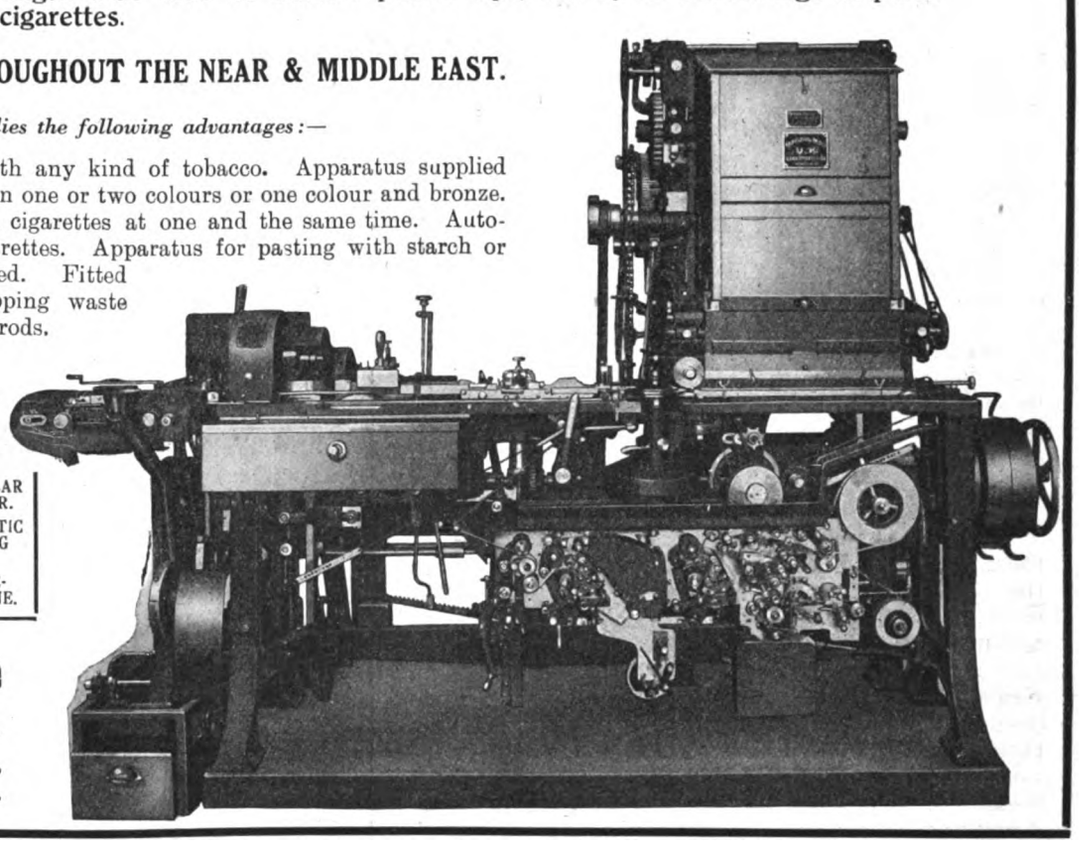

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known, but it crops up from time to time in the Anatolian Press.

According to the latest information from Anatolia, the Nationalists are credited with the intention of making a stand on the Eski Shehir—Afion Kara Hissar line, but it is doubtful whether this is to be taken seriously. It is possible that they will organise some kind of resistance to a further advance of the Hellenic army, but it is unlikely that they will attempt to give battle in the ordinary way. Proclamations issued by Mustapha Kemal harp continually upon the help that he expects from Russia, and if there is anything more than bluff in the whole Nationalist campaign, it can only be the possibility of Russian help. At the same time, in view of the fact that the command of the Black Sea is in the hands of the Allies, it is difficult to see how this help, even supposing it possible at all, can be effective any further west than Sivas—and even then some considerable time must elapse, and considerable resistance in the Caucasus must be overcome. On the other hand, if the Nationalists really intend to push matters to extremes, nothing less than the conquest of the whole of Anatolia will ensure the application of the Peace Treaty in its integrity—and it is a far cry from Smyrna to Angora, to say nothing of Sivas and Erzerum.

The Nationalist Press made much of the Bolshevist victories against the Poles, and announced that as soon as the Soviet Government had dealt with the situation in the West, it would turn its attention to the East, when the Greeks would suffer the "chastisement they deserve," and British prestige would be finally destroyed. It is of interest to note that the Press of Anatolia pays great attention to the doings of the Sinn Feiners and of the Labour Party.

**The Occupation of Thrace.**

Beyond the fact that the occupation of Eastern Thrace has commenced, and that Greek troops have been landed on the European shores of the Marmora, little is yet known of what is taking place in regard to the progress of the operations. The Orient Express is no longer running, and it is said that four bridges between Adrianople and Constantinople have been blown up or damaged. The Greek *communiqués* speak of fighting at the bridge heads, and mention bombardments as being heavy. It is premature to pass any opinion, but it looks as if Jaafar Tayar has made a better show than Mustapha Kemal. The landing of Greek troops at Rodosto, however, must result in the isolation of the Turkish forces from the capital, and their only line of retreat will then be Bulgaria.

**The "Fete of Liberty."**

The twelfth anniversary of the restoration of the Constitution passed almost unperceived on July 23. Only the Government buildings hoisted flags, and there were no meetings. The *Ileri* made the following comments: "Unhappy national fête that we pass again in mourning! The sanguinary party strife that we have provoked in the belief that it was necessitated by the Constitution, has been one of our most lamentable political mistakes. . . . We have passed years under an apparently constitutional government, and we have celebrated each anniversary of our victory over despotism under another form of despotism, and amidst the mourning for disasters to the country. Dare we say to-day that this anniversary is the fête of liberty? Ah, Liberty! when wilt thou bring the happiness and peace for which our hearts yearn?"

## PALESTINE.

JERUSALEM, July 25.

The *Official Gazette* announces that the Right Hon. Sir Herbert Samuel, P.C., G.B.E., assumed office as and from July 1 as His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner for Palestine, with the charge of establishing a Civil Government in the place of the Military Administration. His Excellency has very favourably impressed those whom he has met, and has taken up his duties with great energy.

"Occupied Enemy Territory Administration" is now termed "The Government of Palestine," with headquarters in Jerusalem. Military Governors are now styled "District Governors." The address of what has been O.E.T.A. (South) at Cairo will now be "Palestine Agency," 6, Meidan Suleyman Pasha, Cairo.

**A New Survey.**

An Ordinance passed under the administration of Sir Louis Bols provides for the initiation of a cadastral survey, to commence in the district of Gaza and Beersheba. The necessary powers are given to authorised officials to carry out their work, and occupiers of land are called upon to demarcate and erect and maintain boundary marks, clear boundaries, provide labour, and otherwise assist. As regards boundary pillars, or marks, in village or public lands, the *Mukhtar* (Headman) is responsible. Contraventions under the Ordinance are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both. It is most desirable that the survey should be taken in hand without any avoidable delay, and extended as circumstances may admit, and that the native mind should become acquainted as soon as possible with methods of order and exactitude, which have been for so many centuries absolutely outside his ken or comprehension.

The Survey Department is inviting applications for posts by candidates possessing the necessary qualifications in various classes, at adequate salaries. The period of probation is in all cases one month.

**Standard Time.**

The Government has done good service to the public in Jerusalem by arranging to fix the correct time daily at noon. A clock has been placed in the hall of the Post Office, which can be seen through the door by passers-by. The standard time (which is the same for Palestine and Egypt), as taken at the Cairo Observatory, is telegraphed from that city and the clock set daily. The arrangement is welcome, as the irregular striking of numerous clocks, with its attendant confusion, has hitherto been a great nuisance.

**Public Health.**

Public health continues to be good. Restrictions are in force against Suez, Constantinople, and the Piræus as regards plague, and as to cholera against Sebastopol, Odessa, Trebizond, and Samsûn. Restrictions against Beyrout are removed.

**Village Headmen.**

The status of *Mukhtars* is being recognised, and this will contribute much towards the reign of order and honesty in rural districts. The haphazard Turkish methods are being replaced by rules which will do much to bring their office, with all its miscellaneous but important and responsible work, into good repute. A revised scale of fees on a very fair basis is published. The *Mukhtar* is responsible for issuing certificates which are the basis of many transactions, such as land registry transfers, sales of animals, matters of inheritance, guardianships, marriages, records of births and deaths; all of which duties have been very casually performed in the past. An important duty relates to the collection and payment into the Treasury of tithes on cereals and certain other produce within three months of publication of tithe redemption prices by district governors. The *Mukhtars* are paid 2 per cent. on such collections, settlement being half-yearly.

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

## ARMENIANS AND ENGLISHMEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST"

Sir,—In your issue of June 3, an extract from Mr. Still's book drew my attention. The first sentence, "Englishmen don't like Armenians," is rather a grave charge against a nation that boasts of more British sympathy than that of any other nation. Can one individual answer in the name of his nation? Yes, when that individual represents his nation; no, in this case; for Mr. Still does *not* represent his nation. Coming to the second sentence, Mr. Still says: "I don't myself." Mr. Still is quite free as regards his personal opinion; but when that opinion is published in the shape of a book and an extract from it is inserted in a paper such as THE NEAR EAST, then I feel it a duty to ask for an explanation. Pray, Mr. Still, what reason have you for disliking a whole nation who has sacrificed a million and a-half of her children for the very same cause for which hundreds and thousands of your own compatriots fell? Although an Armenian might be vermin from the Turkish point of view, Armenia is the *pioneer of civilisation* in the Near East, as your statesmen have declared on several occasions—from Gladstone to Lloyd George.

Reading your charge reminds me of a similar one made forty years ago by Sir Wilfred Lawson, who, replying to Prof. (now Lord) Bryce, who had appealed to the House for the first time since his election in order to interest his colleagues in Armenia, said: "In Europe the Armenians are scoundrels," this occasioned a long laughter in the House. Later on he added: ". . . .In the world." Naturally this declaration caused general indignation in all Armenian circles, and the Armenian Committee asked for an explanation from Sir Wilfred in a letter. The last words of this letter said: "Can we say that the Scotch are the greatest scoundrels in the United Kingdom because they are noted for their wit and wisdom?" The reply from Sir Wilfred said: "It was with no intention to wound the feelings of the Armenians that I made this declaration. On the contrary, fearing that to help Armenia would cause a war, I expressed myself in those terms. . . . As a proof of my sincerity, I beg you to give both our letters to the press."

Both the letters were published in the *Spectator* in 1880. Would you, then, kindly state on what facts do you base such a strong charge against a small ally of England?

Turkish money has worked miracles in a different country, but I never think that Englishmen can ever be bribed.—I am, etc.,

V. M. MOSDITCHIAN

P.O.B. 600, Alexandria, July.

## ZIONIST IMMIGRANTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of July 8 you quoted the Bishop in Jerusalem as an authority on Zionists in Palestine. In fairness to your readers I trust you will bring the enclosed extract from *The Palestine Weekly* to their notice. Rabbi Kook holds as important a post in the Jerusalem community as the Bishop in his. —Yours, etc.,

*Palestine Weekly.*

Jerusalem, July 26, 1920.

Enclosure:—

### REPLY TO BISHOP MCINNES.

Replying to the remarks made by the Bishop in Jerusalem at the annual meeting of the "Mission" to the effect that opposition to Zionism was growing stronger among orthodox Jews, Rabbi A. Kook, who is a leading representative of all orthodox Palestine Jews, says:

"We feel it our duty publicly to refute the statement of the Bishop concerning the increasing opposition among orthodox Jews to Zionism, specially during the last eighteen months. It is difficult to state from what source the Bishop obtained this unfounded information. We can all testify that, precisely during the last months, the recognition has been growing stronger among the extreme orthodox that Zionism was a movement guided from above to realise the vision of the prophets of the redemption of Israel and the deliverance of humanity. I hereby beg to inform the public that the orthodox feel that, with the growing of the National renaissance, piety and deep faith are increasing in all our ranks, and the feelings of brotherhood and internal unity are becoming more intense. There is no room for quarrels between or suspicion in our ranks. With regard to the false accusation that the new immigrants—Russian, Polish and Rumanian Jews who have escaped from the menacing sword—are all Bolsheviki in principle, there is no need to reply. It is a recognised truth, however, that all the immigrants who choose Palestine as their home are imbued with national and religious feelings which differ essentially from Bolshevik teachings. As a responsible person, the Bishop should announce publicly that his information was derived from an unreliable source."

[The "false accusation" mentioned in the passage quoted above from the *Palestine Weekly* was not, of course, made by Bishop McInnes, who merely said that *many* of the Russian, Polish and Roumanian immigrants were thoroughly Bolshevistic in their ideas.—ED. NEAR EAST.]

## THE OCCUPATION OF THRACE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—My attention has been called to a letter from the Rev. Alexander T. Callinicos in your issue of August 5, who states that I have signed myself "Britisher." The use of this slang term is unknown to me; it was invented, I believe, on the other side of the Atlantic as a sobriquet implying contempt and derision.

The reverend gentleman claims the right to deride the defeated enemy. His boastful mockery of the fallen foe is neither in harmony with the teaching of the philosophic Democritus (who advocated a placid smile in the hour of adversity) nor with that of our common Christianity. Neither can it win the approbation of the average "Britisher," whose instinct prompts him to a chivalrous treatment of his prostrate opponent. The vaunting of the reverend gentleman recalls that of the Homeric heroes—*ἡμεῖς τοι πατέρων μεγ' ἀμείνονες εὐχο'μεθ' εἶναι*. We latter-day Greeks, he tells us, have brought about the downfall of the Bulgarian "Empire"; we saved the French army from "annihilation" in Southern Russia; we have "rounded up" in fifteen days the brigands from whom great France was compelled "to sue for an armistice."

What will they say to this in Paris? They may retort that the Greeks maintained a hostile attitude towards the Entente for three years of the war; that they never changed that attitude until French and British troops, after considerable loss of life, succeeded in deposing their King; and that even during the final Macedonian campaign a plot existed for the passage of the whole Greek army of the Struma to the side of the enemy, which was only frustrated by General Franchet d'Espéry's rapid advance.—I am, etc.,

A BRITISH READER OF "THE NEAR EAST."

August 14.

## "MESOPOTAMIA."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—It is not often I am courageous enough to differ from THE NEAR EAST. In common with all your readers, I owe a debt to your paper for its very valuable and concise presentment of Middle Eastern politics. For all that, I cannot understand a significant passage in your current leader on Mesopotamia. I refer to this sentence:—"To our surprise we find that the Arabs not only refuse to display the least partiality for the regime we have imposed upon them, but actually attack our troops and inflict reverses upon them."

The surprising thing is not that this should be the case, but that anyone familiar with Arab character and Arab environment should suppose that it could be otherwise. There are two questions I am anxious to have answered. First: Why should the Arabs welcome a regime which is as hostile to them, and as unintelligible, as an Arabian administration would be to us? I am not considering the ideal form of government for Mesopotamia as dictated by the Powers. That point does not immediately arise. Before you can begin administering a country you must know the races for whose benefit your administration is being put into force. And unless it is widely recognised that the Arab does not want our administration but that for the safety of the Middle East he must be educated into wanting it (as all political communities have been educated), we cannot set about governing Mesopotamia at all. The paradox of self-determination is that it is always applied to countries who can determine nothing for themselves.

The second question is this: Why should not the Arabs attack us? They will always attack us. You remark that, "they actually attack our troops and inflict reverses upon them"—as if such a contingency were beyond the contemplation of the Arab mind. But is it not obvious that for many years to come the Army of Occupation will have to be prepared for these attacks? The astonishing thing is that when they are made we are peacefully sleeping a hundred miles away from the scene of action.

Nobody wants the evacuation of Mesopotamia. That would be disastrous. But to suppose that we can hold so turbulent a country without a shot being fired is equally preposterous. We shall not begin the firing, but the Arabs will, and we shall have to defend ourselves. When it comes to government we shall do well to remember that: "The tribes of the Irak have advanced but little beyond the Moot Court, and should the shaping of their destinies become our care in the future, we shall be wise to eschew any experiments tending to rush them into highly specialised institutions—a policy which could commend itself only to those who are never wearied by words that signify nothing."

I quote this from a little work on "The Arab of Mesopotamia," printed at Busreh—by the Government Press.

I am, etc.,

ALEC PENROSE STANTON.

London, N.W., August 12, 1920.

## ALBANIA A SECOND ARMENIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—We trust that you will give publicity to the following very urgent telegram, which we have just received from the Albanian Delegation. "In spite of assurances that the Albanian Government has always given to the Yugoslav Government of its desire to live in peace with them, the Serbian army on August 10 suddenly invaded Albanian territory, through the regions of Scutari, Dibra, and Elbasan. The invading army is advancing towards the interior, bombarding towns and villages, destroying

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everything in its passage, and terrorising the population. Judging from the systematic extermination of the Albanian element in the districts annexed by the Serbs, and the considerable forces and artillery in action, it becomes evident that this invasion is premeditated and aims at the extermination of our race. The Albanian people, in deadly despair, appeal to the justice and dignity of His Britannic Majesty to stop this wanton aggression and save them from catastrophe."

Unless intervention take place the wholesale massacre of the Albanian race will be even worse than the Armenian massacres. All lovers of justice are asked to appeal against this direct violation of the rights of peoples and of the treaty of 1913.

Europe then intervened and saved Albania. Albania cries again for help. May her cry be heard before it is too late.

I am, etc.,

M. E. DURHAM
(Hon. Sec., Anglo-Albanian Society).

## PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

### The Middle East.

In the *Nineteenth Century* of August, Major W. Ormsby Gore, M.P., writes on "Great Britain, Mesopotamia, and the Arabs." His conclusions are worth quoting:—

Our future in Asia will depend very largely on our treatment of Middle Eastern problems during the next few years. We have undertaken obligations of honour and great responsibilities in the Middle East during the war; on the fulfilment of our obligations, and on our capacity to see the realisation of those aspirations which we have encouraged, will depend not only our good name but our whole future in Asia. It is for us to make or mar the new political conception embodied in the Article of the Covenant of the League of Nations dealing with mandates; and on our scrupulous fulfilment of that article of the Covenant, will depend largely the future of the League itself.

Then there is the almost equally important question of the future relations of Western Powers with non-European races. The relations between Englishmen and the races of the Middle East, Arabs, Jews and Egyptians, will in all probability determine the future relations between Eastern and Western civilisation. If these relations develop on the lines of racial antagonism, or racial subjection, or if they result in a revival of religious prejudices and religious animosity, not only will trouble ensue for Britain as an Empire, but the possibility of European and Asiatic civilisation assisting each other towards peace, solvency, and progress, will be endangered. Nothing can exaggerate the importance of the problems now before us in the Middle East; even the problems of Central Europe are temporary, and comparatively local, when compared with what may be the permanent results of a wise, or unwise, policy in any one of the Near Eastern countries. The whole of Europe and the whole of Asia are involved, and upon us lies the chief and greatest responsibility; and upon the way in which our trust is fulfilled we shall be judged by history. The tasks may be great, but there is no reason why they should be beyond our reach. The war brought out the amazing capacity of the right type of Englishman in dealing with the Arab peoples; and the work of Colonel Joyce in creating and training an Arab Army, and the work of Colonel Lawrence in handling it, as well as the political insight of the latter and of many others, whose names are less well known, show that with faith and enthusiasm great things are possible. We shall henceforth require new Arabic-speaking services, political, civil, and technical, but no amount of authority or official position given to them by a British Government will enable them to succeed in their task, unless they are endowed with the faculty of understanding the Arab, and of getting on with him not as his ruler, but as his guide, philosopher and friend. The personal equation is what counts in the Middle East.

Finally, it must be emphasised that the problem of Mesopotamia is only part of the wider Arab problem. Unless the Arab world is envisaged as a whole, the wrong perspective is obtained. We cannot confine our policy within a number of new artificial boundaries.

### The Viceroyalty of India.

*The Times* of August 12 has a leading article upon the "Viceroyalty of India." In commenting upon the proposal that Mr. Montagu should be made Viceroy, it says:—

There are many reasons why Mr. Montagu, whose name has been so prominently associated with the approaching vacancy, should not be appointed. Some of those reasons need not be set forth here, but two appear to suffice. We hold that a Secretary of State for India should never be appointed Viceroy, while no Viceroy should afterwards be made Secretary of State. If a precedent is now created, future Secretaries of State may be tempted so to frame their policy of control as to facilitate their subsequent selection as Viceroy. On the other hand, a Secretary of State who has previously been Viceroy might be led to regard himself as still Viceroy in all but name. For somewhat similar reasons, no Secretary of State should ever visit India during his term of office except in very exceptional circumstances, such as existed when Lord Crewe accompanied the King Emperor to the Delhi Durbar. Lord Crewe's visit was so tactfully managed that it had no untoward results, but there can be no doubt that Mr. Montagu's visit materially weakened Lord Chelmsford's position. The relations between Lord Chelmsford and his official superior were excellent, and Mr. Montagu scrupulously observed the prescribed etiquette, but the inevitable consequence was that the Viceroy suffered an eclipse from which he has never quite recovered. The second and far more potent reason is that no man should be chosen as Viceroy of India who has drifted, however accidentally, into a contentious position upon current Indian controversies. We have the better title to make this objection because we supported the broad principles of the constitutional reforms with which Mr. Montagu's and Lord Chelmsford's names are associated. We were, moreover, in substantial agreement with Mr. Montagu's view—though not with his handling—of the case of General Dyer. Yet the very fact that Mr. Montagu has been both fiercely assailed and warmly supported in these controversies renders it imperative that the choice now to be made should not fall upon him. The first duty of a Viceroy is, in Lord Curzon's historic words, to "hold the scales even," and however much we may believe that Mr. Montagu would be entirely impartial, large numbers of people, both in India and in this country, hold, very strongly, a contrary view. The new Viceroy must have a clean sheet, in the sense that he should be acknowledged on all hands to be free from partisan predilections. There should be no appointment which would be the signal for a further outbreak of recrimination. Mr. Montagu should be content with the knowledge that he has already indelibly inscribed his name upon the broad pages of Indian history, but it would be best that he should leave to others the completion of the task he has so arduously begun.

### Mesopotamia.

Writing in the *Graphic* of August 14 on "Should we abandon 'Mespot'?" Sirdar Ibkal Ali Shah commences by saying:—

The recent thoughtless outcry that we should abandon Mesopotamia has almost certainly had its origin among people who do not understand how deeply we have committed ourselves to the work of progress in that country, and who are unaware of the commercial and strategical possibilities it will hold for us.

He looks back on the pre-war condition of the country, and proceeds:—

The great obstacle we shall have to face will undoubtedly be the pacification of the native populations. The Arabs of Mesopotamia are intractable and freedom-loving, and will by no means take so kindly to European rule as did the Fellahin of Egypt; but even now their attitude is less unfriendly than it was in 1916. Many of the great Sheikhs, however, still adopt a hostile attitude, and as they have a good deal of influence among the people it will be necessary for us to enlist their friendly offices by every means in our power. It is, indeed, because of internecine feuds that the country had remained so long in a neglected condition; but we have made the Mesopotamian land to blossom like the rose, and are gradually introducing those elements of civilisation which will in the end render it prolific and flourishing.

By the introduction of suitable irrigation we have already extended the area upon which it is possible to plant the date-palms which yield one of the chief commercial assets of Mesopotamia, and furnish at least a million Arabs with subsistence. From the small creek of Asshar has developed the wonderful port of Basra, with its imposing wharves, on which powerful electric cranes load and unload the cargoes of many ships. In the vicinity of Basra hundreds of miles of metalled road have now been constructed; it is equipped with electric cars, and the telephone service is more extensive than that of Bombay. Electric light, too, has been installed in all the towns on the Tigris. The Arabs of the urban district are taking kindly to factory life, and in addition to the oil refinery, the dockyards, and the repairing sheds, there are ice factories and cloth mills.

He then gives figures proving how we have ministered to the needs of the native population, and concludes:—

The re-birth of Mesopotamia will make for the prosperity of Persia and India, and to abandon it would be folly of the most egregious character, not to be thought of.

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The King has approved the institution of a bar to be worn with the Meritorious Service Medal awarded to Indian troops, the bar to be identical with that sanctioned for the British Meritorious Service Medal, and to be awarded under similar conditions.

With a view to helping the Jew in the new developments in Palestine and Eastern Europe the British and Foreign Bible Society are spending another £10,000 in reprinting Yiddish Bibles, and are also engaged in producing an improved version in the Yiddish of the Ukraine.

In connection with the opening up of Palestine, arrangements are being made for directing to the country the stream of Jewish emigration which is beginning to set in from Central and Eastern Europe. Prague, Vienna, and Constantinople are to be the principal centres for this work, and Mr. S. Landman, of the Zionist Organisation, is about to visit these centres in order to supervise the establishment of the necessary emigration bureaux.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"THE EGYPTIAN PROBLEM." By Sir Valentine Chirol. (Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1920. 7s. 6d. net.)

II.—"THE ORIENT IN BIBLE TIMES." By Elihu Grant, Professor of Biblical Literature in Haverford College. (Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott and Co. $2.50 net.)

III.—"THE FORBIDDEN TRAIL." By Honore Willsie. (London: Thornton Butterworth. 7s. net.)

IV.—"OUR SMALLEST ALLY." By W. A. Wigram, D.D. With a Map (London: S.P.C.K. 1s. 6d. net.)

## I.—THE EGYPTIAN PROBLEM.

On the subject of Egypt two books have become classics—the first, by Lord Milner, "England in Egypt," 1892; the second, by Lord Cromer, "Modern Egypt," 1908, with a supplement on the ex-Khedive Abbas, 1915. Both of them reveal the weakness of the native Egyptian for self-government. Sir Valentine Chirol's new book, entitled "The Egyptian Problem," can challenge comparison with those predecessors in dignity of style, in moderation of statement, and in its noble desire to set forth the truth to his fellow-countrymen. He tells us of the fictions and limitations of our control, and its breakdown; of active and passive rebellion; of the barren period of drift; of government by martial law; and he has exposed the iniquities of the Labour Corps which wrecked Egypt and brought about the present discontent. It is impossible to do justice to this invaluable and statesmanlike survey by brief quotations, but every trader and tourist will be rewarded by its careful perusal, because the author has put his heart into it, and as he reaches the end his pages burn with fire and sympathy for the Egyptians. In submitting the need for an honourable solution, he offers a constructive policy for our future guidance. The various powers in the administration should be defined. First, the authority of our High Commissioner should be distinctly specified; and all other powers, with the responsibilities they carry, should be vested in native Ministers. There should be a complete separation of our control from the native executive, the British Advisers appointed by our Government being responsible to our High Commissioner, who would control their relations with the native Ministers. Our British Advisers and their British staffs should be British officials instead of being camouflaged as now under Egyptian red tarboushes which they wear during office hours and throw aside in the afternoon. A new department should be set up at home for the Middle East, and its Secretary of State, to whom the High Commissioner would be responsible, should enjoy the assistance of a small council with Egyptian experience, and composed partly of native Egyptians. We may adorn, he writes, any scheme of reforms with the most copious assurances of our anxiety to help Egypt to self-government, and set before them as an ultimate goal their national independence under our ægis—they will have no faith in our honesty unless the scheme provides a substantial guarantee for the redress of outstanding grievances. Our control must be limited to essentials, such as foreign relations, army, public security, communications, irrigation, and, so long as there is a foreign debt, finance. We might leave to the natives their local government, education, agriculture, public works, and sanitation, subject to British expert advice as distinct from executive control with only a few British officials carefully chosen, as in the beginning of our Occupation.

"The Egyptians certainly have yet to prove their capacity for self-government. But we are pledged to give them an opportunity to practise it, and it must be a sufficiently wide one to put them on their mettle and develop their sense of political responsibility. We may believe that it will lead, at first at least, to very much worse government, and to the revival of many old-time abuses. But that is no reason for breaking the promises to which we are committed."

The golden thread of charity runs through his pages; the honour of England involved in our trusteeship, the sympathy of Lord Cromer for the Moslems impress the reader.

Closing the volume for a moment, I submit the following remarks. In time of trouble we must find a scapegoat, and in the case of Egypt we have held the Foreign Office to blame for the sins of others. This is not just. Throughout the world, when dilemmas occur, foreigners run to the British Ambassador or Minister or Consul for advice, the traditional trust in the practical wisdom of the Foreign Office, spreading over its agents abroad, still remains unimpaired. However the case may be put, the Defence of the Realm Act ("Dora") enforced by the presence of a large army effaced the authority of the F.O. in Egypt. During the war the country was ruled by a miscellaneous group of honourable gentlemen and officers who knew little or nothing of the civil situation, who were constantly being changed, and whose irresponsibility in solidarity brought about the iniquities practised in our name under the cloak of the Labour Corps, into which no commission dare inquire. A time had to come when martial law would cease, when F.O. would have to sweep away the litter and be held responsible for the damages caused by Dora, the outgoing tenant. There was plenty of warning, but, unfortunately, the censorship choked off discussion. Deplorable riots followed, reminding us of the days of Arabi, showing that the turbulent townspeople had not changed their nature, whether pagan, Christian or Moslem, since the days of the Greeks and Romans and Byzantines, down to Mehemet Ali. Then the Foreign Office did penance for the sins of others and sent out a strong commission, which was boycotted; and by this boycott the Egyptians have condemned themselves as unfit for self-government, not a man among them showing traces of statesmanship and moral courage; they will never wipe off the stain of refusing to meet old friends like Milner, Rodd, and Maxwell. As for the Capitulations, a civilian does not criticise the manœuvring of a cavalry brigade, yet there were officers newly arrived in Egypt, who, with a wave of the hand, laid down the law, and "abolished" the Capitulations. These treaties of friendship and commerce, dating back to the times of the Phœnicians, imply capital and commercial credit, and can no more be abolished than the pyramids and palm trees. They can be modified under our flag if we accept responsibility for public security. The third party, the foreigner, does not believe in the Egyptian policeman. Safety first, before the Capitulations go. As for education, a teacher in my youth, I helped to start the English language prize fund in Cairo in 1890, and have always taken interest in every kind of school in Egypt. It is not our system that is to blame, but the material; the ordinary Arab boy cannot learn; the peasants, some 90 per cent. of the population, remain in darkness as serfs bound to the soil under the yoke of a cotton autocracy. If the peasant were to learn, he would cease to be a peasant. Forty years' study of Arabic has shown me that there is only one Arabic, the classical, the real written language, as alive to-day as in the time of Mohammed. But, apart from the language, unfortunately, the letters of the alphabet are not separate, but generally joined together, and this defect has prevented the growth of daughter languages from Morocco to Baghdad. For example, with our separate letters, the Latin roots of noct, pect, lact, change in the

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Romance or modern Italian languages, as they cross the Alps or Pyrenees, and we can write notte, nuit, noche, petto, poitrine, pecho, latte, lait, leche, etc. But in Arabic we should still be saying and writing nkt, bkt, lkt, because the three letters are joined together. It is the elementary difficulty of the alphabet, like the Old Man of the Sea round the neck of the Arab Sindibad, which hinders the relations between our officials and their native colleagues, so that it is often impossible to decide where "advice" ends and "control" begins.

Here for the present I must leave the subject. Of Sir Valentine Chirol's book, no praise can be too high; he is worth all the Nationalist Party put together, and appeals to us to do justice in Egypt, to renew the old charity and sympathy of my revered master, Lord Cromer.

D. A. CAMERON.

## II.—ANCIENT ORIENTAL HISTORY IN RELATION TO THE HEBREWS.

Professor Grant's book, "The Orient in Bible Times," should prove useful to the student of the Bible and to the general reader interested in the Near East. We have here in outline the history of the Empires of Egypt, Babylonia, Assyria, and Persia, to the fall of the East under the army of the Macedonian conqueror. All this is here introductory to the story of the Hebrews and the history of that unique land which they inhabited. It is a familiar tale, yet to some the more modern way of looking at this history may be new. The coming of the Hebrews may be viewed as part of that "nomadic pressure" from the desert which "has continued to be the persistent historic experience of thousands of years." The nomad is always there on the border. When the control of Palestine is firm and friendly he stays on the border or near it, but should the government of Palestine weaken, the nomad intrudes. At the time of the Hebrew invasion, which may be viewed as a process of centuries, the internal government of Palestine was growing weaker. The Hittite shrank away northward, and the Egyptian neglected the land more and more. The Phœnician cared little for the interior. The tracts of land which meant least to either Philistine or Canaanite were occupied by frontiersmen, who learned in a humble way the advantages of agriculture as a means of ekeing out a decent living. From such humble beginnings gradually was built up a national self-consciousness which culminated in a kingdom. Briefly, the history of the rise and fall of the kingdom—and the divided kingdom—is traced. The decadence of the temporal power and the days of menace and stress witnessed the wonderful rise of that prophetic spirit and of those high ethical ideals which have given the Hebrews a message to the whole world. To many who may, through old-fashioned teaching and consequent lack of interest, have found no attraction in the prophetic book, the outline here given of the writings of these great patriots and zealous reformers—in their historical setting—will be a revelation. The history is followed down to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans. A study of this book will give much food for thought to many of those who are concerned in the future of Palestine. It has always been a strange meeting-place for surrounding nations on every side. Into it once flowed Hittites from the north, Damascans and Arabians from the east and south-east, Egyptians from the south-west, and Philistines and—the writer here suggests to a considerable extent—the Phœnician. That is, he thinks this race was only half-Semitic. "Some," he says, "would go so far as to say that a considerable part of the mixed Phœnician population was a colonial offshoot of the race which once inhabited Crete and, later, the other islands, as well as the coast land of Asia Minor."

To-day we find the Syrians, a very mixed race, in the Lebanon, together with Druzes, Maronites, etc., to the north; nomadic Arabs in close touch with the restless tribes of Arabia to the east and south-east; Egyptians to the south-west; while from the west a very heterogeneous mass of European Jews are restlessly endeavouring to reassert their claims to the land their ancestors inhabited two thousand years ago. As in the past, so now there must be inevitable clashings and turmoils, and after a truce a rearrangement once again for a time of the ever-changing kaleidoscope of this unique little land.

There is no historic period touched upon in this volume which will not pay for a longer study, and the author gives useful hints about suitable books at the end of each chapter. A wide survey like this makes a valuable text-book for a course of study. A number of excellent illustrations, mostly from Palestine scenery, are scattered through the text.

## II.—THE ARIZONA DESERT.

Roger Moore, we are told, was a "dreamer of dreams." His dream was the invention of a solar engine. At the age of thirty he at last gets a chance of proving its practicability by putting up a solar power plant to be used for irrigation in the desert country of Arizona, and goes there accompanied by his devoted friend, Ernie Wolf. There they find settlers trying to irrigate some acres of the desert and grow alfalfa, who turn out to be Dick Preble and his sister Charley, whom Roger remembers as a slender little girl of seven. She is now a wonderfully tall, strong, young woman, with hair "a wiry burnished bronze" (Roger's own "black hair, with the sunset full upon it, was like molten bronze").

At this point we have no doubt that the end of the tale will see the invention successful and Roger at last aware that Charley is more to him than "a good fellow." But there are many difficulties to be overcome before this end is reached, and they follow one another with relentless speed. They include sandstorms, cloudbursts, Dick's bouts of drinking, Roger's outbursts of temper, the question of raising money, the death of Charley's little sister, Felicia—we suspected that the authoress was preparing to sacrifice her as soon as we met her and saw her winning her way to everyone's heart—and finally the treacherous attempt of Ernie, who is of German origin, to sell the engine to the benefit of the Fatherland. Certainly there is a fascination in hurrying on from one disaster to another, sustained by the conviction that all will surely end well, which probably accounts for the apparent great popularity of Mrs. Willsie's works in America. Apart from this the impression that she gives of camp life in the desert is both definite and convincing.

## IV.—PRESENT-DAY ASSYRIANS.

This is the story of the gallant struggle against odds made by the Assyrians of to-day against Turks, Kurds, and Persians in the course of the Great War. It is a story of which "our smallest ally" has every right to be proud, and it is told by Mr. Wigram with a directness, a sympathy, and, happily, with a sense of humour that make it easy and pleasant to read. The least pleasant feature of the story is the manner in which the Russians failed again and again to render the help that the Assyrians expected to receive from them—and very naturally expected, after being instigated to throw in their lot with the Entente as they were. Indeed, the Russians play a sorry part in the narrative; and it is not surprising that their conduct in this field of the war has been subjected to strong criticism from many quarters.

No more stirring story of the war can be found than that of the great march of the Assyrian people from the Shina plateau to the Persian district of Salmas. Cumbered not only with their women-folk, but also with their flocks and herds, deserted by their friends, and driven from the homes they loved so well, they yet conducted an orderly retreat and finally won through to safety. The story and its sequel deserve to be better known than they are in this country, and we hope that this very attractive booklet will serve to make them so, and to win fresh friends for "our smallest Ally."

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Mon Commandement en Orient, 1916-1918." By General Sarrail. (Paris: Ernest Flammarion. 7fr. 75 net.)

"Report of the Punjab Chamber of Commerce for the year 1918." (Delhi.)

"Odierne Questioni Politiche." By Aldobrandino Malvezzi. (Bologna: Nicola Zanichelli. Lire, 3,00.)

# MUSICAL NOTES.

## THE KOLOS.

It is a distinction of Near Eastern countries, not, indeed, possessed by them alone, but one on which Western European nations cannot greatly pride themselves, that with them music and dancing are truly allied. The existence of this alliance was really not manifested to the modern English and French peoples until the Russian ballet, a body derived from Slav inspiration if not composed of Slavs, made obvious the use of the choreographic art in interpreting music. I suppose the greatest dancers are of Spanish or Russian origin, for the Iberian and the Slav still seem to have the passion of the dance in their blood; but in most other countries the dance as an expression of one's soul appears either to have become barbarised (as in Hungary) or to have been slowly degraded by the adoption of industrialism as the economic system of life (as in England).

Whatever the explanation of these things may be, the fact remains that the natural passion for dancing has survived in the Slav race, and, in particular, in the Yugoslav race.

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Everyone has heard of the "kolo," the Serbian national dance, though all have not been fortunate enough to see it executed. But both for those who know and those who do not know it, a little book called "Serbian Kolos" will be extremely useful. It has been written by Miss E. R. Clarke, the late lecturer on dancing at the Dartford Physical Training College, and by Miss Vivian Edwards, whose recitals of and lectures upon Serbian folk-songs are well known to readers of this journal; and it is published by the Bergman Osterberg Union at 3s. net. (The proceeds go to the benefit of Serbian funds.) It is an interesting little book, very efficiently done, with explanations, general directions, and examples of the kolos; and there is also a note on Yugoslav peasant costumes. The task of the two authors was not very easy, for the dances they describe were collected entirely from Serbian boys who came to be educated in this country when their own country was occupied by the enemy—boys to whom the dance was as natural as any explanation or analysis of it was unnatural. Their practical suggestions for learning the forms of the various kolos are most clear, and no one acting upon their advice could go wrong. From the increasing number of enthusiasts in this country for English folk-dances this book is certain to have a welcome, and it undoubtedly deserves it. I cannot imagine that anyone who delights, for instance, in our own "Black Nag" or "Sweet Kate" could fail to enjoy the "Jatchko Kolo" or the "Banatsko Kolo," to mention but two of the nine dances published in this book.

The main difference between Yugoslav kolos and English folk-dances is the comparative unimportance of steps in the former; they have little or nothing set, everything depending, first, upon the music and its rhythm, and then upon the *kolovoja*, the leader of the kolo, or circle, and the *kets*, the end man of the circle or line. They appear to have many phases, through which the pace is worked up and down, but the essentials of them all remain throughout freedom and informality. This is possibly one of the reasons for the preservation of the spirit of the dance in Yugoslavia: there are no such things as memory or etiquette with which to decrease the naturalness of it all. And, moreover, whatever steps there are are derived solely from walking, running, and hopping, the dance therefore being a genuine primitive means of expression, and not the unreal, civilised method of impression that it has become in more advanced societies.

One would think that there is more vigour, if not more agility, required by these kolos than by our own folk-dances; but I doubt whether they are more graceful or pleasing. In both, however, is the same lack of conscious art, the lack which Mr. Cecil Sharp and the English Folk Dance Society assert (wrongly) can alone make true art; and in both is that same close connection or identity of music and dance to recover which Western nations have had to receive lessons from negroes. I hope, therefore, that the authors of "Serbian Kolos," who are to be congratulated on their work (and who, I am very glad to state, intend to publish more on this subject), will be able to organise some exhibition of these dances. Much has already been done to popularise the kolos in schools and colleges, but nearly all the displays of them were given during the war, at a time when a true appreciation of their worth was difficult to make and to remember.

ANDANTE.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

Greek authorities have occupied the Custom House at Smyrna.

A Valona message received in Rome states that an American Red Cross depot at Podgoritza has been burnt down.

A group of French financiers is shortly visiting Belgrade to study the project of a canal between the capital of Yugoslavia and Salonika.

A request has been addressed to the Colonial Secretary asking him to divert the flow of Maltese immigrants into the United States to British Guiana.

A Bulgarian delegation has arrived in Prague to study the conditions prevailing in Czecho-Slovakia and the possibilities of economic and political intercourse between Bulgaria and Czecho-Slovakia.

On August 9 the Roumanian Senate unanimously passed the Bill ratifying the Peace Treaty with Bulgaria, and M. Take Jonescu, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, introduced a Bill for the ratification of the Treaty with Hungary.

Pilgrims arriving at Peshawar from Turkestan continue to bring accounts of Bolshevist oppression in that country, and state that the Bolshevists have incurred much hatred among the entire Moslem population by their behaviour.

The British Armenia Committee learns officially that the preliminaries of peace were signed on August 11 between Russia and the Armenian Republic of Erivan. The districts of Karadagh, Zangezur, and Nakhichevan, being disputed territory between Armenia and Azerbaijan, remain temporarily in Russian occupation until the dispute is settled.


# WHERE TO STAY.

**For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—**

**"EASTAPROX, LONDON. TWENTIETH MATLOCK TWO**

**(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."**

**which would indicate that two rooms were required at Matlock on the 20th of the month.**

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**EXETER**
**ROYAL CLARENCE HOTEL**
*(facing beautiful Cathedral).*

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The Victoria House, 254, Oxford Road.

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**VICTORIA & ALBERT HOTEL.**

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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

## CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

**Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish Dates.**

| Gregorian (New Style). | Julian (Old Style). | — | Moslem. | Jewish. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1920 August: | 1920. August | | 1338. Jumadi. | 5680. Elul |
| 19 | 6 | Thursday ..... | 5 | 5 |
| 20 | 7 | Friday ..... | 6 | 6 |
| 21 | 8 | Saturday ..... | 7 | 7 |
| 22 | 9 | Sunday ..... | 8 | 8 |
| 23 | 10 | Monday ..... | 9 | 9 |
| 24 | 11 | Tuesday ..... | 10 | 10 |
| 25 | 12 | Wednesday ..... | 11 | 11 |

Lord Oranmore and Browne has left Cavendish Place for Dublin.

M. Pashitch, formerly Serbian Prime Minister, left London on August 11 for Belgrade.

M. Constantin Constantinesco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London on August 11 for Bucharest.

M. Collas, First Secretary to the Greek Legation, has returned to London from San Sebastian.

The Queen has sent a donation of £20 to Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association.

Lord and Lady Barrymore have left London for Marbury Hall, Northwich.

General Sir Bryan and Lady Mahon arrived in Dublin on August 13.

Crown Prince Carol of Roumania has arrived in San Francisco from Honolulu.

M. Titulesco, the Roumanian Minister for Finance, having concluded his mission to London, left on August 14 for Paris.

Our Sofia Correspondent writes (July 21):—Yesterday H.M. the King received in audience the Russian Admiral Butenow, who came to Sofia from Sebastopol.

Marshal Joffre left Paris on August 14 by the Simplon-Orient express for Roumania, where he will present the Croix de Guerre to Bucharest and Marakesti, which have been mentioned in army orders.

Mr. Rattigan, who during Sir Herbert Dering's leave is in charge of the British Legation at Bucharest, will not leave the Roumanian capital to take up his new post in Brussels until September 10.

M. Venizelos is making such rapid progress towards recovery that he is expected to be able to leave Paris for Nice in about two days' time. After a few days' rest there, the Greek Premier will return to Athens to prepare for the forthcoming general elections.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby arrived at Paddington on August 14 on leave from Egypt. He was met at the station by Lady Allenby. He expects to be in England about two months. On August 16 he was received by the King at Buckingham Palace.

General Sir George Milne, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Army of the Black Sea, had the honour of being received by the King on August 14, when His Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George.

Major-General Sir Lee Stack, Sirdar of the Egyptian Army and Governor-General of the Sudan, and Brigadier-General Sir William Manning, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Ceylon, had audiences of His Majesty on August 13.

The King of the Hellenes has conferred the Golden Cross of the Knights of the Order of the Saviour on Mr. P. W. Everett, joint managing director of Messrs. C. Arthur Pearson (Limited), for his services in connection with the Boy Scout movement in Greece.

The Rev. C. Hobley, rector of Knockholt, has been appointed Rochester Diocesan Secretary for the Jerusalem and the East Mission in the place of the Rev. J. Rooker, of Sevenoaks, who is going to Palestine to work for the London Jews' Society.

It is reported that Lord Sinha, who was appointed Under-Secretary of State for India at the end of 1918, will return to India after the close of the summer session, in order to take up his new post of Lieutenant-Governor in Council of Bihar and Orissa, in succession to Sir Edward Gait, whose quinquennial term expires in November next.

Our Sofia Correspondent writes (July 31):—General Fourton, Commander-in-Chief of the French troops in Bulgaria, has been appointed President of the International Commission of Military Control in Bulgaria. He retains his position as Delegate of the C.-in-C. of the Entente troops in the Orient.

The marriage arranged between Viola, second daughter of the late Albert Crossland (Egyptian Civil Service) and Mrs. Crossland, of Heliopolis, Cairo, and Kenneth Agnew Wills, M.C., younger son of the late Richard Wills, of Adelaide, South Australia, and Mrs. Wills, of Bath, will take place at All Saints' Church, Fulham, on September 1.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Dr. Tej Bahadur Sapru, LL.D., to be a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, to succeed Sir George Lowndes, K.C., K.C.S.I., on the completion of the latter's term of office in December next.

The King has been pleased to approve the following appointments, to take effect as soon as those parts of the Government of India Act, 1919, which relate to the Local Governments in India are brought into operation in the early part of next year:—To be Governor of the United Provinces, Sir Harcourt Butler, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.; to be Governor of the Punjab, Sir Edward Maclagan, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.; to be Governor of the Central Provinces, Sir Frank Sly, K.C.S.I.; to be Governor of Bihar and Orissa, Lord Sinha of Raipur, P.C., K.C.; to be Governor of Assam, Sir William Marris, K.C.I.E. With His Majesty's approval, the present Governors of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay will continue in office on the introduction of the new scheme of government under the Act.

Herr von Druffels has been temporarily appointed German diplomatic representative to the Caucasian Republic of Georgia.

The *Progrès* of August 8 announces the following diplomatic appointments of Roumanian Ministers:—M. Constantin Hiotu to be Minister at Prague; M. Trandafir Djuvara to be at Athens; M. Théodore Emandi to be at Belgrade; and M. Langa Raschano to be at Sofia.

The following communiqué has been received through the India Office from the Civil Commissioner in Baghdad:—

"First meeting of Committee summoned by notification of July 9 to frame proposals for an electoral law took place in Baghdad on August 6 at the Law Courts. Nineteen former deputies from various parts of the country have come to Baghdad in answer to the invitation of this administration. One of their first tasks will be to co-opt additional members in place of those ex-deputies who are absent or deceased. By so doing areas and communities at present without a member will be represented on this committee, and it will become a gathering which may fairly be considered representative of the country. As far as is at present possible, its functions will be to frame proposals for the provisional electoral law under which members will be elected to a general assembly, which will frame in consultation with the administration an organic law for the country. It will also provide a source to which administration may in the meantime turn for advice or information on any points connected with the welfare and future of the country. In the meeting of this committee a further step has been taken towards the setting up of national institutions in this country in compliance with the obligations undertaken by Great Britain when accepting the mandate."


## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

EGYPT—Danish girl, good family, offers service; very fond of children, clever at housework and Danish cooking—Eilër, 25, Carlton Hill, London, N.W.8.


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# THE NEAR EAST.

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*Telephone No.: 618 London Wall.*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1920.


## THE LESSER NATIONS.

Already there are signs that the world is tiring of the lesser nations. It is not many months since their charter was framed by the idealist statesmen of Versailles, whose labours were hailed as marking the advent of a new political era, but criticism is now the dominant note, and impatient publicists are reverting to the standpoint of last-century diplomacy, which recognised, indeed, that particular small nations might be necessary, but regarded them in the lump as at the best a nuisance, and at the worst a standing menace to the world's security. We should regard the re-establishment of that attitude as a disaster to great nations as well as small, to England or France or the United States, no less than to the Balkans, the embryo Arab States, or the republics of Latin America; and the danger is sufficiently pressing to justify us in examining the whole question, and attempting an estimate of the tendencies at work. Let us in the first place recognise the attractions of the older view. The diplomatists of the last century played a great game for high stakes, for national power and national wealth, for national security and sometimes for national existence; they were not on the whole unequally matched, and, realising as they did that force was the deciding factor, they inevitably tended to regard the smaller States as counters in their game. When, however, the States to which this rôle was assigned claimed instead to take an active and independent part in the determination of their own destinies, the difficulties of the position were at once magnified; the experts resented the intrusion of amateurs and the distraction caused by claims irrelevant to their immediate objects, and the complications were too often increased by the attitude of the intruders themselves. The diplomacy of the smaller nations tended, like their politics, to be narrow, or even parochial, in outlook; they were fretful and impatient; they took no account of great questions affecting distant portions of the world; and they were more ready to imitate the vices than the virtues of their models. We insist on these facts not from any desire to rake among the ashes of the past, but because their persistence, or apparent persistence, is in our judgment largely responsible for the change in the world's attitude which we are discussing. The world wants peace, and a largely increased production of material goods: it reads day by day of nations bickering with their neighbours, or of parties bickering within the nation; it is told little of the material developments or of the slower movements of opinion which are undoubtedly in progress; and we cannot wonder if the resultant feeling is one of despondency, or even of disgust. Idealism is for the moment out of fashion, and if the small nations appear to be unchanged in their behaviour, it is easy to understand the attitude of those who would revert to the older view of their position.

How far this attitude is based on ignorance is a question on which we shall not hazard a conjecture, but there is no doubt that ignorance exists. The world's Press has not yet entirely recovered from the spoon-fed diet of the war; for the moment views seem to count for more than news, and unhappily it must be added that sometimes in the competition for space, those facts have the best chance of prominence which are most agreeable to the opinions of a particular organ. If the world is disgusted with the smaller nations, one reason is that the world does not really know what they are doing, still less what they are thinking. The great States have urgent problems of their own, and cannot spare much time to consider the difficulties of others; what is offered may be read and even pondered, but if popular organs present nothing but the seamy side, then it is on the seamy side that public opinion will concentrate. How far views so formed may differ from the truth can be judged if we consider whether an intelligent foreigner could obtain a just opinion of England even from our own Press. He would learn much indeed of our failings, of our social and political feuds, of our sports and trivialities, but he would scarcely catch a glimpse of the England which lies below, of the abiding consciousness of sorrow, the satisfaction resulting from work well done, the determination to have things a little better than they were. We do not include such matters among our exports, and doubtless our reputation suffers in consequence: the best antidote for despondency regarding the affairs of other nations is to remember that they too may keep their best for home consumption.

Even, however, after we have allowed for such considerations as these, the hard fact remains that there are grounds for disquietude. We may be shown too much of the seamy side, but we cannot question its existence, and while we appeal to the great world to strive for a due sense of proportion, we would urge the lesser nations to endeavour to abate the peculiarities which bulk so large. The Covenant of the League of Nations marks a stage rather than a goal. It is a long step forward that the small nations should sit in council with the great, but they have still to take such measures as shall secure a respectful hearing for their claims; they cannot hope for this until they have made some approach to harmony among themselves. The world could not fail to respect the voice of Latin America, though it might not be impressed by the demands of Peru or Uruguay; the general opinion of the Balkan States would be vastly more important than the particular opinion of any one of them; and, to look a little further ahead, Arab sentiment would carry weight denied to that of Syria or Mesopotamia. It will be noted that we have spoken of harmony rather than of union. Political union may in the case of some small nations be a desirable ideal, but it is not necessary for the purpose which we have in view. What is necessary is that the contiguous groups of small nations should take their stand on common ground. They are united in fact by ties of interest and sentiment, much more important in the aggregate than the disputes which tend to keep them apart. So long as they appear to the world to be concerned only in securing petty advantages over their neighbours, their welcome in its councils will be cold, and their estimation is likely to diminish rather than increase; their time will not come until they have proved themselves able to rise above purely local matters, until they have attained a broader outlook, and until they have manifested a juster appreciation of the position of those with whom they have been brought in contact. We recognise that this achievement will not be easy; the masses cannot hope to move forward without a guide; any forcible interference from outside would, in our judgment, be fatal, and the future of the small nations depends almost entirely on the quality of the leaders they can produce. It is to the leaders, therefore, that we appeal. Their task is difficult indeed, but to the right man difficulty is the same as opportunity, and the reward will be at least proportionate to the effort. Let them strive to adjust their local bickerings, let them insist on common interests and common sentiments; let them inculcate the widest possible view, and they can hope to win for their peoples a safe and honourable position in the world. By that course, and by no other, can they complete the work begun last year by the statesmen at Versailles.

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# BOLSHEVISM AND INDIA.

By SIRDAR IKBAL ALI SHAH.

It is questionable whether for Britain the Polish problem is really so important as that created by the Bolshevist invasion of Persia and the enslaving of Central Asia. The greatest of all the dangers to which India is exposed is the one foreshadowed by the Bolshevist advance and propaganda in Central Asia and Persia. The threat first became apparent when the Khanates of Khiva and Bokhara allied themselves with the Bolshevists. In 1837 and 1878 emissaries of imperialist Russia, who found their way to Kabul and forced Afghanistan to wage war against India, achieved the purpose at which Bolshevism is aiming to-day. In the Anglo-Persian Agreement of 1907, now a dead letter, Russia promised "no annexation and no indemnity," in Asian lands; but although the Bolshevists may be seeking no material annexation or indemnity, they certainly are making every effort to exert political influence among all those people with whom they come in contact. It is a moral duty for Great Britain to provide an antidote to the poisonous doctrines which emanate from Moscow, and which have already affected the Uzbegs and a considerable number of the Persians.

The danger in Central Asia can only be countered by supporting the policy of the late Ameer of Afghanistan, whose intention it was to form a confederacy of the Central Asian Khanates. As the complete independence of the Afghans is now acknowledged by all the parties interested, there is nothing to prevent Afghanistan from annexing to itself Shignan, Roshan, and Durwaz, and, by retaining the Merv region, forming an anti-Bolshevist alliance with Khiva and Bokhara. It is now more than ever desirable that the Ameer's country should continue its rôle of buffer State between India and the Slavonic possessions—a rôle which it has played for nearly a century.

I learn that the "independence" accorded to Bokhara and Khiva by the Bolshevists is merely nominal, and that in practice the actions of their rulers are subject to quite as many limitations as they were during Tsarist times. The Uzbegs are, therefore, disillusioned and discontented. In point of fact, there is evidence to show that at one time, not very long ago, the Khanates evinced a desire to enter into friendly relations with the British Government, through Afghanistan; but their overtures were disregarded, or rather misunderstood. We have thus lost an opportunity of uniting Bokhara, Khiva, and the Turkomans with Afghanistan against Red Russia. But this indifference notwithstanding, the Persians, the Afghans, and the Uzbegs were hopeful that the British nation would not listen to any solicitations of the Soviet Government without making sure that the Bolshevists would respect the liberties of the Mid-Eastern peoples. In this respect they have been disappointed.

The question "What is Poland to this country?" has been asked recently. But, keeping India in mind, can one put a similar question regarding the value of the friendship of the Persians, the Afghans, and the Uzbegs? It would, therefore, seem to be very desirable that a stipulation should be made with the representatives of Lenin's Government that the Bolshevist forces must be withdrawn from Persia before any further negotiations are entered into. Not only should a promise be taken—for as such it has shown itself to be of no value—but immediate action on the part of Soviet Russia should be demanded. Great Britain has given a solemn pledge to befriend Persia: how is that pledge being fulfilled? With the Eastern peoples it is only personal safety which is in danger; but Great Britain has more at stake—her good name and her honour in the eyes of all Asia. Persia, not Poland, ought to have been our chief concern when the Soviets were allowed to open negotiations with this country. But all is not yet lost. Central Asian opinion can yet be placated, to the great advantage of this country, and, what is more hopeful, owing to the reasons given above, that opinion is capable of being very easily swayed towards the British point of view.

Only through two means can the grave situation in the Middle East be saved, the first being that strong diplomatic pressure be brought to bear upon the Soviet representatives now in London to have the "Red" forces withdrawn from Persia and to have the attitude of their Government towards the Uzbegs modified. This must be done at once. The next step should be taken together with the Afghan Government, and should be the discussion of the question of a Federation of Central Asian States, which, if brought into friendly relations with the Indian Government, would provide a powerful first line of defence for the Indian frontier. The Afghans and the Uzbegs alike are anxious to realise the plan of the Ameer. If such a Central Asian Federation were completed, Bolshevist penetration could not proceed farther than the upper Oxus; indeed, Bolshevism would be forced to withdraw towards Orenburg. It would, therefore, undoubtedly be to British interests to place no barriers in the way of a Grand Mid-Eastern Alliance. Such an arrangement would result in the withdrawal of the Russian representatives now at Kabul. But no direct pressure should be employed for the ejection of the Bolshevist agents from Kabul or Bokhara, as such a demand might bring about what happened with Vickvitch in 1837 and Stolietoff in 1878. The formation of a Federation of the Central Asian States would by its moral force alone counteract the Bolshevist agencies, which at present agitate those countries in their separate and "independent" conditions. Nor are the Central Asian people unaware that their distance from one another has proved a source of weakness. By an alliance of the kind indicated forces would be secured and the territories of the United Khanates would be opened to commercial undertakings of importance. The cotton industry of Subzwar and the oil wells of Ferghana await development, and the Bokharian markets are eager for tea and printed cloth from the looms of the Hooghly.

The political situation has grown so complex in Central Asia that without an earnest desire to understand the Eastern point of view nothing can be accomplished. Lord Grey very wisely remarked in a speech made recently that it was of immense interest that other nations should understand the difficulties and point of view of the British Empire; and in the same manner it is of as great, perhaps even of greater, importance that the British public should endeavour to understand the point of view of the Eastern peoples, especially the peoples of Central Asia. The war is not over, nor will it be until the Eastern Question has been settled.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

HEART TONIC.

DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.

By Appointment to

KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN


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# MOSLEM TALES FROM JERUSALEM.*

## By ESTELLE BLYTH.

### The Learned Physician and his Servant.

Jerusalem is the House of Mercy and of Learning, and of all the learned and merciful men that have adorned her, not one has surpassed a certain physician who gave all his care and time to the poor and unfortunate among the Faithful. He was called one day to visit the only son of a very poor man, whom he found to be sick indeed, but not beyond hope. He went to the house daily for many days, and he could not understand why the boy became no better, though every day he gave him a new medicine, and frequently pills as well. At last one day he found the reason, though quite by chance.

"Your son has been eating *koussa* (vegetable marrow)," he said sternly to the father.

The father of the boy cried out at once: "No, no, O my lord, he has taken nothing but the milk you said he might have!" But when the wise physician insisted, the man at length confessed, with tears: "Great is the wisdom of my lord! The boy had one little bit of *koussa* this morning when he woke, because he cried for it."

As the physician left the house his servant asked him: "How did you find out that the boy had been eating *koussa*?" The physician replied: "Was not the skin of the *koussa* thrown outside the door, and to a man with eyes is not a candle enough to light his way?"

The servant said no more, but he thought in his heart, "How great a man is my master! How can I become as wise as he?"

The next day it happened that the physician had fever, and could not go out as usual; but because he was troubled about this boy, he sent his servant with a fresh bottle of medicine and bade him inquire exactly how the patient was. On entering the room the servant said no word, but, greatly to the surprise of the boy and his parents, he locked carefully all around him, and last of all behind the door, and there he saw a donkey's hoof. Straightway he seized the boy's father by the arm and shouted in his ear: "Your son has been eating a donkey!"

"Now, by the beard of the Prophet——!" cried the man.

"Words are nothing," said the physician's servant; "here is the donkey's hoof! What you have done with the other three I know not, but one is proof enough."

And he hurried away to tell his master that the boy could not be better, for he had been eating a donkey; and to show that he spoke the truth he had brought back with him one of the hoofs of the beast.

Thus were the wisdom and learning of the physician brought into disrepute by the exceeding folly of his servant.

---

The *Glasgow Herald* of August 12, in writing on "The End of Military Turkey," has the following paragraph:—

The absolute disappearance of Turkey as a military factor may be deferred for a time by the prolongation of the Kemalist operations; but the delay will be a brief one. The attempt to reform the battered Nationalist contingents under the name of the Senoussi Army might possibly have had some success if Mustafa Kemal had been really a great Mohammedan leader; but he is nothing of the sort, and the suggestion that he is now being backed up by the powerful Senoussi sect, which has its headquarters in Northern Africa but disposes of a good deal of influence also in Asia, and more particularly in the Hejaz, may be dismissed as very doubtful. Lack of money and supplies must soon render Kemal's position precarious; and, with the Nationalist movement disposed of, Turkey's fighting days will be brought to a definite conclusion. None too soon, it may be added, for there were still directions in which she could have given trouble even if no rapprochement between her and Bolshevism had been possible. In Europe she was practically a spent force, as sharply demonstrated by the futile effort lately made in Thrace to contest the Greek occupation. From Egypt she would in any case have remained cut off by political as well as territorial insulation. But a really strong Turkish leader, able to galvanise what remains of the old Turkish Army into genuine fighting efficiency, might have helped the Bolshevists to do an infinity of mischief in Persia, Syria, Mesopotamia, and Afghanistan, where already the state of affairs is by no means all that could be desired. Under Turkish leadership the Kurds may yet have to be reckoned with; but they might have been much more dangerous had Turkey continued to exist as a military Power. As things are, the Turkish Government can be called upon to take arms against any Turkish military organisation not authorised by the Treaty, and the retention of a foothold in Europe is conditional upon the fulfilment of such demands if made. Not only is the Turkish Army dead, but the Allies have security against any attempted exhumation of the corpse.

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* These tales were told to the writer by a Moslem in Jerusalem. The first of the series was published in No. 451, and others in Nos. 453, 470, and 484.

# CHESS.

## THE EDINBURGH CONGRESS.

At the time of writing, the British championship is in a very open position, and Sir G. A. Thomas does not look like scoring the easy victory that it had been anticipated he would. Probably he is a little short of practice. His closest competitors are Mr. E. G. Sergeant, always a most consistent player, who is making a most determined bid for the championship, and Mr. R. H. V. Scott, who seems to be playing much more carefully than usual. Sir George Thomas, with the exception of the game against Mr. G. E. Wainwright, which he should have lost, has displayed the soundness for which he has come to be noted, but some of the best chess of the meeting has been shown by Mr. Sergeant, who has brought off quite a number of sacrifices. The three players mentioned now stand level with 5½ each.

---

One of the most interesting contests in the first week of the Championship—interesting on account of the extremely incisive character of the play of the winner—was the game between Sir G. A. Thomas and Mr. J. H. Blake. It ran as follows:—

QUEEN'S PAWN OPENING.

| White. Sir G.A.Thomas. | Black. J.H.Blake. | White. Sir G.A.Thomas. | Black. J. H. Blake. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 P—Q4 | P—Q4 | 20 B—B3 | Q—K4 |
| 2 Kt—KB3 | Kt—KB3 | 21 R—Q4 | P—QKt4 |
| 3 P—QB4 | P—K3 | 22 Q—Q2 | R—B5 |
| 4 Kt—B3 | B—K2 | 23 R—Q | KR—QB |
| 5 P—K3 | P—B4 | 24 P—QR3 | K—B (6) |
| 6 QP x P (1) | B x P | 25 P—R5 | R x R |
| 7 P x P | P x P | 26 Q x R | Q x Q |
| 8 B—Kt5 | B—Q2 (2) | 27 R x Q | R—B4 (7) |
| 9 0—0 | 0—0 | 28 K—B | K—K2 |
| 10 Q—Kt3 | B—K3 (3) | 29 K—K | K—Q3 |
| 11 Q—B2 | QKt—Q2 (4) | 30 B—K2 | R—B (8) |
| 12 R—Q | R—B | 31 P—QR4 | P x P |
| 13 Kt—Q4 | Q—B2 (5) | 32 R x P | R—QKt |
| 14 B—K2 | B x Kt | 33 R x P (ch) | K—B4 |
| 15 R x B | Kt—K5 | 34 K—Q | P—Q5 (9) |
| 16 B—Q2 | QKt—B3 | 35 R—R5 | K—Kt5 |
| 17 Q—Q | KR—K | 36 R—R4 | K—Kt6 (10) |
| 18 R—B | Kt x B | 37 K—B (11) | Resigns |
| 19 R x Kt | P—QR3 | | |

(1) Pointing very clearly to an intention to avoid complications, and to depend solely on the slight advantage derived from creating an isolated pawn in the centre.

(2) Preferable seems Kt—B3, leaving the B free for offensive work.

(3) B—B3 would lead to the loss of a pawn.

(4) Kt—B3 might have been better. If 12 B x Kt, P x B; 13 Q—R4 (if Kt—Kt5, Q—Kt3) Q—Kt3, 14 Kt—K5, Q—Kt4 followed by B—Kt3.

(5) P—R3, followed by P—Kt4 and P—Kt5 was worth trying.

(6) Black is now in a position where there is no really satisfactory course open, and it was probably a lost game at this point.

(7) If R—B5 then 28 R x R, QP x R (if Kt P x R; 29 P—K4 and White will gain a pawn) B—Kt7 and either the RP or the KtP is lost.

(8) R—B3 would at any rate have enabled Black to put up a fighting defence for the RP. As it is, the R fills the square that should be available for the B.

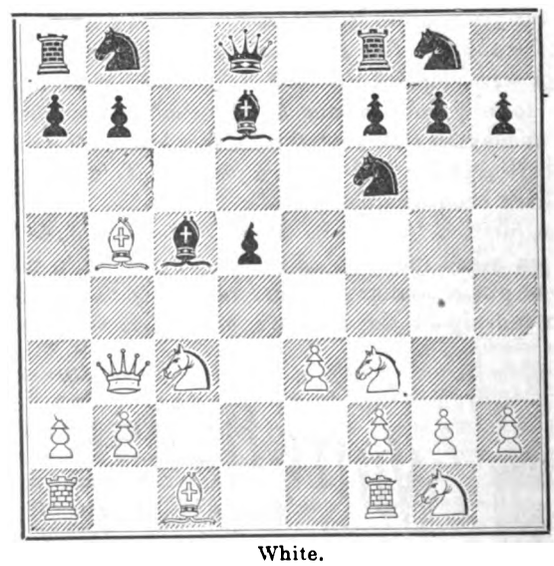
(9) It is interesting to note how the position of the Black King safeguards White's Kt P.

(10) Into the mating net.

(11) The finish is remarkably neat, the offer of the piece giving it quite a problem-like appearance.

Position after White's 10th move. Q—Kt3.

Black.



White.

CARO-KANN.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

It is eminently satisfactory to learn that the payment of coupons in arrear of the Roumanian Government bonds will very shortly be made. The announcement follows the conclusion of the mission to the British Government of M. Titulescu, the Roumanian Minister of Finance, as a result of which it is understood that a favourable settlement has been arrived at in regard to various Anglo-Roumanian financial matters. Roumania, it may be pointed out, has always been most punctilious in the discharge of her interest obligations, and, indeed, it was not until 1918 that the coupons were allowed to fall into arrear, the reason being, of course, the chaotic state into which the country had been reduced as a result of the German invasion. The resumption of the payments is a further indication that marked progress is being made in the work of reconstruction.

***

The question of compensation for the destruction of Roumania's oil wells to prevent their being utilised by the enemy was, no doubt, one of the questions which came up for settlement during M. Titulescu's visit. This question is, of course, one of special interest in view of the extensive British interests in the oilfields, the claims for compensation amounting in the aggregate to a very substantial amount.

***

There has been some uncertainty regarding the attitude of the Roumanian Government towards foreign interests in the oilfields. According to a correspondent of a contemporary, it is proposed to introduce a Bill shortly to regulate the export and home production of oil products. The export of oil will be subject to a tax not exceeding 20 per cent., which would be reduced should it be clear that it would prevent Roumanian oil from competing with foreign oil. As regards internal distribution it is understood that a new company will be formed for its regulation in which the share of producers will be 50 per cent., and that of the State and consumers 25 per cent. each.

***

The publication of "Currencies after the War" has now been followed by the issue by the League of Nations of a notable series of pamphlets embodying the material obtained from the various Governments as the result of a *questionnaire* asking for detailed information on the economic and financial situation of the world, together with the views of eminent economists on the position. The first series of these pamphlets contains statistics and other information on currency, public finance, and international trade, supplementing and bringing up to date the particulars given in "Currencies after the War." Other pamphlets which will shortly be issued will deal with such subjects as exchange control, coal production, the European transport situation, relief credits and the prevention of exports, and the schemes proposed for remedying present financial difficulties. The completion of the series will mean that for the first time there will be accessible in a comparative form details regarding the economic and commercial position of all the chief countries, in itself a most valuable achievement.

***

A considerable amount of criticism has been directed recently against the export credits scheme. It is true that the progress so far made has not been very great, only about £100,000 having been advanced out of the endowment of £26,000,000, but it must be remembered that conditions have been the reverse of favourable for the promotion of trade with some of the regions with which the scheme deals. There is also the very important fact that the business to be dealt with must consist in the main of transactions which are regarded as too hazardous by the banks. The method of doing business is for importers to deposit with approved banks sufficient currency to cover the cost of the goods, and in the event of the exchange for sterling falling to increase the deposit proportionately. That of itself must serve to check the operation of the scheme, for it follows that with the exchanges in their present condition, importers stand to suffer considerable losses as the result of violent fluctuations. Fortunately, the position is undoubtedly improving, and as the exchanges move towards parity, the tendency to take advantage of the scheme will grow.

***

Attention is drawn by our Belgrade Correspondent to Germany's endeavours to enter the Yugoslav market. In general the conditions are greatly in Germany's favour at the present time, the exchange in particular being an important factor, and it is evident from what our correspondent says that in Yugoslavia as in other markets Germany intends to profit as much as possible by her opportunity. Thus we are told that her agents are already at work, and that the circulars are arriving. But, however favourable present conditions may be for Teutonic enterprise, there is the obstacle of the remembrance of events since 1914 to be overcome, and it is not surprising that a not very cordial welcome should be awaiting the advance guard of Germany's commercial army in Yugoslavia. If Germany does obtain any measure of success it will merely be because Yugoslavia's requirements cannot be satisfied on reasonable terms in other quarters.

***

Further particulars are now available regarding the coming tractor trials in Egypt. The trials, which will be open to all classes of agricultural tractors and self-contained ploughs, will be held in two parts. The first test, which will take place at the end of January, will be ploughing of medium land for cotton in the Southern Delta, while the second, which will be held early in March, will be the ploughing of heavy land in the Northern Delta. The same machines may take part in both trials, but separate reports will be issued. These trials offer the British manufacturer a unique opportunity of entering the Egyptian market, and it may be hoped that there will be no hesitation to take advantage of it. It remains to add that firms whose machines are not already on the market and who are desirous of competing at these trials can obtain all assistance in the way of information and advice from H.M. Commercial Agent, the Residency, Cairo.

***

Manufacturers of agricultural and carpenters' tools will, I am informed, find an excellent opening at the present time in the Skoplje district of Yugoslavia, where there is a great shortage of these goods. Before the war the tools in question were principally obtained from Germany, but now British goods are desired, and, it is stated, are assured of preferential treatment by importers if only the prices are reasonable. Firms who desire to interest themselves in this particular market should send their catalogues to the British Vice-Consul, Skoplje (Uskub), Serbia.

***

I learn that a motor-car transport company is being formed in Fez by British subjects, with a working capital of £5,000, which is to be increased in the event of the company's activities proving successful. Firms interested should send catalogues and particulars to H.M. Consul, British Consulate, Fez.

COMMENTATOR.


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# Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

## YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, August 10.

**Germany and Yugoslavia.**

There has recently been a marked attempt on the part of Germany to get a foothold once more in this market. Our former enemies have much in their favour, especially a low rate of exchange, which enables them to sell beds to the Yugoslav Ministry of War at 400 marks apiece, which is a ridiculous rate compared with the price at which any British firm would have to sell. Besides this, they have the advantage of knowing the market thoroughly, and of being pushing and unscrupulous in their methods. Their agents are already at work, and their circulars are arriving. They are not, however, finding an altogether warm reception in Yugoslavia.

An association of German industrialists has recently applied to the Chamber of Commerce here with the suggestion that the Yugoslav Government should appoint a delegation in Berlin or some other industrial centre in Germany to facilitate the placing of orders in Germany for various machines, tools, and so on, and at the same time the Association promises to use its influence with its own Government to obtain facilities in transport and delivery, free from any demands for compensation articles. The Yugoslav Press do not welcome the idea. The *Politika* says that German merchants and manufacturers are to-day so demoralised that they are worse than Galician Jews, asserting that many orders have been placed by Yugoslavs in Germany, chiefly on account of the favourable rate of exchange, and in the hope of quick delivery, but though the goods have long since been paid for in advance no delivery has yet been effected.

**Miscellaneous.**

The Ministry of Agriculture is taking over the silk industry of Serbian Macedonia.

The Ministry of Public Works has approved a credit of 700,000 dinars for repairing the road from Ochrida to Bitolj (Monastir).

The Ministry of War has ordered 5,000 beds from Germany at 400 marks apiece.

## BULGARIA.

Sofia, July 31.

**Export of Maize**

The export of maize is proceeding very regularly through the port of Varna. Up to the present the Varna agency of the Consortium has despatched 1,132 tons by the s.s. Polinezia, 1,020 tons by the s.s. Scrivia, and 1,044 tons by the s.s. Tibet. A further consignment is now being shipped by the s.s. Mavritania. All these cargoes of maize are consigned to Italy to the Societa Granaria, which has contracted for 2,500 truck-loads of from 10 to 15 tons each.

The harvest is making it difficult to increase the transport of grain to the ports. For this reason there has been a certain diminution in the activities of the Consortium. The work of organising agricultural syndicates at the railway stations of the principal line is, however, proceeding successfully. Syndicates have already been established at the following stations:—Tcherven Breg, Telish, Dolni-Dubnik, Pleven, Pordim, Kamenetz, Levsky, Gornya-Orehovitza, Trumbesh, Strajitza, Pavlekiyny, Popovo, Provadia, Shumen, Varna, Kaspitehan, Esky-Djumaya, Burgas, Aitos, Haskovo, Nova-Zagora, Stara-Zagora, Yambol, Tatar-Pazardjik, Kustendil, Bela Razgrad, Lom, Orehovo, Somovit-Preslav, Krumovo, Bela-Slatina, and Svishtov.

The high prices of grains continue, and there is no likelihood of their falling owing to the harvest outlook in Europe and America. The time limit for the export of cereals has been extended.

**Production of Cereals.**

According to the official bulletin of the Ministry of Agriculture, the yield of last year's harvest was as follows:—

| | Area. (Hectares.) | | Production. (Tons). |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wheat | 841,717 | ..... | 926,112 |
| Rye | 180,406 | ..... | 164,860 |
| Mixed | 86,519 | ..... | 94,541 |
| Barley | 191,694 | ..... | 225,809 |
| Oats | 122,016 | ..... | 107,226 |
| Spelt | 7,449 | ..... | 7,523 |
| Millet | 13,587 | ..... | 13,847 |
| Maize | 563,448 | ..... | 985,296 |
| Rice | 1,779 | ..... | 2,396 |
| Buckwheat | 26 | ..... | 4·5 |
| Totals | 2,003,641 | ..... | 2,527,614 |

It is estimated that the present harvest will show a 30 per cent. increase, so that the total production of cereals should amount to about 3,286,000 tons. For internal consumption and seed 1,905,000 tons are required, so that there would remain a surplus for export of about 1,381,000 tons.

**Coal Strike.**

A strike was declared two days ago by the engineers at the Pernik coalfields. The strike is due to difficulties that have arisen between the engineers and the Ministry of Labour.

**Czecho-Slovak Delegation.**

The negotiations between the Czecho-Slovak delegates and the authorities for the development of trade relations between Czecho-Slovakia and Bulgaria having been brought to a successful issue, the delegation is to-night entertaining at a banquet the Bulgarian delegates and some of the Ministers.

**Communication with Western Thrace.**

Railway communications between Bulgaria and Western Thrace were resumed to-day, when the first train was despatched from Slivengrad (Mustapha Pasha).

## ROUMANIA.

Bucharest.

**Bread Control.**

Owing to a shortage, the sale of wheat flour is still under the control of the State, and new regulations have been issued which came into force on August 1. According to these dispositions only three grades of flour may be prepared, and in the following proportion:—10 per cent. of pastry flour at 8 lei per kilogram, 25 per cent. of first quality flour at 2.25 lei per kilogram, 40 per cent. of second quality flour at 0.34 lei per kilogram, 25 per cent. of bran shall be separated and sold at 0.25 lei per kilogram. The price for pastries and milk bread is apparently not fixed, but the prices of first and second quality loaves are respectively 2.25 and .75 lei per kilogram.

It is claimed that the cost of a 1-kg. loaf of first quality is 2.18 lei, and from the difference of 7 bani between this and the selling price 5 bani per kilogram of flour is to be paid to the Food Commission, and supervision is to be exercised by this body in all flour mills. Punishment for infringement of the law is a fine of 10,000 lei for the first offence, and 50,000 for subsequent ones. These regulations have been in force for four days, and the immediate result has been a shortage of bread, as the bakers are dissatisfied with the profits allowed them, and many refuse to bake anything but the pastries and the fine milk bread, which they have raised considerably in price. The chief sufferers are as usual the poorer classes, who have the greatest difficulty in obtaining bread.

## PALESTINE.

Jerusalem, July 25.

**Statistics of Live Stock.**

A recent census of certain animals shows the following figures for Palestine:—Sheep, 262,000, an increase of over 60,000 as compared with last year; goats, 271,750, a decrease of 40,000; camels, 9,000, a decrease of 5,500; buffaloes, 620,

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an increase of 120. While the figures for sheep and goats are satisfactory (since goats are not to be encouraged), it may be said that there would probably have been a much larger increase in the number of sheep had it not been for the excessive prices of fodder and the exceptionally severe cold and storms of last winter, which did so much harm to flocks here, and also in Syria, Asia Minor, and Cyprus. Experiments in cross-breeding in sheep should be of much interest and advantage in the future.

Wheat, barley, maize, and cotton-seed may now be imported free of Custom duty, provided that the consignees must furnish certificates, and guarantors, that any seed so imported will be used for sowing only, and not sold to the public. The penalty is an imposition of double duty.

## GURIA: A LITTLE-KNOWN REGION.

### OIL POTENTIALITIES.

(From a Correspondent.)

In the Western Caucasus, in the district at the back of Batoum and Poti, there is a little-known country called Guria. It was once an independent principality, absorbed into Russia about a hundred years ago. It has been little visited by foreigners, and the natives are suspicious of visitors, and, they say, the Tsar's writ did not run far from the main road to Osurgethi, the chief town, or from the railway line from Tiflis to Batoum, which skirts the edge of the former principality. The Gurians are a branch of the Kartheli or Georgians, and to-day form an integral portion of the Georgian Republic. They are tall and slim, active and lithe in their movements, of fiery temperament but lazy disposition; the men are well built and fine, the women often very handsome. They are mostly swarthy of complexion; frequently with a bronze glow in the hair like burnished copper. They wear the usual Caucasian costume, but prefer the *bashlyk* to the *papakha*; they do not wear it as a turban, as the Turks do, nor, except in full dress, as a university hood, as do the wearers of the *papakha*, but either as a loose Capucine hood in very sunny or wet weather, or else tied round the head with the tails sticking out at a rakish angle: there is a great art in doing this, and there are several recognised methods, though every man, especially the dandies, has his own favourite way. Instead of the rather clumsy, though very becoming, long flowing *cherkess*, they frequently wear a black or dark brown shirt, with a sash round the waist.

Guria is a hilly country, but not mountainous, the greatest altitude being about 500 feet: it consists of a series of small anticlines of Oligocene and Upper Miocene marls and soft sandstones. The climate is warm and moist and the soil productive; but the indolence of the people is an obstacle to its proper development. A French syndicate, a year or two before the war, approached a large landowner with a view to renting a portion of his estate. The landowner welcomed the Frenchmen, offering them very favourable terms. But the people would have none of it: they feared a competitive element which might compel them to work harder or deprive them of some of the extensive area available, which enabled them to farm with a minimum of labour, and they compelled the proprietor to decline the tempting offer.

Life is still primitive in Guria: it is a land of splendid forests of azaleas and rhododendrons, where luscious fruits grow wild and neglected: it is a land where the carts still have solid wheels, as they probably did in the days of Noah: it is a land where bread (only made from maize) is eaten hot, of a weight that would make an ostrich hesitate. The favourite delicacy is a piece of white goat's-milk cheese cut into a finger, which is stuffed into a hole in the hot bread and withdrawn when of the consistency of india-rubber and of a not very dissimilar flavour. Meat is rarely eaten. Wine is thin and poor; the local spirit is made from honey, and is strong and not unpleasant at first, but quickly palling. Yet with all these drawbacks the people have much charm, and the traveller who arrives with credentials is received with cordial hospitality and friendly smiles.

The hope of the country may be summed up in the word oil. Tradition associates the region with Prometheus. Here it was he gave the priceless gift of fire to mankind, while it was on the towering crags of Mt. Elbruz, not far away, where he was bound to make the eagles' daily supper. The marls and sandstones are impregnated with oil: the drinking water tastes of oil: if you scratch the sandy banks of the brooks black oil oozes out. Many years ago an enterprising Belgian syndicate bored for oil here and struck promising results: they promptly sold their interests to a group from Baku, who bought them out to prevent the development of a possible rival and stopped further exploration: to this day bitumen exudes from the old hole and provides a minor local industry. Several years later a British syndicate approached the landowners, who are here proprietors also of the mineral rights, secured concessions, and began to bore. The work was well managed: one hole struck oil in substantial quantities and showed every promise of success: another was down to a depth of several hundred feet, and a third plant was on the way, when the war broke out and business came to a standstill.

The recognition by the British Government of the Georgian Republic and the reopening of free communication with Batoum has once more brought this oilfield within the range of practical politics. The geological conditions are far more favourable than at Maikop, where the oil occurs in lenticular masses of porous sandstone, which are buried beneath horizontal beds of marls and clays, so that they can only be found by boring on chance, by groping blindly, that is to say; and this is the explanation of the wild gambling that occurred during the Maikop boom. One lucky boring was enough to encourage a host of speculators and explorers, but science could do little to advise the prospector, as there were no indications on the surface to show where the lenticles lay buried. But in Guria we have a totally different structure: the series of anticlines and synclines are very clearly marked, and the exploring company has very wisely expended a substantial outlay on a thorough geological survey, which has been admirably carried out by two competent geologists, who have thus been able to direct the explorers in their search for a site and to indicate places where chances are favourable, and to avoid those where a negative result is to be expected. The war has shown the disadvantages of the remoteness of the Baku oilfield, and even in the piping times of peace the Grozny field was not exactly a safe resort owing to its proximity to the fastnesses of the Chechents and other wild tribes. One chieftain from the mountains was hunted by the Russian authorities for years with a price on his head, but he defied them to the end, and cheated them even in death. He raided Grozny from time to time, murdered officials, and looted stores and motors. In Guria the population look forward to the development of the oilfield, which will bring them prosperity, and during the dark days of isolation did much to preserve the plant from ruin. The place is of easy access from the Black Sea, and is a very promising field for development.

### OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Hurgada production for the week ended August 6, 2,675 tons (last week, 2,441 tons).

British Burmah.—Total production of crude oil by this company and the Rangoon Oil Company amounted to 62,230 barrels for month of July.

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# INDIA'S COAL RESOURCES.—II.*

By JOHN KIRSOPP, M.I.M.E., F.G.S.

The Indian fields may firstly be divided into two broad categories, viz. :—

1. The Gondwana fields, the coal of which occurs in the lower portion of the Gondwana system, and is approximately of permo-carboniferous age.

2. The Tertiary fields, the coal of which is of Eocene or Miocene age. Under this heading may be also grouped a few small and unexploited fields belonging to the Cretaceous and others the Jurassic age.

The Gondwana fields are by far the most important, contributing over 96 per cent. of the total Indian output. Originally they must have covered a very much wider area, but owing to the free action of weathering agents, they have been very largely cut into or denuded, and now form but a fraction of those that once existed, being preserved as small patches let down mostly by faulting into the great crystalline mass of the peninsula. Isolated patches of coal-bearing rocks have been involved in the folder extra-peninsula area in the Darjhiling district and in Northern Assam. The string of patches determining the direction of the river Damuda includes, however, the most valuable deposits of coal, as also the valleys of the Mahanadi and Godavari rivers on the eastern side of India, the Mahadoe and Galpura ranges on the western, and also under the great basic flow known as the Rajmahal trap in the Rajmahal hills of Bihar.

The Gondwana system may be classified into two sub-divisions, Upper and Lower, but it is only in the Lower that coal seams of importance have been found. This is again divided into three series: (1) Panchel; (2) Damuda (Raniganj stage, ironstone shales, Barrakur stage); and (3) Tatchir.

The Damuda series is the only important one from an economic point of view, and supplies all the Gondwana coal that is being exploited. The principal coal fields are found in the following provinces; Bengal, Bihar and Orissa (the most important known as the Giridh, Raniganj and Jharia fields), Central India, the Central Provinces, and Hyderabad.

The chief fields, arranged according to provinces, are:—Bengal—(1) Raniganj (in part); Bihar and Orissa, (2) Giridih, (1a) Raniganj (in part), (3) Jharia, (4) Bokaro, (5) Karanpuro, (6) Auranga-Hutar, (7) Daltonganj, (8) Rajmahal, (9) Darjeeling, (10) Talchir; Central India—(11) Umaria, (12) Sohagpur, (13) Singrauli; Central Provinces—(14) Ihilmili and other fields of the Sirguja and Chattisgarh basin, (15) Mohpani, Pench, Shahpur (Salpura basin), (16) Ballapur and other fields of the Wardha valley and Godavari basin; Nizam's Dominions—Singareni.

Of these the first ten lie within the limits of the old frontiers of Bengal, and have long been known collectively as the "Bengal coalfields." As a result of the territorial redistribution of 1912 most of the coalfields were transferred to the new province of Bihar and Orissa. Up to the present time only three of these fields have been developed to any appreciable extent, these being the Raniganj, Giridh, and Jharia fields.

At the end of 1918, in the province of Bengal, six small mines were operating in the Bankura and Birbhum districts of the Raniganj field, and in the Burdwan district of this field there were 193 operating mines, the output from the entire field aggregating 4,471,005 tons of steam coal and 903,858 tons of slack, 4,549 tons of hard and 23,197 tons of soft coke being made, compared with a total of 4,649,852 tons for the year 1913.

The average analyses of the Bengal coals may be taken as follows:—

(*a*) Raniganj upper seams:—moisture, 6.81 per cent.; volatile matter, 32.19 per cent.; fixed carbon, 44.76 per cent.; ash, 16.24 per cent; calorific value (estimated), 5,870 calories.

(*b*) Raniganj lower seams:—moisture, 3.76 per cent.; volatile matter, 31.57 per cent.; fixed carbon, 49.68 per cent.; ash, 15.05 per cent.; calorific value (estimated), 6,417 calories.

(*c*) Burrakur seas:—moisture, 1.06 per cent.; volatile matter, 25.96 per cent.; fixed carbon, 56.22 per cent.; ash, 16.76 per cent.; calorific value (calculated), 6,915 calories.

The Raniganj coalfield covers an area of about 500 square miles. The best seams are known as the Dishargarh, Sancloria, and Sibpur, probably comprising about 518 million tons of first class coal, containing carbon, 75 to 90 per cent.; volatile matter, 12 to 15 per cent.; and a calorific value of 7,700 to 8,800 calories. Three other seams of not quite such good quality are estimated to contain 360 million tons, and the total supply of the field is placed at about twenty thousand million tons. Much of this, however, is of poor quality, and falls into the category of "second class" coal.

At the end of 1918, in the district of Sonthal Parganas, there were six working mines in the Raniganj field, yielding a total output of 9,317 tons for the year, whilst in the Jainty field four mines were operating, having a total output of 137,464 tons. The total yield from these two fields amounted to 136,933 tons of steam coal and 11,781 tons of slack, compared with a total of 5,400 metric tons for 1913.

The Jharia coalfield covers an area of 150 square miles, consisting chiefly of beds of the Runekin stage, in which there are 18 coal seams. The seams of the Raniganj field are comparatively thinner and of poorer quality, although there is one seam of value. Of the Burrakur seams the nine lowest are of inferior quality. It is estimated that about 500 tons of "first class" coal is available in this field, whilst the quality of "second class" coal is very large, being comparable to that available in the Raniganj field.

*The first article of this series appeared on July 1.

At the end of 1918 in the Manbhum district there were 324 working mines in the Jharia field aggregating a total output of 10,761,848 tons, and 86 mines operating in the Raniganj field with a total output of 1,056,907 tons. The total yield from these two fields amounted to 10,248,394 tons steam and 1,959,487 tons slack, compared with a total production of 8,681,087 metric tons for the year 1913. 136,008 tons of hard coke and 212,008 tons of soft were produced in 1918.

The Giridh coalfield is a small one, covering only 11 square miles, but much of the coal produced is of excellent quality. Of the seams the upper group (the Hill seams), only yield an inferior fuel, but the lower (the Karharbari seams), yield a first class coal, 9 to 21 feet in thickness, and covering an area of 2¾ square miles calculated to contain a reserve of thirty millions tons of coal. Large quantities of coal in both groups have been completely destroyed by igneous dykes, but the Hill seams are believed to contain an additional eight million tons worth extracting.

In the Hazaribagh district, at the end of 1918, in the Bokaro-Ramgarh coalfield, twelve working mines yielded 541,422 tons for year, ten mines operating in the Giridih field gave 846,592 tons, and five in the Jharia field 189,212 tons, a total of 1,567,226 tons, of which 1,233,789 tons was steam, compared with a total of 811,752 tons produced in 1913. In 1918, 45,284 tons of hard coke and 5,064 tons soft were produced.

(*To be continued.*)

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## RAILWAYS IN THE RED SEA REGION.

### New Schemes Outlined.

The Aden, Red Sea, commercial district, which includes the Arabian Red Sea Provinces of lower Hedjaz, Asir, and Yemen, and Gulf of Aden territory, on the Asiatic side, and Eritrea, Abyssinia, and the Somalilands, on the African side, is very poor in railways, says the American Consul at Aden, Mr. Addison Southard, in a recent report. The approximate area of this district is 850,000 square miles, and the population is estimated at from 12,000,000 to 15,000,000. The entire territory has considerably less than a thousand miles of railways.

**Franco-Ethiopian Railway.**

The railway which runs from Jibuti, on the Gulf of Aden, to Adis Abeba, the capital of Abyssinia, is the oldest and longest in the district. It was begun in 1897, but was not completed until 1916. The engineering difficulties encountered were not great, but the financing of the project caused the long delay in its completion. According to figures available, the steepest gradient is 1 in 140, and its sharpest curve 164 yards radius. The length of this railroad is about 487½ miles, nearly one-half of which is through desert or semi-desert country. Somewhat less than the last half passes through fertile country of considerable agricultural and grazing value. The trip from Jibuti to Adis Abeba is made in three one-day stages.

The Franco-Ethiopian Railway is of metre gauge (39.37 inches). The ties or sleepers are of steel and, together with the rolling stock, are of French make. The locomotives and passenger coaches are small and most of the freight wagons are of from 10 to 20 metric tons capacity. Open wagons are much used for the moving of freight on the Jibuti half of the road, as there is very little rainfall. Coal and wood are used for fuel. The present equipment is old, and much of it will soon need to be replaced. The operating company is known as the Compagnie du Chemin de Fer Franco-Ethiopian.

**Massowah-Asmara Railway.**

The second railway built in this district was the one running from the Red Sea port of Massowah to Asmara, on the plateau of the Italian colony of Eritrea, a distance of about 80 miles. It was begun in 1900 by military forces of the Italian Government, and was completed in 1911. Beginning on the coastal plain, it runs for some miles through desert country, then rising through the rocky and semi-barren foothills to the mountains of the main plateau, which it ascends to Asmara, the capital of the colony, about 7,500 feet above sea level. Considerable engineering difficulties attended the building of this 90-centimetre gauge (35.43 inches) railway. From the foothills the gradient is, for most of the way, 1:28 or 1:29. There are a number of sharp curves, bridges, viaducts, and tunnels. There are in all 29 tunnels, of which the longest is nearly 900 yards in length. The journey by train is made in six hours, and some remarkable scenic effects are offered.

This road is owned and operated by the government of the Italian colony of Eritrea. It is well ballasted, and the ties or sleepers are steel. The equipment is well taken care of, but has been in use for some years, and much of it will soon need replacement. Coal is the usual fuel, but owing to its shortage wood has been used to some extent.

**Railway to Abyssinian Potash Mine.**

From the little Red Sea port of Mersa Fatimari, about 70 miles south of the port of Massowah, there has been built a light narrow-gauge railway of the Decauville type. This road has a length of about 46 miles over desert country and reaches the Abyssinian frontier. It was built, and is used, for the hauling of potash salts from a deposit which is in the Asale salt plains, about 10 miles beyond the terminus. Originally small steam locomotives were used, but owing to the scarcity of water this was found to be very expensive and almost impracticable. Motor trucks were fitted to the rails, and about 16 of them are now used by the company working the potash deposits. This company is known as the Societa Mineraria Coloniale. The potash railway runs over desert plains, and no engineering difficulties had to be overcome in constructing it. Keeping the tracks clear of drifting sands is sometimes a problem during the seasons when the hot winds are strongest.

**Aden-Lahej Railway.**

The Aden-Lahej Railway was begun in 1915 by British military forces operating from Aden against Turkish forces on the Arabian mainland. It was built through to Lahej, about 25 miles from Aden, in 1918-19, and has now been extended a few miles beyond that desert oasis. The gauge is 1 metre (39.37 inches). The equipment was originally used on the Bombay, Baroda & Central India Railway in British India; it is old and must soon be replaced to insure efficient operation. This is a Government-owned military road, but when not required for military use is available for the transportation of commercial products.

**Lines Projected or Being Constructed.**

In addition to those already discussed, there is nearing completion a railway from Asmara to Keren in the Italian colony of Eritrea. It runs north from Asmara, a distance of 105 kilometres (65.24 miles), and may be opened for traffic during the present year. Its purpose is to connect the Red Sea port of Massowah, via Asmara, with the commercial caravan routes converging on Keren from the Sudan and the potentially rich Barca River district of Eritrea.

Italian railways are proposed from Asmara south via Adi Caieh, or Adi Quala, into Abyssinia; and from Keren via Agordat, Elaghim, and Gondar, in Abyssinia, to Adis Abeba; but their actual construction is still a matter for future consideration. They will be important in the opening up of the very rich districts of the Abyssinian Eritrean Plateau, which is well watered and fertile, and there would seem to be no doubt as to their eventual construction.

A project for building a railway, distance under 300 miles, from the port of Assab across the waterless Danakil desert to the productive Abyssinian plateau near Dessie has been considered by the Italian Colonial Government. This would be less expensive to construct than others projected within the colony of Eritrea, and would incidentally open a potentially very rich commercial field which would offer skins, hides, and other raw products for export, and would take considerable quantities of general hardware and kerosene, and of such simple manufactures as unbleached cotton piece goods and yarn.

There has also been considered the extension of the Franco-Ethiopian Railway, by French interests, from Adis Abeba southwest to Gambela on the Sobat River, a distance of about 400 miles. Here there is in the rainy season steamboat connection with Khartoum via the Sobat and White Nile Rivers, a distance of about 900 miles. This road would open up very rich and important commercial territory, but the approximately 400-mile route across mountainous country would make construction expensive and entail considerable engineering difficulties.

Other railway schemes for opening up the rich territory of Abyssinia are roads from Adis Abeba south through Italian Somaliland to the Indian Ocean port of Itala in that territory (by Italian interests), and from Dire-Dawa, a station on the present Franco-Ethiopian Railway, to Harrar in Abyssinia (by French interests), with a possible extension eastward to the port of Zeila in British Somaliland (by British interests). This latter scheme will possibly be the first to receive active or definite consideration.

On the Asiatic side of the Red Sea there is the projected railway from port of Hodeida to Sanaa, the capital of Yemen Province. Several years ago this railway was actually surveyed and construction begun by a syndicate formed in Paris. Five or six miles of single metre gauge track were put down and some thousands of tons of material for further construction landed near Hodeida. The war between Italy and Turkey in 1912 interfered; and the European war, following shortly, prevented further progress. The material lies rusting on the beach. When the political status of the Arabian Red Sea coast has been decided, and conditions approach normal, it is possible that this important project will be revived, presumably by British interests. For the first 40 or 50 miles the track would run across lowland, and construction would not be too difficult or expensive. For the remaining distance of approximately 100 miles to Sanaa it would have to be built through the foothills and difficult mountains, rising to Sanaa, on the Yemen Plateau, some 7,000 or 8,000 feet above sea level. Such a road would open up a very rich, well-watered, inland plateau, which could feed the desert coastal plains with its agricultural products, and which would offer greatly increased supplies of the famous Mocha coffee, skins, hides, and other raw products for export to world markets through the port of Hodeida.

## CROP CONDITIONS IN TRANSYLVANIA.

The area under cultivation in Transylvania and the Roumanian Banat is below that of normal years, a fact partly due to the scarcity of draught animals and agricultural machinery, and the migration to towns and industrial centres of field workers (says H.M. Consul at Cluj in a recent report). With regard to the harvest, the prospects of winter-sown grain were greatly improved by good rains in May, and field work which had been hampered was resumed under more favourable conditions. Spring sowing is now finished and the grain, especially maize, is said to be coming up very well. Fodder is also satisfactory. On the whole a good average crop may be expected. There have been no hailstorms or late frosts, which so often damage the fruit crops in Transylvania, and the vines are also reported to be doing well.

According to a recent report published in the local press, the area sown last autumn in Transylvania was as follows:—Maize, 598,220 hectares; rye, 68,380 hectares; barley, 23,791 hectares; rape, 1,122 hectares.

The prospects of the tobacco crop are also good. The area under cultivation has increased from 3,000 hectares in 1919 to 4,500 hectares in 1920, and this year's production is estimated at 4,500 to 5,000 tons. This is about 20 per cent. of the estimated yield for the whole country. The requirements of Greater Roumania being roughly 15,000 tons, it is expected that about 10,000 tons will be available for export. Hungarian leaf tobacco and Turkish "yaca" tobacco are grown for the first time in this district this year.

The cultivation of potatoes has increased considerably of late years, and a company with a capital of 20 million kronen has been formed in Sibiu for the manufacture of starch, syrup, sugar, etc., from potatoes.

Fifteen thousand wagons of Roumanian maize, oats, and millet are to be set aside for export out of this and last year's crops, and in exchange it is proposed to import agricultural machinery, agricultural implements, cotton and linen. It is understood that those peasants who have sown more than one hectare this year will be supplied with these necessaries at cost price.

It is estimated that about 10,000 tons of tobacco will be available for export from Roumania this season.

The prohibition on the importation of cinematograph films into Yugoslavia has been withdrawn.

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## ENGINEERING.

### An Efficient Tractor.

A tractor which drives on all three wheels has recently been brought to my notice, and so far as I can judge without actually seeing the machine at work it is likely to prove highly efficient. It is original in design, and I hear that the makers have received an offer to take supplies of these to the value of one million pounds sterling as soon as they can be produced.

The tractor is an entirely different proposition from others on the market, and is typically British in the entire originality of its design. It seems as though it should be one of the best types of tractor for hilly country, as, amongst a number of other good points, it has a very low centre of gravity. I suppose to some extent the machine is an outcome of the experience of working American tractors in England and Scotland. At the same time, it is something of a revolution in tractor building, and as such it is of interest to note that it did remarkably well at the recent tractor trials. It was never in difficulties, and looked as if it could be seen to greater advantage under much more trying tests.

In regard to the advantages of a three-wheel drive, it is pointed out that tractor wheels, when not driven, press down into the soil only, and use up power in so doing. If a tractor is driven by the back wheels only, the reactions due to driving the tractor tend to raise the front end. In the same way, if the front wheels are driven, these reactions tend to raise the back part of the machine. Only when all wheels drive can the tractor remain stable when pulling heavily. If the tractor is fitted with a differential the pull on the draw-bar is only twice the wheel effort of the slipping wheel. In certain cases this may only be 60 per cent. of the grip on the other wheel; therefore the draw-bar pull can fall, when most required, to 60 per cent. of the rated horse-power at the draw-bar. From this it is argued that the ideal tractor must have all three wheels driven, and be designed so as to work without a differential.

The tractor in question weighs 4,200 lb., and is driven by a four-cylinder engine of 4⅛ by 5¼ bore and stroke. It is rated at about 27 brake horse-power, and can be fitted for use with either petrol or paraffin. The oiling system is a combination of forced feed and splash lubrication, and the tank has a capacity of 14 gallons. The wheel-base is 6 ft. 3 ins.; total width, 5 ft.; total height, 4 ft. 10 ins.; and total length, 11 ft. The front wheels are 3 ft. 3 ins. by 9 ins. face, and the back wheel 3ft. 3 ins. by 12 ins. face. The engine is, of course, water-cooled, and the radiator, which is of the gilled tube type, is of 8 gallons capacity. The ignition is by high-tension magneto, and the reduction gears are of chrome nickel-steel, hardened, heat treated, and accurately ground. The speeds are 5 miles per hour on top, 2½ miles per hour on low, and 2¾ miles per hour on reverse. Altogether this tractor seems to be a thoroughly sound engineering proposition.

### Car Lighting.

Now that the summer is well advanced, car owners are beginning to turn their attention to the subject of lighting, and many who have hitherto been content with gas sets are now deciding to have an electric lighting or a combined electric lighting and starting set fitted where possible. It is not a difficult matter to instal one of these, but the starting presents rather more difficulty than does that of lighting alone. In most cars there is ample room for a lighting dynamo and a small storage battery, and the main question for consideration is not so much the actual fixing but the matter of driving.

### The Dynamo.

Naturally, the position of the dynamo will vary with the different makes of car, but it should be placed so as to get as direct a drive as possible, and, further, it should be well protected from the weather, from road dirt, and from oil and grease. The best place to arrange a drive is, of course, off the clutch shaft between the clutch and the gear-box, or under the bonnet. If it is not possible to fix the generator in that position, it may be driven off the cardan shaft as near to the foot-brake drum as can be arranged. If any other method of driving can be adopted, however, it would be as well to avoid driving from the cardan shaft, especially if the car has a heavy body, as there is always a certain amount of movement, or "whip," about the chassis, which would put undue strain on the belt, which might break in consequence. It is advisable to keep the dynamo as far away from the exhaust pipe and silencer as possible, as the majority of car-lighting dynamos are built within a fair margin of their capacity, and it is consequently advisable to keep them as cool as possible.

Something may be said here as to the kind of belt to be used, and whilst the writer prefers leather it goes without saying that the old-fashioned flat belt should not be used, as not only is it inconvenient as regards size, and liable to slip, but it collects dust and dirt, and wears the pulleys badly. The V-type leather link belt should be used, although fairly good results can be obtained from round belting if the other is unobtainable. A ⅝-inch leather link belt is most usually employed, although one of slightly larger size may be used if space permits. The best link belts are those of the built-up type, with which fasteners are not required. Belt fasteners are seldom a success in dynamo driving, as owing to the small size of the dynamo pulley the fasteners are constantly breaking.

It goes without saying that the dynamo and driving pulleys should be in perfect alignment, the alignment being taken from the centre to centre of the V-grooves of the pulleys. If out of truth to even a small extent the belt will wear badly, and the pulleys soon require renewing.

The gear ratio to be employed between the engine and the dynamo will vary slightly with the different engine speeds, but according to the Rotax Motor Accessories Co., Ltd., who have made a special study of car lighting and the building of car-lighting dynamos for many years, 2 to 1 will generally be found satisfactory; that is, the dynamo should be running at about twice the engine speed. Many car-lighting dynamos will commence charging the battery at about 700 revolutions per minute, and attain their rated output at about 1,700. What should be done in this matter is to ascertain first the revolutions at which the dynamo will give its rated output; then ascertain the speed of the shaft on which the driven pulley is to be placed, taking this speed at the average normal running speed of the car, and calculate out the necessary diameters of the pulleys accordingly.

### Power Alcohol.

In engineering circles generally the memorandum issued by the Fuel Research Board, which is considering the whole question of fuel for use in connection with internal combustion engines, under the auspices of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, has been received with some degree of amusement. It would seem as though the committee had carefully avoided going into any but the most orthodox and old-fashioned suggestions for producing power alcohol; had judged these wanting, and then had


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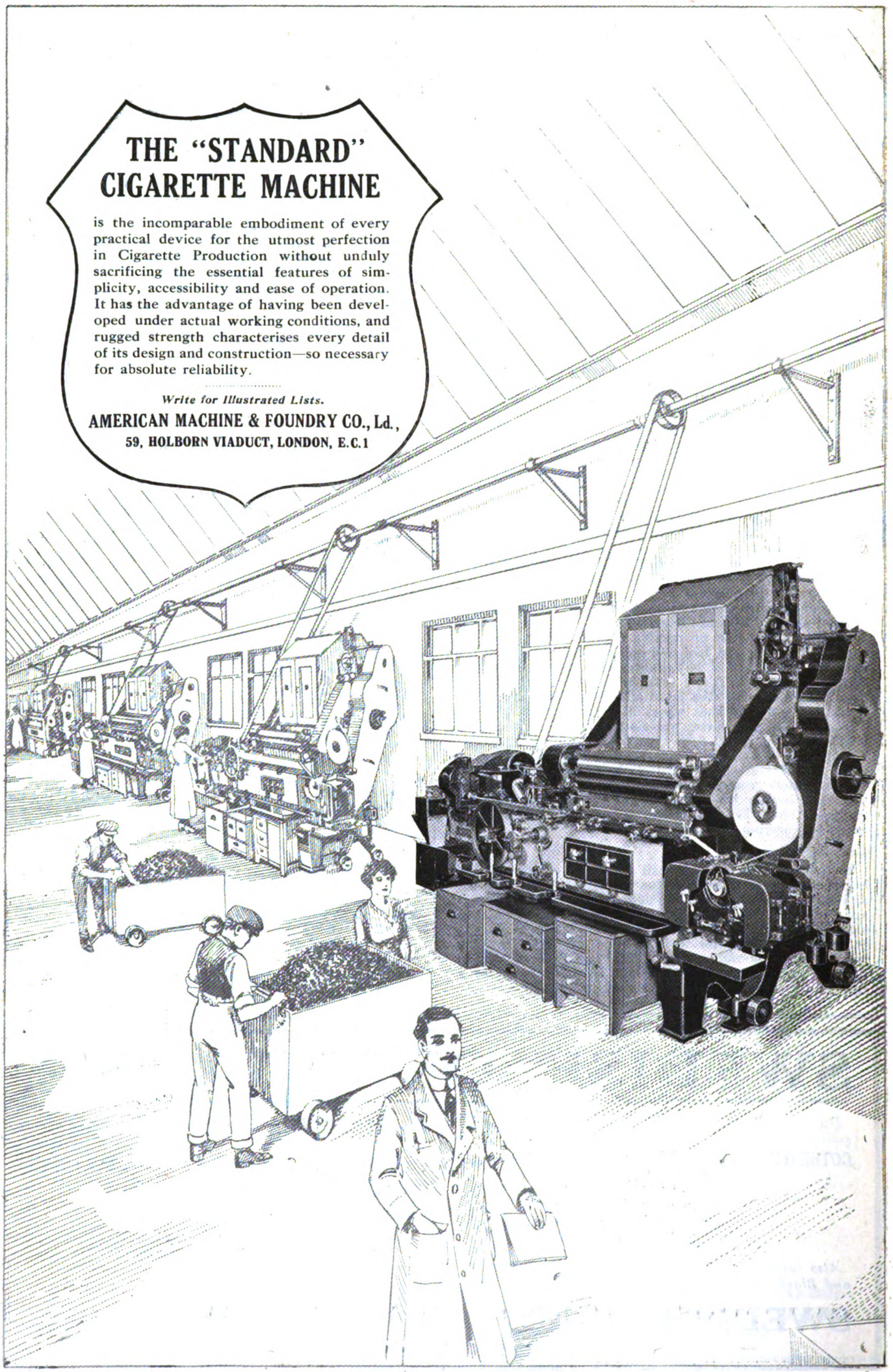


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immediately rushed out a report to say that in their opinion nothing could be done in the matter.

One or two writers on the subject have been content to take the findings of the board as final, and recently one definitely stated that power alcohol was an imaginary fuel . . . neither practical nor possible. As a matter of fact, it is a very practical and possible fuel that has been used for internal combustion work in certain other countries for many years, either alone or in combination with benzol, petrol, or paraffin. It is argued that power alcohol, made from barley, would cost for raw material alone about 7s. per gallon. If potatoes were used the cost would be about 8s. 6d., while in the case of mangolds the cost would be 3s. Obviously, very considerable acreages would be required to grow the crops, and for a production of 250,000,000 gallons (the estimated consumption of petrol in the United Kingdom this year) it would be necessary to put 5,593,293 acres under barley, 2,118.64 acres under potatoes, and 1,282,513 acres under mangolds.

This is all very much beside the point. No engineer would propose to grow barley or mangolds for distillation. On the other hand, he would produce his alcohol from other starch-containing vegetation; from the waste lye of paper and pulp mills; from the Indian bassia flowers; from calcium carbide; and from a host of other readily available and cheap materials.

**Car Lighting Accumulators.**

In the majority of instances the accumulator set accompanying a car-lighting outfit is sent out by the makers or suppliers in a dry state, in which case the requisite quantity of dilute sulphuric acid must be added. If the cells, on the other hand, have been sent out filled with acid and charged, they should, on receipt, be carefully cleaned and the brass terminals coated with vaseline. Any acid that may have been spilled in transit should be replaced, and care should be taken in this event to use acid diluted to the correct specific gravity, which is 1.200. The acid used is the finest sulphuric, known in the trade as "brimstone acid," and this is diluted to the required degree with pure distilled water. If the cells are sent out dry they must be filled to the correct height with this acid, and careful attention must be given to the first charge, otherwise trouble will be certain to ensue.

The battery, for the first charge, must be filled and the charging commenced at once at the rate given on the instruction label or card which is always sent out by makers with the battery. This first charge must be continued for twenty-four hours without any break, and no current must be drawn from the cell on any account until the charging is completed. This will be known by reason of the cells being in a state of fairly violent effervescence, gas being given off in fine bubbles. The positive plates will by that time have turned to a fine chocolate-brown colour, and the negative plates to a clean slate-grey. At full charge each separate cell should give from 2.25 to 2.5 volts, or where they are arranged in 4-volt units, from 4.5 to 5 volts. If the specific gravity of any cell is above 1.215 when tested with the hydrometer, fresh dilute acid should be added to bring the figure to the correct degree. On the other hand, as the Rotax Manufacturing Co., Ltd., point out in their excellent little descriptive pamphlet dealing with their lighting sets, if any cell has not risen to 1.215 specific gravity, on no account should stronger acid be added. Subsequent charging will bring the cell up to the proper reading in due course. The level of the acid, by the way, should not reach higher than a quarter of an inch above the plates.

Undercharging will cause the acid to decrease in density gradually, and the positive plates may then become coated in patches with a white deposit known as sulphate. This can be broken down in the early stages by charging the cells fully, but if it is allowed to continue to form the plates will commence to deteriorate, and will ultimately go to pieces.

The cells should never, in the case of the usual 12-volt battery, be drawn upon until the voltage given registers below 11 volts, the reading being taken with all lamps alight. The cell must never be allowed to stand in a discharged condition, and the battery should never be allowed to give off its energy quickly, or otherwise than through the lamps or the starting motor, as otherwise the strain will cause the plates to buckle or bend, doing them serious and perhaps irreparable injury. Any corrosion that may be found to be taking place on the brass terminals should be thoroughly cleaned off as soon as it is noticed, and the metal parts coated with vaseline. Only pure water should be added to any cell that has lost part of its contents through evaporation, but spilt acid should be replaced by acid of approximately the same specific gravity as that in the cell.

**Non-Porous Container.**

As a result of a good many years of strenuous work in the laboratory and the drawing office, in which use has had to be made of a great deal of highly specialised chemical and metallurgical knowledge, I understand that a perfectly non-porous metal container for use in electric salt-bath furnaces has now been designed and placed on the market. This new device permits of a very wide range of control for the furnace, and the operation is as simple as could be imagined. The new type of metal pots are replaced simply by lifting up the furnace and removing the pot, a matter of only a second or two. The firm who have introduced this device have also brought out a new range of electric furnaces, which I hope to be able to describe shortly. I am informed that by use of these furnaces and the new non-porous container, where electrical energy is obtainable at a cost of one penny per unit, a ton of small steel tools can be hardened or otherwise heat-treated for about £2 5s. or less. I understand that the use of metal pots of this description constitutes an entirely new departure in electric furnace practice.

**A Touring Machine.**

One of the highest class touring planes I have yet had the pleasure of inspecting is the three-seater model, Bristol "Puma," which is intended for use as a high-speed, cross-country tourer. With its high-powered engine, large tank capacity, sturdy construction, excellent stability, and the ease with which it can be manœuvred it is eminently a machine suitable for safe and comfortable flying in all weather conditions; and more than that, its special features allow of it taking-off from and landing in comparatively small and restricted areas.

The engine used is the well-known Siddeley "Puma," which is of the six-cylinder vertical water-cooled type. It will develop 246 brake horse-power when running at its full normal speed of 1,400 revolutions per minute, but it may be run at as high a speed as 1,500 r.p.m. for short periods, at which speed it will develop 255 brake horse-power. The ignition is dual, for safety's sake, two six-cylinder type high-tension magnetos being fitted.

It is interesting to note that the carburettors, which are of the Claudel-Hobson type, are made with an altitude adjustment, which allows a correct mixture being obtained at any height above 10,000 ft., below which it is not necessary. For that reason, as an additional lever and control might be a source of danger in unexperienced hands, this altitude adjustment is, as a standard, locked at the carburettors in the Bristol Puma tourer, and no actuating mechanism is fitted.

A two-bladed air-screw, which is 9 ft. 6 in. in diameter by 7 ft. 7 in. mean face pitch, is fitted, and I understand that this particular size and pitch has been arrived at and decided to be the most suitable, after a good deal of experiment and calculations. What was required was an air-screw so proportioned as to give the best all-round performance, and this apparently has been found in the one which is fitted as a standard.

In this type of machine, a nose radiator is fitted between the fore end of the engine and the air-screw. This gives the best and simplest possible water-cooling system, and has been installed after the maker's careful consideration of other types. Venetian blind shutters are fitted to the front of the honeycomb surface, adjustable for the pilot's seat, and capable of covering entirely the honeycomb area, should climatic conditions render this advisable. This, as every airman knows, is a specially desirable feature in long glides. The pilot's seat, by the way, is so placed in the fuselage that his eyes are about 6 in. below and about 6 in. behind the trailing edge of the top centre section, this position having been found the best for visibility. The passengers are seated side by side in a comfortable and fairly roomy cockpit immediately behind the pilot.

I notice that the setting of the fixed tail plane is adjustable by means of a hand lever on the right-hand side of the pilot's cockpit, and by its use the machine may be trimmed so as to fly level with the pilot's hands off the controls. This can be done irrespective of the weight of the passengers and cargo, and, moreover, a glance at the hand lever will show the tail setting. I am informed that the Bristol three-seater tourer can also be fitted wih a coupe body in order to provide full protection for the weather for the passengers or the cargo. This coupe has been so stream-lined that the performance of the machine is in no way impaired.

The total weight of this machine, empty, is 1.900 lbs., and it carries 70 gallons of petrol, six gallons of oil, and seven gallons of water. Its total loaded weight is 3.120 lbs.

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Messrs. J. J. Brown, F. W. Ingall, and D. N. Youle have been appointed general managers of the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank. The general management is now constituted as follows:—Chief general managers, Messrs. F. J. Barthorpe and John Rae; general managers, Messrs. J. C. Robertson, W. H. Inskip, J. J. Brown, F. W. Ingall, and D. N. Youle.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd., for the week ended July 20, amounted to £E12,784; total for year, £E128,921.

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**Industria Forestiera din Transilvania.—Capital, 12,000,000 Lei**
**Industria Chimica Romana.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei**
**Tipografia Gutemberg.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei**
**Casele Populare.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei**
**Crucea Societate pentru comertul si industria de vestminte si odoare bisericesti.—Capital, 1,000,000 Lei**
**Minele de Aur din Romania.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei**
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In 1914 the cultivated area was (according to an estimate of Dr. Colesco) 34,475,750 acres; of which 13,074,922 were ploughed lands, 468,670 were vineyards and orchards, 1,436,960 were meadows, 2,948,472 were pastures, and 5,705,750 were forests.

**POPULATION. About 17,400,000.**

**IMPORTS (1915). £8,533,234.**

United Kingdom, £348,997; Austria-Hungary, £3,718,182; Belgium, £43,230; Germany, £3,575,159; France, £660,287; Turkey, £558,238; Italy, £762,023.

**EXPORTS (1915). £21,742,379.**

United Kingdom, £2,238; Austria-Hungary, £13,576,255; Belgium, £2,343; Germany, £7,044,803; Turkey, £443,325; Italy, £37,838.

[NOTE.—In 1914 the Imports from the U.K. amounted to £2,231,773, and the Exports to it to £1,433,535.]

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**Branches in BAZARGIC, BRAILA, CONSTANTZA, CZERNOWITZ (Bucovina), GALATZ, KISHINEFF (Bessarabia), SILISTRIA, TULCEA, TEMESVAR.**

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**Auditors:**—D. MATAK, Engineer, Manufacturer; H. FULGA, retired, former Bank Manager; V. V. STEFAN, former General Manager of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce; Em. DAN, former General Manager in the Ministry.

**General Manager:**—N. P. STEFANESCO, Engineer, Inspector-General, former General Manager of the Navigation Fluviale du Danube.

**Manager:**—I. SAVESCO. **Sub-Managers:**—N. BANULESCO, C. T. TEODORESCO, Ion C. PILIDI, S. HENZEL, D. CONSTANTINESCO.

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**Telegraphic Address: ROMANEASCA, BUCAREST.**

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## THE FORESTS OF ANATOLIA.

The forests of Anatolia, which have been exploited commercially, can be divided into two general geographical divisions: The forests of the district of Sinope, three in number; and those of the Boyabad district, which also number three. As yet no concerns capable of exploiting these forests on an important scale have undertaken to obtain the necessary concessions from the Ottoman Government (says the American Consul at Samsoun, Mr. S. Pinkney Tuck, in a recent report). They have been worked mainly by local Turkish contractors on a small scale. Modern sawmill machinery is but little in evidence, and almost all work is done by hand in the most primitive way. There is no doubt that if modern machinery were introduced, and the conservation of these forests undertaken on scientific lines, the lumber industry of Anatolia would assume considerable proportions. Labour is cheap, water power plentiful, and the roads for transportation of lumber to the sea coast are adequate.

### Sinope District.

The forest of Seuyiouk-Dagh is situated between the villages of Cherze (near the Black Sea coast) and Allatcham, a tobacco-growing centre in Anatolia. It lies about 44 miles from the coast line and measures, roughly, 90 by 60 miles in extent, containing about 225,000 cubic feet of pine and spruce. That it has never been exploited is owing chiefly to the lack of roads to the coast. The forest of Tchantall-dagh lies between the villages of Boyabad and Avandjik (fifty miles to the west of Sinope) and its extent is approximately 70 by 105 miles. Its distance from the shore is eleven miles, and it contains about 1,500,000 cubic feet of pine and spruce. Logs are either floated down a small river to the village of Olousa or carried by ox cart overland to the coast.

The forest of Ellek-Dagh is situated between Boyabad and Sinope and lies fifty miles from the Black Sea. Cut wood is transported by ox cart to the coast line. There is one stream sawmill and numerous handsaw mills at a small village in the forest.

### Boyabad District.

The town of Bafra is located on the right bank of the river Kizil-Irmak (known as Halys) twelve miles from the Black Sea. It is the chief town of the Kaza district, and is under the governmental direction of the sanjak (Province) of which Samsoun is the capital. This district is made up of several small forests, which are at present rapidly disappearing, owing to the lack of conservation on the part of local exploiters. The trees that remain are principally oak, plane trees, beech, and walnut.

The small town of Vezir-Kopru, under the Mutessariflik of the town of Amassia, in the Sivas Vilayet, lies eight miles from the banks of the river Kizil-Irmak and about 95 miles from the sea. The only forest in this particular district worthy of mention is the Tomy-Dagh, which stretches along the river banks of the Kizil-Irmak for about 30 miles and extends back for about 25 miles. It consists chiefly of red pine to the extent of about 240,000 cubic feet. There are a number of small villages on the river banks, with a wood-cutting population. Logs are floated down the river either in drives or they are lashed into rafts.

The little town of Boyabad, in reality a large village, is under the governmental administration of the Vilayet of Castamouni and is situated on the river Geuek-Irmak, which in turn flows into the Kizil-Irmak, and is about 80 miles distant from the bay of Sinope. This district is very woody and contains several principal forests, which lie between Boyabad and Sinope. Their wood is chiefly used for constructional purposes. Several water-power sawmills are located in the village of Tchakiroglou. There are five smaller forests in this district, which are all situated on the banks of the river Gueuk-Irmak. They are composed chiefly of spruce and beech. Logs are sent down the river to Sinope.

All the forests above mentioned are the property of the Ottoman Government. The concessions necessary for those who desire to exploit these forests must be obtained from the Turkish Ministry of Mines and Forests at Constantinople. All bids for exploitation rights must be put in terms of cubic metres. Some 10 years ago two large firms from Samsoun undertook the exploitation of the forests in the Bafra and Vezir-Kopru regions, in order to supply railway ties for the projected inland connection, Samsoun-Sivas. This was abandoned when war was declared. These firms had previously exported wood to Egypt in considerable quantities. There were, before the war, as many as 10 firms located at the town of Sinope which were engaged in the construction of sailing vessels for coastwise Black Sea trade. The wood for this industry was obtained chiefly from the Ellek-Dagh forest.

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The Macedonian saffron crop is estimated at 150 to 300 kilos.

Societe Anonyme du Behera.—Dividend of 8s. 2d. per share, less tax, on ordinary shares, paid July 26 (Coupon 19).

The Algerian Government have acquired a large quantity of sugar beet from France, with the object of encouraging sugar-beet production.

Mr. R. H. Tennant, Mr. Frederick Eley, and Mr. Robert E. Dickinson have been elected directors of the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, in connection with the recent issue of new shares.

Egyptian Guaranteed Three per Cent. Loan.—Dividend due September 1 will be paid by Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons on that day and on each succeeding day (Saturdays excepted) between 11 and 2.

# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—Prices for practically all varieties are on the up grade. Supplies are inadequate except in the case of currants, in regard to which rates are influenced by the unfavourable crop reports from Greece.

Sugar.—There is no material change to report. Home refined continues to meet with an active demand.

Coffee.—Good qualities have been in strong request, but inferior grades have been neglected. Transactions have included Costa Rica at from 125s. to 160s., Mocha at from 165s. to 180s., and Colombian at from 100s. to 145s. The futures market has been quiet.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been a firm spot at 38s. for Indian and 35s. 6d. for La Plata. Rapeseed closed rather quiet at 33s. for Toria and 31s. for Brown Cawnpore. Cottonseed is a shade harder, with Indian at 13s. and Egyptian at 18s. 6d.

Oilcakes.—A fairly brisk business has been done. Linseed has come to business round about 21s., while other transactions have included ground nut cake at 13s. 6d. and coconut cake at 12s. 6d.

Seed Oils.—Linseed oil is very firm at 81s. spot, 79s. 9d. August, and 78s. 3d. September. Rape oil has been done at 70s. for crude and 80s. for refined. Turpentine closes quiet at 142s. spot and 143s. 6d. for January-April.

## OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Bros., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended July 31:—With the exception of one case of selected manufacturing opium, which changed hands at 20s. per lb., c.i.f., we have nothing further to report. The position, however, is firmly maintained owing to non-arrivals from the interior. Our stock on this market is only about 700 cases, 80 per cent. of which is in very strong hands. The exchange to-day is piastres 417 per pound sterling for cheque, and 0.90 dollars for one Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are 32 cases, against 155 at same date last year.

## COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

### Empire of India and Ceylon Tea.

The report of the Empire of India and Ceylon Tea Company for 1919 states that the Assam crop fell very short owing entirely to the unfavourable weather conditions which prevailed. The Dooars crop was short in the early plucking months, but the close was exceptionally favourable, and an excess was realised over estimates. The Ceylon gardens yielded a poor crop, both divisions making less than the previous year. The combined outturn was 7,003,938 lb., as against 7,215,854 lb. in 1918. The net profit was £116,843, to which must be added £9,947 brought forward. The directors recommend a dividend for the year of 16 per cent. on the increased ordinary share capital, of which an interim distribution of 3½ per cent. was made on January 1 last.

### Bank of Bombay.

The report of the Bank of Bombay for the half-year ended June 30 states that the profit amounts to Rs. 21,66,384, to which has been added balance brought forward, Rs. 3,82,339, making together Rs. 25,48,723. It is proposed to apply in payment of a dividend at rate of 15 per cent. per annum, free from tax, Rs. 7,50,000; bonus at rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free from tax, Rs. 2,50,000; special bonus at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, free from tax, Rs. 1,00,000; transfer to reserve fund Rs. 6,00,000; to credit Government and other securities on account of depreciation Rs. 3,00,000; to pension fund Rs. 1,00,000; leaving to be carried forward Rs. 4,48,723.

### Bank of Bengal.

The profits of the Bank of Bengal for the half-year ended June 30 amounted approximately to Rs. 31,21,071, including five lakhs and a quarter brought forward. Of this total it is proposed to allocate Rs. 17,00,000 to the payment of a dividend at the rate of 17 per cent., to transfer Rs. 6,00,000 to the reserve, and Rs. 1,00,000 to gratuity and pension fund, and to carry forward Rs. 7,21,071.

### Bank of Madras.

The report of the Bank of Madras for the half-year ended June 30 states that the balance brought forward is Rs.2,80,947, and the profit, after making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, amounts to Rs. 12,88,654, making a total of Rs. 15,69,601. The directors recommend a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, free of tax, and a special bonus at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, transferring to reserve Rs. 4,00,000, and carrying forward Rs. 5,69,601.

### Alliance Bank of Simla.

The profits of the Alliance Bank of Simla for the year ended June 30, including Rs. 18,775, carried forward from last year, amounted to Rs. 15,30,579. The directors propose to pay the usual dividend of 14 per cent., plus a bonus of 3 per cent., making 17 per cent. for the year, to place Rs. 2,00,000 to the reserve fund, making it 42 lakhs, to place Rs. 1,00,000 to the pension fund for the staff, and to carry forward Rs. 3,13,000.

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The production of crude oil in Egypt in 1919 amounted to 231,180 tons, a decrease of 42,120 tons on the figures for the previous year.

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***ESTABLISHED 1909 BY IMPERIAL FIRMAN.***

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Manufacturers and Merchants may address their enquiries to the Head Office for Trade Lists of Importers and Exporters.


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## LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

The market during the past week has not displayed more life, and most merchants have been inclined to limit their commitments. A distinct feeling of uncertainty has prevailed with regard to European politics, and the world still seems to be in a state of chaos. International finance is also in a very unsettled position, and trading conditions at the moment are distinctly against enterprise. A revival of demand rarely happens without speculative operations, and scarcely any one is prepared at the moment to anticipate future requirements. The sales of Egyptian cotton in Liverpool and Manchester continue rather more encouraging. The crop outlook remains satisfactory, and there is a probability of a record yield. Prices, however, keep fairly steady. In yarns made from Egyptian cotton buying has been of small dimensions, and many complaints are to be met with from spinners. Certain counts and qualities can now be purchased at rates which mean no more than the cost of production. No development can be recorded in the inquiry for the Near Eastern markets. Some tentative bids have been mentioned for Egypt in shirtings, but nothing has been done. Conditions in South-Eastern Europe are very disturbed. India has continued to provide an extensive inquiry, and scattered transactions have been put through in dhooties, mulls, jaconets, and nainsooks, but the bids in grey shirtings remain unworkable. Some leading shippers to China have not received an offer from the other side for two or three weeks. Numerous manufacturers are in urgent need of fresh contracts and are prepared to accept low prices. American yarns have moved off slowly and prices at the moment rather tend to favour buyers. Fine counts have been in fair request for India. Extra hards for the Levant have attracted very little attention.

### Egyptian Cotton Acreage.

According to a cable just received from Alexandria, the official acreage for Egyptian cotton for the current season has been estimated at 1,827,000 feddans, against 1,568,000 feddans last year. According to some private advices, however, there is a possibility of the area under cultivation being about 2,000,000 feddans. In these circumstances a record crop is expected. The largest yield of Egyptian cotton was in 1913-14, the growth then being 7,684,000 kantars on an acreage of 1,723,000 feddans. During recent years, however, the yield per feddan has fallen, and where as in 1913-14 the output was 4.46, in 1917-18 it was only 3.77. Lancashire spinners of yarn are very pleased at the excellent prospects, and although the plants have still to pass through a critical period of the season, there is hope of a production of quite 7,500,000 kantars.

## NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at June 30, 1920, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

| | £E. |
|---|---|
| Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each) | 2,925,000 |
| Reserve Fund: | |
| Statutory Reserve | 1,462,500 |
| Special Reserve | 487,500 |
| Current, Deposit and other Accounts | 18,151,059 |
| Mixed Tribunals | 2,352,364 |
| Egyptian Government | 2,459,207 |
| Bankers' Accounts | 1,291,371 |
| Cheques and Bills payable | 1,067,486 |
| Sundry other Accounts | 1,204,550 |
| | £E31,401,037 |

| | | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government | | 17,685,927 |
| Sundry Securities | | 230,870 |
| Advances on Merchandise | | 1,111,473 |
| Advances on Securities | | 1,319,556 |
| Advances otherwise Secured | | 1,707,663 |
| Sundry other Advances | | 887,205 |
| Bills of Exchange | | 2,762,401 |
| Local Bills Discounted | | 225,572 |
| Buildings and Furniture | | 228,364 |
| Money at call and at short notice | | 1,284,075 |
| Bankers' Accounts | | 1,001,804 |
| Sudan Government | | 236,586 |
| Sundry other Accounts | | 391,295 |
| Cash :— | | |
| Notes | £E1,705,919 | |
| Gold | 23,852 | |
| Silver, Nickel, etc. | 598,475 | |
| | | 2,328,246 |
| | | £E31,401,037 |

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

| | £E. |
|---|---|
| Notes Issued | 48,100,000 |
| | £E48,100,000 |

| | | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Gold | £E3,333,190 | |
| *British Treasury Bills | 20,716,810 | |
| | | 24,050,000 |
| Securities:— | | |
| Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government | 432,794 | |
| British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds | 23,617,206 | |
| | | 24,050,000 |
| | | £E48,100,000 |

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of Gold. (See *Journal Officiel* October 30, 1916.)

## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

### Forthcoming Sailings.

The Cunard Line s.s. Sea Victory, for Piræus, Salonika, Constantinople, and Galatz, will close for cargo in London on August 25.

The Cunard Line s.s. Tyria, for Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constanza, and Sulina, will close for cargo at Liverpool on September 4.

The Ellerman Lines s.s. Andalusian, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on August 21.

The Ellerman Lines s.s. Asturian, for Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on August 21.

The Papayanni Line (Ellerman Lines, Ltd.) s.s. Malatian, for Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on August 28.

The Moss Line s.s. Limoges, for Gibraltar, Casablanca, and other Moroccan ports, will close for cargo at Liverpool on August 28.

Messrs. Malandrinos and Co., Liverpool, announce that the s.s. Sophia Inglessi, for Piræus, Salonika, and Smyrna, will be dispatched from the Mersey on August 25.

The Prince Line s.s. Syrian Prince, for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Syrian coast ports, and Cyprus, will close for cargo at Manchester on September 7.

The Anchor Line s.s. Circassia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Liverpool on August 23.

The Power Line s.s. Petworth, from London, for Rabat, Larache, Tangier, Casablanca, Mazagan, Saffi, and Mogador, will close for cargo on August 25.

The Bibby Line s.s. Dorsetshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on August 25.

The Clan Line s.s. Lowlands, for Bombay and Persian Gulf (cargo for Persian Gulf transhipped at Bombay), will close for cargo at Birkenhead on August 28.

The steamer Norman Prince, belonging to the Prince line, has been sold to Greek owners. She was built at Sunderland in 1900, and is 3,464 tons gross register.

## NEW COMPANIES.

### Anglo-Grecian Steam Trading.

The Anglo-Grecian Steam Trading Co., Ltd., was registered on August 5 as a private company, with a capital of £300,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on business of ship and tug owners, ship brokers, merchants, etc. Subscribers (each with one share): G. F. Gedge, Addiscombe, Surrey, manager; E. T. McLeod, 91, Waller Road, New Cross, S.E., accountant. Solicitor: T. M Harbottle, 22, Great St. Helens, E.C.

### British Ægean and Black Sea Trading

The British Ægean and Black Sea Trading Co. was registered on August 7 as a private company with a capital of £50,000 in £1 shares. Objects:—To take over that portion of the business of the Anglo-Asiatic Co., Ltd., in the Near East, merchants, etc. First directors: C. Strong, 115, Elgin Crescent, W.; H. C. P. Woolmer, Glebe Court, Goring-on-Thames; I. Wissotzky, Hadley, Culverdon Downs, Tunbridge Wells. Solicitor: H. D. P. Francis, 19, Great Winchester Street, E.C.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The week's Indian cable states:—Rain has been fairly general except in North-Western India, Upper Burma, and South-Eastern India, where local. General crop conditions good, but more rain required in parts Upper Burma, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Berar and Bombay. Slight delay and damage to crops in parts of United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and in Bihar and Orissa, caused by heavy rain. Bombay cotton market steady. Fully good Broach August, Rs.430. Piece-goods market fairly steady with slackness of demand. Calcutta jute market old crop firm, new crop nothing doing. Heavy goods steady to firm without much business. Hessians quiet.


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PASSENGER SAILING DATES—
CIRCASSIA ABOUT SEPT. 4.
OLYMPIA ABOUT SEPT. 14.

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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

PANDERMA.

The report for June states:—It appears that the cereal crop will fully come up to the forecasts received from different sources, and that the barley, wheat, and oat crops should give a yield of about 75 per cent. above that of the past year. Their quality, too, it is said, will be much better. As for maize, it is much too early to venture on a forecast.

The political situation of the country having reached an acute stage, business has naturally come to a standstill.

ADRIANOPLE.

The report for May states:—The trenching of maize and potatoes has already taken place. The frequent rains have greatly favoured the growth of these products, as well as the sowing of cotton, sesame, and tobacco plants. In general this year's crops, both the winter and spring sowings, appear to be much superior to those of the past year. The harvest, however, is likely to be seriously affected by the lack of labour, in view of the fact that all peasants able to work have been called to the colours for an indefinite period. The forecast of the yield of cocoons is very poor. From a production of 150,000-200,000 kilogrammes before the war, the yield has fallen to 20,000-25,000 kilogrammes.

The commercial situation is very difficult, recent political happenings being the cause. The exports for May were practically nil compared with those of the previous month. On the other hand, imports of manufactured articles, colonial produce, drugs, etc., for which the orders had been given in March, reached £T120,000.

JAFFA.

The report for June states:—The considerable increase of imports of various manufactures, and the general depression and the marked fall in prices in Europe and America have had the expected effect on our market. It has made more pronounced the attitude taken up by local banking establishments, which are showing themselves very reluctant to renew credits.

The arrival is to be noted of some small consignments of wheat, which are being dealt in at about PT.3 per kilo.

It is reported that the crop of oranges will be below that of the previous year.

STAMBOUL, July 10.

The position is unchanged. The continued fall of prices in Europe, and the difficult position in the interior do not point to any improvement in the near future. The transactions here are few, and are restricted to the needs of local consumption. The financial difficulty continues.

Manufactures.—The decline continues, but prices are not very much lower. Holders, although embarrassed, are confident, and maintain the hope that as soon as communications are restored with the interior business will become brisk without much delay, the need of Anatolia for manufactures being very great.


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Capital - £10,000,000

Paid-up - £5,000,000

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LORD HILLINGDON.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

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LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE
J. BOISSONNAS.
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LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
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Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.
Assistant Manager: W. P. SHEPPARD.

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CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.

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The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

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

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.


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## TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—

**Egypt.**

(*The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked* (*L*) *are to be obtained.*)

Extension of Electrical Station of Zagazig and Belbeis.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, for the extension of the electrical station of Zagazig and Belbeis. Adjudication at noon on September 1. A copy of the specification, etc. (in French) may be consulted by British firms interested at the Enquiry Office of the Department of Overseas Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.2.

Tunics, etc.—The Financial Secretary of the Egyptian Army, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of tunics, pantaloons, trousers, etc., to the Ordnance Services Department, Egyptian Army, Citadel, Cairo. August 28. (L.)

Motor Launch.—The Inspector-General of Irrigation, Upper Egypt, invites tenders for the supply of a motor launch for 4th Circle of Irrigation. September 18. (L.)

Surface Condenser, etc.—The Director-General, Mechanical Dept., Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply, delivery, and erection at Amriya Pumping Station, Zeitûn, of a surface condenser, together with air and circulating pump, a feed pump, oil separators, pipe work, valves, and accessories; plant to be capable of dealing with about 3,200 lb. of steam per hour. August 31. (L.)

Sewage Main.—The Chief Engineer, Main Drainage Dept., Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and laying of a 12-in. cast-iron sealed sewage main. September 21. (L.)

Air Compressing Plant.—The Chief Engineer, Main Drainage Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of an air compressing plant at Mansûra, consisting of two crude oil engines, driving two single-stage air compressors, complete with auxiliary machinery, water cooling plant, a travelling crane, machine tools, air mains, electric wiring, etc. October 1.

Pumping Machinery.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of pumping machinery for a pumping station at Tawila, in the Province of Gharbicha. October 15 (L.)

Dynamo and Switchboard.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 2 kw. dynamo and switchboard for Kombera Pumping Station. September 15 (L).

Paper, etc.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper and office requisites, including paper (writing, typewriting, oiled copying, tissue, drawing, sectional, tracing, etc.); cloth-lined envelopes and buff envelopes; note blocks, blotters, waste paper wicker baskets, copying books, card index cabinets, vertical files, tracing cloth, ink pots, inks of all kinds, tie-on labels, note books, numbering machines (triplicate, six figures), stamping ink pads, penholders (wood), pen nibs, paper weights, shapirograph apparatus, copying presses, typewriters (European script), and copyholders for typists, etc. Tenders will be received up to noon on September 9, and should be addressed to the Director, Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo. A copy of the specification, etc., together with a list of articles required, may be consulted at the Department of Overseas Trade.

Brushes, Jerseys, and Socks.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the supply of—(1) Brushes, brass; (2) Jerseys and socks. Tenders are returnable up to noon on August 27, and are to remain open for seven days (L.).

**India.**

Iron Pipes, etc.—The Madras Corporation invites tenders for the supply and delivery of about 220 tons of cast-iron spigot and socket pipes, with special castings, sluice valves, etc. (Specification, 5s., Messrs. James Mansergh and Sons, 5, Victoria Street, S.W.1.). Tenders will be received until September 8.

## ON CHANGE.

### Rise in Roumanian Bonds.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

Business in a general way has been on a very restricted scale this week, but on the whole the undertone has been firm and the tendency satisfactory. In Government stocks Egyptian Unified have improved ⅜ to 67⅜, but on the other hand the 3½ per cent. pref. have dropped ½ to 55¾. Turkish 4 per cent. 1891's, after rising to 64½, are closing ½ down at 63½, and the 3½ per cent. 1894 Loan has lost a similar fraction at 57. A feature has been a rise of 17 points in Roumanian 4½ per cent. Bonds to 55 on the imminence of resumption of interest payments. Greek securities have been a very strong market, and show a biggish rise all along the line on buying for Greek account. The 1881 and 1884 loans have jumped 2½ points to 56, Monopoly have risen 1½ to 45, Rentes 3 points to 44, Funding 1 point to 54, and Larissa 5 points to 56. The 1902 Loan is half a point better at 48, and the 1914 Loan one point up at 56½. The 1910 issue closes 1¼ points higher at 41½.

Among Bank shares National Bank of Egypt are 1-32nd lower at 19 15-32, and Agriculturals a similar fraction firmer at 4 15-32.

In Land shares, Aboukirs are 9d. firmer at 37s., and Anglo-Belgians a similar fraction up at 13s. Consolidated Lands are 1½d. firmer at 2s. 7½d., and Garbieh Land, after rising at one moment ¼ to 3⅝, finish ⅛ up at 3½. Mortgage Company of Egypt Bonds are 2 points higher at 74½, New Egyptian shares are fractionally firmer at 37s. 6d., Sidi Salem, after jumping to 2⅝, finish unchanged at 2½, but Sudan Plantations have been a very strong market, and are closing 7-16th higher at 5 1-16.

In the Miscellaneous group, Alexandria Water close 3-16ths down at 7½, and Egyptian Markets are 1-32nd easier at 1 1-32, whilst Salt and Soda have gained a similar fraction at 2 17-32. Morum's Stores are 3d. down at 17s. 6d.

In Oil shares, Anglo-Egyptian B. have improved 3-16ths to 2¾, and Roumanians have jumped 2s. to 19s. 6d.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97 7/16 |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 31·50-32·00 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 79 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/10⅝-1/10⅞ |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 165-170 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/10⅝-1/10⅞ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 405-425 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅜ | 3·63-3·64½ |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 49·70-50·25 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 183-185 |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 31¼ |

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended July 31 amounted to £15,117.

There have been unprecedented floods at Jamshedpur, causing much damage to houses.


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(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.)
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*Manager*, A. G. M. DICKSON.

*London Manager*, P. C. WEST. *Secretary*, G. DE B. BROUNLIE.

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**THE TRADE INDEMNITY CO., LTD.**
*(Established for the Assistance of British Trade by the Insurance of Accounts)*


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# "NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

| LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE. | Price Aug. 9. | Price Aug. 16. |
|---|---|---|
| **GOVERNMENT STOCKS.** | | |
| Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892 | 38 | 37 |
| Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907 | 51½ | 51½ |
| Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909 | 28 | 28½ |
| City of Alexandria 4%, 1909 | 60 | 60 |
| Egyptian 4% Unified Debt | 67 | 67⅜ |
| Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890 | 56½ | 55½ |
| Greek 5%, 1881 | 53½ | 56 |
| Do. 5%, 1884 | 53½ | 56 |
| Do. 4%, 1887 | 43½ | 45 |
| Do. 4% Rentes, 1889 | 41 | 44 |
| Do. 5% 1890 | 51 | 56 |
| Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893 | 53 | 54 |
| Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902 | 47½ | 48 |
| Do. 4% Loan, 1910 | 40½ | 41½ |
| Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) | 55½ | 56½ |
| Do. 5% Currant | 89xd | 89xd |
| Montenegro 5% Loan | 68½ | 68½ |
| Persia 5% 1911 | 64 | 53½ |
| Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913 | 38 | 55 |
| Serbian 4% Unified Bonds | — | — |
| Turkish 4% 1891 | 64 | 63⅜ |
| Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894 | 57½ | 57 |
| Do. 4% Unified | 34½ | 34½ |
| **BANKS.** | | |
| Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) | 4 7/16 | 4 15/32 |
| Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) | 5⅛ | 5⅛ |
| Do. 3½ Bonds Red. | 61 | 61 |
| Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red. | 63 | 63 |
| Bank of Abyssinia | 1½ | 1½ |
| Bank of Athens | 4 | 4 |
| Bank of British West Africa | 6⅜ | 6½ |
| Bank of Roumania | 5⅛ | 5⅛ |
| British Trade Corporation | 8 1/16 | 8⅛ |
| Imperial Ottoman Bank | 9¼ | 9¼ |
| Imperial Bank of Persia | 7½ | 7½ |
| Ionian Bank, Limited | 5 | 5 |
| Land Bank of Egypt Ord. | 5 | 5 |
| London County and Westminster | 13 1/16 | 13⅛ |
| National Bank of Egypt | 19⅛ | 19 1/16 |
| **RAILWAYS.** | | |
| Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer | 5 3/16xd | 5⅛ |
| Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord. | 8½ | 8½ |
| Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref. | 9½ | 9½ |
| Do. Do. 4% Debs. | 45¾ | 45¾ |
| Do Do. 5% 2nd Debs. | 41 | 41 |
| Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry. | 27 | 27 |
| Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½% | 55 | 55 |
| Do. Do. 3% Bonds | 40 | 40 |
| **LAND.** | | |
| Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) | 36/3 | 37/- |
| Do. 6% Debs | 135 | 135 |
| Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt | 12/3 | 13/- |
| Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment | 75/- | 75/- |
| Béhéra Co. | 17½ | 17½ |
| Do. Pref. | 3½ | 3½ |
| Building Lands of Egypt | 1½ | 1½ |
| Egyptian Consol 5/- | 2/6 | 2/7½ |
| Egyptian Delta Land and Invest. | 15/4½ | 15/4½ |
| Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs. | 80 | 80 |
| Do. Land and General Trust | 1/6 | 1/6 |
| Do. and Foreign Trust | 13/3 | 13/3 |
| Gharbieh Land Co. | 3⅜ | 3½ |
| Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt | 26/- | 26/- |
| Do. 4½% Debs. Red. | 84½ | 84½ |
| Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red | 61½ | 61⅛ |
| Mortgage Co. of Egypt | 6½ | 6⅜ |
| Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red. | 72½ | 74½ |
| New Egyptian Co. | 37/3 | 37/6 |
| Sidi Salem Co. | 2½ | 2½ |
| Sudan Plantations | 4⅜ | 5 1/16 |
| Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. | 5⅛ | 5⅛ |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | |
| Abyssinian Corp. | 7/16 | 7/16 |
| Alexandria Water Co. | 7 1/16 | 7⅛ |
| Associated Cotton Ginners | 25/- | 25/- |
| Egyptian Hotels | 2¾ | 2¾ |
| Do. Markets Ord. | 1 1/16 | 1 1/32 |
| Do. do 5% Debs. Red. | 86½ | 86½ |
| Do. Salt and Soda Bearer | 2½ | 2½ |
| Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs. | 92 | 92 |
| Khediv al Mail Ord. | 5 3/32xd | 5 7/32 |
| Do. Do. Prefs. | 3⅜ | 3⅜ |
| Levant Co. (fully paid) | 16/1½ | 16/1½ |
| Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref | 17/9 | 17/6 |
| Suez Canal | — | — |
| **Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.** | | |
| Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series | 96¾ | 97 |
| Chinese 4½% 1898 | 53½ | 54 |
| Do. 5% 1896 | 68 | 69 |
| Argentine 5% 1890 | 76 | 75¾ |
| Do. 5% 1907 | 80½ | 80 |
| **OIL.** | | |
| Algerian | 2/7½ | 2/10 |
| Anglo-Bulgarian | 5/1½ | 5/1½ |
| Anglo-Egyptian B | 2⅝ | 55/- |
| Anglo-Persian Pref. | 22/1½ | 21/6xd |
| Do 5% Debs. | 78⅜ | 78⅜ |
| Anglo-Roumanian | 5/3 | 5/3 |
| Cyprus Oil Trust | — | — |
| Maisel's Petroleum Trust | 10/7½ | 10/7½ |
| Roumanian | 17/6 | 3½ |
| Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs. | 100 | 100 |
| Suez | 3/9 | 3/9 |


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# "NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

*(Continued.)*

| BRUSSELS BOURSE. | Price Aug. 5. | Price Aug. 13. |
|---|---|---|
| Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs. | 412·50 | 412·50 |
| Do. do. Priv. | 599·50 | 592·50 |
| Do. do. Cap. | 450 | 447·50 |
| Do. do. Div. | 390 | 395 |
| Anglo-Belgian Co. | 35·50 | 37·50 |
| Cairo Electric Railways Cap. | 225·25 | 215 |
| Do. do. Div. | 310 | 302·50 |
| Caisse Hypothécaire Act | 477·50 | 477·50 |
| Do. do. (10 eme p.b.) | 69·75 | 71 |
| Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½% Debs. | 362·50 | 362·50 |
| Do. do. Priv. | 475 | 450 |
| Do. do. Div. | 180 | 176 |
| Compagnie Immobiliére Deb. | 399·50 | 399·50 |
| Do. do. Cap. | 167·50 | 167·50 |
| Do. do. Fond. | 192·50 | 210·50 |
| Enterprise and Development Cap. | 245 | 243·75 |
| Do. do. Div. | 120 | 118·75 |
| Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte) Priv. | — | — |
| Do. do. Ord. | 395 | 395 |
| Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap. | 209 | 209 |
| Do. do. Div. | 110 | 110 |
| Salonika-Constantinople Railway | 252·50 | 248 |
| Salonika-Monastir Railway | 250 | 250 |
| Smyrna-Cassaba Railway 4%, 1894 | 285 | 285 |
| Do. do. 4%, 1895 | 260 | 260 |
| Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv. | 115 | 115 |
| Do. do. Div. | 150 | 150 |
| Tramways du Caire Priv. | 442·50 | 443 |
| Do. do. Jouiss. | 615 | 605 |
| Travaux Publics du Caire Priv. | 236 | 236 |
| Do. do. Ord. | — | — |
| Do. do. Div. | 32·50 | 27 |

# INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

**INDIAN FUNDS.**

| Interest Due. | Name. | Aug. 9. | Aug. 16. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc. | India 3½% Stock,* 1931 | 63½ | 53½ |
| Various dates. | Do. Rupee Paper 3½% | 54⅛ | 53½ |
| | * Redeemable. | | |
| **CORPORATION STOCKS.** | | | |
| | Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959 | 83½ | 83½ |
| | Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40 | 64 | 63 |
| | Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938 | 64½ | 66 |
| **BANKS.** | | | |
| | Chartered of India | 74½ | 75 |
| | Eastern | 7 1/16 | 7 1/16 |
| | Mercantile of India A | 28½ | 29 |
| | National of India | 51½ | 52 |
| **MINES.** | | | |
| | Balaghat Gold Mining | 8/3 | ⅛ |
| | Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref. | 14/0½ | 13/9 |
| | Burma Corp. | 10⅛ | 10¼ |
| | Burma Ruby Mines Ord. | 7/- | 6/3 |
| | Champion Reef Gold | 2/9 | 2/9 |
| | Mysore Gold Mining | 9/3 | ⅞ |
| | Nundydroog | 14/- | ⅛ |
| | Ooregum Gold Mining Ord. | 10/3 | 14/- |
| | Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf. | 19/3 | 18/9 |
| | Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.) | 12/6 | 12/6 |
| **OIL.** | | | |
| | Assam Oil | 30/9 | 30/- |
| | Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref. | 23/9 | 23/9 |
| | Brit. Burmah | 93 | 1 3/32xd |
| | Burmah Oil Co. Ord. | 7 1/16 | 8⅛ |
| | Do. 6% Cum. Pref. | 18/9 | 18/9 |
| | Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref. | 8⅛ | 8⅛ |
| **RAILWAYS.** | | | |
| | Assam Bengal | 50 | 50 |
| | Bengal and N.-Western Ord. | 117 | 118½ |
| | Do 3½% Cum. Pref. | 48¼ | 48¼ |
| | Bengal-Nagpur | 102 | 101 |
| | Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India | 100 | 99⅜ |
| | Burma Railways | 102½ | 101 |
| | Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb. | — | — |
| | E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953 | 11 1/16 | 11⅛ |
| | East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957 | 11½ | 11⅛ |
| | Gt. Indian Pen Ann. "A," 1948 | 10⅜ | 10½ |
| | Madras and S. Mahratta | 98½ | 97 |
| | Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord. | 121 | 121 |
| | Nizam's Guaranteed State | 64 | 64 |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | | |
| | Bengal Iron Ord. | 16/10½ | 49/9 |
| | Do. 7½% Cum. Pref. | 18/10½ | 18/9 |
| | P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P. | 75½ | 77 |
| | Do. Deferred | 445 | 405 |
| **TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.** | | | |
| | Assam Co. | 56 | 55½ |
| | Bengal United Tea Ord. | 15⅞ | 15⅝ |
| | British Indian Tea Ord. | 6 | 6 |
| | Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord. | 15 | 15 |
| | Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord. | 8/9 | 9/- |
| | Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. | 54/9 | 54/9 |
| | Consolidated Estates | 38/- | 38/- |
| | Darjeeling Co. | 16/9 | 16/6 |
| | Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. | 35/- | 35/- |
| | Dooars Tea Ord. | 4/6 | 3 15/16 |
| | Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. | 17/3 | 17/3 |
| | Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est. | 31/10½ | 28/9 |
| | Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber | 28/9 | 28/3 |
| | Hewagam Rubber Co. | 21/ | 21/- |
| | Jhanzie Tea Association | 9 | 8⅜ |
| | Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. | 15 | 15 |
| | Kepitigalla Rubber Estates | 14/6 | 13/3 |
| | Lanka Plantations Ord. | 22/- | 22/- |
| | Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord. | 17/7½ | 17/7½ |
| | Malayalam Rub. and Produce | 36/6 | 35/- |
| | Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. | 12⅜ | 12½ |
| | P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates | 34/- | 33/1½ |

# STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

| GOVERNMENT LOANS. | July 3. Rs. | July 16. Rs. |
|---|---|---|
| 3½% Government Paper | 59½ | 59 |
| 4% Government Paper, 1916-17 | 74 | 74 |
| **BANKS.** | | |
| Alliance Bank of Simla | 300 | 300 |
| Bank of Bengal | 1730 | 1700 |
| Bank of Bombay | 2130 | 2225ex |
| Bank of Madras | 1560 | 1590 |
| Bank of India | 150 | 152 |
| Tata Industrial Bank | 48 | 48 |
| **COAL.** | | |
| Baraboni | 15⅜ | 15½ |
| Bengal | 7·0 | 778 |
| Burrakur | 48½ | 51½ |
| East Indian | 37½ | 36½ |
| Equitable | 45½ | 49½ |
| Pench Valley | 330ex | 330ex |
| Raneegunge | 63½ex | 68½ |
| Standard | 77½ | 83½ |
| **COTTON.** | | |
| Bengal Nagpur | 570 | 670 |
| Bombay Dyeing, etc. | 3310 | 3765 |
| Bowreah | 1335 | 1548 |
| Buckingham | 2580 | 2580 |
| Carnatic | 1000 | 1100 |
| Century | 1092 | 1295 |
| Central India | 4580 | 5550 |
| | 2290 | 2775 |
| Elgin | 230 | 250 |
| Gold Mohur | 400 | 400 |
| | 200 | 200 |
| Khatau Makanji | 710 | 740 |
| Muir | 345 | 342 |
| New Ring | 1206 | 1350 |
| Phœnix | 950 | 1175 |
| Svadeshi | 4580 | 5650 |
| **JUTE.** | | |
| Alliance | 776½ | 822 |
| Barnagore | 176 | 172 |
| Budge Budge | 618½ | 654½ |
| Clive | 313 | 321 |
| Dalhousie | 542 | 564 |
| Delta | 635ex | 686 |
| Fort Gloster | 1015 | 1140 |
| Gourepore | 1175 | 1286½ |
| Howrah | 47 | 50½ |
| Kamarhatty | 1074 | 1060 |
| Kanknarrah | 853 | 844½ |
| Khardah | 660 | 688 |
| Kinnison | 1186 | 1250 |
| National | 415ex | 413 |
| Standard | 712 | 765 |
| Union | 910 | 960 |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | |
| Bengal Paper Mills | 137 | 148 |
| Bengal Timber Trading | 810 | 480 |
| British Indian Corp. Ord. | — | 14 |
| British Indian Corp. Def. | — | 22½ |
| Burn and Co. | 300 | 300 |
| Carew and Co. | 101 | 109 |
| Cawnpore Sugar | 42½ | 46½ |
| Champaran Sugar | 42½ | 45 |
| Howrah Oil Mills | 35½ | 35½ |
| India General Steam | 130 | 135 |
| Indian Iron and Steel | 140 | 140 |
| | 90 | 89½ |
| Marshall Sons and Co. | 12½ | 12½ |
| Titaghur Paper | 492½ | 534 |

# ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

PRICES ON JULY 30.

| | |
|---|---|
| Agricultural Bank of Egypt | £4 3/16 |
| ,, ,, ,, Fond. | £370 |
| Alexandria Water Co., Ltd. | £8 |
| Anglo-American Nile Steam | £4 3/16 |
| Assoc. Cotton Ginners | £1 3/16 |
| Banque d'Orient | Fr. 97½ |
| Béhéra Ord. | L.E. 16⅜ |
| ,, Priv. | £3½ |
| Bonded Stores | £14½ |
| Brasseries d'Egypte Priv. | Fr. 225 |
| Building Lands of Egypt | £8 |
| Cairo Heliopolis Railway | £120 |
| Cassa di Sconto | Fr. 86 |
| ,, ,, Priv. | Fr. 108 |
| Ciments d'Egypte Priv. | Fr. 58 |
| ,, ,, Div. | Fr. 30 |
| Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte | £1⅛ |
| Consolidated Land | P.T. 13 |
| Crédit Foncier Egyptien | Fr. 606 |
| ,, Fondateur | 7900 |
| ,, 1886 Oblig. | 385 |
| ,, 1903 ,, | 266 |
| ,, 1911 ,, | 266 |
| Crown Brewery Priv. | Fr. 240 |
| ,, ,, Div. | Fr. 223 |
| Eaux du Caire Capital | Fr. 83 |
| ,, ,, Jouissance | Fr. 115 |
| Egypt and Levant S.S. Ord. | 31/6 |
| Egyptian Delta Light Railways | £5⅜ |
| Filature Nationale d'Egypte | £18½ |
| Frig. orifique d'Egypte | L.E. 2⅛ |
| Gabbari Lands | L.E. ⅜ |
| Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. | £6⅜ |
| Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv. | 109/9 |
| ,, ,, ,, Ord. | £3½ |
| Kom Ombo Ste. Anc. de Wadi | £8 1/16 |
| ,, ,, Fondateur | £77 |
| Land Bank of Egypt Actions | £5 3/16 |
| ,, ,, Parts de Fond. | £46½ |
| Lots Turcs | Fr. 71 |
| Menzaleh Canal Navigation | P.T. 340 |
| Nungovich Hotels | £9½ |
| Ramleh Railway | £2⅜ |
| Salt and Soda | 52/1½ |
| Tram d'Alexandrie Priv. | Fr. 60 |
| ,, ,, Div. | Fr. 70 |
| Union Foncière d'Egypte | £5 3/16 |
| Upper Egypt Hotels | £18½ |
| Urbaines and Rurales | £3 |

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 486.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Elsewhere in this issue the real nature of the understanding arrived at between Lord Milner's Mission and the representatives of the Egyptian Nationalists is fully explained. Provided two preliminary conditions are fulfilled, the Mission has pledged itself to recommend a measure of independence for Egypt which has secured the approval of Saad Zaghlul Pasha and his colleagues. The conditions are that the cordial acceptance by the Egyptian people of the offer in a spirit of genuine friendliness towards Great Britain is guaranteed, and that Great Britain can induce the Powers concerned to agree to the abolition of the Capitulations. The delegates return to Egypt with the object of securing the consent of their fellow-countrymen to the offer made by the Mission, and if they apply themselves as wholeheartedly to this task as they did to the Nationalist agitation, there can be little question as to the result. Both parties to the understanding are deserving of credit. Lord Milner for postponing the presentation of the Report in the belief that Saad Zaghlul Pasha could, with tact and patience, be brought to see reason, and the Egyptian delegates for tacitly admitting the foolishness of their former attitude in the cordial message which Saad Zaghlul Pasha sent to the Mission on his departure.

---

The situation in Mesopotamia, instead of improving, has become distinctly worse, and it looks as if we must expect it to become worse yet before it becomes better. In the early part of last week a Paris telegram reported that Baghdad itself was threatened by rebels, who were trying to encircle the town; and though this was a case of exaggeration, it seems that communication with the city is seriously threatened, if not actually cut, in all directions save along the Tigris. That the metropolis of Irak will be allowed to fall before any purely Arab attack is highly improbable; but that a situation can have arisen in which such a contingency can be seriously discussed is in itself disconcerting. Unfortunately it is not only from Baghdad that bad news comes. Even the official *communiqués* make it clear that sporadic fighting is going on all up and down the country; and the Arabs appear to be showing themselves far more serious opponents than they were ever thought likely to become in in pre-war days, when a "big battle" might result in no deaths and less than a dozen casualties.

To give a list of all the places at which the spirit of unrest has manifested itself would be unprofitable, and in regard to most cases to give details of the manifestations would be impossible, since they are not vouchsafed to us in the *communiqués*. But two particularly regrettable incidents may be mentioned. The first is the killing, in circumstances of peculiar treachery, of Lieutenant-Colonel Leachman, C.I.E., D.S.O., who was shot at Khan Nukta, near Feluja, on August 12. Some particulars of this adventurous officer's career, and of his fine record of service in Mesopotamia, will be found on another page. The second incident is an attack by Arabs on the barracks of the levy at Shahroban, north of Bakuba, which was successful only when the little garrison's ammunition was exhausted, after a three days' defence. This cost us the lives of two officers, two N.C.O.'s, and an Irrigation Officer, while the wife of the last named has been captured by the attacking force. That such a thing can have taken place within fifty miles of Baghdad, and that it should have been impossible to rescue the gallant defenders of the post is enough to show the state of the country.

---

With things in such a serious state, this is not the time for criticism, and it is, perhaps, unfortunate that there have been of late so many demands for our immediate withdrawal from Mesopotamia, regardless of consequences to anybody but ourselves. To withdraw at a time, or in a manner, that would lend any colour to the idea that we were doing so in panic, or because we were driven to it by the Arabs, would indeed be fatal to our prestige throughout the East. Nowhere would the effects of such a withdrawal be more injurious than in Mesopotamia itself; for, having, for good or for ill, accepted the position of Mandatory for the young State, we cannot lightly abandon it; but neither can we hope to fulfil its duties if we lose the respect of the natives. We may be told that we should suffer no such loss as a result of withdrawal at this juncture, but this is a view that we are unable to accept. Let us, by all means, work steadily and hard to make the country able to stand alone, as we believe it can soon be made; and let us in the meantime do everything in our power to keep down the expenses of administering and training it. But let us hear no more talk of "withdrawal" under existing conditions.

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A brief message from Belgrade announces that M. Vesnitch, the Yugoslav Prime Minister, has formed a new Cabinet in which all but two of the retiring Ministers will retain their portfolios. The latest Ministerial crisis has thus lasted a month. It is supposed to have originated in differences of opinion in the Ministry itself over the questions of exports and agrarian reform. The fact that M. Vesnitch has been able, after two failures which led him to return his mandate to the Prince Regent, to bring his team back into harness again, practically unchanged, justifies the hope that the spirit of compromise is at last entering into Yugoslav politics. A formidable programme of legislation awaits the Skupshtina before Yugoslavia can be said to have really grappled with the task of national reconstruction. In the meantime, fortunately, great strides have been made by the people themselves in promoting their own material welfare, and Serbia, a land of desolation a year ago, is no longer a suppliant for Allied help.

---

As a result of the visit of Dr. Benes, the Czecho-Slovak Minister of Foreign Affairs, to Belgrade and Bucharest the finishing touches have been put upon an entente or alliance between Czecho-Slovakia, Yugoslavia and Roumania. This first piece of constructive statesmanship to be registered in south-eastern Europe since the war is to be cordially welcomed, and it is to be hoped that it will ultimately lead to an extension of the policy of political and economic co-operation farther south. For the moment the only danger spot in this part of Europe is Hungary, who does not seem to have reconciled herself vet to the new order of things, quite apart from her purely domestic questions. In these circumstances it was natural that her neighbours, who can ill afford to be let in for fresh military enterprises, should wish to show their solidarity against any possible aggresive policy on the part of the Magyars. There is no reason to doubt the interpretation officially placed on the new entente, that it is a defensive alliance assuring integrity and independence to the three States concerned, as well as protection against reaction. Its utility as a factor "in facilitating a return to normal economic conditions, and in regulating the exchanges between these countries," must depend in part on the speed with which production is fostered in each State; but the sense of security which the countries will acquire from the alliance should enable demobilisation to be carried a considerable step forward.

---

In an article published in our last issue, entitled "Bolshevism and India," attention was called to the situation in Central Asia, and it was suggested that only a Central Asian Federation would avail to arrest Bolshevist penetration in that direction. The statement that the Uzbegs are disillusioned by their experience of the Soviets is confirmed by a recent message from India to *The Times*, which speaks of the intense hostility with which the Bolshevists are now regarded by the Moslems of Central Asia. In particular the relations between Soviet Russia and Bokhara are said to be becoming increasingly strained, and there would seem to be some possibility of a military alliance between the Bokharans and Afghans. At this critical juncture it is to be hoped that every encouragement will be given by the British or India Government to a movement which must considerably add to the existing embarrassment of the Soviet régime. There is no need to further aggressive militarism even in Central Asia: but a decisive setback for the Bolshevists in this direction as well, must still further encourage the forces struggling to restore peace and decent Government to Russia.

---

The postponement of the Prince of Wales' visit will cause widespread disappointment in India, where preparations for his reception have been in active progress, but we have no doubt that the prevailing sentiment will be loyal acceptance of the decision and genuine regret for the cause which has made it necessary. Failing the Prince, no better representative of the King-Emperor could be suggested than the Duke of Connaught, who knows India well, and whose long period of service in the country gave him an assured place in the memory of the people. From one point of view, indeed, the presence of the Duke at the opening of the Indian Legislature will be peculiarly appropriate, for he has himself taken an active part in the administration of a presidency under the old régime, and he will thus stand for the principle of Imperial continuity, the essential condition for the orderly development of the new institutions which he will inaugurate.

---

So far as this country is concerned, the preparations for this great enterprise are now practically complete. The list of provincial Governors was given in our last issue, the Joint Committee have made their second, and final, report on the statutory rules required, and there remain only the orders to be issued by the Secretary of State on matters which these rules do not cover. Most of the present heads of provinces are either continued in office, or re-appointed under the new Act, and apart from the selection of Lord Sinha, which we have already recorded, the only interesting feature in the list of Governors is the appointment of Sir William Marris to the miniature province of Assam. Sir William has had a large share in the framing of the new constitution, and it is certainly fitting that he should have an opportunity of applying its provisions in practice, while the fact that he belongs by birth to New Zealand is not without significance to those who, like ourselves, attach great importance to the growth of cordial and intimate relations between India and the Dominions.

---

The Joint Committee have again found little to alter in the draft rules prepared by the Government of India, and their most important decision relates to the thorny question of provincial contributions to the central revenue. It will be remembered that this question was examined by Lord Meston's committee last winter, and a scheme was formulated which, being intrinsically just to all, inevitably roused bitter hostility in some of the provinces. Lord Selborne and his colleagues have set themselves to alleviate this hostility, not because the original proposals were defective, but in order to "grease the wheels" of the new machine; they have accordingly provided for some concessions, which we should be sorry to have to justify on theoretical grounds, but their final conclusion is that provincial contributions must cease at the earliest possible moment, the central government arranging to meet its requirements entirely from the sources of revenue formally assigned to it, and the provinces being left free to dispose of their separate resources. In other words, there must be new central taxation, while the provinces will be relieved from raising fresh revenue to the extent of the contributions which the central government surrenders.

---

This decision will undoubtedly ease the position for the moment, but it will probably not commend itself to those who desire to see genuine and rapid progress towards responsible government. The new provincial legislatures, they will argue, will at first be out of touch with reality, and the most valuable experience will come when members who have voted fresh taxes to finance the schemes of popular Ministers find it necessary to justify those taxes to their constituents; then, and then only, will the electors realise that they have power to increase or mitigate their own burdens. The Committee's decision will give Ministers more to spend, and consequently will tend to postpone this crucial experience, while it will throw the unpopularity of new taxes on the bureaucratic central government instead of on the Ministers who spend the money. Such reasoning seems to us to be valid, but not necessarily conclusive in practice. The truth is that Ministers will at the outset be as horribly short of money as their bureaucratic predecessors have always been; they must in any case go forward, and they will probably find themselves compelled to present a bill to the provincial electorates within a very few years of assuming office. Abolition of the contributions may possibly postpone the evil dav, but it will come quite soon enough for the electors.

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# THE WEEK AT HOME.

**The Recess.**

Parliament rose on Monday week, after Mr. Lloyd George had reassured the House on Poland. Labour did its best to defend its direct action of the week before. Mr. Thomas rather daringly compared it to the Prime Minister's passive resistance methods in old days; but the defence was not particularly effective.

The recess is to last till mid-October, unless something happens in the meantime. As Mr. Smillie threatens a coal strike in early September, it would not be very surprising if ministerial holidays were cut short. The Prime Minister wisely wasted no time in getting away to Lucerne, where he is meeting Signor Giolitti, the Italian Premier, and he is expected also to meet the German Premier during his stay there; but apart from these discussions he may hope for a real rest for three or four weeks. The remainder of the Ministerial team are scattered to the ends of England, and Parliament is a prey to the country cousin and the American, who are visiting London by the thousand just now.

**Parliamentary Personalities.**

The end of the season naturally leads to a kind of Parliamentary stocktaking, personal and general. The Government actually seems rather stronger than it was six months ago, partly because it has got its second wind, and has really put one or two achievements to its credit, but largely, it must be admitted, owing to the hopelessness of its opponents. Lord Northcliffe's vendetta seems definitely to have failed of success, the Government's foreign policy has hardly been seriously, or at least effectively, challenged; Ireland and the railways have been the most harmful to the Government's popularity. But on Ireland the Opposition have no alternative policy, or rather they have so many alternative policies that nobody believes in any of them.

On the personal side of politics Mr. Lloyd George's ascendancy remans unchallenged, and there is nobody in the present House who can stand up to him. Mr. Winston Churchill continues to exasperate Labour, but he is a bonny fighter, and although the Independent Liberals hate him for deserting them their opinions are not likely to cause him a moment's uneasiness. Mr. Austen Chamberlain has done very well indeed; he was both tactful and firm over the Budget, and appraised the opposition of big business and the little men who speak for it at its proper worth. Of Sir Hamar Greenwood as Irish Secretary it is too early to speak; if he succeeds it will be the greatest miracle since the walls of Jericho went on strike. Sir Eric Geddes boasts his efficiency, and is cordially disliked; but Sir Robert Horne is a great success, suave and strong in manner and devastating in argument. The most lonely figure among Ministers is Mr. Montagu, whose speech in the Dyer debate was and still is deeply resented. Of Mr. Fisher, the Minister of Education, little has been heard, but in that department at least those Ministers are happy who have no history.

On the other side of the shield there is little to say. Mr. Asquith's return to the House has finally disposed of the idea that he has the makings of an effective fighting leader in opposition; the bulk of the work seems to fall on Captain Wedgwood Benn, who is popular, and Commander Kenworthy, who bores everybody with his questions, speeches and interruptions. Sir Donald Maclean, the second in command of the Independent Liberals, is more like a churchwarden who has had a dispute with the rector than ever; the other Independent Liberals live not within the memory of man. One hears talk of a revival of Liberal feeling in the country, and I am half inclined to credit it, but it will have to produce its own leaders. Nothing will galvanise the Liberal corpse back into life in the Commons.

The ineffectiveness of Labour has been so often and so truly pointed out by their Liberal allies and friends that it is hardly necessary to pursue the doleful topic. It is a great pity that Mr. Henderson has been laid aside by serious illness for so long, for Mr. Adamson, the nominal leader at the moment, has quite lost his tongue; and with the exception of Mr. Thomas and Mr. Clynes, the rest are smitten with profound silence. Mr. Thomas counts for more than he did a year ago, and despite his quality of unexpectedness, he has done well; Mr. Clynes seems to have receded a little. It is the fashion to speak well of him, and indeed he is a most estimable little man: but his undoubted merits are overpraised by his opponents because he never hurts them, and personally I find his speeches dull, although his elocution is admirable.

Of the Independents, Mr. Bottomley strives to live up to his impersonation of John Bull, but his lieutenant, Mr. Palmer, is making more headway; he is a very vigorous personality, and the many years he spent in the Press gallery evidently give him an advantage over other new members. Lord Robert Cecil, who was spoken of as the future leader of a rejuvenated Tory party some time ago, has definitely receded in public esteem. At one time the note of statesmanship was very prominent, but the touch of fanaticism in his character, as in that of his brother, Lord Hugh Cecil, seems to have overpowered the statesmanship.

The future of parties is as obscure as ever. Mr. Bonar Law, the leader of the Unionists, is a kind of maid-of-all-work to the Government; he has definitely sold his soul to Mr. Lloyd George, and does not appear to repent of the bargain. The Liberals are hopelessly split, and there are a good many differences of opinion even in the Labour ranks. But for the time being party questions count for little in England, although there are signs that they may revive speedily and with unexpected bitterness.

**The *Daily Herald*.**

A sensation was caused this week by the publication of wireless messages alleged to have been intercepted between Chicherin and Litvinoff, the Bolshevist politicians, with reference to the financing of the *Daily Herald*, our one Bolshevist daily. The messages appeared to be explicit, and to show that Mr. Lansbury, the editor of the *Herald*, went to the Bolshevists for financial assistance which, if not given, would have forced the paper to turn "Right trade union" instead of its present bilious complexion. Mr. Lansbury has ridiculed the idea, and denied that he has ever had a sou; but the facts that he went to Russia recently, that his paper is ardently pro-Bolshevist, and that he has himself confessed in speeches that it is in financial difficulties, have not helped his denial.

The *Herald* sells a good deal better than it did in its pre-war days as a daily journal; it is read mainly by miners and railwaymen and electricians. It is generally advocating a general strike at home and the disruption of the British Empire abroad; it is rather violently written, but I should say that its weakness as a newspaper is that it puts in too much propaganda for any but the converted. And the converted, one would suppose, have passed beyond the stage at which pro-

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paganda is necessary; while the unconverted—if I may humbly take myself as a typical specimen—soon tire of revolutionary sentiment and turn to less tendentious pages. The *Herald*, by the way, seems to cherish a vendetta against Sir Basil Thompson, of Scotland Yard. During the War it was strongly pro-German.

**Sir Norman Lockyer.**

The death of Sir Norman Lockyer, at a ripe old age, is a loss to British science. His astronomical work was well known, and he also came into prominence when his investigation into the Stonehenge problem enabled him to state the approximate date of that building. For many years he edited *Nature*, and had much to do with the success of that admirable weekly. Huxley's epigram in that connection is still remembered—"Lockyer is a good fellow, but he sometimes forgets the distinction between the Editor and the Author of Nature."

**The Cricket Championship.**

The position in the cricket world is now of extraordinary interest. Middlesex have now deposed Kent from the premier position, and with a fortnight's matches still to play, the chances are fairly equal for the metropolitan county, Surrey, Yorkshire, Kent, and even Lancashire. Had Surrey played more evenly they would easily have secured the lead, for on their day there is no side to touch them; but there are many other days when the team is all tail. Kent and Yorkshire strike me as better all-round teams; but the sudden push by Middlesex, who are always at their strongest in the holiday month, has before now upset many calculations.

Owing to an injury to Mr. Spooner, he will be unable to captain the M.C.C. team to Australia, and Mr. J. W. H. T. Douglas has been appointed in his stead. The alternative has been generally approved.

**The Lambeth Conference.**

The bishops in session at Lambeth have issued their report, which ranges from the birthrate to the problem of spiritualism. In a guarded fashion they approve of women taking an official part in the services of the church, and they definitely contemplate female deacons, but would debar them from the priesthood. Their pronouncement on spiritualism is so extraordinarily cautious that few will be able to understand it. On reunion they seem, according to the comments of Nonconformist divines, to have taken a real step forward, but it is doubtful whether anything will come of their proposals for a long time.

**Autumn Literature.**

A good many interesting books are now being announced for the autumn. Mrs. Asquith's Reminiscences, which come out week by week in the *Sunday Times*, will appear in book form; but some of the spice has been taken out of the cake by serial publication.

Colonel Repington's war diaries will be awaited with interest. The old military correspondent of the *Times*, who subsequently transferred himself to the *Morning Post*, by no means saw eye to eye with the Government of the day on military policy. The censor cramped his criticisms then, but we shall probably learn a good deal as to his views now that the censor is no more.

No great biography seems to be on the lists, but several novels by well-known authors are announced. Now that Mr. Wells has practically finished his history—he has just assured the world that Napoleon was a distinctly overrated person—it is to be hoped that he will return to novel writing, where he can ill be spared. But, according to the papers, he is first going lecturing in America, to "tell the Americans the truth," as he himself phrases it. Let us hope that they will like the novel experience.

**Dearer Water.**

Those who grumble at the extortionate price of beer, wines and spirits in these days will not be very surprised to hear that on top of the increases in other rates the London water rate is likely to be doubled. Air is now the only element which is not taxed; but if the population goes on increasing at its present rate, even that will have to be rationed.

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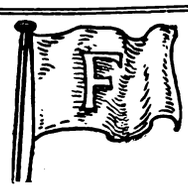

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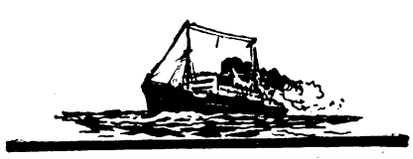

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, August 6.

**The Conspiracy Case.**

The trial of the alleged members of the "Society of Vengeance," which is being heard before a military court in Cairo, is still the main topic of conversation in the capital. In the post which arrives in the Court each morning, there is invariably a collection of threatening letters to the President (Brigadier-General Lawson), the Judge Advocate (Judge Linton Thorpe), and counsel for the prosecution (Mr. F. M. Maxwell). That, at least, shows the interest which is being taken in the proceedings by sympathisers with the accused. As Mr. Maxwell has stated, the fact that these letters and circulars are still signed by the "Society of Vengeance" might be regarded as evidence that the members of the Society have not been apprehended, and that therefore, *ipso facto*, the men in the dock were not connected with the Society. On the other hand, as he has also pointed out, it may be taken as evidence of efficient organisation.

In my last letter, I outlined very briefly the plot as revealed by the evidence. Since those lines were written the Court has had twelve more sittings, but the proceedings have reached a stage bordering on dullness. Certain papers were found in the houses of the accused, and the machinery for proving that such documents were seized is rather cumbrous. A police officer searched the house, seized whatever papers he found, put "them in an envelope, and sealed it with my seal with red wax"—we have heard that sentence *ad nauseam*—and forwarded it to the Governorate, where an official opened the envelope and made a list of the papers which it contained. The point about these papers is that they are not, in themselves, sufficient to connect the accused with the conspiracy. Such papers have been sent to the members of the Court; so, obviously, possession of such documents is not incriminating evidence. But where there is other evidence of the connection of any of the accused with the Society, then the possession of such documents can be used in evidence against them. Therefore it has been necessary to prove that these documents were found in the houses of the accused, and during most of the week we have been sitting in a stuffy and close court-room listening to police officers deposing that the papers produced were the papers seized in the houses of So-and-so.

But there have been one or two notable incidents. One came earlier in the week, subsequent to the conclusion of the cross-examination of the witness who had turned "King's evidence." The next witness deposed that he had gone to the house of Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy, the chief accused, and offered to join the Society. Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy, according to the witness, had told the latter he could not join the Society till he had proved his sincerity by killing a British soldier or committing some such act. Counsel for the defence made a merciless attack upon the character of the witness, and elicited that his record was not by any means spotless. The climax, however, came the following day, when the next witness for the prosecution, overawed by the examination, collapsed and contradicted himself. He had made certain depositions before the Government's lawyers, but there "he had said what he had been told to say" by the previous witness, of whom it was patent he stood in awe. The circumstances have not been thrashed out, but it was a dramatic collapse. Counsel for the prosecution refrained from calling further evidence against the accused, but contented himself with formally proving the seized documents.

The second incident occurred yesterday afternoon. Throughout the case a mysterious document has been held by the Judge Advocate in a sealed envelope on behalf of Mr. Devonshire, who, pending the arrival from England of Mr. Mitchell Innes, K.C., and Major Hedley, has been defending Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy. This document was read out yesterday. It was a letter addressed to the Commandant of the Police, and alleged to have been signed by some of the witnesses for the prosecution. After referring to the service which the witnesses had rendered to the Government, it insinuated that a sum of money in return would be deeply appreciated. But each witness for the prosecution to whom the document has been shown has denied that his written name at the bottom of the document is his signature. Each has avowed that it is a forgery. The Commandant of Police has not yet been asked whether he actually received the letter, but will probably be called for this purpose to-morrow morning.

Mr. Mitchell Innes, K.C., and Major Hedley have arrived, and will appear in Court to-morrow morning.

**The Holy Carpet.**

Yesterday morning the Mahmal left Cairo, and started on its journey to Mecca. A week ago the Kiswa and the Mahmal were on view in tents adjacent to the citadel, and on the Friday evening, beneath an Eastern moon, almost full, there seemed to be a miniature world threading its way around the venerable objects. The next morning the Mahmal was conducted through the streets to the Mosque at Abbassia, at the head of a procession of thousands, including representatives of every class of Moslem; and yesterday, without any untoward incident having occurred during the seven days it has been in the public eye, it was taken away on the annual pilgrimage.

**Egyptian Students for England.**

Half-a-dozen students, who won the highest marks in the Government School of Engineering's recent examinations are to be sent to England in the near future to complete their studies. Their expenses will be paid up to LE250 annually, and on their return they are expected to enter the Government service. Formerly, the trouble has been that the students who have gone to England to complete their studies have invariably been sons of wealthy men; and having won their diplomas, they have come back to live on the bounty of their rich parents. Under this scheme, however, it is hoped that the brightest youths will be enabled to fit themselves for service which will eventually be given to the State.

**Lord Allenby.**

Lord Allenby left for England on Wednesday on his annual leave. There are still rumours here that his Excellency is not coming back; but I have it on excellent authority that the High Commissioner has every intention of returning to his post. Much, of course, will depend upon the result of the current negotiations in London, and the recommendations embodied in the Milner Mission's report, but, in any case, Viscount Allenby may be expected to return here on the expiration of his leave.

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CAIRO, August 13.

**The Alleged Revolutionaries.**

The case for the prosecution against the alleged members of the "Society of Vengeance" concluded yesterday. Before proceeding to review briefly the evidence which has been given, it may, perhaps, be opportune to explain the latest development in the case. Readers of THE NEAR EAST will remember that in my first letter concerning the trial I described the systematic attempt that was being made to threaten the witnesses for the prosecution, and so intimidate them as to force them to perjure themselves in the interests of the accused. But one man was sent to prison for five years after being convicted of having a hand in that business, and apparently the lesson was a salutary one, for changed tactics followed. The defence are now putting forward a distinctly novel story.

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The police had interned most of the witnesses for the prosecution, thinking that by keeping them safe from contamination with the outside world all would be well. But among them was a person whom the judge has described as a "most extraordinary man." This individual succeeded in inducing most of the men interned with him to sign documents to the effect that all they had said previously was false, and that in fact there was nothing against any of the accused, and less than nothing against Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy, the Cairo secretary of the Nationalist delegation. The defence obtained possession of these documents, and produced them in court. The position therefore now is that the witnesses for the prosecution who first gave evidence later signed a statement that this was all false, and was exposed only under pressure, and finally have come into court and told stories which, if not exactly in accord with their previous statements, are yet very much to the same effect.

The prosecution, of course, hold that the before-mentioned witness was an emissary of the defence, and that he very cleverly, under the very noses of the guarding police, succeeded in obtaining these statements from the witnesses. The latter allege that they did not know what was in the documents. They say that this man, Kilani by name, told them that the documents were protests against their internment. But the matter goes a step further. Kilani, it transpires, induced one of the witnesses for the prosecution while out on parole to accompany him to a flat wherein was Dr. Maher, nephew of Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy. There the witness was handed a statement to sign, and was given £E15 for doing so, with the promise of more after the case. The witnesses who were interned and who had signed the statements already referred to were given promissory notes for £E50 each. The defence reply that this man Kilani was not their emissary, and that they did not know him until he introduced himself, but that he was an agent of the secret police, who wished to concoct a story showing that the defence had attempted to bribe the witnesses for the prosecution. Though the matter is in itself a subsidiary issue, it has been incorporated in the general case, and the defence will reply to it when answering the general case.

Mr. Maxwell admitted that these witnesses had succeeded in shaking confidence in their own trustworthiness, but he tendered their evidence for what it was worth.

The case for the defence will open to-morrow. Seven submissions have been made to the Court in writing by counsel for the defence, contending that there is no case against their respective clients. Mr. Maxwell has opposed them all, and decisions will also be given on these submissions to-morrow morning.

**The Political Outlook.**

There is naturally tense interest in the case, particularly among the native population; but though this interest is very real, there is no undercurrent of feeling likely to end in an outburst of resentment. The negotiations in London are receiving closer attention, and the rumours current of a split have focussed upon the situation the attention of many who hitherto have been rather apathetic, confident that all would come right in time.

Whether the attitude of the Nationalist Press is inspired or not I cannot say, but the leading papers are not displaying any undue alarm at the rumours of difficulties. The following paragraph culled from *Al Ahram*, the leading Nationalist organ, seems to sum up the tenour of their views:—

> The words "obstacles and difficulties" do not frighten us, for obstacles and difficulties were expected from the very beginning. Had the Delegation not been at the limit of its demands and of its warrant no obstacle or difficulty would have arisen. The occurrence of obstacles is not, therefore, against the aspirations and hopes of the Egyptians, but, on the contrary, it conforms with their aspirations and the removal of every obstacle by negotiations means the realisation of new hope, and every day that passes henceforth means a step onward. . . . .

In effect, this seems to say, "We have asked for more than we could hope to get. Nevertheless, there may be a chance that something will be conceded, and it is worth while making the effort." Momentarily, therefore, there are hopes and fears, much journalistic discussion, and more vocal eruption—and then we come back to the starting point, which is marked with a sign reading "Wait and see."

**Education in Egypt.**

Last year the students, suffering from what may be described as over-zealous patriotism, gaily took holidays at will. They were warned on all sides that the game of playing truant for months, so lightly undertaken, would react on them. It has; for not 50 per cent. of them passed the examinations, the results of which have recently been published. Now the popular cry is "the students were asked questions in subjects which they had not been taught." Of course, they never learned those lessons. One usually does not assimilate knowledge by roving about the streets, waving a flag, and uttering patriotic platitudes.

The Americans have been quick to observe the necessity for wider educational facilities in Egypt, and have decided to institute a university in Cairo, the doors of which will be open to receive students qualified for admission about November next. Dr. R. Watson, who for some years has been president of the American College at Assiut, is to be the first principal, and with him will be Dr. R. MacClenahan, who has also had a wide experience in training the youth of Egypt.

**Salaries of Government Officials.**

According to the native Press, the Government has decided that all foreign officials who were appointed to the staff of the Egyptian Government in 1914, but were prevented by the War from commencing their duties, are to have, on their actual entry into the service, all rights of the service as if they had joined their respective staffs in 1914. They will be entitled to seniority, allowances, and pension rights as from the date of their appointment. This decision will concern a large number of officials—about forty in one Ministry alone.

The salaries of officers of the Egyptian Army also are to be increased. This increase, tardy though it is, and liable to objection on the same grounds as have been advanced against the increments to officials in the administrative services, is one that has not aroused the same animosity as that against the generous increases to other branches. The Egyptian officers, in the main, are sons of wealthy parents, and therefore have been able to help support themselves through the bounty of relatives. But that principle is one that has fallen into general disfavour in most countries; and Egypt, late as ever, is following the example. But there is one class for whom this increase has not been granted. I refer to the veterans whose days of active service are over, and who are now existing as best they can on a pension calculated on a cost of living far below that of to-day. Their only disability is their age. They are surely deserving of more generous recognition from their country.

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# YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, August 15.

**The Persistent Crisis.**

The political crisis has been dragging on for over three weeks, but without the bitterness of last year. Everybody has been optimistic, and well-informed persons have kept repeating that it would be all settled in a couple of days. At last, on Thursday, after a conference at the Palace, the Regent is reported to have expressed his opinion on this constant quarrelling very vigorously; he received the leaders of both blocs in audience, and as a result of the session the Radicals gave way on the question of exports, and a little later on the question of agrarian reform in Bosnia; it was announced in the Press that an agreement had been reached, that the same Cabinet would be reformed, with two modifications, and that M. Vesnitch required twenty-four hours to think it over finally. The Ministers then went for a picnic to Avala, to enjoy a day in the air and beautiful scenery after the comings and goings and talkings and meetings of the past three weeks.

But it seems that there is a slip between the cup and the lip; for at the last moment the Radicals are making new difficulties, and the Narodny Club has raised some points of a personal nature which may be difficult to overcome. The Ban of Croatia, who is the leader of the Narodny Club, came yesterday to Belgrade to a conference of the party. It is sincerely hoped that the Cabinet will really be formed to-morrow or Tuesday, as all must realise the great damage that is being inflicted on the country, and the threatening situation in Europe.

The question of exports has been agreed as follows:—There is no restriction on exports generally; 15,000 truck loads of wheat may be exported freely; if there be then a surplus over the country's own needs, the balance may be exported subject to approval of the Cabinet. As to the agrarian question, which has resolved itself into the problem of compensation to the landowning *begs* of Bosnia, it has been agreed that the Regent's Proclamation of December 1, 1918, be repeated, and steps be taken at once to pay the arrears of *hak* due for 1918, and, as far as financial resources permit, such claims for 1919 as can prove that great hardship has been inflicted, and the dispossessed *beg* has been left with no means of sustenance; further, that an Agrarian Committee of six Ministers be formed; and, finally, that all clauses of the reform apply not only to the *begs*, but to all other parties affected, such as war invalids, volunteers who have received grants of land, and *kmets*.

As to changes in the Cabinet, M. Stoyan Protitch is standing out, and having a rest in the country; he will be replaced by Professor Markovitch; M. Davidovitch is also standing out, and will probably be replaced by M. Drashkovitch, a much-respected Democrat and former Minister of Communications.

**The Outlook Abroad.**

Public opinion is very much agitated by the foreign situation. Grave fears are expressed of the country's being involved in more fighting, of which the Serbs have had enough to last them a long time; but they realise that they may be obliged to defend their frontiers. They do not like the rumour that Hungary is to be allowed to help Poland against the Bolshevists, as this would involve a revision of the Peace Treaty in favour of the Magyars. It is unthinkable that Yugoslavs should fight on any side other than that of the Entente, but it is equally unthinkable that they should fight on the same side as the Hungarians, their bitter enemy for five centuries. At the same time, they sympathise with Poland, but cannot take up an attitude of hostility towards Russia; most Serbs seem inclined to accept the Bolshevist army as now representing national Russia, against which they cannot be expected to fight. At the same time they are threatened on the flank by the bellicose attitude of the Italian Imperialists—not of the people—and by threat of invasion in force by the pro-Italian Albanians, and must keep a watchful eye upon Bulgaria. In these circumstances the recognition by France of General Wrangel excites the keenest interest. A long article in the Democratic *Pravda*, however, has pointed out that the Bolshevists are not and cannot represent the real Russia, and maintains that Yugoslavia cannot stand by indifferent while the Entente is supporting Poland. It will be interesting to see which view will be finally adopted by the people in general. Meanwhile, the peasant farmer merely asks to be left in peace to continue the work of restoring his shattered home and property.

At the urgent request of the Allied Council, the Government has reduced its catalogue of Austro-Hungarian war criminals from over 300 to 220. A peculiar situation arises in the case of those criminals who are now Yugoslav subjects, such as the notorious Dr. Halidbeg Hrasnitsa, who for one short hour was a Minister in the Cabinet of the scene of his misdeeds.

Dr. Edward Benes, Czecho-Slovak Minister of Foreign Affairs, is visiting Belgrade.

**Hard-dying Rumours.**

A prominent resident in Belgrade, who is a competent observer, has recently made a trip through the provinces of what was once the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He proceeded to Budapest, passed through Czecho-Slovakia, and called at Vienna; finally he motored from Maribor to Zagreb, and then to Pechuj, the colliery district, now unjustly granted to Hungary, and back to Belgrade *viâ* Zagreb. His impression of Hungary is that there is chaos there, except in Budapest. Next, that all these states have been kept in isolation from one another, with no idea of what is taking place among their neighbours. For instance, talking to a manager of a big industrial concern in Czecho-Slovakia—a country which, by the bye, is closely related to Serbia by many ties of blood and interest, he was astonished to find that his acquaintance flatly refused to believe that any British banking concern could now operate in Belgrade. "Why how," he asked, "can you do serious business, when your streets are running in blood and your country is full of revolution?" And the man in question, who occupied a responsible position and spoke excellent English, refused to believe that life in Belgrade is simple and ordinary to the point of monotony, and that the country is not on the eve of civil war. The result of insidious, persistent, and well-managed propaganda is thus well seen—even friendly and allied people like the Czecho-Slovaks are totally deceived. In the face of such an organisation, it seems useless to reiterate that the streets are *not* running in blood, and have not for several years (since the Austrians put up no fight in 1918), that there is *no* revolution in the country, nor is it in the slightest degree probable that there will ever be one, and that of all the countries in Europe this land of yeomen farmers is the last where Bolshevism is likely to take root.

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## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, August 12.

**Labour Conflicts.**

M. Trancu-Jassy, the Minister of Labour, has introduced a Bill for the regulation of labour conflicts, which has given rise to a great deal of discussion in the Chamber for several days. The Minister claims that the Bill is based upon the most recent French legislation on the subject, and that it is intended to benefit the workmen; but it has been severely criticised by the Socialists, who thoroughly disapprove of it. It would appear from the points raised in the discussion that the Bill does not recognise the workmen's syndicates, but treats of the workmen as individuals.

M. Trancu-Jassy stated that while drawing up the Bill he invited representatives of the workmen's syndicates to discuss its provisions with him, but they refused.

The Post Office strike has at last been settled, the workers being received back in groups according to the degree of their responsibility for the cessation of work.

Current letters are coming through with fair regularity, but as very little seems to have been done at the Post Office for two months before the strike actually took place, there are waggonloads of delayed letters and newspapers still awaiting distribution. No foreign newspapers for July have yet been delivered.

**Foreign Policy.**

One of the chief topics of the week has been the present situation in Poland, and the attitude which Roumania ought to adopt towards the Soviet Government of Moscow. A note has been received this week from Moscow inviting the Roumanian Government to enter upon negotiations for peace. M. Take Jonescu has announced the intention of Roumania to remain loyal to her Allies. So far no measures have been taken, except those necessary for the protection of the frontiers, but the fact that some troops have been moved seems to have caused alarm among the general public, whose greatest desire is, naturally, for peace.

**Import and Export Bill.**

Two Bills have been introduced this week for the regulation of the import and export trade respectively. These Bills provide for the freeing from State control of all Roumanian produce and the importation of foreign goods. This looks hopeful for trade, but when we examine the Export and Customs duties, the case presents a different aspect, for these taxes still remain so high as to leave all kinds of trading very badly crippled indeed.

It would appear, however, that the many protests which have been made by merchants to the Minister of Industry and Commerce have not been without result, for some of the taxes are being gradually reduced.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, August 14.

**Peace.**

August 10, 1920, will be a memorable date in the history of modern Greece, as it marks the commencement of a new era of revival and progress for Hellenism. Future generations will celebrate it as a national day, and will commemorate the great event which has put an end to a long period of oppression, persecutions and massacres. The official news of the signature of the Peace Treaty with Turkey was not known in Athens until Wednesday morning (August 11) from a telegram despatched to the Minister for Foreign Affairs by the Greek Minister in Paris, M. Romanos. The contents of this telegram were promptly communicated to the King and afterwards to the members of the Government. A few minutes later the news was posted up in Stadium Street and before very long circulated throughout the city. Work in the Ministries, other Government offices, and the banks was immediately suspended, the bells of the churches commenced ringing and the batteries on the Lycabetus and Colonos hills fired 101 salvoes. The War Office cancelled all disciplinary punishments in the army, and informed by wireless General Paraskevopoulos of the great event.

Long before sunset, and in spite of the intense heat, the main thoroughfares of Athens were invaded by dense enthusiastic crowds; military bands playing the Greek National Anthem and other patriotic airs passed through the principal streets, while aeroplanes flying over the town dropped small maps showing the new frontiers of Greater Greece. Stadium Street and the two squares, Omonia and Constitution, were gaily decorated with garlands of laurel leaves and Greek and Allied flags. At Constitution Square some of the trophies of the recent campaigns in Asia Minor and Thrace were exhibited. The Athenians looked with pride upon the guns, howitzers, rifles and the Turkish colours captured by their armies from Mustapha Kemal and Jaafar Tayar. At night Stadium Street, the two squares and the Acropolis were brilliantly illuminated, and there was a display of fireworks on the Lycabetus hill.

**The Premier's Return.**

M. Venizelos is expected here in the course of a few days, and an exceptionally enthusiastic reception is being prepared for him.

Immediately after the Premier's return a definite decision will be taken by the Council of Ministers with regard to the convocation of the Chamber. In any case the Parliament actually in existence will not be dissolved until the Peace Treaty with Turkey has been ratified, and certain Bills of extreme urgency have been passed. The Prime Minister will, it is anticipated, make certain political declarations of great importance. The life of the Parliament will not be prolonged for more than a month, and the long-delayed general elections will take place as soon as possible—probably towards the end of the year. It is hoped that it will be possible to hold elections in the newly-acquired territories simultaneously with those in Old Greece. Thrace alone, it is estimated, will send about seventy deputies to the Greek Parliament.

**In Asia Minor.**

From all accounts Mustapha Kemal has not become any wiser as a consequence of the recent little lesson given both to himself and his bombastic brother-in-arms, Jaafar Tayar, by the Greek armies. The Great Powers' decisions with regard to Turkey are not taken seriously by this Satrap of Anatolia, who considers the Peace Treaty nothing more than a scrap of paper.

Kemal, now anticipating a further advance of the Greek troops with a view to enforcing the peace terms, has concentrated the remnants of his forces at Ushak and Eski Shehr, where he is making hasty preparations for a desperate stand. It is said that the bulk of his artillery has been brought at Ushak under the command of Colonel Esref Bey, who was for some time interned by the British in Malta. Meanwhile, the revolutionary Government at Angora has issued a lengthy proclamation to the Mussulmans of Asia Minor abusing most vehemently Great Britain, France, and Greece. This manifesto is being distributed in thousands of copies and read out to the populace from the mosques. Extracts from it run as follows: ". . . England has ruined us with her gold, she divided our brothers and sent the Greek Army against us. . . . All Mussulmans must know that the world is to-day a prisoner of England, who is trying to bring about the extinction of our race. . . ." The remainder of the proclamation mainly consists of a series of abusive outpourings against Greece and France.

In the meantime, the Greek Army is held in readiness, and is awaiting but the word to advance and play the last act of the comedy of Asia Minor.

**Shortage of Houses.**

The housing problem in Athens has reached its acutest form, and the authorities do not apparently intend to take any steps to relieve the situation. Far from doing that, the various Government departmental services have installed themselves in a very large number of private houses in the capital, thus depriving of homes many hundreds of families now trying in vain to secure a house. Very few houses have been built in Athens during the last four or five years, and in the meantime

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the population of the town has increased enormously. For every house under construction there are hundreds of applications; in most cases, however, the would-be purchasers or tenants are informed that the house is already either sold or let. New houses or houses which were hitherto occupied by the proprietor and are to let for the first time, do not come under the provisions of the moratorium; the owners, therefore, demand whatever rent they like.

It would no doubt surprise the Londoner to hear that the unfortunate Athenian has to pay anything between 600-1,000 drachmæ per month (£240 to £400 per annum at current rate of exchange) for a house consisting of six or seven rooms, without a garden and very often without a bathroom. One would, of course, pay less for a house which came under the restrictions of the moratorium laws, but no tenant of these would be so foolish as to part with his home in these hard and strenuous times.

## CYPRUS.

NICOSIA (Undated).

### High Commissioner Appointed.

The appointment of Mr. Malcolm Stevenson as High Commissioner has been no surprise. It has been received with approval by all communities. It does not much affect the views taken as to the island's future, although the long delay in filling the post was regarded as a favourable omen by some of the Hellenic party. The Greek papers hammer away on their absorbing topic of union, and quote articles from publications which comment favourably on the claim for union. It has generally been taken for granted here that, should the island be ceded to Greece within the five years referred to by M. Venizelos, or at any time, cession would be conditional, and that Britain would in any case retain a port and sufficient land for the construction of aerodromes and other stations, i.e., presumably the only port in the island—the south harbour of Famagusta. The making of a port at Limassol has never been seriously contemplated. It is assumed that the small Famagusta harbour would be enlarged in accordance with the designs of the late Mr. Samuel Brown, M.I.C.E. The cost, on a pre-war estimate, was £1,500,000, which would now presumably be at least trebled.

Frequent visits of the Mediterranean Squadron are among the visions of the future. For a considerable time after the British occupation the Fleet used to visit the island in alternate years bringing acceptable gains to contractors and traders. But from the time of the loss of the ill-fated Victoria, the calls became very rare. That the squadron came so seldom to Cyprus, while it cruised in more favoured Syrian waters, has always been rather a grievance. It is hoped that, if some dreams are realised, Famagusta, even if it cannot regain all its ancient splendour, will bring a new era of material prosperity to the island.

### Sanitation at Nicosia.

Loud complaints are being made at Nicosia regarding the state of the streets, the uncleanliness of which reflects no little discredit upon those responsible. During the present hot season the air is poisoned by accumulations of filth and rubbish, which are a danger to health. Municipalities have been invested with greatly enlarged powers under British rule, but several have failed to carry out elementary duties, and have had at times to be superseded by commissions. It is not the first time that complaints have been made respecting the state of the streets, markets, and public places, as well as the water supply of Nicosia, which ought to take the lead in municipal progress.

### General News.

Trade continues to be very slack; but the want of a weekly mail is felt as a grievance, seeing how many steamers reach Alexandria and Port Said; and considerable inconvenience is caused.

The road between the ports of Larnaca and Famagusta is to be diverted and improved—none too soon. Several villages interested in the diversion, which should reduce the distance from 32 to about 25 miles, are offering gangs of free labour. They quite realise the benefits of better transport for their produce, and of the enhanced value of properties.

The Russian settlement at Famagusta is beginning to send out its members to take up employment, and various advertisements appear in local papers. For example, a young Russian lady, who can speak English, French, German, and Polish, seeks employment as a typist, having typewriters of her own.


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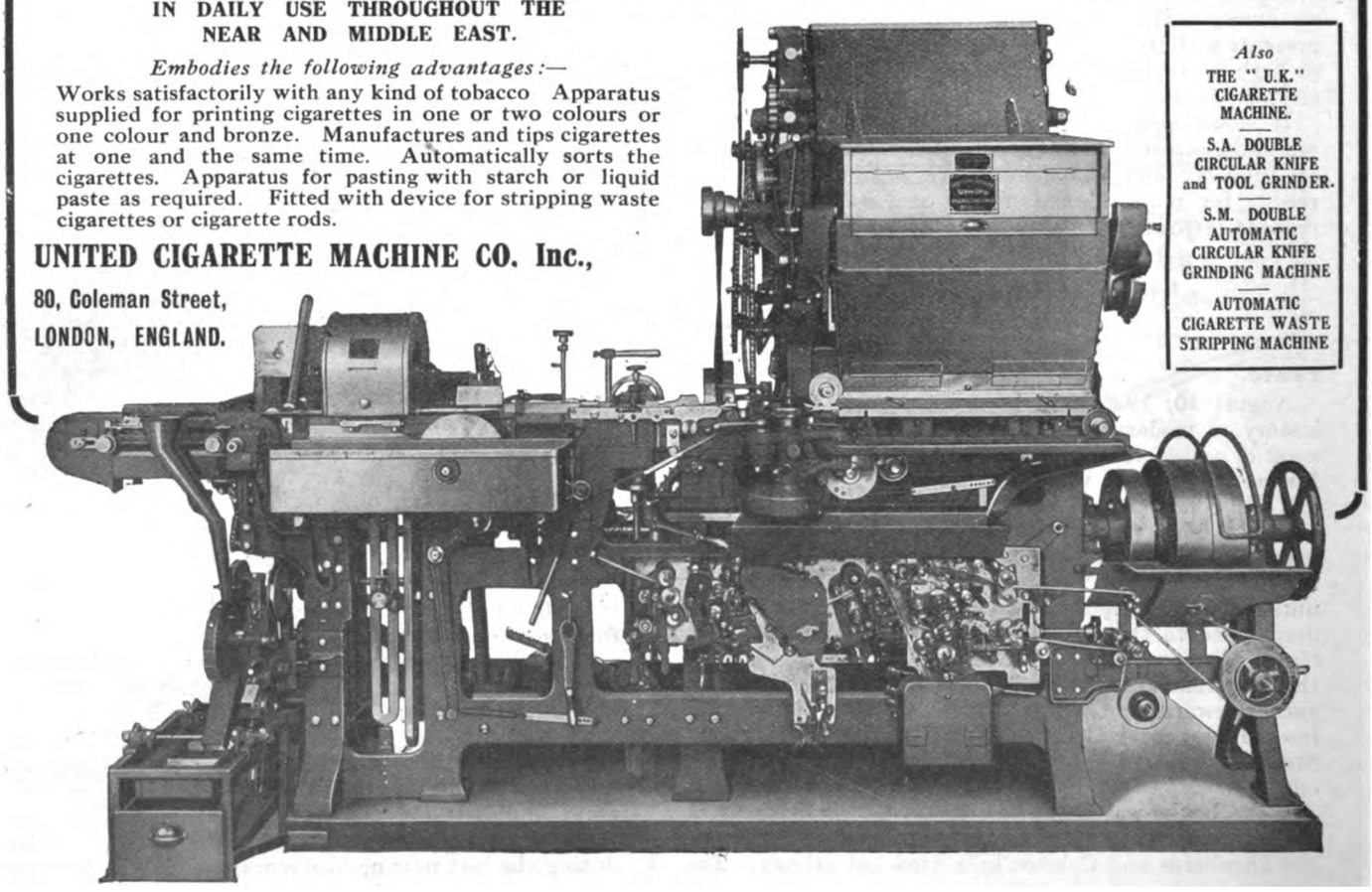

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

## SMYRNA AND RHODES.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST"

Sir,—I am interested to know whether the Powers have been as careful of Turkey's interests in the hinterland of Smyrna as M. Venizelos has been of Greek interests in Rhodes. Is the plebiscite, when taken, to be confined to the inhabitants who lived there before July 29, 1919? If not, why not?—I am, etc.,

Ruishton, July 15, 1920. COLES PASHA.

## KITCHENER.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I have just read the review in THE NEAR EAST of my "Life of Lord Kitchener," which is as just as it is generous, except in one particular.

No author has any right to criticise a reviewer, but he can claim that he shall not be misquoted. Your reviewer speaks with scorn of my rhetoric, and closes with the phrase—which does not occur—"The voice of the Eternal." I have always understood that no words should be placed between inverted commas unless they form an absolutely correct quotation. "The voice of the Eternal" would be irrelevant—I have been assured that my words, "The vision of the Eternal," are at least appropriate.

This at least can be said—that if your reviewer cannot quote three words correctly, he will at least be indulgent to the unhappy author who has to guard against inaccuracies in three volumes; and of these at least he evidently holds me guiltless.

Again thanking you, I am, etc.,

23, The Boltons, S.W., GEORGE ARTHUR.
August 13, 1920.

## ITALY AND YUGOSLAVIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In THE NEAR EAST of August 5 I came across a letter from Mr. Harold E. Goad on the subject of "Italy and Yugoslavia."

Mr. Goad attacks the Belgrade Correspondent of THE NEAR EAST for his "untrustworthy" and anti-Italian information; and he condemns Yugoslav policy and attributes great glory to Italy, with her imperialist propaganda.

The Italians' propaganda in those parts of Yugoslavia which they have occupied is intolerable. They have without justice stepped in, and hold with military forces parts which are very dear to, and at the same time most necessary for, the economic development of the newly-created kingdom.

Mr. Goad compares the two nations, glorifying the Italians as an old race, pacific, liberal, and very highly civilised, and presenting the Yugoslavs as a young race with the hot blood of youthfulness. As a former soldier of Serbia who has shed a few drops of blood for the independence and liberty of my country, I now willingly shed a few drops of ink in contradicting Mr. Goad's unjust criticism.

Mr. Goad exaggerates the Italians' help to the Serbs in the retreat through Albania. We have not forgotten their help; on the contrary, we remember very well not only the Italians' help but the generous assistance rendered to the Serbians by all our Allies during our retreat through Albania and our stay on Corfu and on the Salonika front. It was undoubtedly the Allies' duty to help us, and thus enable our army to fight anew against the common enemy.

Mr. Goad said not a word in praise of Serbian heroism; he is, perhaps, completely ignorant on the subject, although all the Allies, and even our enemies, praised highly our gallant army and its superhuman bearing of hardship and sufferings in the great European war. I venture to recommend to Mr. Goad a book written by an Englishman who, I do not hesitate to say, knows more about the Serbs than Mr. Goad, wherein the latter may find better information on the subject. The book is "With the Serbs in Macedonia," and it is by Douglas Walshe, who greatly admires the Serbian nation and its heroism.

We all remember the great part played by the Serbian army, under the leadership of Marshal Sir Zivoin Mishitch, K.C.M.G., in the final struggle in Macedonia in 1918, and its military achievements; and it is all the more extraordinary that so little has been said about them by the Serbs themselves.

It is wonderful that Mr. Goad does not suggest that the Italians liberated our country and restored us to our homes. What a pity that they did not march on to Belgrade with our Crown Prince, to enter that city in triumph!

Within two months of the beginning of the Salonika offensive the Serbian army liberated every foot of Serbian territory, and, moreover, those parts of Dalmatia which the Italians by violence have occupied up to the present. It must be remembered that the Yugoslavs have manifested praiseworthy patience under extreme provocation by the Italians in awaiting a solution of the Fiume question. We do not terrorise Italian subjects, we do not confiscate their property, we do not invade Italian territory, our aeroplanes do not fly across the Italian frontier; but d'Annunzio's *arditti* do all these things, and swear that they will enter our Zagreb. They may enter Zagreb—but as prisoners, not as conquerors. We are not so ambitious as to claim Trieste, although there are more Slavs in Trieste than there are Italians in Fiume. We are peaceful, and we shall remain peaceful to the last of our patience. Why, then, such an outcry by Mr. Goad against the Yugoslavs?—I am, etc.,

University Club, D. GLISHITCH.
Birmingham, August 13.

# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

## France, Great Britain and the East.

In two very valuable articles on "Inevitable Discords and Indispensable Accord," which appeared in the issues of the *New Europe* for August 12 and August 19, M. Albert Pauphilet seeks to analyse the existing relations between France and Great Britain. Of the differences which have arisen over the policy pursued in the Near East he gives the following account, as representing the Frenchman's point of view:—

No doubt business considerations played a part in the Mosul affair; but, in the eyes of the majority of Frenchmen, that was not the dominant trait in the controversy. What we criticise here is British Imperialism, which does not even respect the possessions acquired by, or promised to, France. The change in the status of Egypt; the grip on Persia secretly strengthened; Mesopotamia enlarged by skilful revision of the famous agreements of 1916—all this forms a whole drawn on a definite design. The Emir Feisal, whose pretensions have steadily grown even to the point of impudence, has always passed, in France, as a mere creature of England, not to say her *employé*. It was not on his own account that this personage conceived the idea of combining the Hedjaz, Damascus, and Syria. We in France know enough of the history of the first three years of the war to remember that there was not a single true Syrian who desired to see his beautiful country become a mere appanage of an Arab kingdom of the desert. Nor can we forget the innumerable approaches made to France by the Syrian colonies of the entire world. There are also some who know why the French military detachment in Syria and Palestine was never allowed to exceed a certain number, nor to include certain troops. And there are also a few Frenchmen, less numerous, but in possession of *authentic* information, who know exactly the obstacles placed in the way of the recruiting of those Syrian volunteers who offered themselves to France, and what propaganda was used for this purpose, long before there was any question of Arab national sentiment or the supposed Syrian preference for an American mandate. No, it was neither Turkey nor Germany who treated France thus in the Levant as a power, if not enemy, at least a rival. Frenchmen also notice that what you in London call Arab national sentiment directs its claims towards territories assigned to France, and not to those vaster regions where England is installed. *Quelle bizarre coincidence.* Why should the Emir Feisal desire Damascus, and renounce Bagdad or Cairo—those two Capitals of the Arab caliphs, magic cities enshrined in legend and history, irreplaceable and indispensable to the founder of a great new Arab State? . . . . Frenchmen think that these matters can only be explained as part of a definite policy obstinately carried out.

No doubt the mass of English opinion is innocent of all this, or does not take the trouble to collate all the facts and study them as parts of a whole; but the facts are there. The course pursued since the Armistice reveals England playing a greater and ever greater part in the Orient. She has no doubt encountered serious difficulties in Persia and Mesopotamia, which may perhaps account for the easing of the French situation in Syria recently. None the less, Palestine and Mosul have passed out of the French zone into English control, and it appears that even Damascus was not to be left under French influence. Out of respect for Arab sentiment? That is hardly probable. And, finally, we have had the prodigious and significant phenomenon of an interpellation of the *British* Government in the House of Commons on the actions of *France* in Syria. These Parliamentary critics could have adopted no more striking device to prove their belief that England has some share in the sovereignty over Syria. Even Mr. Bonar Law's perfectly correct attitude, and his insistence on the irregularity of the proceeding, cannot conceal the motive from which it came. Whenever French influence in the Orient is at stake, either Arab national sentiment or the principle of the League of Nations is brought out to resist it. But there was neither national sentiment nor League of Nations in the way when the Anglo-Persian Treaty was negotiated, or the oil of Mosul assigned to England.

M. Pauphilet then points out the Frenchman's difficulty in identifying the "lofty idealism" of President Wilson with the "skilful manœuvres" of Mr. Lloyd George, and proceeds to his statesmanlike conclusion:—

Now, in conclusion, let us compare these reciprocal reproaches in their very essence. British complaints bear upon the general conception of European policy; they do not touch the question of

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any profit which might accrue to France. French complaints, on the other hand, find their target in the policy of exclusive personal interest pursued by England, often without France, sometimes against French interests. What the Englishmen call "the intrigues of the Quai d'Orsai" never lead France to encroach on her allies. What Frenchmen call *les procédés désobligeants* of England has for its deliberate and evident object the increase of British profits—even, if necessary, to the detriment of France. These two kinds of complaint cannot be compared, nor can they be played off one against the other. The endeavour to barter the right of intervention in the Ruhr Valley against a slice of Syria, to balance Krassin negotiations with Damascus—that is an unabashed return to Metternich and Talleyrand, in a word, to the Old Europe—a worthless proceeding. Let us make valid distinctions, and not mix oil and water. In doing so we may recognise that this difference between our complaints arises from our two ways of looking at war and the victory. . . . . Let us cease accusing one another of bad faith, and let us recognise that the return of peace has restored to us those divergent conceptions on life and the universe which animated our political thought in 1914. Let us aim at a mutual understanding, and for that purpose let us arrange each question in its true place.

In his final paragraph M. Pauphilet again appeals once more to Englishmen and Frenchmen to "rise above their strictly personal point of view and their attachment to certain habitual doctrines." "Let them (Englishmen) recollect history," he says, "and be impartial enough to realise that Syria for us is quite another thing than Bagdad for them; on the one hand, a long chain of tradition and secular influence; on the other, a mere recent ambition. And we on our side—let us understand that England sought in victory the suppression of German rivalry, and not the resurrection of the old French rival; that where she had been compelled to accept Germany as a partner, as in Bagdad, it seems natural to her now to accept no partner. Let us understand further—that everything in the egoism of others is not necessarily reprehensible."

## Mesopotamia.

In the *Sunday Times* Mr. T. E. Lawrence makes a striking indictment of the present campaign in Mesopotamia. He makes his charge at the outset of his article:—

The people of England have been led in Mesopotamia into a trap from which it will be hard to escape with dignity and honour. They have been tricked into it by a steady withholding of information. The Bagdad communiqués are belated, insincere, incomplete. Things have been far worse than we have been told, our administration more bloody and inefficient than the public knows. It is a disgrace to our Imperial record, and may soon be too inflamed for any ordinary cure. We are to-day not far from a disaster. The sins of commission are those of the British civil authorities in Mesopotamia (especially of three "colonels") who were given a free hand by London. They are controlled from no Department of State, but from the empty space which divides the Foreign Office from the India Office. They availed themselves of the necessary discretion of war-time to carry over their dangerous independence into times of peace. They contest every suggestion of real self-government sent them from home. A recent proclamation about autonomy circulated with unction from Bagdad was drafted and published out there in a hurry, to forestall a more liberal statement in preparation in London. "Self-determination papers" favourable to England were extorted in Mesopotamia in 1919 by official pressure, by aeroplane demonstrations, by deportations to India.

And for this state of affairs, he says, the Cabinet cannot disclaim responsibility; and he proceeds to point out the "deplorable contrast between our profession and our practice" towards the Arabs. For

our government is worse than the old Turkish system. They kept fourteen thousand local conscripts embodied, and killed a yearly average of two hundred Arabs in maintaining peace. We keep ninety thousand men, with aeroplanes, armoured cars, gunboats, and armoured trains. We have killed about ten thousand Arabs in this rising this summer. We cannot hope to maintain such an average: it is a poor country sparsely peopled; but Abd el Hamid would applaud his masters, if he saw us working. We are told the object of the rising was political, we are not told what the local people want. It may be what the Cabinet has promised them. A Minister in the House of Lords said that we must have so many troops because the local people will not enlist. On Friday the Government announce the death of some local levies defending their British officers, and say that the services of these men have not yet been sufficiently recognised because they are too few (adding the characteristic Bagdad touch that they are men of bad character). There are seven thousand of them, just half the old Turkish force of occupation. Properly officered and distributed, they would relieve half our army there. Cromer controlled Egypt's six million people with five thousand British troops; Colonel Wilson fails to control Mesopotamia's three million people with ninety thousand troops.

But, he says, the worst has not yet come.

We have not reached the limit of our military commitments. Four weeks ago the staff in Mesopotamia drew up a memorandum asking for four more divisions. I believe it was forwarded to the War Office, which has now sent three brigades from India. If the North-West Frontier cannot be further denuded, where is the balance to come from? Meanwhile, our unfortunate troops, Indian and British, under hard conditions of climate and supply, are policing an immense area, paying dearly every day in lives, for the wilfully wrong policy of the civil administration in Bagdad. General Dyer was relieved of his command in India for a much smaller error, but the responsibility in this case is not on the Army, which has acted only at the request of the civil authorities. The War Office has made every effort to reduce our forces, but the decisions of the Cabinet have been against them. The Government in Bagdad have been hanging Arabs in that town for political offences, which they call rebellion. The Arabs are not rebels against us. They are still nominally Turkish subjects, nominally at war with us. Are these illegal executions to provoke the Arabs to reprisals on the three hundred British prisoners they hold? And, if so, is it that their punishment may be more severe, or is it to persuade our other troops to fight to the last?

We say we are in Mesopotamia to develop it for the benefit of the world. All experts say that the labour supply is the ruling factor in its development. How far will the killing of ten thousand villagers and townspeople this summer hinder the production of wheat, cotton, and oil? How long will we permit millions of pounds, thousands of Imperial troops, and tens of thousands of Arabs to be sacrificed on behalf of a form of colonial administration which can benefit nobody but its administrators?

On the same subject the *Morning Post* of August 21 says:—

Undoubtedly we can crush the Arabs of Mesopotamia; but the first objection is that we do not want to crush them. We want them to be happy and to bless us. As far as can be judged the insurrection is not due to Turkish, Bolshevist, or any outside influence. No doubt agitators from the Bolshevist, Pan-Islamic, and Syrian centres will be putting their oars into the stream now that it has begun to run so strongly, but primarily it would seem to be a flow of common sentiment among the people of the land against the intrusion of a foreigner. An annexation outright they might have accepted, but the conception of a mandate which was presented to them they did not understand. It seemed to mean that the stranger was not there by his own wish and did not mean to stay, and they said to themselves: "Let us see whether he is talking in earnest." It is the mandate that is the mischief. There seems to be no getting away from it. It is the sanction of our position in the country, and in return it binds us to stay and fulfil the engagements against which it was obtained. On the other hand, the obligation is costing us valuable lives daily, sacrificed for no visible purpose, and promises to be positively ruinous in its drain on our finances. The position is no more advantageous to the wretched country, which must be exhausted by having to support a huge army of occupation, tripled by the inevitable followers. Where is the relief to come from? The calling of a meeting of notables at Bagdad to consider the drawing up of an electoral law has a suggestion of Mr. Montagu's inspiration. But what else remains? The discovery of a chief of commanding influence, to whom the formation of a Government might be entrusted. But the only personalities that can be discovered to fit the description are the Emirs Feisul and Abdullah. The latter is understood to be averse to the position, and the former to be ineligible because of the objections of the French. If ever a Government succeeded in getting itself into a position from which it is impossible either to go up or to come down it is our own over this business of Mesopotamia.

## Article to Note.

"Latest Events in Transcaucasia." By V. M., in the *New Russia* (August 5).

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"FROM THE NILE TO ALEPPO." By Hector W. Dinning. Illustrated by James McBey. (London: Allen and Unwin. 25s. net.)

II.—"AN OUTLINE OF THE RELIGIOUS LITERATURE OF INDIA." By J. N. Farquhar, M.A., D.Litt. (Oxford University Press. 18s. net.)

III.—"EARLY PERSIAN POETRY." By Professor A. W. Williams Jackson. (New York: The Macmillan Co. $2.25.)

## I.—AN AUSTRALIAN IN THE NEAR EAST.

In some remarks made by the author on Cairo we find the key to the special charm of his book. "None of us," he says, "has known Cairo without its military context. . . . Perhaps none of us pines to know Cairo without its soldiers." Captain Dinning takes us to Taranto, Cairo, Palestine, and Syria. He takes us on a thoroughly enjoyable tour. Native life and manners interest him greatly. He is a master in the production of pen pictures of the landscape and architecture of these regions. But all through it is the presence of the Australian soldiers, the Light Horsemen of Australia, to whom (with "the horses that stood by them") the book is dedicated that gives it that peculiar flavour and zest which one reader, at least, has found irresistible.

There is very little of the actual war in this book, what there is being confined to air warfare and to the final *débâcle* of the Turkish Army. Of the former we have the gruesome vision of the terrible massacre of Turks by airmen in "the pleasant valley of Shechem." The tremendous strain on our troops imposed by the latter is skilfully brought out. The author's Mounted Divisional Train covered fifty-five miles over indescribably difficult country in forty-eight hours. At the end "the men slept like mad."

We hear very little of the English and Indian troops which took part in this expedition, but we do hear a good deal of our Arab allies, and what we are told makes it clear that the Australian horsemen did not love them, though Colonel Lawrence was one of their heroes. Here is an extract from Captain Dinning's diary:—

"This morning a party of the Cherifian troops passed along the Aleppo road. They are very flash, with good horses; but when you've said that you've said all. They love display, and I question their courage. They love to gallop aimlessly up and down the column, discharging their rifles indiscriminately into the air—a noxious habit! They have not grown up. As long as they have ammunition they seem bound to shoot it off into the heavens. As long as they can tear about with robes and turbans streaming in the wind, and hear the noise of discharge, they think they are fulfilling their destiny. Our troops cannot away with them. They always jostle each other in the bazaars. Bill-Jims, I fear, go out of their way to bump the Hedjaz in public places. The Hedjaz flashy pride resents this. That they should come to blows is not a wonderful thing. And they do come to blows. The Australian detests them because he detests flashness and because he feels the Hedjaz are claiming victories in Syria for which they have not done the fighting. It would never do for Australians and Hedjaz to garrison in the same town—never. The same country is hardly large enough to hold them."

It might perhaps be interesting to have a similar sketch from a "Hedjaz" of his impressions of Bill-Jim! In any case this frank opinion is of special interest in view of present events in Syria.

This extract is fairly typical of our author's style—unconventional, slightly slangy, picturesque, but always contriving to convey just the impression intended. Captain Dinning is a good Australian, and writes as one. He has the true literary artist's love of the right phrase. If that phrase is often not what an Englishman would have used, need we be other than thankful? It is authors of his stamp who will gradually lay the foundations for a specifically Australian literature.

We have left ourselves too little space to do justice to the work of Mr. McBey. Both the water-colour sketches and the etchings are delightful, especially, to our mind, the etchings which contain camels and the few masterly lines which bring out the fascination of the desert landscape in which they move. If we have any criticism to offer, it is on the method of reproduction of these etchings which has contrived to import an element of woolliness into some of them which we cannot believe to exist in the originals. We make this criticism all the more unwillingly as the whole book has been produced in such a way as to be a joy to handle and read. The bold black type, the liberal margins, the quality of the paper, thick but not heavy, combine to make a book which it is a pleasure to possess, a pleasure, too, which is cheaply purchased as book prices run now-a-days.

## II.—INDIAN RELIGION.

"The Religious Quest of India" is the title of a series whose aim is to describe the religious life and thought, and "to set each form of Indian religion by the side of Christianity in such a way that the relationship may stand out clear." In the latest volume Dr. Farquhar presents a sketch of the development of the religious literature. Writing with a wide knowledge of the material and a personal acquaintance with most of the modern sects, he provides an admirable though necessarily rather crowded survey, the value of which is enhanced by an extremely full index, and a splendid bibliography of over forty pages, which alone should commend the book to all who are interested in the subject. Instead of isolating the various religions and sects, he has endeavoured to divide the history into periods corresponding as nearly as possible to the great waves of change that swept over India from time to time and modified every religious body. This broader and more synthetic treatment is eminently desirable, and, viewed in the light of the comparative study of religions, brings many new and interesting problems.

Indian religion begins with the immigrant Aryans and their settlement among the indigenes (ch. i.). The circumstances both illustrate and can be illustrated by the entrance of the Hebrews into Canaan. Even the lofty ethical god Varuna has a noteworthy similarity to the Israelite Yahweh (Jehovah), and the worship of both gods underwent deterioration at the settlement among the inhabitants of the land. Interesting parallels can be found or suggested in the entrance of the Aryans with their hymns, the rise of family priests, the growth of ritual, and the different collections of priestly hymns. But, in addition to this, the early Vedic religion is a "healthy, happy system" (p. 13), and, as such, reminds us both of the characteristics of early religion as described by Robertson Smith and of the typical "heroic ages" which Prof. Chadwick has so fully illuminated. On the other hand, the early literature is, in a sense, a *torso*. The historical prelude is lost, although the figure of Varuna is certainly suggestive of some great wave of ethical inspiration. As for the sequel, we have the fusion of immigrants and natives and of their respective beliefs and customs. Thus the idea of transmigration is probably aboriginal, but the ethical shaping may be due to the invaders (p. 33, *seq.*); and throughout, in both India and Palestine, the fusion raises similar types of problem, and it must suffice to point out how comparison suggests new enquiries.

The history of religion is that of "experience," and interpretation, reflection and development, consciously or unconsciously influenced by social, political, and other conditions. The old Vedic conception of *rita* order (in an undifferentiated sense) and of its divine guardian Varuna, was a natural starting-point for the diverse theological and philosophical developments. The mystical experience of some fundamental oneness leads naturally to attempts to understand it, to reproduce it at will, and to describe in psychological, philosophical, or metaphysical terms how the individual is severed from his ultimate self where he finds beneath the world of space and time an ultimate reality, the precise relation of which to this self divides systems of thought. The later recognition of the inner unity of religious systems (pp. 227 *seq.*, 290) corresponds to the early recognition of the unity of the godhead; and the problems of Indian religion are from beginning to end particular forms of problems that recur elsewhere in other forms. In fact, the development of thought is like that of organic life: there is the most perplexing medley of similarities and differences, and the recurrence of analogous processes differing in shape and material.

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The sources for Indian religion go back to about the middle of the second millennium B.C. The actual beginnings are lost, even as the Puranic literature is preserved only in late forms, although there must have been popular religion of sorts long before the earliest extant material. The earliest Vedic religion, however, stands at the head of a new development, like Mosaism among the Israelites, and it is noteworthy that, not only was the ethical god Varuna known to the Hittites of Asia Minor about 1400 B.C., but names compounded with Arta (*Rita*, order) suggest the presence of an Aryan aristocracy in Syria, and even Palestine, at the same or an earlier period. The historical beginnings of Indian religion are tantalisingly bound up with some extremely perplexing but fascinating problems of the Near East of about the fourteenth century, B.C., an age which also saw the remarkable monotheistic reform of the Egyptian Pharaoh Ikhnaton.

Centuries later, about the middle of the first millenium B.C., a new stage was inaugurated by the founders of Jainism and Buddhism (pp. 55, 75); the human predecessor of the divine Vasudeva may possibly be contemporary (p. 50). It was an age of tremendous religious activity from Greece and Palestine to China; and even if Zoroaster be dated about 1000 B.C. (p. 12), rather than the traditional sixth century, some later development of Persian religion is also only to be expected. Not to mention, finally, the question whether the Bhagavadgita, which reflects a further advance in theism, is contemporary with the rise of Christianity (p. 86 *seq*), it will be recognised that not only is one led with Dr. Farquhar (p 78) to look for interrelations between religious and political movements, but when the great changes are viewed upon a larger background, one gains a more impressive picture of vaster interrelations at great periods of world history of which the present is evidently one. The deepened interest in religions is a stage in the actual development of religion; and Dr. Farquhar's volume, in common with the series to which it belongs, is calculated to add to our understanding of Oriental thought. It is upon such intelligent and sympathetic understanding that our position and prestige as an Empire indubitably rest.

S. A. C.

## III.—PERSIAN POETS FROM ZARATHUSTRA TO FIRDAUSI.

The lure exercised by Persia is quite independent of her physical environment. It inspired the home-staying Edward FitzGerald to distil the essence of her poetry in his immortal "Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám"; it has now moved an American man of letters to visit Persia on four occasions, and to saturate himself with a civilisation far older and finer than that of his fatherland. Professor A. V. Williams Jackson teaches Indo-Iranian languages in the Columbia University, and has achieved a certain reputation on both sides of the Atlantic as the author of several standard works on Persia. His latest contribution to the literature of the Middle East is an anthology of Persian poetry from its crude beginnings in the age of Zarathustra to the tenth century of our era, when Firdausi crowned the edifice with his deathless "Sháhnámah."

The universal passion for rhythmical expression finds its earliest vent in folksong or religious hymns. Fletcher of Saltoun's hackneyed dictum sums up the influence of ballad poetry on European races; but early Persian verse shows no trace of the lyric impulse. Such scanty fragments as have come down to us are psalms of praise to a beneficent Creator. Under the great Achæmenian dynasty illustrated by Darius, Xerxes, and Artaxerxes, minstrelsy must have flourished at Persepolis; but none of its fruit has survived. A total eclipse descended on Persia during the dark ages of Parthian rule (225 B.C. to 224 A.D.); and it needed a long succession of native rulers to bring about a revival of literature. The Sassanian King Bahram Gur (420-438 A.D.), and that hero of romance, Khosrau Parvis (590-628), are known to have delighted in verses chanted to the lute; but their tuneful numbers have shared the fate of the mighty volume of literature which passed into oblivion before the invention of printing.

The Moslem conquest, consummated in 651 A.D., meant for Persia all that William the Conqueror's successful raid meant for Saxon England. The Arab invaders brought with them a highly militant creed, which superseded Zarathustra's gentle doctrines, and a vernacular which is incomparably the richest of all Asiatic languages. While the Khalifate remained a living force, its sour bigotry was fatal to Persia's intellectual growth; but on its decline, in the ninth century of our era, poetry redolent of the soil once more raised its head. The reigns of three Iranian dynasties, extending from 820 to 999 A.D., mark a marvellous renaissance in Eastern Persia. Its final efflorescence was seen in the "Sháhnámah" of Firdausi (935-1025), whose 60,000 couplets illustrating the exploits of Persian sovereigns are known and loved throughout the Islamic world. The net result of Persia's tenth-century renaissance has been to stereotype her language. Professor Jackson justly observes that it "has changed far less in a thousand years than English in the comparatively brief period from Shakespeare to the present day."

In translating specimens of this marvellous literature, our author's aim has been to "combine the feeling of the original with the elements of faithful representation in modern form." He does not attempt to imitate Persian rhythms, which, like those of classical poetry, depend on the "quantity" of syllables, and do not lend themselves to English versification. Most of his rendering are, therefore, in rhymed verse. But our language is comparatively poor in assonances; and it requires a lord of words such as Edward FitzGerald to give Western students an inkling of the elusive aroma which pervades Persian poetry. Professor Jackson's versions are rarely felicitous and often descend to mere doggerel. He hints that a favourable reception given to this work may encourage him to follow it with two volumes, dealing with Persia's "Mystic, Lyric, and Romantic Poetry." In the interests of literature it is to be hoped that his sequels will furnish the Persian texts with a rhythmical but rhymeless translation of each on the opposite page. The best model for such an attempt is the famous French version of Heine's "Reisebilder"—"Travel Pictures"—whose haunting beauty far surpasses anything seen in the German original.

F. H. S.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"India." By Esmé Wingfield-Stratford. (Liverpool: Books, Limited. 6s. net.)

"India at the Crossways." By Lord Meston. (Cambridge: University Press. 3s. 6d. net.)

We have received from the "Bureau d'Information Islamique," 3, Rue de Téhéran, Paris, three pamphlets, entitled "Le Droit d'un Peuple à la Vie," "Le Verdict de l'Inde," and "M. Lloyd George et la Délégation Indienne pour le Califat" respectively.


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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

## CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

**Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish Dates.**

| Gregorian (New Style). | Julian (Old Style). | — | Moslem. | Jewish. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1920. August | 1920. August | | 1338. Julhijja. | 5680. Elul |
| 26 | 13 | Thursday | 12 | 12 |
| 27 | 14 | Friday | 13 | 13 |
| 28 | 15 | Saturday | 14 | 14 |
| 29 | 16 | Sunday | 15 | 15 |
| 30 | 17 | Monday | 16 | 16 |
| 31 | 18 | Tuesday | 17 | 17 |
| Sept. 1 | 19 | Wednesday | 18 | 18 |

The Metropolitan of Demotika has left London on his return to Thrace.

M. Beza, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London on August 17 for Bucharest.

The Emir Faisal arrived in Naples on August 20 from Port Said en route for Switzerland.

Prince and Princess Georges Lotfallah arrived in London on August 19 by aeroplane from Paris.

M. Panourias, the Greek Commissioner at Sofia, arrived in the Bulgarian capital on August 15.

Fathollah Khan Noury, secretary to the Persian Legation, has returned to London from Eastbourne.

M. Venizelos, the Greek Premier, is making such satisfactory progress that his doctors have decided to issue no more bulletins.

Prince Arfa-ed-Dowleh, formerly Persian Ambassador at Constantinople, will represent Persia on the League of Nations, says *Le Temps*.

Hussein Khan Alai, Persian Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary at Madrid, who has now recovered from his recent indisposition, left London last week for Switzerland to recuperate.

Mr. Ezra Sassoon, of Baghdad, has given £10,000 to the Jewish National Fund for the purchase of land in Palestine as the inalienable property of the Jewish people for the settlement of colonists.

The President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Mr. John W. Simpson, has left England for Cairo on a mission for the Egyptian Government in connection with the Kasr-el-Aini Hospital.

The English Friends of Denmark League have conveyed to M. Venizelos their congratulations at his escape from assassination, and have received from the Greek Prime Minister an expression of his grateful thanks.

Dr. Trumbitch, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, had an interview on August 18 with the Soviet Trade Delegates, M. Kameneff and M. Krassin, and discussed the question of repatriation of prisoners still interned in Russia.

The King of the Hejaz is sending a special mission to King George for the purpose of thanking His Majesty for his present, which the King of the Hejaz has received. The head of the mission will be Prince Habib Lotfallah.

The King has been pleased, by Warrants under the Royal Sign Manual, to grant permission to wear the following decorations, which have been conferred in recognition of valuable services rendered during the War:—

Greek Order of the Redeemer.—Cross of Officer.—W. W. Seton, M.A., D.Lit., Secretary of University College, London.

Greek Order of George I.—Cross of Chevalier.—Inspectors E. Buckley, J. Sandercock, and T. F. Cox, of the Metropolitan Police Force.

Order of the Crown of Roumania.—Cross of Officer.—E. W. Caruana, lately British Vice-Consul at Kherson, Russia.

Serbian Order of St. Sava.—Third Class.—Lt.-Col. H. L. FitzPatrick, C.B.E.

Serbian Order of the White Eagle.—Fourth Class.—Major A. S. Palmer (Ret.).

Prince Youssouf Kemal left London on August 24 for Paris.

The Maharaja of Alwar returned to London on August 23 from Harrogate.

M. L. K. Neumann, Secretary to the Czecho-Slovak Legation, left London on August 22 for Prague, on leave.

Mirza Abdol Ghaffar Khan Emad-ol-Molk, the Persian Chargé d'Affaires, left London on August 23 for Folkestone.

Prince Carol of Roumania arrived in New York on August 23 for a week's visit, during which he will observe the industrial and educational aspects of the city.

The British members of the Anglo-Persian Military Commission, says *The Times* Teheran correspondent, have, with the exception of General Dickson, now left Teheran. He also states that Mr. Hart, Inspector in the Ministry of Finance, has resigned his post.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Senator Garroni has been appointed Italian Ambassador at Constantinople.

Mr. Raymond J. Whitney has been nominated as United States vice-consul at Bucharest.

The Lord Mayor of Manchester has notified the Chamber of Commerce of the appointment of Hussein Agha Etemadet-Tojjar as Consul for Persia in Manchester.

The King has approved the appointment of General Lord Rawlinson, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., to be Commander-in-Chief of the Army in India in succession to General Sir C. C. Monro, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., who will vacate the command in October.

## OBITUARY.

A Bombay message states that Captain E. Crump, of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, has been murdered at Myinmu, Burma.

The death has occurred of the Rev. Claude Hermann Walter Johns, late Master of St. Catherine's College, Cambridge. Dr. Johns, who was born in 1857, graduated at Queen's College. In 1892 he became a Fellow and Lecturer in Assyriology at his old college. In 1909 he left his own college to become Master of St. Catherine's, a position which carries with it a residentiary Canonry of Norwich Cathedral. Dr. Johns's chief work was in Assyrian and Babylonian history, and he had lectured and written much on these subjects, his published works including histories of Assyria and of Babylonia, "Assyrian Deeds and Documents of the Seventh Century B.C." and "An Assyrian Doomsday Book," as well as numerous articles in scientific journals and dictionaries.

## COLONEL G. LEACHMAN, D.S.O.

The murder of Colonel Leachman takes away from Mesopotamia one of the most striking and picturesque figures, and one of the ablest officers, in that portion of the Empire. The present writer, who knew him in that country both before and after the war, must leave to others the work of describing his career as a regimental officer, and in South Africa. In Mesopotamia and Kurdistan, however, he was personally associated with him, and so, perhaps, may be allowed to bear a tribute to an honoured friend.

Leachman was one of that little group of adventurous officers who saw, after the South African war, that Mesopotamia was one of the fields where expert knowledge would be useful in the future, and he made the province his own. No doubt the mere craving for adventure had much to do with his choice; like Sir R. Burton, he was too big a man for routine duty, and the East drew him as it drew Burton, to go and wander among men with whom he had much in common, sure that some day his knowledge would "come in" when the need should arise, and enjoying the mere adventure in the meanwhile.

So, in the years before the war, he wandered from Busreh to Van, now turning up in more or less civilised garb at an English mission house in Kurdistan, now appearing, as a very ragged Arab, by night at the residency in Baghdad, and forcing a passage past a reluctant and astonished sentry. Hardy and tough, he was as absolutely indifferent to comfort as he was to danger, and on occasions his campaign kit was even lighter than the "piece of soap and two towels" of Charles Napier. The writer has heard him discourse eloquently on the joys of camels' urine considered as a liqueur, and when last he encountered him in Whitehall was informed, "I have just run over to have my appendix cut out." Thus he could live among

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the Arabs as one of themselves, speaking the language forcibly and intelligibly, if not always elegantly (who, indeed, can imagine Leachman as elegant?) and striking their imagination as no other officer could do.

Then came the war, and he found his career as intelligence officer to General Aylmer's force in the first advance to Kut, only to be cheated of fame by one hair's-breadth. Scouting out alone in front of the force before the abortive attack on the Judaileh redoubt, he actually entered that post—and found it empty. Hurrying back to his brigadier, he told what he had discovered, and urged immediate advance. A telephone message to Headquarters, however, revealed the fact that touch had been lost with the artillery of the force, and all advance was forbidden, lest they should be shelled out of the redoubt by their own guns. Legend has it that Leachman broke out: "For God's sake cut the wire, Sir, and swear you did not get the message," but the brigadier held to his orders. So in due course the redoubt was re-occupied by the Turks, and the force watched them do it. After that they were shelled all day by the guns of the redoubt, and were finally withdrawn, leaving Kut unrelieved. Turkish officers have told the writer that they considered the game lost on hearing of an attack on the right bank of the river, and said to one another: "They will relieve Kut, but will get no further." Is it surprising that the memory of the night rankled in Leachman's mind, and that long after when someone said in his hearing: "The relief of Kut was an impossibility," he broke out with the quick reply: "It was not. Kut *was* relieved, once."

The reputation he had made travelled far in Mesopotamia, and thus it was that he, characteristically, was one of the first to enter Mosul at the end of the war, where he found a Turkish official of high rank busy in removing some stores which by the terms of the armistice were to be surrendered. Promptly, Leachman knocked the man down. The Bey rose in mighty wrath, demanding names and addresses, and threatening appeals to the Commander-in-Chief. "My name is Leachman," came the answer, "and if you do not leave these things I shall knock you down again." We understand that the Turk literally fell and licked his boots!

As political officer, or practically governor, of Mosul after the war, Leachman governed on the lines of Harun-er-Rashid, and various tales about him (such as his collision with the Armenian Patriarch, or his impounding all the donkeys of a disorderly Arab tribe) have already appeared in these columns without a name attached. Conventional he could never be; a governor of a province who disappears into the desert, and has to be sought for by aeroplane when the needs of the State require his presence, is perhaps better suited for days of disturbance than for those of routine. On other occasions he would vanish in like fashion into the wilds of Kurdistan, rushing from place to place with perhaps two (or more usually one) wearied orderly at his heels, appearing in the "kalas" of astonished Kurdish Aghas, and lecturing them on their duty to the new order of things. The risks that he took habitually were tremendous, as when he appeared by aeroplane in the midst of a council of Kurdish Aghas, who had met, as they thought, in secret to discuss revolt, and brought them to at least a temporary loyalty by mere personal prestige. "There was only one village of Kurdistan where I ever felt safe," he once told the writer, and we regret to say, he added, "and now those Assyrian scallywags must needs carry on a blood-feud in it!"

An orderly administrator was about the last thing that he could ever be. Had his life been prolonged to days of normal administration, some special berth would have had to be manufactured for him, such as "Controller of the Arabs of the desert." There was a legend current in political circles in Mesopotamia that he once sent in a statement of account in which the totals balanced admirably, but which contained an item of some 70,000 rupees on the expenditure side, with the explanation "spent somehow on Government service, but we none of us remember how." On another occasion, when he was plagued by an orderly-minded clerk about the absence of some vouchers in another such statement, he sent back a reply: "The vouchers are at the bottom of the Karun. Tell your d——d Babu to go and look for them there."

That such a man should meet his death by violence can hardly be considered an unnatural end for him, or one that he would have thought unwelcome in itself. The black treachery which (if the account be trustworthy) brought about his death must come as a shock to all who have been accustomed to trust themselves to Arab hospitality, and will probably be an even greater shock to all right-thinking men of the land itself. Perhaps no one of the many who desired "Leachman Sahib's" death would ever have dared to meet him face to face.

A daring man who constantly put his life on the hazard, and that with the keenest enjoyment, he would have been the first to admit that the day was sure to come when the risk that he took so often in Government service would be fatal to him. He was one of those (though he might never have used the phrase himself) who hold that if you once treat life as valuable it ceases thereby to have any value at all. Meantime, we must own with sorrow that in the present situation in Mesopotamia the gap left by the removal of "Leachman Sahib" is one that it will be hard to fill.

W. A. W.

## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

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**(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."**

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# THE NEAR EAST.

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*Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON."*
*Telephone No.: 618 London Wall.*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1920.


## THE OFFER TO EGYPT.

Amid the welter of misunderstanding and worse from which the world is suffering at the present moment it is good news indeed that substantial progress can be reported in the conversations that have been taking place in London between the representatives of the Egyptian Nationalists and Lord Milner's Mission. An official statement, issued last week, announcing that Saad Pasha Zaghlul and his Egyptian colleagues had left for France and Egypt respectively, added that a very considerable measure of agreement on fundamental points had been revealed, which would, it was hoped, greatly facilitate the ultimate settlement of the Egyptian problem. It is probable, the statement continued, that at a later stage negotiations of a more formal nature will take place between accredited representatives of the British and Egyptian Governments. Subsequent unofficial reports were able to elaborate some of the fundamental points in regard to which the Mission and Zaghlul Pasha found themselves to be in agreement; but in so doing they misrepresented the nature of the proceedings in London. In the first place the powers of the Mission are restricted to reporting to the British Government and to making such recommendations as it considers advisable for the future government of Egypt; in the second place, Zaghlul Pasha and his colleagues, while representing an important political party, have laid special stress on the fact that they have no authority to bind the Egyptian people as a whole, and it is in order to sound the opinion of their own adherents on the conditions which they themselves are prepared to accept that they have returned to Egypt. Consequently it is a complete misnomer to apply to the London conversations either of the terms "agreement" or "settlement." Five months ago when the Special Mission returned from Egypt the position in regard to that country appeared hopeless. Lord Milner and his colleagues had been sent to gather information on the spot with a view to making recommendations for the future status of Egypt, but the only articulate body of opinion there stood resolutely aloof, demanding "complete independence," without attempting to explain the meaning that it attached to the words. In the face of this attitude it was obvious that the measure of self-government which the dispatch of the Mission implied that the British Government was prepared to grant would at once be utilised to legislate Egypt out of the orbit of the British Empire, and the Mission could have done no more in such circumstances than recommend certain improvements in the existing machinery of administration and leave for the future any elaborate charter of self-government. Lord Milner was wise enough to delay the final drafting of the Report in the hope that the Nationalists would come to see reason in time. The confidence was justified, and at the eleventh hour Saad Pasha Zaghlul and delegates from Cairo agreed to meet the Mission in London to submit the Nationalist point of view.

The position when the conversations opened was that, whatever steps the British Government might take on the recommendation of the Mission, it would have to reckon with a hostile Egypt. Lord Milner's purpose, therefore, in meeting Saad Pasha Zaghlul and his colleagues was to discover whether fuller knowledge on their part of the extent to which the Mission was prepared to recommend the grant of "independence" would not have the effect of changing a hostile Egypt into a friendly one. Thus, the first implied condition attaching to any understanding between the Mission and the Nationalist delegates was that whatever new status may be agreed upon, its whole-hearted acceptance in friendly relationship with Great Britain has to be guaranteed. One important point which the Nationalists had entirely overlooked while they held themselves aloof and demanded "complete independence" was that the Egypt for which they claimed to speak had no real existence. The British might have walked or sailed away from the Nile, but Egypt would still have remained under the Capitulations, and her "complete independence" would have been illusory. It is Great Britain alone, and not the Nationalists, who can free Egypt from the Capitulatory régime, and without this deliverance independence can have no real meaning for the Egyptians. Accordingly, another condition attaches to any measure of understanding arrived at between the Mission and Saad Pasha Zaghlul; it is that Great Britain will be able to induce the Powers concerned to consent to the abolition of the Capitulations. Clearly her chances of success depend on the extent to which she can persuade them that Egypt is entering upon a normal course of healthy self-development, safeguarded from political unrest and racial antipathies. In considering, therefore, the fundamental points on which the conversations showed the Mission and Saad Pasha Zaghlul in agreement, it must be borne in mind that any further steps in arranging for the future status of Egypt are dependent upon (1) the consent of the other Powers to the abolition of the Capitulations, and (2) the ability of the Nationalist delegates to guarantee that a settlement on the lines suggested will find Egypt ready to respect it and whole-heartedly responsive to Great Britain's friendship. This aspect of the situation was made very clear to Saad Pasha Zaghlul and his colleagues before they left London, and it is unfortunate that one version of the understanding has represented the negotiations for the abolition of the Capitulations as following instead of preceding any actual agreement between Great Britain and Egypt.

To many people the lengths to which Lord Milner's Mission is prepared to go in meeting the Egyptian demand for independence, in order to have a contented and friendly Egypt, will come at first as a surprise. Further consideration will show that in this particular Great Britain is merely indulging in an extension of an established precedent. Egypt's strategic position in the scheme of the British Empire is safeguarded; a garrison will be maintained in the Canal zone, and in case of war every facility and access to Egyptian territory are guaranteed. As Great Britain will make herself responsible for Egypt's integrity against outside aggression, there can be no call for a large native standing army. Any formal agreement between the two countries will doubtless clear up a number of points that the conversations in London did not cover. The Sudan does not enter into the picture, or, if it was mentioned, it was only to register the British Government's decision not to contemplate any alteration in the status of that territory or interference with its affairs. A more explicit statement regarding the relations between Egypt and the Sudan would be required in the final Act, especially as the southern country is dependent in part on the Egyptian railways for its communications. Egypt for her part would have her independence formally recognised, would regain control of her foreign relations subject to her not making treaties at variance with British policy, and would be freed from the Capitulations, while a veto on legislation affecting foreigners would be vested in the British representative. There can be no doubt as to the generous nature of the proposals. In practice the success of the scheme will depend largely on two things: the spirit in which the Egyptians undertake their new responsibilities and the personality of the British representative. If the Egyptians fail to live up to the spirit in which the offer will be made, or prove incapable of self-government, they will run the risk of losing their cherished independence. But the first step is that Egypt with something approaching a unanimous voice should signify her readiness to accept the proferred grant of independence with good will and friendly feelings. It is to be hoped that Saad Pasha Zaghlul and his colleagues will set more store on meeting their responsibilities in this direction than on trying to represent the British terms as a personal triumph for themselves.

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# WITH THE FRENCH IN THE NEAR EAST.

**By F. Fells, Ex-Lieut. R.N.R.**

"You will report yourself to the French Commandant on board the ——— and take your instructions from him, placing yourself and your ship at his disposal until such time as you receive further instructions from British authority." These words, spoken by the British S.N.O. at one of the naval bases in the Grecian islands, formed the starting point of a period of intense interest, enabling me, a British officer, to view the whole system of transport from Marseilles and Taranto to Itea and thence overland to Bralo and Salonika through French eyes.

According to instructions received we proceeded to the French naval base at Itea, passing en route through the famous Corinth Canal. This wonderful piece of engineering, conceived and commenced by the Emperor Nero, was intended to form a link between the Gulf of Corinth and the Ægean, a short cut from Italy to the Roman Empire in Greece. However, the project was abandoned, and only completed in modern times. The effect of passing through the heart of a mountain by means of a cut as clean and well defined as a narrow wedge sliced through a lump of cheese is striking and unforgettable. The illusion, evidently caused by the angle which the strata of the towering rocky sides makes with the sea level, of climbing up and up a water hill adds to the strangeness of the journey.

Arrived at Itea I duly reported myself to the kindly French Commandant, who from the first moment of greeting contrived to make me feel that I was conferring a favour on him by placing myself under his orders. Never during the whole eight months of my intimate association with him and his staff did I for one moment lose that impression.

At that time the Base Navale d'Itea consisted of the old wooden battleship Shamrock, with her attendant armed trawlers, ferry-boats, tugs, and visiting cruisers and transports. Inquiry elicited the information that she dated from the early days of the Republic, when one General (?) MacMahon was a power at the Ministry of Marine, and it was proposed to name several ships in his honour. I understand that he died or was superseded before the scheme could be carried out, so that the old Shamrock is the sole surviving evidence of the project.

I was received with the greatest friendliness by the staff of officers, most of whom spoke a certain amount of English, but I recollect especially the efforts of the Engineer-Lieutenant who took upon himself the task of correcting my faulty diction and pronunciation. The efforts were mutual, and there were many laughable incidents occasioned by our endeavouring to find the correct French phrasing of English expressions, and *vice versâ*. On one notable occasion the expression "the pot calls the kettle black" came up for discussion, and seemed to possess a great fascination for my cheerful instructor. In and out of season, for many weeks, he would pounce upon me or hail me from a distance: "Hi! Fells écoute! Pott calls black kettle"!!!

I found that Itea, port of ancient Delphos, the home of the Oracle (ruins of whose cave near Parnassus exist to-day), although far from any battle-front, and protected from submarine attack by the well-guarded inland Sea of Corinth, was nevertheless the scene of great and increasing activity.

There, whither the barques and galleys of old-time princes and rulers were used to bring their lords to consult the sacred Oracle in questions of love and statecraft, now came great transports and ships of war to land the troops of Britain and of France and her colonies to fight the German and the Bulgar in the North. Here, too, came thousands of tons of war stores and material, all to be transported by heavy camions and British lorries up through the hills and mountain passes on the magnificent motor road, hewn in many places from the solid rock by British and French engineering skill. Day and night, activity never ceased; if ships were not discharging troops or cargoes, then large convoys were transporting men and material, to be met in the passes by other convoys bringing wounded or war-weary troops to be embarked at the jetties. Embarking and discharging of troops took place chiefly at night, and for these duties small craft of any kind were employed. I have vivid recollections of crossing the ghostly dark waters of the bay; my little ship laden with three or four hundred troops and their equipment arriving at and leaving the pile jetties lit by flares, and returning again for more until the job was done. The sudden transition from the noise and bustle and glaring lights to the calm, deep stillness and darkness, unbroken save by the fairy lamps of the distant transports, was eerie in the extreme.

Itea was a meeting-place for every race and nationality of the Near East. British and French troops rubbed shoulders with coloured colonials from North Africa, with brown Maltese labour companies, occasional Arabs from waiting ships; there were the stylish uniforms of visiting Serbian and Greek officers and the processions of hangdog Turkish prisoners going to and from their work. Through and amongst them all, going about their daily affairs as though there were no such thing as a war in progress for the salvation of their country, were the town-bred Greeks and Levantines in their ill-fitting European clothes, and the strangely clad mountain shepherds from outlying villages, together with wild-looking Montenegrins looking as though they had stepped from a picture. In all the centuries Parnassus has surely never looked down on a stranger and more motley gathering. The entire organisation in this area was in the hands of the French. All shipping arrived and departed to scheduled times, which were so arranged that the danger zone between Patras and Taranto was traversed at night. It says much for the excellence of this organisation that few, if any, sinkings occurred during the eight months I was in that area. British, French and Italian destroyers shared the work of convoying the transports between the carefully policed barrier across the Adriatic and the nets and patrols which guarded the Gulf of Corinth. Once inside the Gulf, ships could proceed independently in perfect safety to Itea, or further east until they left the Corinth Canal, where they found themselves once more liable to submarine attack in the Ægean. Troops and stores, once landed, proceeded in large convoys of about twenty lorries over the first twenty miles of the long road to Bralo, and then came into the British zone.

The British and French existed side by side at Bralo, both having their huge lorry parks and transport companies, which fed, as it were, the continual stream of outward and inward traffic from the railway to the coast.

Bralo itself consisted of practically one huge rest-camp or dumping-ground, where men and materials were constantly arriving by train and lorry from Salonika and intermediate stations in the North, and over the mountains from Itea, forty miles by road to the South. Organisation was perfect, and said much for the amicable relations existing between the two Allies. Thousands of mixed troops would arrive in the vast camp on the plain, which, to the untutored eye, would seem to be already overcrowded. Within a marvellously short space of time these troops would vanish to their allotted places, trains shunted to their sidings, and lorries parked. Then, as if by magic, other large bodies of troops would appear on the march, new convoys form, and once more the tide would ebb by road and rail.

As can be imagined, this continual and heavy traffic caused an enormous amount of wear and tear on the road, and called for never-ceasing repairs. To this end the Bralo section of some twenty miles was undertaken by the British, and the remaining, or Itea, section, by the French. Hundreds of girls and women, with a sprinkling of boys and men, were recruited from the country round about, and large labour camps existed at intervals by the roadside. The work was enormous and never ending; inspectors patrolled the route incessantly, and no sooner did the slightest crumbling or inequality of the surface appear than gangs would be hurried to the spot, steam-rollers appear from nowhere, and the defect be remedied at once. In winter the work was cruel and bitter cold. Apart from the damage caused by frost and howling blizzards, which held up the traffic, frequent

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avalanches would descend, completely blocking the road and in places tearing portions of it away, necessitating immediate repairs. Quarrying, blasting, and stone-breaking were carried on incessantly, and the rugged mountain sides show many a scar which will bear witness for all time as to whence came the material to make the wonderful causeway. This should form a perpetual monument in Greece to the days when Briton and Gaul worked side by side for the defence of the country.

The question of water-supply to such a large body of troops in a sterile and practically riverless country was another problem which the French had to cope with. It is a peculiarity of that part of the world that rivers sink into the soil several miles inland, and never reach the sea unless by subterranean channels. It was in connection with this supply that I was called upon to assist the French authorities, and I hope on some future occasion to tell how we brought the water to Itea.

## TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

*The subjoined headings are those given in the official report* :— India (Prince of Wales' Visit). Montenegro. Persia and Mesopotamia. Syria. Mesopotamia. (August 16.)

## A RUSSIAN APPRECIATION.

The following copy of a letter received by the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, from Dr. Danchakov, principal medical officer of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, has been promulgated in the Fleet :—"From the time of the arrival of the first British man-of-war in Sevastopol up to the present moment the Medical Department of the Russian Black Sea Navy has never been insensible of the practical help and moral support rendered by British medical men, all so tactfully given as literally to leave us no opportunity to say how we felt. Will you, therefore, convey to the medical officers who visited our shores the expression of our heartfelt gratitude of all they have done for us, and the assurance that if we can ever be of the slightest service to our British colleagues they have only to command us."

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

A detachment of the French troops in Syria have occupied Kuneitra.

News received officially in London states that this year's harvest in Yugoslavia will be a record one.

Starrosselski Cossacks have entered Menjil, in North-West Persia. They have met with great opposition.

About 8,000 Maltese emigrants have left Malta for British Dominions and other countries since the Armistice.

Three British destroyers, Stuart, Tourmaline, and Turquoise, were to leave Malta for Constantinople on August 20.

The Roumanian Chamber on August 14 ratified the treaty with Bulgaria, which had already been ratified by the Senate.

A Bucharest message, received in Paris, states that the Roumanian Chamber has ratified the Peace Treaty with Austria by 221 votes against 13.

An Order in Council fixing August 9 as the date of the termination of war between Great Britain and Bulgaria was published in the *London Gazette* of August 20.

It is stated that an Anglo-Roumanian Agreement has been signed by which Britain is to supply officers for the Roumanian Navy, now in course of reconstruction.

A Coptic Church Court in Cairo has sentenced a local Bishop, who advocated the abolition of the celibacy of the clergy, to three years' imprisonment in a monastery.

A contingent of ninety-six French, six Dutch, eight Serbs, and three Italians who have been released from Siberian prison camps arrived at Stockholm on August 18 on their way home.

A Commission, composed of several Albanian notabilities, has left Durazzo for Athens and Paris, and will enter into negotiations with America with a view to a loan for Albania.

It is announced that the Roumanian, Serbian, and Czecho-Slovakian Governments are negotiating with a view to reaching a definite understanding among themselves as to the policy they shall pursue towards Russia.

The Royal Scots Greys, who are at present stationed at Redford Barracks, Edinburgh, are under orders to proceed to the Near East, probably Palestine, and it is expected they will leave about the end of September.

Negotiations for the sale of Western Wave by Mr. Whineray to the Maharaja of Nawanagar were concluded successfully on August 21, and the horse, with the other animals purchased by the Maharaja, will leave on September 14 for India.

The Admiralty have issued instructions for the sloop Clio, Commander Charles H. Jones, attached to the East Indies Station for service in the Persian Gulf, to be paid off immediately at Bombay, and her crew sent to Gibraltar Dockyard to man the sloop Crocus, which is to be refitted at Gibraltar Dockyard in readiness to replace to Clio in the Persian Gulf. The sloop Cyclamen, which is to refit at Sheerness Dockyard for service in the Persian Gulf, is to relieve the sloop Odin, Commander Vivian H. Brandon, which was recommissioned with her present crew at Gibraltar in September last year.

# CHESS.

## THE BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP.

The very general expectation that Sir G. A. Thomas would complete a wonderful season by winning the British Championship at Edinburgh was after all not destined to be fulfilled. After one of the closest contests on record the title has been gained by Mr. R. H. V. Scott, who has won the Hampstead and the Metropolitan championships on several occasions. Mr. Scott, with a score of 9, won by a margin of a point from Sir G. A. Thomas, who was half a point in front of Mr. E. G. Sergeant. Until the last round the two first named stood level, and it was not until later in the evening that the issue was decided.

Mr. Scott unquestionably deserved to win, for except in one game it cannot be said that he was favoured by luck. A player of the imaginative school he has hitherto failed to combine with that quality the soundness necessary to achieve the highest success. But that criticism cannot be passed on his play on this occasion. He was imaginative as usual, but where soundness was required he was sound. Sir G. A. Thomas did not display quite the form which gave him his triple victory in the London championships last spring and enabled him to win at Bromley, where the competitors included M. Kostitch, and judging by his play I should imagine that he was somewhat short of practice.

Here is another game from one of the early rounds of the championship.

QUEEN'S PAWN GAME.

| White. P. Wenman. | Black. Sir G. A. Thomas. | White. P. Wenman. | Black. Sir G. A. Thomas. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 P—Q4 | Kt—KB3 | 17 Kt—B (6) | KR—Q |
| 2 Kt—KB3 | P—K3 | 18 P—QR4 (7) | P—KR3 |
| 3 P—K3 | P—QKt3 | 19 P—KKt3 (8) | K—R2 |
| 4 B—Q3 (1) | B—Kt2 | 20 B—B3 | P—KKt4 |
| 5 QKt—Q2 | P—Q4 (2) | 21 K—R | Q—K |
| 6 0—0 | B—Q3 | 22 QR—Kt (9) | KtP x P |
| 7 P—QKt3 | Kt—K5 | 23 KtP x P | B x P (10) |
| 8 B—Kt2 | 0—0 | 24 P x B | P x P |
| 9 P—QR3 | P—QR4 | 25 B x P | R x B |
| 10 Q—K2 | Q—K2 | 26 R x R | R x R |
| 11 B x Kt | P x B | 27 Kt—K3 | R—Q6 |
| 12 Kt—K5 (3) | Kt—Q2 | 28 K—Kt | Q—Q |
| 13 P—KB4 | P—KB4 | 29 R—Q | Q—Q5 |
| 14 P—B4 (4) | QR—Q | 30 K—B2 | P—K4 |
| 15 KR—Q (5) | P—B4 | 31 R x R | P x R |
| 16 Kt x Kt | R x Kt | 32 Resigns. | |

(1) It is always a very difficult problem to decide on the line to be adopted against tactics of this type. I am of the opinion that the best way to meet Black's desire to control the diagonal is by P—B4, followed by Kt—B3, having in view the ultimate advance of the pawns with a view to shutting off Black's QB.

(2) Black assists in the process, and it should now be White's aim to keep Black's QP at Q4. White's QB can be developed by way of Q2, K, and KR4. P—B3 should, therefore, be played, followed by 0—0; Kt—K, and P—KB4.

(3) This manœuvre is unsatisfactory while the KBP is unmoved.

(4) White would now appear to have a shade the better of the position.

(5) White has now cause to regret having needlessly played P—QR3, as the QR should have gone to Q, leaving the KR available for an offensive against the King. K—R, R—Kt, followed by P—K Kt4 seems the most useful method of attacking.

(6) K—R was indicated. The text move merely hampers White's game, and absolutely prevents a King's side attack.

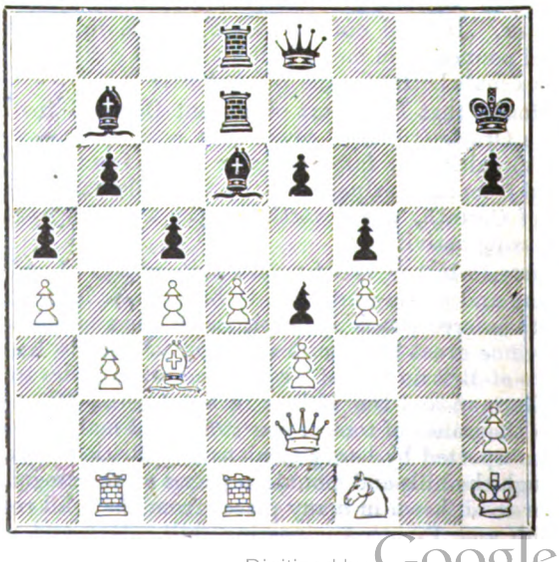
(7) Proving the uselessness of White's 9th move.

(8) White seems merely to have had in view defence by thus preparing for an attack which Black was not ready to deliver.

(9) Why? If the R had to be moved it should have gone to R2. At QKt it serves the useful purpose of defending a piece which was not, and could not be, attacked.

(10) Decisive.

Position after White's 23rd move. KtP × P.



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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The statistics for the imports of motor-cars and motor-cycles into Egypt for the first five months of this year make very unsatisfactory reading from the point of view of British trade. The Egyptian market for these commodities is on the increase, and promises to develop to a considerable extent. Unfortunately there is at present no indication that United Kingdom manufacturers will be able to obtain their share of this trade. The imports from the United Kingdom for the period in question totalled 53 motor-cars and 92 motor-cycles; while the imports from the United States amounted to no fewer than 675 motor-cars and 111 motor-cycles.

***

American cars have been given the preference, it appears, for two reasons, their cheapness and the certainty of delivery. There is a full appreciation of the good qualities of British cars, but while their superiority of finish and their durability are recognised, they are not being ordered on account of the high prices and the uncertainty of delivery. I understand, however, that British cars sent to Egypt are readily sold, and manufacturers might well consider the advisability of allocating a proportion of their output for export to this market. But that at best can promise only an uncertain trade, and it is evident that until the inevitable economic law brings about a readjustment of industrial conditions in this country, it will be impossible for manufacturers to hold their own in this and other similar trade outlets.

***

A further series of pamphlets, prepared for the League of Nations in connection with the International Financial Conference to be held in Brussels on September 24, has now been issued. These documents, which deal with various financial problems, the price of silver, trade promotion, etc., will in due course be reviewed in these columns, and I will, therefore, only briefly refer now to the most important of them, namely, the memorandum on the foreign exchanges and trade, written by Professor Gustav Cassel, of Stockholm University. Since the Armistice no problem has given rise to more anxiety than the question of the exchanges, and many have been the devices adopted to cope with it. But the artificial expedients have largely failed of their purpose, and to-day, almost two years after the Armistice, it has to be admitted that such improvement as there has been in the exchanges has been caused by the natural process of the growth of exports.

***

One solution of the exchange problem that has been much favoured here and on the Continent is the creation of an international currency standard. Professor Cassel is emphatically against this proposal. As he very justly points out, "the problem of keeping a stable exchange between two countries remains essentially the same whether the two countries have nominally the same unit of money or not." The crux of the position is, in short, not the unit of exchange, but what stands behind the unit. In other words, the solution is to be found in the word reconstruction. Given normal production in every country, creating normal exports, then the exchanges will right themselves. We have seen the effect on certain Near Eastern exchanges this year of the favourable harvest prospects coupled with progress in internal reorganisation, a marked movement towards parity taking place in certain cases. What has been happening in these cases points the moral that the restoration of the exchanges to a normal level need not be a slow process if only the necessity for hard work is realised in all countries.

***

One of the most significant features of Egypt's commerce for the first five months of the year has been the development of trade with Germany and Austria, whose competition will apparently be as severe at no far distant date as it was in pre-war days. The value of imports from Germany for that period was £E161,064, the figures in the case of Austria being £E84,913, the chief items in the trade being beer, china, glassware, caustic soda, and cutlery. Coming to the exports, it will be seen that in this direction, too, the former Central Powers are likely to make their influence felt, and possibly to a much more serious degree than in regard to the import trade. The value of Egypt's exports to Germany was £E724,760, while the figures in the case of Austria were £E137,640. Of these totals, £E715,210 and £E137,633 represented *raw cotton*. That means that at a time when the visible supplies of cotton are all but inadequate to meet the constantly growing demands, as the result, among other things, of the increasing utilisation of cotton for the manufacture of tyres, a new factor presents itself on the side of demand. It is a development which may well give rise to disquiet.

***

During the war France's projects for the development of Morocco were perforce restricted, but now that conditions are once again approaching the normal our Ally is making haste to repair the loss of time as far as possible. A new Moroccan loan of about seven and a-half million francs was recently voted by the French Chamber, and this is to be utilised for extensions of the ports, the construction of roads and hydraulic works, the development of irrigation, and the improvement of agriculture. At the same time, steps are being taken to develop the railway system of the country, in order that the Protectorate's progress may not be retarded by lack of adequate transport facilities. The present proposals provide for the construction of 1,000 kilometres of lines at a cost of between six and nine hundred million francs. Under the French régime the economic progress of Morocco has already been very marked, and this advance should be greatly accelerated in the future as the well-conceived schemes of development now in view make their influence felt.

***

We publish this week an important article on the economic position of Bulgaria, in which some of the openings in that country for British enterprise are briefly outlined. Apart from agriculture the resources of the country are as yet mainly undeveloped, and our correspondent draws attention to the opportunities that exist in connection with the development of the extensive lignite and anthracite deposits and other mineral resources, and the utilisation of the country's hydraulic power. There are extensive openings in other directions, notably for the construction of grain elevators at the ports, and especially for the supply of machinery for cement, textile and other factories. As regards the textile industries it is suggested that the problem of payment in view of exchange difficulties might be overcome by participation in enterprises. It is a feasible solution, and should prove quite workable.

***

The net earnings of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway for the half-year ended March 31 amounted to Rs.2,47,455, the available balance being Rs.5,34,614, out of which a dividend of Rs.6 per ordinary share is recommended, leaving Rs.3,17,780 to be carried forward. The net receipts of the Extensions Railway amounted to Rs.1,25,453, of which Rs.1,09,375 has been utilised to pay a dividend of Rs.2 8 annas, Rs.16,078 being carried forward.

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# Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, August 6.

### More Land for Cotton.

In spite of the outcry that the tax of P.T.35 per kantar of cotton was going to hamper the cotton-growing industry, the policy of planting cotton in preference to wheat and maize in Egypt has been persisted in so far that the Government has been impelled to make contracts for the supply of grain and flour to this country next year. I hear that the tax of P.T.35 per kantar is not sufficient to cover the deficit which is incurred by the importations of these foodstuffs; but so far there is no indication of any intention to increase it.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, August 14.

### The Value of the Drachma.

The control of exchange has now been removed, and though this would naturally cause a temporary setback to the value of the drachma, financial circles here are, nevertheless, confident that this will eventually show a considerable improvement of a more or less permanent nature. It should not be forgotten that in a few weeks time large quantities of currants and tobacco will be exported from this country, as a result of which important money remittances will be forthcoming from abroad. Furthermore, in view of the present serious deadlock in business caused by the enormous stocks lying at the Piræus and at other important centres in Greece, very few orders are being placed abroad, and consequently very little money is exported.

### Shipping Losses During the War.

The Union of Greek Shipowners has now published the figures in connection with the shipping losses incurred by Greece during the war through enemy action. On the eve of the war Greek shipping represented a total tonnage of 900,000, of which 397,000 was lost. The sums paid to the shipowners by the insurance companies in respect of these losses amounted to 310 million drachmæ. The total tonnage of Greek shipping to-day, including twenty steamers which are now under construction, is only 600,000. The president of the Shipowners' Union states that at least one more year will elapse before Greek shipping can attain its pre-war tonnage. The total number of steamers sunk during the war was 152; 210 sailing vessels, representing a tonnage of 20,000, were also lost.

### Arrivals at the Piræus.

There were 447 arrivals of various steamers in the port of Piræus during July of the following nationalities:—Greek 367, British 17, Italian 17, inter-Allied 11, Russian 7, American 6, French 6, Dutch 5, Roumanian 4, Spanish 3, Swedish 1, Norwegian 1, German 1, Polish 1. The number of sailing vessels of various nationalities which entered the port during July was 565.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, August 12.

### The Budget.

In spite of much criticism the Budget Bill has been practically accepted. The full estimates have now been published, and are given below. As explained in a previous letter, these cannot be taken as final, as it is hoped by the introduction of new taxation to reduce the deficit of about half a milliard lei. Moreover, the Army estimates have been made for the Army at peace strength, and the charges on the debt have been calculated on the basis of the normal lei value, i.e., about 25 to the £.

The complete figures of the Budget estimates are as follows (the totals being in lei):—

Receipts:—Direct taxes, 461,000,000; indirect taxes, 1,900,890,000; stamp and registration fees, 575,250,000; State monopolies, 1,035,000,000; public services, 1,661,120,000; State domains, 164,355,000; subventions, 29,187,000; Ministry of Finance, 99,888,400; Interior, 30,758,000; Justice, 17,588,000; Foreign Affairs, 500,000; Domains and Agrarian Committee, 14,182,000; Industry and Commerce and Under-Secretaryship for Reconstruction, 92,636,000; War, 1,415,000; Public Works and Communications, 4,272,000; Public Instruction, Religion, and Art, 12,878,600. Total, 6,090,920,000 lei.

Expenditure:—Ministry of War, 900,367,570; Finance, 1,527,878,171.27; Public Instruction, 656,046,637; Religion and Art, 131,063,918.65; Interior, 702,281,969; Public Works, 420,982,353; Ways and Communications, 1,163,000,000; Justice, 203,400,000; Domains and Agriculture, 132,900,000; Industry and Commerce, 116,000,000; Foreign Affairs, 20,982,175; Labour and Social Welfare, 20,428,785; Presidency of Council of Ministers, 7,231,600; Agrarian Committee, 81,175,748.80; Under-Secretaryship for Reconstruction, 15,940,745. Total, 6,103,679,672.72 lei. Funds for opening of supplementary credits and extraordinary credits, 496,320,327.28. Total, 6,600,000,000 lei.

### Unsatisfactory Trade Position.

During 1919 Roumania's exports were practically nil, largely owing to the lack of implements and transport, and for the first quarter of this year things had not greatly improved. The following table shows the comparison between the exports of cereals during the first quarter of 1920 and the same period in 1916 (the totals representing kilograms:—

| | 1920. | | 1916. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wheat | 228,900 | ..... | 242,820,200 |
| Rye | — | ..... | 20,662,000 |
| Maize | — | ..... | 230,408,800 |
| Barley | — | ..... | 161,571,200 |
| Oats | — | ..... | 42,730,400 |
| Wheat Flour | 6,600 | ..... | 73,255,400 |

This year Roumania will probably have very little, if any, wheat, but a good quantity of maize and barley available, but the difficulty still is to get it to the ports of shipment. If to the expense of transport an enormous export tax is added it is to be feared that the Roumanian producer will find himself unable to compete with the prices ruling on the world market. The petrol producer in Roumania is already in that position, for even in Con-


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stantinople American oil has recently been sold much cheaper than it could be got from Roumania, Turkey's next door neighbour. The situation seems to be improving slowly but surely, however, and if this year's harvest is as good as it promises and the locomotives expected from America within a week or two perform all that is expected and hoped of them, the progress may continue more rapidly henceforth.

**The Exchange.**

The market of the lei to-day is about 165 to the £, so that it is falling again. About three weeks ago it touched 120, and there was general rejoicing, though there seemed to be no substantial reason for the change. It became difficult to sell sterling as most of the merchants were waiting for the lei to go to 100, when they intended to pay off their bills to British houses.

There are several representatives of British firms in Bucharest at the present time, but one does not hear of much business being concluded. During the last few months a Canadian firm has secured a large contract, however. The Germans are busy preparing the way by skilled propaganda for their merchants to resume their former hold upon the market.

**Withdrawal of Crowns and Roubles.**

The Bill regulating the withdrawal of Austrian crowns in Transylvania and Russian roubles in Bessarabia has been passed by the Chamber. The crowns will be withdrawn immediately, and the roubles later. The rate of the exchange will not be announced until the day when the operations begin, so that would-be speculators will have no definite information to go upon. It would seem likely that it will be something between two and three crowns to the lei. In order to provide the sum necessary for the above exchange, a Bill has been passed authorising the Government to take a loan from the Banca Nationala for the sum of five milliard lei. This is intended to cover the withdrawal of the notes of the Banca Generala (a German controlled bank which issued currency during the occupation) as well as of the crowns and roubles. The loan has been accorded by the bank free of interest, and the State will only have to bear the expenses of the emission of the necessary notes. The value of these will be covered by Treasury Bonds.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, August 15.

**The Collieries of Pechuy.**

The *Progrès* publishes a report that an English syndicate has bought the collieries of Pechuy, on the demarcation line, from Hungary, who will receive in compensation the district known as the Baranya, among whose mixed population there are a hundred thousand Serbs.

**Credits for Guilds.**

The Ministry of Reconstruction has granted a series of credits to various guilds of artisans, etc., ruined by the war in Serbia and Montenegro, for the purchase of tools, plant, and material at cost price. The artisans of Belgrade get 3.000.000 dinars, the Central Union of Skoplje gets half a million, and the Chamber of Artisans at Cetinje a quarter of a million.

**Export Regulations.**

On the authority of a resolution of the Agricultural and Finance Committee, the Minister of Finance has directed the Customs authorities on the frontiers to permit exports without guaranteeing foreign currency in cash to the Central Bureau for Foreign Payments for the following articles:—Fruit, pepper, mushrooms, cuttings of sugar-beet, preserved fruit and vegetables, worked stone and millstones.

The Minister of Finance has issued an order that exporters may effect the change of their foreign currency into Yugoslav money only through the National Bank or its branches, the Central Bureau for Foreign Payments, or the Bourse, subject to the control of the delegates of the Ministry of Finance.

**Miscellaneous.**

Postal communication with Austria is interrupted owing to the postal strike in that country.

The Ministry of Food and Reconstruction has approved a credit of 300,000 dinars for the purchase of fishery plant and materials for the fishing industry on the Lake of Skadar.

The Director of State Monopolies has arranged to build a tobacco factory at Skoplje which promises to be one of the biggest in the Balkans.

It is reported that a number of Russian engineers are proceeding to London to get into touch with British capitalists with a view to constructing railways in Yugoslavia.

## ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA, August 10.

**Postal Delays.**

Previous bitter complaints about the delay in the postal service to Smyrna sink into insignificance in comparison with what now obtains. Letters from the United Kingdom to Smyrna take from six weeks to two months. The s.s. Karnak reached Smyrna about July 10, and up to the present time the greater part of the bills of lading and invoices have not arrived, and therefore merchants cannot withdraw their goods from the Customs House. Some firms, who had obtained their goods by giving a banker's guarantee that the bills of lading would be produced in one month's time, have to renew the guarantee for another month—a costly affair.

Merchants are suffering considerable inconvenience at the present time through delay in receiving registered letters from the British Post Office. We know an instance where a registered letter was due for delivery at 6 p.m. on Saturday evening, August 7; the addressee was told three times to "call again," although he presented the receipt issued by the Smyrna Post Office. Finally, he solicited the assistance of a consular official, who obtained the letter for him about mid-day on August 9.

## SUGAR PRODUCTION IN YUGOSLAVIA.

The sugar production of Yugoslavia this year is estimated at 54 million kilogrammes, this amount being inclusive of the output of the sugar refineries and the sugar-beet crop. The consumption is estimated at about 60 million kilogrammes, but it is thought that the production, if evenly distributed, will suffice for local needs. A Belgrade journal states that the following are the forecasted figures in hectares for the sugar-beet crop:—Becherek 2.688, Belgrade 1.299, Baranavor 927, Novi-Vrbas 4.480, Ossiek 2.500, Cussora 250, Tzrvenka 5.280, giving a total of 17.424 hectares under cultivation.

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# ARMENIA'S HYDRAULIC RESOURCES.

## GREAT POTENTIAL SOURCE OF WEALTH.

By G. J. AGABABIAN, E.N.S.M. (Paris)
(*Chief of the Department of Mines of the Armenian Republic*)

An important place among the natural resources of Armenia must certainly be given to the hydraulic power of its rivers. This importance is not merely the result of the normal difference in the matter of net prices of production between water energy and that obtained by the aid of combustibles—a difference which is, of course, considerably accentuated in consequence of the present high level of fuel—it is due particularly to the abundance of hydraulic energy in Armenia, and to the technical conditions which render its utilisation specially advantageous.

The rivers of Armenia are notable for their torrential character. Running into the Caspian Sea, the Black Sea, the Eastern Mediterranean, and the Persian Gulf, they show between the sources and the mouths differences of altitude often exceeding 4,000 metres. The neighbouring countries which extend along the lower reaches of the great rivers of Armenia, such as the Euphrates, the Tigris, the Arax, and the Chorock, show differences of less than 500 metres; the gradient of these rivers and their mouths being generally very low, and disadvantageous from the point of view of the production of hydraulic energy.

To estimate the value of the hydraulic power of the great Armenian rivers and their numerous confluences it is necessary to calculate their flow of water, etc. Such calculations have never been undertaken in Turkish Armenia, nor in Persian Armenia. As regards Russian Armenia, the maps of the Caucasus furnish a good deal of technical information concerning the Trans-Caucasian hydrographical system, while the official bulletins of the Waterways Department afford a certain amount of scattered information in regard to the systems of the Arax and the Kura. These details, together with a few personal observations, have enabled us to calculate the approximate minimum hydraulic power of twenty-nine rivers and streams.

The absence of gauging and levelling information makes it impossible to calculate the available hydraulic power of (1) numerous confluences of the Arax, Kura, and Chorock; (2) tributaries of certain confluences.

The following table summarises the results of the above data:—

THE ARAX SYSTEM.

| | Minimum Horse Power. | | Average Gradient. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Arax | 791,916 | ..... | 0·00207 |
| Akhurian (Kars-tchai) | 154,335 | ..... | 0·0077 |
| Arpatchai Occidental | 17,688 | ..... | 0·0119 |
| Sev-Djur (Kara-su) | 6,584 | ..... | 0·00088 |
| Ambert | 37,066 | ..... | 0·0850 |
| Kassak (Abarantchai) | 28,691 | ..... | 0·0166 |
| Dali-tchai | 20,027 | ..... | 0·0687 |
| Zanghi | 181,520 | ..... | 0·0095 |
| Maman | 11,892 | ..... | 0·0233 |
| Garni | 61,140 | ..... | 0·0358 |
| Vedi | 52,616 | ..... | 0·0399 |
| Arpatchai Oriental | 203,863 | ..... | 0·0231 |
| Nakhitchevan | 128,635 | ..... | 0·0381 |
| Yerindjak (Alindja) | 25,507 | ..... | 0·0449 |
| Ghilan | 24,316 | ..... | 0·0445 |
| Ramis (Urumis) | 14,452 | ..... | 0·0906 |
| Vanand | 27,790 | ..... | 0·0978 |
| Meghri | 128,635 | ..... | 0·0721 |
| Bassute | 23,810 | ..... | 0·0621 |
| Capan (Tchaundur) | 248,412 | ..... | 0·0332 |
| Akera | 505,630 | ..... | 0·0237 |
| Barguchate | | ..... | 0·0188 |

THE KURA SYSTEM.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bambak-Debeda | 126,760 | ..... | 0·0118 |
| Henevan (Kamenka) | 58,940 | ..... | 0·0236 |
| Gharpi | 4,270 | ..... | 0·0267 |
| Khram | 161,655 | ..... | 0·01394 |
| Akstev | 74,450 | ..... | 0·0173 |
| Thartar | 363,107 | ..... | 0·0199 |
| Karkar | 111,439 | ..... | 0·0384 |
| Total | 3,595,046 | ..... | — |

This approximate total ought to be doubled at least in order to represent the minimum hydraulic power of Russian Armenia. The minimum of its effective hydraulic power may be obtained by multiplying the result of this operation by a co-efficient of reduction equivalent, for instance, to 0.50. As regards the average and maximum powers of these watercourses, we are not in possession of sufficient information to give any precise figures. However, an approximate calculation based on details collected concerning eight of these watercourses gives the figure of 9,382,055 horse-power as an average total for the rivers of Russian Armenia.

The average gradients of most of the watercourses which we have studied vary, according to the table given above, between 0.030 and 0.040; a few reach 0.090. Four rivers in twenty-nine have average gradients of less than 0.010. These are the Arax, the Akhurian, the Sev-Djur, and the Zanghi rivers, which may be sub-divided into sections showing different gradients. The water-power of the low gradient sections corresponds to 350,119 horse-power, a figure which barely represents 10 per cent. of the total minimum power, which, as mentioned above, is 3,595,046.

The importance of the hydraulic power available in Russian Armenia may be better appreciated if the horse-power is represented in terms of fuel-power. At present the big fuel-consuming generating stations consume per horse-hour 3¾ lbs., or 3.75 × 0.453 = 1.699 kilogrammes of coal on an average. Under these conditions the minimum hydraulic power of 3,595,046 horse-power would correspond to an annual stock of 52,771,680 tons of coal, representing, at 20 francs a ton* a value of more than one milliard francs. 3,595,046 × 0.001699 × 24 × 360 = 52,771,680 tons; 52,771,680 × 20 = 1.055,433,600 francs.

From the industrial point of view these figures correspond to 14,577 kilogrammes of coal per horse-year, without counting other expenses, while the same unit of energy of the big hydro-electric stations under normal conditions would cost 50 francs, including interest and the writing off of the expenses of the original installations.

Looking at it from these two angles, the utilisation of the hydraulic power of Armenia (1) would enable the country to do without big stocks of combustibles, and would reduce its Budget considerably; (2) would provide private industry with abundant and cheap hydro-electric energy without which the national resources of the country would remain undeveloped.

## DOCK CONGESTION AT ALEXANDRIA.

The congestion at the docks at Alexandria is referred to in a report by H.M. Commercial Agent for Egypt. He states that in general the congestion may be said to be due to the stagnation of the local market causing lack of cash to take up documents, and that instead of selling goods importers have stored goods in bonded warehouses with a view to raising money on bonded warehouse warrants. The result is that goods are piled so high and in such confusion in the Customs and bonded warehouse sheds that it is almost impossible to sort the individual cases forming the consignments of importers who would withdraw them. The degree of congestion may be judged from the following figures for Manchester goods only: Stock in bonded warehouses at end of May, 10,480 bales and cases; withdrawals during May, 949 bales.

Some firms in the United Kingdom are now authorising banks in Egypt to release documents against three months' bills. This practice, if extended, will greatly relieve congestion. To remedy congestion on the quays themselves, the Customs Administration has taken over again the greater part of the sheds that were occupied by the military authorities and established a new section at the Mahmoudish Customs, so that the Customs formalities may be actively carried out. Further, the bonded warehouses have rented storehouses in Alexandria where goods may be placed. In addition, it has been suggested that the congestion is accentuated by large firms buying up consignments to small firms and paying storage on them rather than risk a fall in prices by their being put on the market. From enquiries from banks and merchants this does not appear to be the case, as the large firms are themselves overstocked.

Under the auspices of the Automobile Club of Ceylon, and the Ceylon Motor Traders' Association, the Ceylon Motor Show Syndicate has been formed for the purpose of organising a motor show from January 22 to 29, 1921.

* Actual price, 42s. 5d. per ton.

OAKEY'S
The Original Preparation for polishing Cutlery.
Canisters, 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. each.
SILVERSMITH'S SOAP, for Cleaning and Polishing Silver, Electro Plate, &c. Tablets, 6d
WELLINGTON KNIFE POLISH.
"WELLINGTON BLACK LEAD" in Solid Blocks, 1d., 2d., and 4d. each, and 1s. Boxes.
Polishing Paste, Furniture Polish, Plate Powder.
Glass Paper, Emery Cloth, Black Lead Packers.
WELLINGTON MILLS, WESTMINSTER BRIDGE ROAD, LONDON, S.E.1.

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## GENERAL BANK OF GREECE.

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

**Head Office - ATHENS.**

BANKING OPERATIONS:
Every description of Banking business transacted.

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

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

## POPULAR BANK OF GREECE.

**Head Office, ATHENS. Branch, PIRÆUS.**

Correspondents throughout Greece.

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

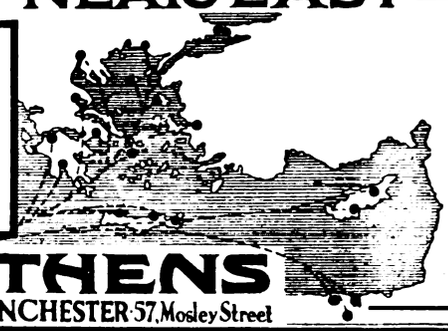
**CAPITAL - Drs. 1,500,000.**
**RESERVE FUND - Drs. 2,500,000.**
**Deposits and Credit Accounts, Drs. 100,000,000.**

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

*General Manager:* D. LOVERDO.

## TRADE WITH THE NEAR EAST

WITH its offices in all the principal towns in **Greece, in Egypt, Cyprus, Crete, Constantinople,** and in **Smyrna, the Bank extends exceptional Facilities for Export and Import Trade between Great Britain and the Near East generally,** and invites enquiries and correspondence relating thereto.



HEAD OFFICE: ATHENS.

## BANK OF ATHENS

LONDON 22, Fenchurch Street E.C.3. MANCHESTER 57, Mosley Street

## COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE, LIMITED.

**CAPITAL PAID-UP - Drs. 15,000,000.**
**RESERVE FUNDS Drs. 2,845,010.45.**

**Head Office: ATHENS.**

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

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

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

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

## GREECE.

Area 43,522 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,746,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 379,600 under oak trees, 296,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

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

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

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

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

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

**COINAGE.**—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 32·05 Drachmæ to £1.

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

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

## BANK OF NATIONAL ECONOMY (of Greece)

Head Office: ATHENS.

*Branches:*

PIRÆUS, SYRA. PATRAS.

**Capital Paid Up - Drs. 10,000,000.**

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

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

## THE HELLENIC COMPANY OF MARITIME ENTERPRISES

(PALIOS LINE.)

**Head Office - PIRÆUS.**

A. P. PALIOS, Founder. M. P. PALIOS, General Manager.

**REGULAR MAIL, PASSENGER, and FREIGHT SERVICES from PIRÆUS to MEDITERRANEAN PORTS, GREECE, SEA OF MARMORA, BLACK SEA, SEA OF AZOF, ASIA MINOR, SYRIA, and EGYPT.**

26 PASSENGER and CARGO STEAMERS.

85 AGENCIES in Greece, Sea of Marmora, Black Sea, Sea of Azof, Asia Minor, Egypt, Mediterranean and principal Ports of the World.

Coaling Yards and Repair Shops.

GENERAL AGENTS for the High Commission of Sea Transports; for all Passenger Steamers requisitioned by the Greek Government.

*Cable Address—Navigation Palios.*

*Codes used—Scott's (1905) 10th Edition; A.B.C. (1901) 5th Edition.*

## MARITIME BANK of GREECE

**AUTHORISED CAPITAL FULLY PAID DR.10,000,000.**

Founder—A. P. PALIOS.

**Head Office: PIRÆUS, GREECE.**

Cable Address: "Maritime Bank."

Codes Used.

Scott's 1906—10th Edition. A.B.C. 1901—5th Edition. Palios 1919

*Branches and Agents in the Principal Cities of Greece and the Levant.*

*The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business, and by reason of its connections, throughout Greece and the Levant, is in a position to offer to the trade exceptional facilities.*

**Advances and Collections of B/Ls., Shipowners' Remittances and Disbursements to and from all parts of the World, by cable or mail. Loans on Vessels and other hulk. Bills of Exchange Negotiated. Letters of Credit and Drafts issued on the Principal Cities of Greece and Foreign Countries. Confirmed Credits at Home and Abroad. Loans on Government and other Securities. Loans on Goods and Warrants of Bonded Stores.**

AGENTS AND CORRESPONDENTS:—
For the U.K.—LONDON COUNTY & WESTMINSTER & PARR'S BANK, London.
BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO, London.
For the U.S.A.—NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK CITY, U.S.A.

## BANK OF ORIENT.

**Capital Paid Up - - - Drs. 25,000,000.**

**Head Office - ATHENS.**

Every kind of Banking Business Transacted.

**Branches: SALONIKA, SMYRNA, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MITYLENE, SERRES, ZAGAZIG, MAGNESIA, PERGAMA, SOMA.**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# BULGARIA'S ECONOMIC POSITION.

## II.—OPENINGS FOR BRITISH ENTERPRISE*

(From a Correspondent.)

In my previous article I outlined the present position of Bulgaria, and pointed out that in the development of the country British participation will be heartily welcomed, provided it is on a basis which will enable Bulgarians to share equally in whatever enterprises are undertaken. I now propose to examine some directions in which development is required. First and foremost there is a question of the adequate utilisation of the lignite and anthracite deposits. Quite close to Sofia there is a coalfield containing immense quantities of lignite in the plains and so-called anthracite deposits in the mountains. This material can be briquetted without the addition of tar, and there would be a ready market locally for the briquettes. The lignite is of 3,000 calories, and the briquettes would represent 6,000 calories. In other parts of the country extensive deposits exist which would not only provide for local needs, but would also enable the building up of a large export trade.

Another and a paramount need is for the installation of grain elevators at all ports. Hitherto exports of grain from the Bulgarian Danube ports have passed through the elevators at Braila and Galatz, to the economic disadvantage of the country, and a concession for the construction of elevators should prove a highly remunerative enterprise, and it can safely be said that in no direction would British assistance be more popular.

Apart from coal and lignite, the country possesses various other mineral resources, apparently of considerable value. Very many concessions have been granted in the past, but in the majority of cases little actual work has been done, and there is no accessible information regarding the extent of the various minerals. But from what is known it seems clear that in this direction there should be a promising field for enterprise.

It need scarcely be said that in Bulgaria, as elsewhere, there is a house shortage. Various cement factories exist, of which one is in operation. The others are in need of machinery, organisation, and up-to-date methods. There are large orders from Government and public bodies awaiting execution, while the demand for private houses is immense.

The textile industry is capable of considerable development, and there is undoubted scope in this direction for the supply of machinery, while technical advice is also required. Here, as in other cases, the exchange raises problems with regard to payment for machinery. One way of getting over the difficulty would be an arrangement by which participation in the enterprise was given in return for the supplies required.

No review of opportunities in Bulgaria would be complete without a reference to the utilisation of water-power. The mountainous regions of the country make the development of water-power for industrial purposes and for lighting an undertaking of particular promise. The people are familiar with, and appreciate the uses of, electricity, and it is no exaggeration to say that they are eagerly looking forward to its application.

In a preceding paragraph I touched briefly on the question of payment for machinery in the case of special enterprises. Obviously the general question of payment for goods does not lay itself open to treatment on the lines suggested. The present exchange rates preclude an exchange of values on a cash basis, but, that admitted, the difficulty is not so pronounced as it would appear. Probably there would be no obstacle to the payment of a small proportion in sterling, but the bulk of the value would have to be remitted for the time being in the shape of produce. Bulgaria is fortunate in possessing at the present time large surplus stocks of grain, and as the harvest outlook this year is uniformly favourable it is evident that the country will possess the wherewithal to create credits, and by so doing to bring about a further substantial rise in the value of the leu.

Looking ahead to future years, in addition to grain and tobacco, there will be minerals to export, and these commodities between them will furnish the basis on which Bulgaria should be able to build up a considerable trade in the exchange of commodities with Great Britain. Bulgaria must always look abroad for the majority of manufactured articles; Great Britain needs, and will always need, raw materials. Thus the way should be made plain for the development of close commercial intercourse between the two countries.

* The first article appeared on June 24.


## TRADE ANNOUNCEMENT.

SERBIANS know no English; consequently they cannot read and appreciate British industrial and commercial catalogues and price lists. British prospects in Serbia are high. Send to the undersigned your technical and commercial catalogues, pamphlets, booklets, price lists, and advertisements for translation, production and distribution in the kingdom of the Serbians, Croatians and Slovenians. It is important that your catalogues be translated CAREFULLY and with TECHNICAL EXACTNESS. Professor W. M. Petrovitch, author of *English Grammars* for the use of the Serbians, and of *Serbian Grammars* for the use of the English, whose works in English ("Hero Tales and Legends of the Serbians," and "Serbia: Her People, History, and Aspirations," published by G. G. Harrap and Co., 2 and 3, Portsmouth Street, Kingsway, London, W.C.) have been well received in England, is prepared to undertake all such work. If you are interested to extend your trade, industry, or commerce to the new, wealthy, and prosperous kingdom of the Serbians, Croatians and Slovenians, write to-day to Dr. WOISLAV M. PETROVITCH, Secretaire du Ministere de l'Instruction Publique, Belgrade, Serbie.


## THE PRAGUE FAIR.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Will you allow me to bring to the notice of your readers interested in foreign trade that a very important Sample Fair will be held in Praha, Prague, from September 12 to 28, 1920? The fair is the first of its kind in Czecho-Slovakia, and will in the future be held twice yearly. The importance of the sample fair is probably already known to your readers from the particulars published in the *Board of Trade Journal*, and submitted to the Chambers of Commerce.

The object of this letter is to invite all buyers or would-be buyers most cordially to visit the fair, which will be a representative collection of Czecho-Slovak manufactures in all lines. Merchants and shippers will have an opportunity to get into direct touch with manufacturers and secure their supply of goods of world-wide fame for all markets.

Detailed information and aid will be given by the Czecho-Slovak Legation in London.—I am, etc.,

L. V. Neumann.

Czecho-Slovak Legation, 8-9, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1.
August 13.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

This week's Indian cable states:—Rain has fallen fairly generally in Bihar, Chota-Nagpur, Northern Bengal, Assam, Lower Burma, Madras (North Coast), South-Western India, Central Provinces (East), and Punjab Hills. Local elsewhere. Monsoon generally weak. Crop conditions, generally, good, but rain needed in parts of North-Eastern India, Central Provinces, and in Southern India. Purneah-Kissenganj metre-gauge railway—preliminary survey of 36 miles by Eastern Bengal State Railway sanctioned. Bombay cotton market steady. Fully good broach August Rs. 447. Piece-goods market no improvement in rates and demand poor. Calcutta jute market old crop very firm, new crop nothing doing. Hessians steady with prices unchanged and moderate business. Heavy goods dull but steady, with limited business. No change in Bank rate.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97 7/16 |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 32·30-32·80 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 85 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/10⅜-1/10½ |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 150-155 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/10⅜-1/10½ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 406-426 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅔ | 3·58¾-3·60 |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 50·60-51·30 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 200-205 |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 32 |


# CENTRAL BANK OF GREECE

**Head Office: 12, Aristeides Street, ATHENS.**

***Paid-up Capital - - - 3,500,000 Drs.***

*Administrative Council:* LEONIDAS SKENDER (*Chairman*), GEORGE EMBIRICOS (*Vice-Chairman*), K. SALLIARIS, A. DAMBASIS, Ph. LOUKISAS, M. EVLAMBIOS (*Director of the National Bank of Greece*).

*General Manager:* GEORGE MOUSTAKAS. *Manager:* G. A. KARYSTINAKIS.

**EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.**


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# "STANDARD" TOBACCO MACHINERY

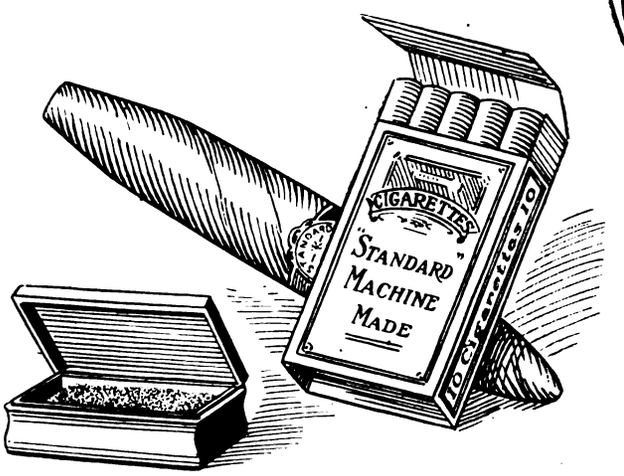
**Covers the entire field of varying requirements in Tobacco Factory Mechanical Equipment for the preparation and manufacture of the raw material—**

*From Plantation to Finished Product.*

AM&F Co

Whether you are concerned with the manufacture of Cigars, Cigarettes, Pipe Tobacco or Snuff, "STANDARD" Machines are available which have been developed to the highest state of mechanical perfection and are pre-eminent as regards—

Simplicity of Construction,
Consistent Reliability,
Ease of Control,
Low Power Consumption,
Rigidity of Design,
Efficiency in Output,
Perfection of Product,
Economy in manufacturing Costs.



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New York, Brussels, Geneva, Athens, Christiana, Cairo, Tunis.
*Cables: "AMMAFOCO, LONDON."* *Codes: All usual.*


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# ENGINEERING.

## Electric Accumulators.

At the present time, so rapid have been the advances made in electrical work, it is hardly possible to pick up any journal devoted or partially devoted to the engineering industry without finding the word "accumulator" therein. The word has little meaning to those outside the engineering industry, and even users of these storage batteries, as accumulators are sometimes termed, are often far from clear as to what the word means and as to what an accumulator really is.

In its early stage of development an accumulator was merely two plates of lead immersed in a solution of dilute sulphuric acid. These were not allowed to touch each other, and each plate was connected to one of the poles of an electric battery or some form of electrical generator. As soon as a current was allowed to pass, the acid solution was slowly decomposed into its constituent gases, and the metallic lead was changed, chemically, on its surface into a compound of lead. It was found that if the battery was disconnected after a time the lead compounds thus formed changed back to metallic lead, and in doing so caused a current of electricity to flow between them as soon as they were connected by a wire. The total quantity of this current bore a relationship to the current which had been allowed to pass through them in the first place. In this early form the efficiency of the accumulator was very low, but it was not long before improved methods of manufacture were adopted and higher efficiency resulted. About 30 years ago a method of manufacture was devised by which the plates were made in the form of a grid of lead, the spaces in which were filled with the lead compounds mentioned, so that the accumulator was ready to work as soon as the charging current had been allowed to flow for a sufficient space of time. Both plates were pasted or filled with the same lead compound, so that all the electrical energy had to do was to change this compound into a somewhat different form, which reverted to its original material during the discharge. From this it will be seen that an accumulator is really a piece of chemical engineering machinery, in which the action is purely chemical, so that an accumulator or storage battery does not store up current in the ordinary sense of the term. On the contrary, the electric current has the property of decomposing the liquid and causing a chemical change in the material forming the plates, and the subsequent reaction generates electric current in its turn.

The modern accumulator is a highly efficient piece of apparatus, and as it is easily put out of condition a certain amount of care is necessary in using it. When current is taken from a storage cell at too rapid a rate, or when the discharge is continued for too long a period, the acid solution with which the cells are filled becomes weak, and a hard and an insoluble sulphate of lead, in the form of a white scale, forms on the plates and impairs their utility. The battery then opposes a high resistance to the passage of the charging current, and it is difficult, if not impossible, to get it back to its original state of efficiency.

When batteries fail through this cause the user is apt to imagine that there has been some fault in the manufacture, but, as a matter of fact, manufacture has developed to such a pitch of excellence that a faulty cell is never allowed to pass outside the works, and given proper usage every cell can be relied upon to last for its rated life. Neglect has as serious an effect on an accumulator as failure to lubricate would have on an engine or any other piece of machinery. Makers invariably send out a complete book of instructions with their cells, and give full directions as to charging and discharging, and if proper attention is paid to these there is no danger of any fault occurring or of the battery failing to give its rated output. There are two very clear indications which enable the user to gauge the limit of safe discharge. One of these is a simple instrument called a hydrometer, which indicates the strength or specific gravity of the acid in which it is immersed, and the other is the voltage. In rough figures, as Messrs. Vandervell, who are well-known battery makers, point out, it may be taken that the battery will be injured if the specific gravity of the acid solution falls below 1.170 on the hydrometer scale, or the voltage falls below 1.8 volts per cell, at which figure the voltage of a six-cell battery will be 10.8 volts instead of 12 volts or over, which would be the normal figure.

After a battery of accumulators has been erected, which should be done strictly in accordance with the instructions of the makers, the cells should be filled with sulphuric acid diluted to the proper degree, so that the tops of the plates are just covered. The hydrometer should show a specific gravity of 1.225, and this can be obtained approximately by mixing pure sulphuric acid with four times its bulk of water. If the reading is not quite up to the figure mentioned, a little more acid or a little more water should be added, as the case may be. The battery should then be connected up, and charging commenced, and this first charge must be carried out for the length of time specified by the makers, at the end of which each 2-volt cell should give an average of 2.5 volts. The reading on the main discharge voltmeter should be equal to the number of cells multiplied by 2.5.

For the first few weeks no attempt should be made to discharge the cells to anything like their full discharge limit. Frequent charging up is necessary, and charging should always be continued until the liquid in the cells is in a state of violent effervescence. Should the gravity be found at any time to have dropped below 1.700 on the hydrometer scale immediate re-charging is necessary. A reduction of capacity can often be traced to weak acid solution which is always caused by insufficient charging. A point to be noted is that if batteries stand in a warm place for any length of time the water in the acid solution evaporates to some extent, and in such case pure distilled water should be added until the level and the gravity are both correct. The plates in the cells should never be allowed to stand uncovered with water.

Where accumulators are used the gases and the fine acid spray given off during charging are extremely corrosive, and not only should the terminals of the batteries be covered with thick vaseline, but the wires and cables used should also be protected with thick coats of enamel or pitch applied in a hot state. Care should also be taken to see that any acid accidentally spilled is immediately wiped away, and a large jar of strong ammonia or of ordinary washing soda (carbonate of soda) dissolved in water should be kept at hand, as either of these solutions will neutralise acid, and so should be applied at once in the event of any acid being accidentally spilled on the hands or clothing.

## Die Forging.

At no time has the use of what are known in the engineering trade as die forgings been more general than at present, and by the introduction of the process of producing finished forgings in dies, hand-made forgings, and small steel and malleable iron castings have been largely superseded.

It is possible to forge by means of heavy power-driven hammers and suitably cut and shaped dies the most intricately shaped pieces of work; pieces which it would cost


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**Chemical and Pharmaceutical Products and Papers of all kinds.**

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The Hellenic Wine and Spirit Co., Athens.
The Hellenic Society of Chemical Products and Manures, Athens.
The "Titan" Cement Co., Athens.
The Soap and Oil Works, "Charilaos & Canellopoulos," Athens.

BANKERS' REFERENCES:—

The London Joint City & Midland Bank, Ltd. (Foreign Dept.), London.
The American Express Co., New York.
The Bank of Industry, Athens.

***Reference can also be made to "THE NEAR EAST."***


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# BANCA NATIUNEI

**Capital and Reserve Fund: 85,000,000 LEI.**

**BUCHAREST: Calea Victoriei 98 (Piata Palatului Regal).**

Chairman:—N. D. GHIKA. Deputy-Chairman:—MIHAIL D. STURDZA. General Manager:—ION G. STOIAN.

**EVERY KIND OF BANKING AND FINANCIAL BUSINESS TRANSACTED.**

*The following Companies have been established by the BANCA NATIUNEI:—*

**S.T.A.R. Societatea de Tractiune Automobila din Romania.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei**
**Gospodariile Taranesti.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei**
**S.R.C. Societatea Rom. de Combustibil.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei**
**Industria Forestiera din Transilvania.—Capital, 12,000,000 Lei**
**Industria Chimica Romana.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei**
**Tipografia Gutemberg.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei**
**Casele Populare.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei**
**Crucea Societate pentru comertul si Industria de vestminte si odoare bisericesti.—Capital, 1,000,000 Lei**
**Minele de Aur din Romania.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei**
**S.A.R.D.A. Societate Anonima Romana de Aprovizionare—Capital, 2,000,000 Lei**

# BANQUE MARMOROSCH, BLANK & CO.

(Joint Stock Company).

**HEAD OFFICE: BUCHAREST (Roumania).**

**Capital: 125,000,000 Lei. Reserves: 140,000,000 Lei.**

BUCHAREST, CONSTANTINOPLE, PARIS, NEW YORK
AND
Branches in all the Principal Towns of Great Roumania.

# ROUMANIA.

**AREA** (after Peace Treaties of 1919) **122,282 sq. miles.**

In 1914 the cultivated area was (according to an estimate of Dr. Colesco) 34,475,750 acres; of which 13,074,922 were ploughed lands, 468,670 were vineyards and orchards, 1,436,960 were meadows, 2,948,472 were pastures, and 5,705,750 were forests.

**POPULATION. About 17,400,000.**

**IMPORTS (1915). £8,533,234.**

United Kingdom, £848,997; Austria-Hungary, £3,718,182; Belgium, £43,230; Germany, £3,575,159; France, £660,287; Turkey, £558,238; Italy, £762,023.

**EXPORTS (1915). £21,742,379.**

United Kingdom, £2,238; Austria-Hungary, £13,576,255; Belgium, £2,343; Germany, £7,044,803; Turkey, £443,325; Italy, £37,838.

[NOTE.—In 1914 the Imports from the U.K. amounted to £2,231,773, and the Exports to it to £1,433,535.]

# BANQUE DE CREDIT ROUMAIN

(Joint Stock Company)

FULLY PAID-UP CAPITAL:
**70,000,000 LEI.**

**BUCHAREST. BRAILA.**
**GALATZ. CONSTANZA.**

The BANK opens current accounts, collects and discounts bills, &c., on Roumania and other countries. Collects dividends, makes advances on shares and other securities, and upon merchandise, and carries on all usual banking transactions. Receives cereals on consignment and undertakes their sale.

# BANCA ROMANEASCA. *Established 1911.*

**Authorised Capital, 160,000,000 Lei. Capital Paid Up, 100,000,000 Lei. Reserve Fund, 38,936,306 Lei.**

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**Branches in BAZARGIC, BRAILA, CONSTANTZA, CZERNOWITZ (Bucovina), GALATZ, KISHINEFF (Bessarabia), SILISTRIA, TULCEA, TEMESVAR.**

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several times as much to produce in any other way. Motor-car engine connecting rods, with gudgeon pin and big-end bush seatings, and extremely thin and channel-shaped in the centre can be drop-forged out of solid steel in a remarkably short time. In fact, the writer has seen one of these rods, weighing 8 lb., and of an over-all length of 16 inches, forged direct from a 3-inch square steel bar by 30 cwt. power hammer in slightly under two minutes. A stub-axle for a heavy commercial lorry, which at one time could only have been produced by intricate casting, weighing half a hundredweight, can be forged out of a steel billet, five inches square, by a three-ton hammer in rather under ten minutes.

There are a number of power hammers on the market, and it is safe to say that good work can be done by all of these. In the opinion of practical men, the type of hammer which is allowed to fall by gravity after being brought up to the correct height, is perhaps the more efficient for producing finished forgings in dies. In the view of some engineers it is not so easy a matter to produce good clean forgings with hammers having solid piston-rods, mainly because their construction is such that it is necessary to put wood or other packing under the block. This protects the piston-rod from crystallisation, but the view held by many is that the elasticity provided by the packing takes away from the efficiency of the blow. In the gravity type of hammer, the anvil or platform on which the hammer falls can be fixed direct in solid concrete without any fear of vibrations affecting the mechanism.

**Early Forms.**

The earliest form of drop hammer was that in which a weight was raised to a required height by means of a rope and allowed to fall so that the force of the blow could be directed where required. This type was and still is used for pile-driving work, but it was known for many years, if not for many centuries, before the principle was applied to metal working. The oldest form of forging hammer of the kind was a heavy block raised to a height by a belt passing over a pulley. Later on, power was applied to the pulley, and the friction of the belt on its rotating surface reduced the labour of raising the block. This machine, if such it could be called, was not particularly efficient, and stamping was confined to very small work. The power hammer, as used for drop forging work, may perhaps be said to date from the introduction of a "lifter" by Messrs. Brett's Patent Lifter Co., Ltd., a Coventry firm who had devoted a good deal of time and money to experimental work in this direction. This firm are now making some of the highest class and most efficient tools of this kind known, and in the opinion of users, the British-made power hammer and drop hammers are far superior in every way to those produced as yet in other countries. The Brett lifters, it may be mentioned, are made in two patterns, the one for operation by means of steam or compressed air, and the other for driving by means of a belt or an electric motor.

**Wireless.**

The members of the Imperial Press Conference who met at Ottawa have been informed by the manager of the news department of the Marconi Co., that a new system of transmission will probably be introduced in the near future. This, in his opinion, will revolutionise the wireless service, and will permit of a wider range of transmission. Another point he made was that under the new system it would be impossible for one station to pick up high speed messages intended for another recipient. On the other hand, a slow speed transmission service would allow of a number of stations receiving, when desired, the same message as in general news transmission. It will be interesting to hear more about the new method to which Mr. Burroughs referred.

**Exide Batteries.**

All those who are at present using exide batteries for starting, lighting and ignition purposes will be interested to hear that the makers have issued a new catalogue which contains full descriptions of all types of this well-known and highly efficient storage battery. In addition to this information, it contains a short technical description of the Exide accumulators, and also a list of the cars to which it is fitted. The company who manufacture these cells has also organised a service department for the general benefit of storage battery users.

**Literature Received.**

Just to hand is a booklet issued by Messrs. D. Napier and Son, Ltd., of 14, New Burlington Street, W.1. Under the title of achievements in the air it gives an account of some of the more remarkable performances of aircraft fitted with Napier engines, and from every point of view it is a very fine production. Also to hand is a very well written booklet dealing with welding repairs, issued by the New Welding Co., of 26, Rosebery Avenue, E.C.1. This deals fully with this interesting subject, and the firm will be pleased to send a copy to any reader of THE NEAR EAST. A comprehensive catalogue dealing with the Autosun equipment, which includes car accessories of all kinds, has been issued by Messrs. Auto Sundries, Ltd., of 10A, Lower Grosvenor Place, Victoria, S.W. I hear that a new company under the name of British Timken, Ltd., has been formed to take over the manufacture of the Timken roller bearings hitherto made in this country by the Electric and Ordnance Accessories Co., Ltd.

**Road Transport.**

One of the outstanding difficulties in connection with the development of road transport appears likely to be solved. That is the question of return loads, for obviously it is uneconomical for any lorry to have to return empty. I am informed that the Automobile Association has prepared a map showing the location of 600 agents throughout the country who will register the local requirements of manufacturers, traders, etc., in regard to return loads for their commercial motor vehicles. The map is for the benefit of members of the Industrial Vehicle Section of the A.A., who, in addition to the map, are receiving a full list of the names and addresses of these agents.

Although clearing houses have been established in large centres, intermediate and outlying parts have hitherto been neglected; under this scheme the A.A. have linked up all the existing organisations besides all the outlying districts, for the benefit of the members of its Industrial Vehicle Section. As a matter of fact, the whole country is covered from Penzance, in Cornwall, to Wick, in the north of Scotland, so that if a member has a lorry running from London to Lincoln with the following loads: 1 ton to Peterborough, 10 cwt. for Grantham, and the balance to Lincoln, this clearing-house scheme will assist him in avoiding dead mileage. It will only be necessary for him to send a form to the Peterborough agent, and another to the Grantham agent, asking them if they can make up his capacity to the full load, either for Lincoln or an intermediate point. If the Grantham agent were unable to find him a load, he would apply to the Lincoln agent. The scheme is run in conjunction with the existing clearing-houses forming the Association of Road Transport Clearing Houses.

National Bank of Greece.—The Bank of Athens announces that Coupon No. 215 for the dividend on the shares of the National Bank of Greece for the first half of the year 1920, amounting to Drs.180 per share, will now be paid at the London office, 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C.3. Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.


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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in July :—

Cotton.—The weather was favourable with a considerable rise of temperature. The water supply was ample, except in some localities at the tail ends of canals. The cotton worm attack was very light, and has now almost disappeared. There have been very few signs as yet of the boll worm and the pink boll worm, and but some slight attacks of aphis. The crop has made excellent progress during July, and may now be said to have completely made up for its past lateness, except in a very few places. The flowering is profuse and the boll formation general. In Middle and Upper Egypt the picking of the early crop will commence shortly. In fact, some of the ginneries have already received samples of the produce of early picking.

Millet (Sefi).—The weather has been favourable everywhere. There has been an ample water supply, except in a few places in Middle Egypt and Qena Province. Thinning, manuring, hoeing, and watering are in progress. Attacks of stem-borer were reported from Minya and Upper Egypt and also smut in the latter, but without any damage worth mentioning. Cobs are formed, and harvesting is expected to begin towards the middle of August.

Sugar Cane.—The weather was favourable and there was a sufficient water supply, except in some places in Giza Province. Attacks of stem-borer were reported, but resulted in no damage of importance. The crop is looking well, and a good average yield is expected.

Rice.—The crop is doing very well, although it has suffered from shortage of water in some parts of the Province of Daqahliya. The high rates of wages for labour have interfered with the weeding.

Ground Nuts.—The weather was favourable and water supply adequate. The crop is growing satisfactorily, and a good yield is expected.

Maize.—In addition to favourable weather, there was an ample supply of water, except in some parts of Sharqiya and Middle Egypt. Manuring, watering, ploughing, and sowing are in progress.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—There has been a strong demand for all varieties of dried fruit, but supplies continue very short. Prices have advanced sharply, and it is probable that there will be a further increase.

Sugar.—The position remains much the same. The demand for export and for manufacture is on a very restricted scale. Home refined continues in good request at the official rates.

Coffee.—Business has been rather dull during the week. Costa Rica has been done at from 125s. to 156s., Mocha at 165s. to 170s., and Indian at 130s. to 150s. The futures market has been depressed.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been very firm. La Plata closes unchanged at 35s. 6d., but Indian is 9d. up at 38s. 9d. Rapeseed is harder, Toria at 33s. 6d. showing a rise of 6d., while real bold Ferozepore is firm at 32s. 6d. Brown Cawnpore is unchanged at 31s. There has been a sharp rise in cottonseed, Indian closing 1s. 9d. up at 14s. 9d., while Egyptian at 20s. shows a rise of 1s. 6d.

Oilcakes.—There are large supplies of certain descriptions available, and the fair demand has been without much effect on the market. Linseed is 3d. lower at 20s. 9d., but coconut cake is 6d. up at 13s. Sesame and soya bean cakes are scarce at the moment.

Seed Oils.—A firm tone has characterised the market. Linseed is 1s. 6d. up at 81s. 6d., the quotation for September-December being 78s. Rape oil closes at 72s. for crude, a rise of 2s., but refined is unchanged at 80s. Cotton oil is harder, Egyptian crude being 73s. and deodorised 90s., while Bombay crude is 63s. Turpentine has been rather quiet, but closes 1s. 9d. up at 143s. 9d., and is quoted 3s. 6d. higher for January-April at 147s.

## OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended August 7 :—The sales on our market amount to 11 cases at 18s. 6d. for new crop, and 19s. 6d. to 20s. 6d. as to quality for old c.i.f. The exchange to-day is piastres 418 per pound sterling for cheque on London, and 0.89 dollars for one Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are 32 cases, against 212 at same date last year. The stock here in first and second hands is about 700 cases. The crop is estimated at about 4,000 cases, and stocks of old crop in the interior about 6,000.

## OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah : Production for week ended August 15 2 tons (last week, nil tons). Hurgada : Production for week ended August 15 2,555 tons (last week, 2.675 tons).

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended August 7 amounted to £9,298.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the eleven days ended July 31 amounted to £E14,297, making the total for the year £E143,218. The figures for the corresponding periods of 1919 were £E10,336 and £E66,960.

## LANCASHIRE COTTON

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

Business in the market during the week has been disorganised by the slump in raw cotton rates, and buyers of yarn and cloth have been less disposed than ever to place orders of importance. The tone remains very disturbed, and there is no probability of active trade until the conditions are more settled. Excellent reports continue to be received relating to the Egyptian cotton crop, and owing to selling pressure futures are much cheaper than a week ago. Less demand has been experienced from Lancashire spinners. The American growth is not doing well at the moment, but bullish weather news is offset by the uncertainty which exists with regard to political matters. Some sellers of cloth have met with a little more inquiry from certain Near Eastern outlets, but bids remain poor. According to some letters and telegrams, clearances in Cairo rather tend to improve. Very little business has been available for the Levant. Demand for India has tended to fall off, and only miscellaneous sales have taken place. Exporters to China are encouraged by the rise in silver, and business should become feasible before very long. Only occasional lines have been booked for South America. Manufacturers' engagements are very irregular, and it is possible to purchase many styles of cloth at cheap rates. It has been a poor week for American spinners of yarn, and only retail lots have changed hands in Egyptian descriptions. Prices in all quarters have favoured buyers.

## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

### Forthcoming Sailings.

The Cunard Line s.s. Tyria, for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina, will close for cargo at Liverpool on September 1, and at Manchester on September 4.

The Johnston Line s.s. Fernandina, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila, closes for cargo at Liverpool on September 11.

The Papayanni Line (Ellerman Lines, Ltd.) s.s. Malatian, for Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on August 28.

The Prince Line s.s. Syrian Prince, for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast ports, and Cyprus (with option of transhipment at Alexandria), will close for cargo at Manchester on September 2.

The Moss Line s.s. Amasis, for Gibraltar, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on August 28.

The Moss Line s.s. Limoges, for Gibraltar, Casablanca, and other Moroccan ports, will close for cargo at Liverpool on August 28.

The Moss Line s.s. Aberlour, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria (accepting goods for transhipment to Morocco, Cyprus, and Syrian Coast ports), will close for cargo at Liverpool on September 4.

The Harrison Line s.s. Magician, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Liverpool on September 4.

The Anchor Line s.s. Olympia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Liverpool on September 4.

The Bibby Line s.s. Yorkshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on September 8.

The Henderson Line s.s. Chindwin, for Port Said and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on September 1.

The Power Line s.s. Pangbourne, for Tangier, Larache, Rabat, and Saffi, will leave London on September 4.

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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

RHODES, July 5.

Rhodes exported in June, mainly to Smyrna, a small quantity of vegetables and fresh fruit (tomatoes, water melons, melons, and apricots). There are considerable stocks of manufactures here, consigned to Anatolia via Adalia.

The latest crop forecast is that the yield of cereals will be less than last year, but that the olive crop will be good.

The cessation of hostilities has enabled the resumption of sponge fishing on the Tripoli coast, and in the Dodecanese. It has been very profitable this year. England is the principal buyer, but the large buyers are holding their hands. Rhodes and Calymnos are the centres for the export of this commodity.

ALEXANDRETTA.

The report for June states: For the same reasons as in previous months, business inactivity has continued, and the despatch of goods for Aleppo via Beyrout is at a standstill. The interruption of the telegraph service with Europe, Syria, and Egypt prevents us from transacting whatever business offers itself. The lack of telegrams has not permitted us to be in daily touch with the fluctuations in the foreign exchanges, and has created difficulties for our operations.

ADANA.

The report for June states: As a result of the resumption of hostilities by the Kemalists there have been no transactions. The Mersina railway, the only system serving Adana, which has been suspended many times since February, has been greatly damaged since June 18, and our town finds itself cut off, no communication with the interior having been possible since that date except by the purely military service of aeroplanes. This interruption has caused a general rise in the prices of all articles of import, and even of provisions, vegetables, and meat. Sugar was quoted in May at 60 piastres the oke; it has now reached 180 piastres.

MERSINA.

The report for June states: The delayed Turkish Peace Treaty and the events which are taking place in Cilicia are contributing more than ever to depressing the market, and to rendering all commercial transactions almost impossible.

There is a great need of ironmongery, leather, paper and stationery, and glassware. The importation of these articles is still very difficult because of the lack of freight and the absence of promptness shown by exporters in Europe in carrying out orders given to them.

Goods consigned to the interior cannot be forwarded owing to the interruption of the Mersina-Tarsus-Adana line. Postal communications with Adana are carried on by aeroplane at a rate of 10 piastres per letter, or 1.25 francs. Telegraphic communications do not exist with the interior or with abroad. Mersina is completely isolated.

The Adana Fair, in which the town of Mersina was not able to take part because of the insecurity, commenced on June 12 and ended on June 26. The results obtained seem very satisfactory.

Agricultural machines have been freed from Customs duties. The prohibition on the export of cereals is maintained.

---

Southern Punjab Railway.—Registers of Ordinary stock will be closed from to-day to September 8, inclusive, for preparation of dividend warrants, which will be posted to Ordinary stockholders on September 8.


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

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

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## TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—

**Egypt.**

(*The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked* (*L*) *are to be obtained.*)

Extension of Electrical Station of Zagazig and Belbeis.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, for the extension of the electrical station of Zagazig and Belbeis. Adjudication at noon on September 1. A copy of the specification, etc. (in French) may be consulted by British firms interested at the Enquiry Office of the Department of Overseas Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.2.

Tunics, etc.—The Financial Secretary of the Egyptian Army, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of tunics, pantaloons, trousers, etc., to the Ordnance Services Department, Egyptian Army, Citadel, Cairo. August 28. (L.)

Motor Launch.—The Inspector-General of Irrigation, Upper Egypt, invites tenders for the supply of a motor launch for 4th Circle of Irrigation. September 18. (L.)

Surface Condenser, etc.—The Director-General, Mechanical Dept., Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply, delivery, and erection at Amriya Pumping Station, Zeitûn, of a surface condenser, together with air and circulating pump, a feed pump, oil separators, pipe work, valves, and accessories; plant to be capable of dealing with about 3,200 lb. of steam per hour. August 31. (L.)

Sewage Main.—The Chief Engineer, Main Drainage Dept., Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and laying of a 12-in. cast-iron sealed sewage main. September 21. (L.)

Air Compressing Plant.—The Chief Engineer, Main Drainage Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of an air compressing plant at Mansûra, consisting of two crude oil engines, driving two single-stage air compressors, complete with auxiliary machinery, water cooling plant, a travelling crane, machine tools, air mains, electric wiring, etc. October 1.

Pumping Machinery.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of pumping machinery for a pumping station at Tawila, in the Province of Gharbicha. October 15 (L.)

Dynamo and Switchboard.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 2 kw. dynamo and switchboard for Kombera Pumping Station. September 15 (L).

Paper, etc.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper and office requisites, including paper (writing, typewriting, oiled copying, tissue, drawing, sectional, tracing, etc.); cloth-lined envelopes and buff envelopes; note blocks, blotters, waste paper wicker baskets, copying books, card index cabinets, vertical files, tracing cloth, ink pots, inks of all kinds, tie-on labels, note books, numbering machines (triplicate, six figures), stamping ink pads, penholders (wood), pen nibs, paper weights, shapirograph apparatus, copying presses, typewriters (European script), and copyholders for typists, etc. Tenders will be received up to noon on September 9, and should be addressed to the Director, Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo. A copy of the specification, etc., together with a list of articles required, may be consulted at the Department of Overseas Trade.

Cotton Handkerchiefs, Cloth Clothing.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for—(1) Cotton handkerchiefs; tenders due September 1, and to remain open seven days. (2) Cloth clothing; tenders returnable by September 8. (L.)

**India.**

Iron Pipes, etc.—The Madras Corporation invites tenders for the supply and delivery of about 220 tons of cast-iron spigot and socket pipes, with special castings, sluice valves, etc. (Specification, 5s., Messrs. James Mansergh and Sons, 5, Victoria Street, S.W.1.). Tenders will be received until September 8.

A firm of paint manufacturers is establishing a new factory at Bombay, for which a complete plant will be required. The firm also requires locks, decorative corners, hasps, handles, etc., for steel travelling trunks and kindred goods of various sizes and designs. Firms interested should write, enclosing catalogues and full particulars, prices, possible dates of delivery, etc., to the company, whose name and address can be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade.

**Algeria.**

H.M. Consul-General at Algiers reports that a local trader desires to receive quotations from United Kingdom firms for the supply of iron or soft steel hoops for barrel-making. It is understood that the applicant is prepared to pay cash for the material. Firms in a position to offer supplies of the material in question can obtain the name of the inquirer, specifications, etc., from the Department of Overseas Trade.

## ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

Business has again been on a very restricted basis, with generally an easier tendency. In Government stocks Egyptian Unified have again improved ⅛ to 67½, but the 3½ per cent. Preference have continued to droop, and have lost a further ¼ at 55¼. Greek securities have continued a strong market, the Funding Loan rising a further two points to 56, but dealings have been nil owing to the absence of sellers.

Among Bank shares National Banks are 3-32 lower at 19⅜, but Agriculturals keep firm at 4 15-32.

In Land shares the market continues quite firm, but New Egyptians are a little easier at 37s., and Sudan Plantations are closing ⅛ easier at 4 15-16.

In the Miscellaneous group Alexandria Water have been taken at 7¾, at which price there are still buyers, and Morums Stores are 6d. better at 18s.

Among Oil shares Anglo-Egyptian B have improved 1-16 to 2 13-16, and Roumanians are now quoted at 21s.

## COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

**Dacia Romano.**

The report of the Dacia Romano Petroleum Syndicate for the period ended March 31 states that the two wells which had been destroyed by the British Commission when the Germans invaded the country, but which now have been partially restored, are steadily producing, though the yield last year was considerably less than it should have been, as production frequently had to be suspended through lack of storage accommodation and other causes attributable to the then unsettled state of industrial affairs in Roumania. The managing director, Mr. Van Sickle, reports a steady improvement of conditions in Roumania generally and hopes for no further hindrance to production. The oil lands exceed 130 acres, in specially selected areas, affording drilling sites for at least 500 wells, and believed by experts to have oil-producing prospects of great value. Material has been purchased (of which a considerable portion has now been delivered) for the drilling of additional wells. Work thereon has commenced, and with the improving transport facilities will now be accelerated. A freehold site of about 38 acres at the important centre of Ploesti has been purchased for a refinery, and a contract has been entered into for the erection of a complete and up-to-date factory and plant. Work is proceeding satisfactorily. The net profit for the period under review was £1,172, against which the directors recommend that the formation expenses, £938, should be written off, and that the balance of £234 be carried forward.

Crédit Franco-Egyptien.—The net profits for the year ended March 31 amounted to 703,505 francs, as against 701,716 francs for the previous year.

The directors of the Southern Punjab Railway have declared an interim dividend on the ordinary stock in respect of the year ended September 30 of £5 per cent., together with a bonus of £1 per cent., payable September 8.


# BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

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*Manager*, A. G. M. Dickson.

*London Manager*, P. C. West. *Secretary*, G. de B. Brounlie.

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# "NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

| LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE. | Price Aug. 16. | Price Aug. 23. |
|---|---|---|
| **GOVERNMENT STOCKS.** | | |
| Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892 | 37 | 37 |
| Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907 | 51½ | 51½ |
| Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909 | 28⅝ | 28¾ |
| City of Alexandria 4%, 1909 | 60 | 60 |
| Egyptian 4% Unified Debt | 67⅜ | 67½ |
| Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890 | 55¾ | 55½ |
| Greek 5%, 1881 | 56 | 56 |
| Do. 5%, 1884 | 56 | 56 |
| Do. 4%, 1887 | 45 | 45 |
| Do. 4% Rentes, 1889 | 44 | 44 |
| Do. 5% 1890 | 56 | 56 |
| Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893 | 54 | 56 |
| Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902 | 48 | 48 |
| Do. 4% Loan, 1910 | 41½ | 41½ |
| Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) | 56½ | 56½ |
| Do. 5% Currant | 89xd | 89 |
| Montenegro 5% Loan | 68½ | 68½ |
| Persia 5% 1911 | 53½ | 64 |
| Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913 | 55 | 38 |
| Serbian 4% Unified Bonds | — | — |
| Turkish 4% 1891 | 63½ | 63½ |
| Do. 3% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894 | 57 | 57 |
| Do. 4% Unified | 34½ | 34½ |
| **BANKS.** | | |
| Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) | 4⅛ | 4⅛ |
| Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) | 5⅛ | 5⅛ |
| Do. 3% Bonds Red. | 61 | 61 |
| Do. 3% Guar. Bonds Red. | 63 | 63 |
| Bank of Abyssinia | 1¼ | 1½ |
| Bank of Athens | 4 | 4 |
| Bank of British West Africa | 6½ | 6⅝ |
| Bank of Roumania | 5⅛ | 5⅛ |
| British Trade Corporation | 8⅝ | 8½ |
| Imperial Ottoman Bank | 9½ | 9⅝ |
| Imperial Bank of Persia | 7¾ | 7¾ |
| Ionian Bank, Limited | 5 | 5 |
| Land Bank of Egypt Ord. | 5 | 5 |
| London County and Westminster | 13⅛ | 13⅛ |
| National Bank of Egypt | 19⅝ | 19⅝ |
| **RAILWAYS.** | | |
| Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer | 5⅜ | 5⅜ |
| Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord. | 8½ | 9¾ |
| Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref. | 9 | 10 |
| Do. Do. 4% Debs. | 45⅜ | 43 |
| Do Do. 5% 2nd Debs. | 41 | 44 |
| Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry. | 27 | 27 |
| Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½% | 55 | 55 |
| Do. Do. 3% Bonds | 40 | 40 |
| **LAND.** | | |
| Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) | 37/- | 37/- |
| Do. 6% Debs | 135 | 135 |
| Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt | 13/- | 13/- |
| Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment | 75/- | 75/- |
| Béhéra Co. | 17½ | 17½ |
| Do. Pref. | 3⅜ | 3⅜ |
| Building Lands of Egypt | 1¼ | 1½ |
| Egyptian Consol 5/- | 2/7½ | 2/7½ |
| Egyptian Delta Land and Invest. | 15/4½ | 15/4½ |
| Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs. | 80 | 80 |
| Do. Land and General Trust | 1/6 | 1/6 |
| Do. and Foreign Trust | 13/3 | 13/3 |
| Gharbieh Land Co. | 3½ | 3½ |
| Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt | 26/- | 26/- |
| Do. 4½% Debs. Red. | 84⅛ | 84⅛ |
| Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red | 61⅛ | 61⅛ |
| Mortgage Co. of Egypt | 6½ | 6½ |
| Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red. | 74⅛ | 74⅛ |
| New Egyptian Co. | 37/6 | 37/- |
| Sidi Salem Co. | 2¾ | 2¾ |
| Sudan Plantations | 5 | 4 |
| Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. | 5⅛ | 5⅛ |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | |
| Abyssinian Corp. | 7/8 | 7/8 |
| Alexandria Water Co. | 7½ | 7½ |
| Associated Cotton Ginners | 25/- | 25/- |
| Egyptian Hotels | 2½ | 2½ |
| Do. Markets Ord. | 1½ | 1½ |
| Do. do 5% Debs. Red. | 86⅛ | 86⅛ |
| Do. Salt and Soda Bearer | 2½ | 2½ |
| Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs. | 92 | 92 |
| Khediv al Mail Ord. | 5½ | 5½ |
| Do. Do. Prefs. | 3½ | 3½ |
| Levant Co. (fully paid) | 16/1½ | 16/1½ |
| Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref | 17/6 | 18/- |
| Suez Canal | — | — |
| **Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.** | | |
| Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series | 97 | 99 |
| Chinese 4½% 1898 | 54 | 54 |
| Do. 5% 1896 | 69 | 69 |
| Argentine 5% 1890 | 75¾ | 76¾ |
| Do. 5% 1907 | 80 | 80 |
| **OIL.** | | |
| Algerian | 2/10 | 2/10 |
| Anglo-Bulgarian | 5/1½ | 5/1½ |
| Anglo-Egyptian B | 2⅜ | 2⅜ |
| Anglo-Persian Pref. | 21/6xd | 21/- |
| Do 5% Debs. | 78⅜ | 78⅜ |
| Anglo-Roumanian | 5/3 | 5/3 |
| Cyprus Oil Trust | — | 3/- |
| Maisel's Petroleum Trust | 10/7⅛ | 10/7½ |
| Roumanian | ⅜ | 21/- |
| Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs. | 100 | 100 |
| Suez | 3/9 | 3/9 |

AT
SOFIA (Bulgaria)
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HOTEL SPLENDID,
HOTEL CONTINENTAL,
HOTEL SPLENDID PALACE
Are all owned by the KENDA COMPANY, Ltd.

# "NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

*(Continued.)*

| BRUSSELS BOURSE. | Price Aug. 13. | Price Aug. 19. |
|---|---|---|
| Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs. | 412·50 | 412·50 |
| Do. do. Priv. | 592·50 | 590 |
| Do. do. Cap. | 447·50 | 470 |
| Do. do. Div. | 395 | 375 |
| Anglo-Belgian Co. | 37·50 | 37·50 |
| Cairo Electric Railways Cap. | 215 | 215·25 |
| Do. do. Div. | 302·50 | 302·50 |
| Caisse Hypothécaire Act | 477·50 | 477·50 |
| Do. do. (10 eme p.b.) | 71 | 70·25 |
| Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½% Debs. | 362·50 | 362·50 |
| Do. do. Priv. | 450 | 475 |
| Do. do. Div. | 176 | 175·50 |
| Compagnie Immobiliére Deb. | 399·50 | 399·50 |
| Do. do. Cap. | 167·50 | 150 |
| Do. do. Fond. | 210·50 | 200 |
| Enterprise and Development Cap. | 243·75 | 243·75 |
| Do. do. Div. | 118·75 | 111·25 |
| Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte) Priv. | | |
| Do. do. Ord. | 395 | 395 |
| Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap. | 209 | 189 |
| Do. do. Div. | 110 | 110 |
| Salonika-Constantinople Railway | 248 | 248 |
| Salonika-Monastir Railway | 250 | 250 |
| Smyrna-Cassaba Railway 4%, 1894 | 285 | 285 |
| Do. do. 4%, 1895 | 260 | 260 |
| Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv. | 115 | 115 |
| Do. do. Div. | 150 | 150 |
| Tramways du Caire Priv. | 443 | 442·50 |
| Do. do. Jouiss | 605 | 605 |
| Travaux Publics du Caire Priv. | 236 | 230 |
| Do. do. Ord. | — | — |
| Do. do. Div. | 27 | 25 |

# INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

**INDIAN FUNDS.**

| Interest Due. | Name. | Aug. 16. | Aug. 23. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc. | India 3½% Stock,* 1931 | 53¼ | 52½ |
| Various dates. | Do. Rupee Paper 3½% | 53½ | 54 |
| | * Redeemable. | | |
| **CORPORATION STOCKS.** | | | |
| Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959 | | 83½ | 79 |
| Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40 | | 63 | 63 |
| Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1958 | | 66 | 66 |
| **BANKS.** | | | |
| Chartered of India | | 75 | 75 |
| Eastern | | 7 5/16 | 7 5/16 |
| Mercantile of India A | | 29 | 29⅛ |
| National of India | | 52 | 53 |
| **MINES.** | | | |
| Balaghat Gold Mining | | 3/8 | 3/8 |
| Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref. | | 13/9 | 13/9 |
| Burma Corp. | | 10½ | 10½ |
| Burma Ruby Mines Ord. | | 6/3 | 6/3 |
| Champion Reef Gold | | 2/9 | 2/6 |
| Mysore Gold Mining | | 7/8 | 7/8 |
| Nundydroog | | 11/32 | 9/32 |
| Ooregum Gold Mining Ord. | | 14/- | 14/- |
| Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf. | | 18/9 | 19/- |
| Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.) | | 12/6 | 12/6 |
| **OIL.** | | | |
| Assam Oil | | 30/- | 30/- |
| Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref. | | 23/9 | 27/6 |
| Brit. Burmah | | 1⅞xd | 1⅞xd |
| Burmah Oil Co. Ord. | | 8 5/16 | 8 5/16 |
| Do. 6% Cum. Pref. | | 18/9 | 18/- |
| Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref. | | 8⅞ | 8⅞ |
| **RAILWAYS.** | | | |
| Assam Bengal | | 50 | 50 |
| Bengal and N.-Western Ord. | | 118½ | 114/- |
| Do 3½% Cum. Pref. | | 48½ | 48½ |
| Bengal-Nagpur | | 101 | 100½ |
| Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India | | 99⅛ | 96 |
| Burma Railways | | 101 | 101 |
| Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb. | | — | — |
| E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953 | | 11⅛ | 11⅛ |
| East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957 | | 11⅛ | 11 7/16 |
| Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948 | | 10½ | 10½ |
| Madras and S. Mahratta | | 97 | 97½ |
| Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord. | | 121 | 121 |
| Nizam's Guaranteed State | | 64 | 64 |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | | |
| Bengal Iron Ord. | | 49/9 | 57/6 |
| Do. 7½% Cum. Pref. | | 18/9 | 19/1½ |
| P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P. | | 77 | 75⅛ |
| Do. Deferred | | 405 | 403 |
| **TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.** | | | |
| Assam Co. | | 55⅛ | 55⅜ |
| Bengal United Tea Ord. | | 15⅝ | 15⅝ |
| British Indian Tea Ord. | | 6 | 6 |
| Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord. | | 15 | 15 |
| Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord. | | 9/- | 9/- |
| Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. | | 54/9 | 52/6 |
| Consolidated Estates | | 38/- | 38/- |
| Darjeeling Co. | | 16/6 | 17/6 |
| Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. | | 35/- | 3-/- |
| Dooars Tea Ord. | | 38/6 | 38/- |
| Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. | | 17/3 | 16/3 |
| Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est. | | 28 9 | 30/7½ |
| Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber | | 28/3 | 28/6 |
| Hewagam Rubber Co. | | 21/- | 21/ |
| Jhanzie Tea Association | | 8⅝ | 8⅝ |
| Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. | | 1 | 14¾ |
| Kepitigalla Rubber Estates | | 13/3 | 14/10½ |
| Lanka Plantations Ord. | | 22/- | 21/6 |
| Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord. | | 17/7½ | 17/7½ |
| Malayalam Rub. and Produce | | 35/ | 35/9 |
| Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. | | 12½ | 12½ |
| P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates | | 33/1½ | 33/1½ |

# STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

| GOVERNMENT LOANS. | July 16. Rs. | July 23. Rs. |
|---|---|---|
| 3½% Government Paper | 59 | 59 |
| 4% Government Paper, 1916-17 | 74 | 74 |
| **BANKS.** | | |
| Alliance Bank of Simla | 300 | 300 |
| Bank of Bengal | 1700 | 1705 |
| Bank of Bombay | 2225ex | 2225ex |
| Bank of Madras | 1590 | 1590 |
| Bank of India | 152 | 152 |
| Tata Industrial Bank | 48 | 41¾ |
| **COAL.** | | |
| Baraboni | 15¼ | 14¾ |
| Bengal | 778 | 775 |
| Burrakur | 51½ | 51½ |
| East Indian | 36¾ | 38¼ |
| Equitable | 49¼ | 49¼ |
| Pench Valley | 330ex | 330ex |
| Raneegunge | 68¼ | 68 |
| Standard | 83⅛ | 83⅛ |
| **COTTON.** | | |
| Bengal Nagpur | 670 | 600 |
| Bombay Dyeing, etc. | 3765 | 3650 |
| Bowreah | 1548 | 1578 |
| Buckingham | 2580 | 2600 |
| Carnatic | 1100 | 1100 |
| Century | 1295 | 1202 |
| Central India | 5550 | 5325 |
| | 2775 | 2662½ |
| Elgin | 250 | 265 |
| Gold Mohur | 400 | 400 |
| | 200 | 200 |
| Khatau Makanji | 740 | 740 |
| Muir | 342 | 388 |
| New Ring | 1350 | 1320 |
| Phœnix | 1175 | 1100 |
| Svadeshi | 5650 | 5430 |
| **JUTE.** | | |
| Alliance | 822 | 805 |
| Barnagore | 172 | 175 |
| Budge Budge | 654½ | 645 |
| Clive | 321 | 318 |
| Dalhousie | 564 | 583 |
| Delta | 686 | 686 |
| Fort Gloster | 1140 | 1110 |
| Gourepore | 1286½ | 1280 |
| Howrah | 50½ | 54½ |
| Kamarhatty | 1060 | 1129 |
| Kanknarrah | 844½ | 848 |
| Khardah | 688 | 688 |
| Kinnison | 1250 | 1270 |
| National | 413 | 410 |
| Standard | 765 | 770 |
| Union | 960 | 970 |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | |
| Bengal Paper Mills | 148 | 140 |
| Bengal Timber Trading | 480 | 480 |
| British Indian Corp. Ord. | 14 | 13⅜ |
| British Indian Corp. Def. | 22¾ | 21½ |
| Burn and Co. | 300 | 300 |
| Carew and Co. | 109 | 109 |
| Cawnpore Sugar | 46½ | 46¾ |
| Champaran Sugar | 45 | 40 |
| Howrah Oil Mills | 35½ | 35½ |
| India General Steam | 135 | 135 |
| Indian Iron and Steel | 140 | 140 |
| | 89½ | 88 |
| Marshall Sons and Co. | 12½ | 12 |
| Titaghur Paper | 534 | 530 |

# ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

PRICES ON AUGUST 6.

| | |
|---|---|
| Agricultural Bank of Egypt | £4½ |
| " " " Fond. | £370 |
| Alexandria Water Co., Ltd. | £7⅜ |
| Anglo-American Nile Steam | £4 3/32 |
| Assoc. Cotton Ginners | £1 3/32 |
| Banque d'Orient | Fr. 97½ |
| Béhéra Ord. | L.E. 16⅜ |
| " Priv. | £3⅜ |
| Bonded Stores | £14½ |
| Brasseries d'Egypte Priv. | Fr. 225 |
| Building Lands of Egypt | £1⅜ |
| Cairo Heliopolis Railway | £119 |
| Cassa di Sconto | Fr. 87½ |
| " " " Priv. | Fr. 103 |
| Ciments d'Egypte Priv. | Fr. 58 |
| " " Div. | Fr. 30 |
| Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte | £1⅜ |
| Consolidated Land | P.T. 15 |
| Crédit Foncier Egyptien | Fr. 605 |
| " Fondateur | 7900 |
| " 1886 Oblig. | 388 |
| " 1903 " | 267 |
| " 1911 " | 269 |
| Crown Brewery Priv. | Fr. 240 |
| " " Div. | Fr. 227 |
| Eaux du Caire Capital | Fr. 85 |
| " " Jouissance | Fr. 114½ |
| Egypt and Levant S.S. Ord. | 31/9 |
| Egyptian Delta Light Railways | £5⅛ |
| Filature Nationale d'Egypte | £18½ |
| Frig. orifique d'Egypte | L.E. 2⅜ |
| Gabbari Lands | L.E. ⅜ |
| Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. | £6⅛ |
| Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv. | £3⅛ |
| " " " Ord. | 109/- |
| Kom Ombo Ste. Ane. de Wadi | £8⅜ |
| " " Fondateur | £7⅞ |
| Land Bank of Egypt Actions | £5⅛ |
| " " Parts de Fond. | £46⅜ |
| Lots Turcs | Fr. 70 |
| Menzaleh Canal Navigation | P.T. 340 |
| Nungovich Hotels | £9 |
| Ramleh Railway | £3 |
| Salt and Soda | 51/6 |
| Tram d'Alexandrie Priv. | Fr. 62 |
| " " Div. | Fr. 70 |
| Union Foncière d'Egypte | £5⅛ |
| Upper Egypt Hotels | £1⅜ |
| Urbaines and Rurales | £5 |

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 487.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

For all practical purposes Great Britain has now to reckon with a Mesopotamia ablaze, if not from end to end, at least from Mosul to Samawa. The tribes are on the war path; they have called our hand, in the language associated with the card-table, and we are forced to admit that we were relying largely upon bluff in our military occupation of the country during the last year. In these circumstances the nation's first thoughts must be with the Army and those civilians on whom the brunt of the Arab onslaught has fallen. They have had to cope with enormous odds, and there is no reason to suppose that in a single instance they have failed to uphold their country's honour. The satisfaction of a fair and square fight has in most cases been denied them; where they have not succumbed to a cold-blooded murder a sudden rising has found them isolated, and at times they have put up a gallant resistance, which they must have known to be hopeless from the outset.

The fighting in Mesopotamia has reached the proportions of a war, but there is still no indication of the Arabs being actuated by any common purpose other than indulgence in fanaticism and the desire for loot. Even the latest report of a Jehad in the Muntafik area does not alter this fact. When we read of forty-six tribal banners being carried by one force operating in the neighbourhood of Hillah, we find it difficult to believe that the tribesmen have any definite views, based on experience, regarding British administration, or that the call to which they have responded has necessarily come from political theorists in Baghdad. Just as in the war between Great Britain and Turkey they were ready to give their support where the prospects of booty were brightest, so now they may have been attracted mainly by reports which will have reached them of the success attending the new game of British-baiting. It would be more satisfactory if some information on this subject were forthcoming from the Government; for it may have a bearing on the fate of the unfortunate captives in Arab hands. The general attitude of the Arabs must certainly be taken into consideration in regard to any policy for dealing with the present situation.

As has already been announced, the British Government has sent out Sir Percy Cox as High Commissioner charged with the task of setting up "an independent State to be governed in accordance with the wishes of the people." No intention on the part of the Government could be more praiseworthy from the point of view of a constitutionally educated country, and no doubt many Arabs will be found in Baghdad ready to acclaim Sir Percy Cox's mission. But it would be a mistake—and no one will appreciate the fact more readily than the High Commissioner—to suppose that some speeches in Baghdad or even the appointment of a native Cabinet will cause the tribesmen at once to abandon the war-path for the pursuits of peace. Agents must have travelled far afield to bring about the present concentration of the tribes against the British posts and lines of communication, and almost the same ground will have to be covered, after the tide of battle has been effectually turned, to bring about in the Arab mind a fresh orientation of the position. Probably the quickest way to achieve this end is to enlist the services of the man whose prestige as ruler will carry farthest. The Arabs have to be reached through their own people and in their own way, and no amount of constitution-drafting in Baghdad is likely to be as effective as the fiat of a ruler whose claims override those of local chiefs, if the right man can be found.

While the Arabs of Mesopotamia are bent solely, as we are asked to believe, on ridding themselves of British administration, their kinsmen immediately East of the Jordan have been paying visits and sending deputations to Jerusalem to ask for an extension of British administration to their country. Sir Herbert Samuel, the High Commissioner for Palestine, has satisfied himself of the genuineness of this appeal, and has sketched out to a meeting of over 600 representative Bedouin the lines on which the British Government is prepared to assist the Arabs in governing themselves. If the same policy could only have been applied betimes in Mesopotamia, Great Britain would have been spared the present tragedy. "A small number of political officers, men of justice with experience of affairs and a complete knowledge of the people and the Arabic language" are to be sent to live in the chief towns or districts. They are "to help to organise defence against attack from outside, to organise local police and maintain order, to promote peaceful commerce, to help to see justice carried out, and to see that the taxes paid are honestly spent upon local needs." The Palestine administration will take steps to provide the Arab community with certain necessaries of life on the same footing as the peoples of Palestine; it will promote the opening of a bank to assist commerce, will improve facilities and postal communication with Palestine and other countries, and will

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supply skilled advice as to the making of roads and other matters in which the Arabs are interested.

It will be well if no time is lost in giving effect to this charter of Arab independence under the British ægis, in order that information of the experience of Es Salt territory may follow to Mesopotamia hard upon the report of British intentions towards the Arab world. It is many months since a warning was uttered in these columns of the dangers of leaving inexperienced officers, who were unable to distinguish a sheikh from a coolie, and made no differentiation in their attitude towards the two, without instructions as to British policy in Mesopotamia and as to their duties as representatives of the future mandatory state. There can be little doubt that in due course the Arabs of Mesopotamia will stand as much in need of British advice and help as those just east of Jordan; and for this reason we deprecate the panic policy that is now being urged upon the Government under the stress of what is taking place in the country. By all means let our responsibilities and our financial commitments be reduced to a minimum; but to leave the Arabs entirely to themselves to-day would mean leaving a considerable Christian community to the certainty of extirpation, and would be a breach of trust on Great Britain's part.

The war that was to end war has merely deadened the world's conscience in the matter of war, and as a result little attention has been paid to the fighting that has been taking place for some time past on the Serbo-Albanian frontier. Each side accuses the other of invading its territory, and while the Albanians have appealed to Italy for support, the Yugoslav Government has asked for an inter-Allied Commission, in which Serbia will be represented, "to inquire into the causes of the last attack by the Albanians." The controversy is merely one illustration of the faulty nature of the Near Eastern settlement, which has settled nothing. As far as can be gathered, the Albanians claim the frontier allotted to them in 1913, while the Serbians consider themselves entitled to the demarcation formally approved by the Allies, and can no doubt point to the fact that the Albanians in their zeal for the principle of nationality have allowed themselves to overstep even the 1913 frontier line. Clearly the Allied Governments or the League of Nations must set up some authority to settle the boundaries of Albania once and for all. In view of the new orientation in Italy's Albanian policy it is difficult to believe that either Yugoslavia or Greece will deliberately press for a settlement which is likely to keep them permanently embroiled with Albania.

The spectacle of the Albanians appealing to Italy for help a few weeks after they have successfully driven the Italians out of their country is in keeping with the chequered history of Albania. Such an appeal, however, places Italy for the first time in her right relationship to the Albanians. Hitherto Italian policy has realised shrewdly enough the importance of Albania to Italy, but has hovered between different schools of thought as to the best method of identifying the interests of the two countries. In the face of the Austrian danger Italy was debarred by the exigencies of the Triple Alliance from openly espousing a programme which could only have put a spoke in her Ally's wheel, and so contented herself with intrigue and a clandestine struggle with Austria for the upper hand in Albania. In 1913 each country decided that an independent Albania would best serve its own purpose and help to checkmate the rival. When the war eliminated Austria and substituted Yugoslavia and Greece as Italy's bogey in regard to Albania, her first instinct was in harmony with the militarist atmosphere of the moment, and an Italian protectorate over Albania was declared. On this point, however, the Albanians, as was to be expected, had something to say.

Fortunately for the two countries public opinion in Italy has been undergoing a change. Albanian resistance to Italian penetration coincided with an accession of strength to Socialist pacifism in Italy, and a new Government in Rome found that a withdrawal from Albania both corresponded with its own policy and was more in keeping with the trend of national feeling. But the need for a privileged position for Italy in Albania is no less urgent than it was before. This it is now hoped to secure by a frank understanding with the existing Tirana Government. Italy recognises the complete independence and unity of Albania, and promises to use her influence to obtain recognition by the Powers of that independence; she abandons Valona, but retains the island of Saseno, and is entitled to occupy and fortify positions commanding the Bay of Valona. The Tirana Government is to be formally recognised as the supreme Albanian authority as soon as it is able to establish its authority over the whole of Albania. Such an agreement is the only practical one with any prospect of permanency, and it is to be hoped that it will prove the prelude to a revised general settlement in the Balkans.

Our Athens correspondent throws light on the unfortunate occurrences that accompanied the announcement in the Greek capital of the dastardly attack on M. Venizelos in Paris. The general feeling in Great Britain will be not a desire to pass judgment on the Greek people, but a profound regret that time has so far brought no relief to the tragic sore from which Greece is suffering. The fact that the report of the Paris outrage should have started the excesses in Athens confirms the statements of observers regarding the bitterness with which the Greek people are still divided into two camps. But it will cause amazement abroad that there should be any possibility of establishing a connection between the criminal and senseless action of the would-be assassins and men who have filled honoured and responsible posts in the Greek political world. After due allowance had been made for the Southern temperament, it was felt that the Opposition in Greece had realised the logic of events and was now set on fighting its political battle on purely constitutional lines. The forthcoming elections provided the ground for a trial of strength between the Government and its political opponents, and it seemed as if both parties were holding themselves back for that event.

No material destruction wrought in Athens is likely to have steadied all parties after the regrettable occurrences of August 13 as much as the death of M. Jean Dragoumis. The action of M. Venizelos in sending a message of condolence to the bereaved family is an earnest, not only of the spirit in which the Prime Minister will deal with this fresh complication, but also of the esteem in which this comparatively young politician was generally held. His tragic end might yet be made to serve the country's interests if it becomes the starting point of definite steps towards healing Greece's wound. The Government, it is announced, has information of a criminal conspiracy, and practically all the Opposition leaders would seem to have been placed under arrest. If their complicity can be proved, they will deserve the penalty meted out to them; for they stood publicly pledged to constitutional methods of challenging the Government's policy. If, on the other hand, no criminal intent can be brought home to them, it is to be hoped that they will be liberated at the earliest possible moment, in order that an ample interval may elapse between their incarceration and the general elections, and that no opportunity be afforded them of accusing the Government of seeking to use a criminal conspiracy for its own political purposes. To outside observers, whose one desire is to see Greece a united country, the approaching elections offer the best hope of a new era, as they must afford a purely constitutional test that no one can challenge. No anxiety for the future of Greece can exclude the keenest sympathy with the veteran Prime Minister, whose heavy burden, after efforts which might well have exhausted younger men, has been intensified by the physical and mental shock caused by the despicable attempt on his life.

There would seem to be no limit to the extent to which the Allied Governments stand committed to the policy of *laissez faire*. Yugoslavia has been spurred

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to ask for an Allied Commission to deal with the territorial dispute between herself and the Albanians, and she would be equally within her rights in requiring that another Commission should settle once and for all the status of Montenegro. It can hardly be agreeable to the Serbian authorities to have circulated amongst their allies such documents as are now emanating from the Montenegrin Press Bureau. One of the latest purports to summarise recent "atrocities" committed in Montenegro, specifying by name certain military officers alleged to be responsible "for the most ghastly and unprecedented brutalities," and enumerating a series of incidents common to all Balkan atrocity reports. These statements must either contain some measure of truth or be wholly fabricated. If the latter, the Yugoslav Government might well question the friendliness of Italy in giving continued hospitality to an organisation claiming to act under the ægis of the Montenegrin Foreign Office, for the Bureau's attacks, it would be thought, if not countered, are apt to be more damaging than the physical aggression of the Albanian tribesmen. In any case, it is profoundly derogatory to Allied statesmanship that a blind eye should be turned to this very open sore in their Balkan settlement.

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The Persians, thanks to their Cossack force, continue to make headway against the Bolshevist invasion of their country. A rapid advance brought the force to Resht on August 23, and a further dash was made on Enzeli. Here, however, it was proved that the Persians had overreached themselves. Reinforcements had reached the Reds by sea, and the Cossacks were actually enfiladed by gunfire from ships. The retirement, it is reported, became somewhat disorderly when they had to fall back on Resht; but they will now have the support of a British force which has been co-operating in the advance. It was the desire apparently of the Persian Government that the British should remain in reserve as far as possible, but the check at Enzeli will suggest the advantage of as big a concentration as possible against the Bolshevists at this stage. With fresh successes on the part of General Wrangel in the Caucasus and an anti-Bolshevist movement in Central Asia it is evident that the Soviet régime in Russia has its hands more than full in the Middle-East. The more it fails in Europe the more determined it will be to rehabilitate itself in the neighbourhood of the Caspian. For this reason it is to Persia's interest to push home her initial success in order to leave as little ground as possible for the Bolshevists to work upon when they are minded to devote more attention to that part of the world.

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The selection of Lord Rawlinson for the post of Commander-in-Chief in India had been known for so long that the official announcement of his appointment, which we published last week, has produced little comment or interest, and such questions as have been asked relate to the nature of his position rather than his qualifications for filling it. *The Times*, for instance, took the opportunity of pressing for early publication of the report of Lord Esher's committee, and, while we recognise that some parts of that report may have to be treated as confidential, we trust that no time will be lost in letting the public know the whole truth regarding military organisation at headquarters. Distrust of Simla is still widespread, both in this country and in India, and it is not likely to abate until the verdict of the experts has been made available for discussion. The Indian Army has sometimes to move at very short notice, so that the question of the machinery for setting it in motion is one that should be promptly settled.

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If any justification be needed for this statement, it is sufficient to refer to the present uncertainties on and beyond the North-West frontier. The news which comes through from Afghanistan is fragmentary and conflicting. On the one hand, we notice that some of the best informed journals in India are hopeful as to the results of the recent conversations at Mussoorie, and are inclined to anticipate a period of peaceful economic development. On the other hand, the stories of mutinous troops and various incidents reported in recent cables suggest that the internal conditions of the country are not precisely favourable to an immediate industrial advance; and without giving too much weight to the views of either side, we are justified in describing the situation as uncertain. In Asia uncertainty cannot be confined to one side of a frontier, and we are entitled to ask for some assurance that the Simla machine is better prepared for emergencies than has been the case on the last two occasions when it has been tested.

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The key to the Afghan situation is probably to be found in the personality of the Amir, and the world as yet knows very little about that factor in the question. Asiatic princes are usually wise to conceal their qualities until they ascend the throne, and the present Amir's public record since his accession is so contradictory that no confident conclusions can be drawn from it. Some of his actions have appeared astute, while others have appeared fatuous, but with Eastern statecraft, as with Eastern carpets, it is dangerous to judge of the pattern from what may prove to be the bordering, and observers at a distance can say little more than that he has an exceedingly difficult task, with a thoroughly undisciplined kingdom exposed to the disintegrating influences of Bolshevist intrigue. His policy is doubtless directed primarily to the retention of his uneasy throne, but the tactics likely to be adopted in pursuit of that policy are so extremely uncertain that the only wise course is to be prepared for all emergencies.

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As regards the internal situation in India, the most hopeful sign at present is the steady advance towards freedom of speech. The time seems to have passed when Indians were content to say "ditto" to some self-appointed protagonist, and influential Moderate organs are writing about the Extremists with point and vigour formerly reserved for the misdoings of the Administration, while individual leaders are saying what they think with a candour which is, at any rate, refreshing. To give only one sample, an eminent non-Brahmin declared recently, amidst applause, that the wheels of the Indian National Congress "had sunk deeper and deeper in the mire of reckless extremism and perverse optimism, egged onwards by selfishness and self-conceit." That diagnosis may be true or false, but the important thing is that it should have been made in public; it would have been unthinkable a few years ago, and it indicates that India is well on the road to Western methods of political discussion, where the truth gradually crystallises from a dilute, and occasionally turbid, mother-liquor.

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# THE WEEK AT HOME.

### The Threatened Coal Strike.

Foreign politics having been uneventful during the week, the papers have been free to devote ample space to the threatened coal strike. Each side accuses the other of lying, by way of comforting the public; but the main facts are not in dispute. Domestic coal is supplied at cost price, and there is a large profit on export coal, the bulk of which goes to the Treasury in the shape of Excess Profits Duty; the miners want this latter surplus wiped out and used (a) to increase their wages, and (b) to reduce the price of home-consumed coal. It is suggested that while the first claim is the real object, the second is mere camouflage to capture the public sympathy. If that is so, it is doubtful whether it has achieved its object. The householder would certainly like to buy his coal at a lower price, but he does not believe that the way to do it is to increase the miner's wages; and if the contribution to the Treasury is wiped out, he sees that while the miners will get their increase, taxation will go up in other directions, and he will have to pay it. In that case he is no better off than before.

Nor does he forget that the miners struck work in 1915, and is inclined to hold the view that Mr. Smillie was a pro-German then, and is a pro-Bolshevist now. These matters, of course, are irrelevant to the real issue, but they count in the matter of public belief and sympathy. However, the miners' ballot shows a large majority in favour of a strike, and so far Mr. Smillie can therefore claim that his tactics have been justified. But beyond that point we enter debatable territory.

Mr. Smillie's object is to enforce nationalisation of the mines by the direct action of a strike; but nationalisation in his mind does not appear to mean State ownership in the ordinary sense of the word, but the ownership of the mines by the miners themselves, which is practically Syndicalism in another dress. Mr. Herbert Smith, the Yorkshire miners' leader, also believes in nationalisation, but he has no belief in direct action to enforce political issues, and has said so. This disagreement may have certain consequences; but it is also suggested that other trade unions, particularly the railway workers and transport men, are not keen on a miners' strike, and will do nothing to help it. If the Triple Alliance of miners, railwaymen, and transport workers strikes, the situation would be indistinguishable from a general strike, which is what Mr. Smillie wants; but from a certain shrillness and urgency in the language of the *Daily Herald*, the "Bolshevist organ," on the matter it does not appear that there is too great an anxiety on the part of other workers to pull the chestnuts out of the fire.

The Government, meanwhile, have given no sign, and are being soundly abused by the *Herald* in consequence. It accuses them of forcing the crisis, which is palpably absurd, for they have done nothing whatever beyond announcing that Mr. Smillie's demands are impossible. It would appear that there are, as usual, two sections of opinion in the Labour camp: one, which wants a strike at any cost on the chance that it can defeat the Government and the community, and so make itself the real ruler of the country; the other, which, now that the ballot is taken, would like to open up negotiations with the Government in order to prevent a strike, and to secure better terms for the miners without causing general misery and suffering. The former is more vocal, the latter on the whole probably more powerful. The latter may possibly succeed in building a golden bridge over which both sides can meet at a round table and discuss peace or war. There appears to be a general impression that peace is rather less unlikely than a week ago, for Mr. Smillie's tactics have not been enthusiastically applauded by his fellow-leaders in the trade unionist movement. Mr. Thomas has kept silence; Mr. Clynes is openly in favour of negotiations.

### A General Election?

With the controversy between direct and political action in the air, it is natural that some people should speculate as to the prospects of a General Election this autumn. A clear issue, on Nationalisation versus Private Ownership, and Direct versus Constitutional action, would be available; nor is there much doubt what the result would be. The Government, it is true, is a Coalition, with the weaknesses of such instruments in policy; but at least it fulfils the primary duty of a Coalition, and coalesces. Labour is also a coalition of divergent views, and although it rightly conceals the rifts within the lute as much as possible, the sounds which proceed from the instrument are not always in tune. Roughly the dividing line is that Labour in Parliament believes in constitutional action, while Labour which has been rejected at the polls inclines to direct action, for obvious reasons; but Labour in Parliament naturally thinks of the days to come when it will occupy Downing Street, and when as a Government *in esse* Mr. Smillie's thunderbolts will be directed at a Labour Prime Minister instead of Mr. Lloyd George.

The weakness of the present Government is its excessive strength; its majority is unwieldy and altogether too large.

It is by no means certain that a General Election would help it out of that difficulty, for Independent Liberalism shows no sign of a revival, and while Labour would probably win a few seats the public is rather suspicious of Labour at the moment. The glamour of a few months ago, when Lord Haldane assured us that Labour had scaled the heights of idealism, has quickly vanished; for on those heights we see Mr. Joseph King as Labour candidate at the Ilford by-election which is now being contested. And Mr. King, as a one-time Liberal member of Parliament with pronounced Pacifist tendencies, was known by friend and foe alike as the "Mad Hatter." Every political party, of course, has its ridiculous adherents, but one would think that adult Labour could at least produce its own mad hatters, and not adopt the returned empties and the rejected addresses of other organisations.

### The British Association.

The men of science met at Cardiff last week in the middle of a municipal strike. Sir Oliver Lodge attacked the Einstein theory; the presidential address was on Oceanography, and it is suggested that the British Government shall fit up another Challenger expedition to extend our knowledge of the deep seas. The idea has been well received, for our information as to the ocean bed is still inadequate, and zoologists are anxious to obtain further light on the conditions under which abyssal fish live; while the origin of their phosphorescent organs would illustrate philosophical, as well as purely natural problems.

The remainder of the papers read before the Association appear to have been sound rather than brilliant; perhaps they lacked that touch of popular appeal which leads to discussion and dispute. Or, perhaps the sub-editors were sleepy, and cut the reports below the minimum to make room for cricket.

### The Cricket Crisis.

There never was such a wonderful cricket year as 1920, and last week was the most wonderful of all. Tuesday at the Oval was an amazing day; Surrey's second innings against Yorkshire showed the usual rot after a couple of wickets had fallen, and except for Hitch, who hit a couple of sixes and was bowled in the same over, the southern batsmen muffed the bowling altogether. At three o'clock the game seemed fairly easy for Yorkshire. But Surrey fielding are a different team from Surrey batting; and they played an uphill game (which used to be the speciality of Yorkshire) with extraordinary zest. It seemed as difficult for a Yorkshire batsman to hit a ball to the boundary as for a woman to get into the Stock Exchange, and wicket after wicket fell. At the tea interval Yorkshire wanted 40 runs with two wickets to fall—not an impossible task, but they never looked like getting them. Their last two batsmen did their best, but they were hopelessly at sea; several maiden overs, a couple of lucky fours, and the game was over, Surrey winning by just over 30 runs. That disposed of Yorkshire's chance of the championship: but one felt that ten years ago, under Lord Hawke's leadership, they would have won. But Surrey

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deserved their victory for their fielding alone; I have never seen anything better.

Kent are out of the championship, for Middlesex beat them towards the end of the week; and now with Surrey leading on their first innings against Middlesex—the game is now on at Lord's, with apparently the whole male population of the two counties watching—the anomaly of Lancashire, who have not won a single match against Middlesex, Surrey, or Yorkshire, being "champion" county has been perpetrated. Both Middlesex and Kent have claims to be regarded as the best county on form. But so are Surrey on their day; but their selected moments, to use Mr. Winston Churchill's phrase of the old German Navy, are so few. Surrey on somebody else's day are a team which makes the devout Surreyite contemplate "death, disaster, and damnation."

To judge from the crowds at all the London grounds, the county clubs should be flourishing. Before the war there was a cry—a perfectly legitimate cry—for brighter cricket, and during the war, of course, the clubs simply trod water. But now, although the entrance has been doubled, and the weather unspeakable, gates of twenty and thirty thousand are quite common. It is partly because scores have been low, and definite results are generally reached; perhaps the wickets have not attained their pre-war perfection. At any rate, the bowlers have the mastery at present, but one will be curious to see whether they retain it in Australia, where scores are higher, and matches longer.

**"Of Man's First Disobedience."**

Apparently the Broad Churchmen have abandoned the doctrine of the fall of man. In the last number of their review, the question is very frankly asked, How much can they give up without disloyalty?—a rather dangerous and difficult attitude to adopt, one would think—and it is admitted that many things in the creeds, such as the Descent into Hell and the Virgin Birth, are now accepted as symbolical. How any phrase that records what either is or is not a physical fact can be thus regarded, unless the word symbolical is tantamount to untenable, it is difficult to see; obviously, some men whose judgment one respects have bridged the difficulty. But Canon Barnes, preaching last Sunday, remarked that "Christian thinkers found it necessary to abandon the doctrine of the fall and arguments deduced from it by theologians from St. Paul downwards."

This seems a large admission, and although Canon Barnes, in the remainder of his sermon, which is reported in the daily Press, remarks that "while some elements of the Christian tradition were perforce discarded, the essential nature and strength of the Christian faith had been more clearly disclosed," his words are likely to arouse some controversy in orthodox circles. As a fact, the doctrine of the fall of man is, and always has been, one of the very roots both of Judaism and Christianity. Philosophically it is becoming, and scientifically it has become, untenable; so much is, of course, generally admitted. But for the Church, or part of the Church, to give it up, implies a good deal more than the squaring of religion with science; it means the abandonment of the whole basis of historical Christianity. It will be interesting to see what comments are made on these remarks of Canon Barnes. Fifty years ago they would have caused an outcry, but we have moved fast and far since then, and beliefs are now more fluidly held.

**Houses for Sale.**

While the clergy are becoming increasingly doubtful if we have a soul, the builders are beginning to wonder if we have a body; for some of the new houses for sale, and several of the old ones, have failed to find purchasers. The fact is that the price is too high, and the number of the public who were compelled to buy a house in a certain neighbourhood was always limited, and these are now accommodated. The rest can afford to wait, and are actually waiting, rather than pay the extortionate prices now demanded. At one or two auctions, recently, houses have been withdrawn because there were no bidders at the price. The builders blame the labourers, and both blame the Government; but the truth of the matter is that a cottage with a living-room, a kitchen, and three bedrooms costs a thousand pounds, and the number of young married men with a thousand pounds in their pockets is small. Nor are the banks ready to play the part of generous uncle.

The consequence is that houses are being built for sale and are not being sold. If they have to be let at a rental, the builders say they will cease building, because it does not pay them to let. What they really mean is that they are afraid the house will fall down in five or ten years' time; for some of the new semi-detached villas have about as much substance as a spook at a spiritualist séance.

Meanwhile, one notices that half the houses in the Lancaster Gate district are for sale. The story goes that the new-rich will not look at anything outside Park Lane, so that property on the wrong side of the park is likely to slump. The present prices are very high, and the houses, which are large and not too conveniently planned, require a multitude of servants.

**In the Lyons' Den.**

London was amused rather than annoyed last week by a strike of the girls employed in the Lyons' teashops. The immediate cause of the trouble was trivial—the wearing of a trade union badge by one of the staff while on duty—and two thousand female Daniels walked out and swore they would never return until justice was done. A few walked back two mornings later, after ineffectual picketing had a brave march through the streets—why is it that a thousand petticoats are so much less persuasive than one?—but the places of the others were immediately filled, and the teashop beauties will have to find other tables to serve.

**The Olympic Games.**

It seems clear that there will be no more Olympic games. The sports just held at Antwerp have given rise to a great deal of bad feeling, and the partiality and favouritism of the judge have been impeached on all sides. Even at the beginning there was little enthusiasm for the tournament in England, but the reports which have come over from Belgium have definitely set public opinion against participation. The games were originally devised to promote international comradeship in sport, but they appear to have had directly contrary effect.

OCELLUS.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (August 26):—

"Two aviators, Captain Liubisha Kosanovitch and Lieut. Vladislav Kambera, crashed and were killed when flying at Novi Sad last week.

Arrangements have been made for the transfer to their native places of the remains of Serbian soldiers killed on the Macedonian front.

Owing to the serious reports of the conditions in Montenegro, a committee of Ministers, consisting of M. Kosta Stoyanovitch (Minister of Finance), M. Trifkovitch (Minister of Justice), and M. Jojitch (himself a Montenegrin, Minister of Food and Reconstruction) are shortly paying an official visit of inspection to the districts in question.

November 28 is announced as the date of the General Elections for the Constituent Assembly.

The Ministry of Agrarian Reform has proposed that existing yearly tenancies be converted into quadrennial tenancies, to give greater stability to agricultural holdings.

A British transport has arrived at Dubrovnik (Ragusa) with a large contingent of Serbs, both officers and men and their families, from Vladivostok. The troops had been engaged in Russia and Siberia, and only now repatriated; the women and children were chiefly refugees from the north-east corner of Serbia, who fled from the Bulgarian invasion into Roumania and thence into Russia."

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, August 20.

**Political Changes.**

The political crisis has been a very dull one, and only lasted a month, in spite of the efforts of several parties to prolong it. About twice a week for the previous fortnight, it had been stated that it would be all over in a couple of days, and an agreement was reached nearly a week ago, the majority of the Ministers celebrating the occasion by a picnic to Avala, to enjoy a well-earned rest after the conversations, meetings, protocols, and negotiations of the preceding three weeks. The agreement was subject to a short delay for final consideration by M. Vesnitch, which was taken advantage of by the Narodny Club to reconsider a few minor details, but at last the thing was settled. M. Stoyan Protitch has withdrawn, and gone into the country for a holiday, leaving behind a written memorandum to bind his successor. His place as Minister of the Constituent has been taken by Dr. Mushitsky, a prominent Radical from the Voivodina; as he is at the moment away ill, the Minister of Justice, M. Marko Trifkovitch will act for him. Dr. Davidovitch leaves the Cabinet, and is replaced as Minister of the Interior by the other Democrat Leader, M. Drashkovitch.

**The General Elections.**

As the settlement has cleared the air on the chief pressing matters for the moment, the work of the new Cabinet will be chiefly to get to work on the general elections, which are fixed for November. As a forerunner, we are entering upon the throes of municipal elections, and the town is placarded with appeals by the different parties, upon differently coloured posters. At the same time it is announced that the elections for the counties or provinces of Prizren, Ochrida and Tetovo (which used to be called Kalkendelen in the bad old Turkish days) are postponed on account of the Albanian raid, and in Belgrade the sale of drink will be stopped from midday Saturday to midday Monday. The authorities seem determined to have peaceful elections.

**Czecho-Slovakia and Yugoslavia.**

Relations between these two young States have been cordial from the beginning; during the war and occupation, Czech troops and officers did all in their power to mitigate the sufferings of the Yugoslavs and Serbs; it was the Czechs who lit the spark which brought on the explosion in Austria; and since the revolution, they have remained firm friends, for both have common enemies, Austria, and above all, Hungary. A suggestion has been made that Czecho-Slovakia be invited to act as intermediary in the Yugoslav-Italian conflict, but probably the Italians will have none of it. Recently Dr. Edward Benes, Minister of Foreign Affairs, visited Belgrade, where he has been received with every honour by the Prince and the Government, afterwards leaving for Bucharest. One result of his visit as already announced, is an agreement between Yugoslavia and Czecho-Slovakia mutually guaranteeing each other's integrity; both are anxious to preserve their neutrality in the Russo-Polish conflict.

**The Albanian Conflicts.**

The almost perpetual Albanian raids have grown into a regular invasion, when forces some 10,000 strong invade on three points, harry and loot the country, and seize several villages. Yesterday it was reported that the weak frontier guards had retired before the vastly superior force of the enemy, who is armed with mountain and machine guns and hand grenades, and that the town of Debra had fallen; but this is now denied, and it is stated that the Government has hurried troops to the spot, and that the enemy's attacks are becoming feebler before the increased resistance. The Serbian papers announce that the Albanian leader is Bairam Beg Tsur, who is Minister of War and Commandant of the gendarmerie of the Tirana Government, chief of the clan of Has, and that he has locked up the supporters and relatives of the late Essad Pasha, and destroyed their houses and property, in accordance with the tenets of the ancient but unwritten law of Dukadjin. The enemy is now held, but fighting must have been pretty fierce, if on a small scale, for the Serbs admit that one battalion suffered very severely, that a Major and a Captain have been taken prisoners, and that five old-pattern guns, which were used simply for frontier-guard work in that wild mountain country, have been lost.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, August 21.

**The Attempt on the Premier's Life.**

The dastardly attempt on the life of the Greek Premier, M. Venizelos, produced the effect of a bomb-shell in the Greek capital. The first message giving a full account of the occurrence was received by he Government at about 11 a.m. on Friday, August 13. Unfortunately, M. Romanos, the Greek Ambassador in Paris, worded his telegram in plain language, and this was indirectly responsible for the shocking scenes witnessed in Athens a few hours later. The authorities, anticipating trouble, withheld the news of the attempt until all the necessary steps to maintain order in the capital had been taken. But, as already stated, M. Romanos' telegram was not transmitted in code, and the alarming news leaked out and circulated greatly exaggerated long before the Government had time to complete its precautionary measures. In a very short time the streets and squares were filled with thousands of angry, desperate people clamouring for news of their beloved Premier. The Government was then obliged, in order to calm the infuriated crowds, to publish the contents of M. Romanos' telegram, the last sentence of which emphasised the fact that M. Venizelos was out of danger. But the publication of this account had an opposite effect to that desired for. On hearing that the perpetrators of the cowardly attempt were ex-officers f the Greek Army and Navy, the crowd rushed up Stadium Street and attacked the offices of the two Royalist papers *Athinaïki* and *Nea Himera*, which it literally ransacked. Cheering for M. Venizelos and cursing his opponents, the angry crowd smashed up everything, including the printing press. Furniture, papers, files, and so forth were all thrown into the street and set on fire. The next victim was the huge building in Constitution Square, the property of the Editor of the *Esperini*. After the printing press had been wrecked and the editorial offices ransacked, the demonstrators set fire to the building. Fortunately the fire brigade was promptly summoned, and succeeded in extinguishing the flames before much damage was done. In the meantime another group of demonstrators had attacked and ransacked the offices of the two remaining opposition papers, the *Kathimerini* and the *Politia*. Outside the premises of the latter journal a detachment of soldiers with fixed bayonets attempted to hold back the attacking masses, but after a hand-to-hand fight which lasted for nearly ten minutes, the crowd forced its entry into the building.

The demonstrators, now divided into several groups, attacked each separately the houses of the opposition leaders. Extensive damage was done at the house of M. Scouloudis, an ex-Prime Minister, where, in addition to the expensive furniture, a number of paintings by Van Dyck, Rembrandt, and Michael Angelo was completely destroyed. A fine collection of Chinese vases of great value, and statuettes of Tanagra were broken. It is also said that a magnificent Sévres porcelain table service which had once belonged to Louis XV. met with the same fate.

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Damage was also done in the house of M. Stratos, member of the Chamber and an ex-Minister. Several confectionery shops and cafés known to be centres of concentration of the ex-King's sympathisers were completely destroyed and—it must be said—plundered. The Cotopouli theatre at Omonia Square was likewise greatly damaged, in spite of the superhuman efforts of the troops guarding it to keep the crowds at bay. But undoubtedly the most regrettable incident of this eventful day was the death of John Dragoumis, a member of the opposition, ex-Minister for Greece in Petrograd, and son of the ex-Premier M. Stephan Dragoumis. The exact manner in which he met his death has not yet been ascertained, but it is believed that he was shot while being taken in a carriage to the police-station. The authorities have taken the matter in hand, and have promised prompt and exemplary punishment of the perpetrator of the crime.

A few hours after the disturbances related above, M. Repoulis, the Vice-President of the Council of Ministers, created an immense sensation by stating that a plot aiming at the overthrow of the Government and the establishment of an anti-Venizelist dictatorship in Greece had been discovered. M. Repoulis said that the Government had been aware of the existence of this plot during the last fortnight, and that the *coup d'état* was to have been carried out on the very night of the peace celebrations in Athens. The revolutionists' plan was to seize the Ministry of War, the barracks, the Prefecture of Police, and the prisons. The drastic measures, however, taken by the authorities and the numerous armed patrols which were on duty in Athens on "Peace Day" frustrated any attempt to disturb public order. It would therefore appear that the plotters had postponed their plans until the day the news of M. Venizelos' assassination had reached Athens. Warrants for the arrest of certain persons involved had been issued many hours before the attempt on the Prime Minister's life.

During the past week the authorities have been very busy arresting suspects, including the majority of the Opposition leaders and the editors of three anti-Venizelist papers. Their trial is expected to commence early next week.

On Sunday last the party of the so-called "irreconcilables" informed the public, through the morning Press, that a demonstration for the purpose of demanding an immediate and exemplary punishment of all those found in any way connected with the attempt on M. Venizelos' life was being organised for that afternoon. The authorities, however, fearing a recurrence of Friday's scenes, prohibited the gathering.

The capital is very quiet now, the Government having taken drastic steps to ensure order. The general opinion here is that the measures taken by the authorities on the day of the disturbances to prevent the attacks on the newspapers and private houses were inadequate. The fact that a new Military Governor was appointed in Athens on the following day is an indication that this opinion is shared by the Government.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, August 18.

**Parliament.**

The Chamber of Deputies has had a busy week. On Friday last a Bill was introduced for the ratification of the Treaty of Saint Germain, and after a discussion in the course of which Dr. Vaida-Voevod and M. Také Jonescu both made long speeches in defence of the signature, and deprecating the attitude of the Liberals towards it, the Bill was passed by 221 votes out of 234. It will be remembered that one of the clauses most resented by the Liberal Party, who represented Roumania at the Peace Conference, was that which deals with the minority populations. It was on account of this, and of the boundary question in Maramuresh and the Banat, that the Liberals opposed the signature of the Treaty when it was voted by the Government of Dr. Vaida-Voevod. On the subject of the Jewish question, and the minority populations, Dr. Vaida stated in his speech on Friday that the only reasonable policy for Roumania to pursue was one of tolerance and equal protection to all her subjects, as it would ill become Roumanians who had so long suffered from the unjust repressions of Austria-Hungary in Transylvania to emulate the policy of their oppressors, now that the power was in their hands. M. Také Jonescu held the same opinion, and pointed out that the minorities population clause was not inserted for Roumania alone, but also for seven of the other belligerent nations, and he added that if former Roumanian Governments had been far-seeing enough to accord full liberties to the Jews, the Jewish question would in all probability not exist in Roumania to-day. Both deputies were well supported by the Chamber, and the Bill was passed as stated. The fact that these liberal sentiments were so heartily endorsed by the majority of the Deputies shows that not all Roumanians of the governing classes are such brutal oppressors as they are represented by the utterances of pro-Hungarian propagandists.

The following Bills were also passed: (a) For the creation of an Under-Secretaryship of the Treasury at the Ministry of Finance. (b) A Bill, introduced by M. Jorga, and unanimously supported by the Chamber for the foundation of an Institute for Higher Courses of Roumanian Studies in Paris and Rome. (c) A Bill granting to State employees allowances of 90 and 63 per cent. of their salaries to meet the higher cost of living. As reported in a previous letter, the non-payment of these allowances, previously promised, was one of the reasons for the recent Post-Office strike. (d) The Bill for the ratification of the Peace Treaty with Bulgaria.

A credit of 450 million lei was voted for the land expropriation operations.

Besides these measures, which were all voted on Friday, the law for the regulation of Labour conflicts was passed on the 12th inst. with very slight modifications, in spite of the long discussions it raised. The law has been drawn up on the basis of modern labour legislation in the West of Europe: it makes arbitration obligatory in cases of dispute in State institutions, forbids strikes except for the protection of technical rights and admits in principle the liberty of labour in regard to collective cessation of work. But it is claimed by some of the critics that its weak point will probably be found to lie in the fact that it makes no provision for the organisation of labour unions with responsible leaders. It was very badly received by the workmen, who held a mass meeting of protest outside the Chamber.

**Marshal Joffre in Bucharest.**

Marshal Joffre arrived in Bucharest this morning about 9.30 by a special train (the Simplon Express, in which he left Paris, having broken down or been delayed for some reason not explained). His official mission is to present the Croix de Guerre to the towns of Bucharest and Marasesti, and his coming is warmly welcomed by the Roumanians. The Bucharest ceremony will probably take place at the Parc Carol to-morrow forenoon, but no official programme has yet been issued. Marshal Joffre will be the guest of the King during his stay.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Czecho-Slovakia, M. Benes, with several of his staff and other officials, is also expected in Bucharest this evening.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, August 19.

**Bulgarian Policy.**

Last Monday, M. Stambolisky invited the representatives of the Press to his rooms at the Ministry

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of Foreign Affairs, to listen to a sketch of his domestic and foreign policy. During his recent visit to Varna, and to the Royal Palace at Euxinograd, he was able, he said, to find out that the nation welcomed the new laws recently adopted by the Chamber, viz., the law allowing the expropriation of private buildings for use as State and municipal institutions, and of drinking and other saloons for use of schools and administrative institutions; the measures taken for grappling with the housing problem, particularly the supplying of homeless people with cheap land and with credit for building homes of their own; and the law in connection with the public labour service, which, M. Stambolisky said, had not been badly received, and had in some parts already begun to be applied.

**The Foreign Situation.**

The immediate future holds momentous consequences for Bulgaria as well as for the rest of the world, but at least the international position of this country has, after the ratification of the Peace Treaty, been considerably ameliorated. With all the Great Powers, and also with her neighbours, Bulgaria has friendly relations. Hitherto the most dangerous point lay in her relations with Greece, for it was feared that the Greeks occupying Thrace might pass the Bulgarian frontiers and thus violate the integrity of Bulgaria as laid down in the Treaty of Neuilly. But the Bulgarian Government addressed in time a Note to the Entente Powers, declaring to them that Bulgaria would preserve a strict and loyal neutrality towards her neighbours in whatever conflicts they might be engaged, but that the frontiers as laid down in the Peace Treaty would be defended by force of arms M. Stambolisky was convinced, he declared, that as long as the Greek statesman, M. Venizelos, held power in Greece, Bulgaria's territorial integrity would be respected by Greece. He had, he said, heard the news of the attempt on the life of M. Venizelos with surprise and indignation, and he earnestly hoped that the prominent Greek statesman, who had done so much for his country, would not refuse to come to an understanding with Bulgaria, and so win her friendship.

**The Thracian Refugees.**

Along the Thracian frontier matters are now quite peaceful. The frontier posts are occupied by Greek troops. The settlement of the Thracian refugees has begun, and the Government has voted two million levas for supplying them with land for cultivation and seeds for sowing. Some of the Turkish Thracian refugees are leaving for Constantinople, via Burgas.

## TRANS-CAUCASIA.

TIFLIS, July 25.

**Peace in Georgia.**

In the North Caucasus there are already fresh risings against the Bolsheviste: in Azerbaijan the Red plague is devastating the land: Armenia is still arguing about her rights to Karabagh; but Georgia has come out of all her troubles, and the ship of State is sailing on a calm sea. Now that the Georgian flag is waving proudly over Batoum, the Adjarians have closed their ears to the oily words of Turkish agitators, and have expressed their allegiance to their legal Motherland. The Georgian Government has made it clear that Georgia wants no revenge. Bygones are to be bygones, and all former rebels are now forgiven. Further, all those Adjarians who suffered innocently through the schemes of enemy propagandists will be compensated. But with all its leniency, the Georgian Government has issued a warning that any future attempts to undermine the law and order of the ruling authorities will be severely punished. The Adjarians have been ordered to give up their arms and to surrender all Turkish officers in their midst—the men chiefly responsible for the recent strife. A delegation of the Adjarian people has visited the Georgian Foreign Ministry, and the president of this delegation has assured the Government that all orders will be faithfully carried out.

The Ossetins, also, who have been carrying on "demonstrations" to the north of Gori, seem to be coming to their senses. The agitators who arranged the trouble have acted as agitators usually do when their schemes go wrong—they have already fled to the north, and the people realise that they have been deceived. So the senseless struggle against Georgia has ceased, but there is a new cloud on Ossetia's horizon. A group of bandits who call themselves the People's Red Guard and Militia continue to rob and plunder the people. Peasants who usually drive their flocks and herds from the plain to the hill pasture grounds are now afraid to do so lest their cattle be taken from them en route. Many of the upland fields are remaining uncultivated, and there is likely to be a food crisis. This state of things cannot continue, so the Ossetin people have appealed to the Georgian people and to the democratic Georgian Government to go to their aid and to help them to clear their land of the bandit robbers. Ossetia wants to live at peace with Georgia, and with the Red disasters in other parts of the Caucasus, one can only hope that the Bolshevist agents and agitators will flee, as so many of their former comrades have already done.

**Georgia's Progress.**

In a notable speech delivered before a large public gathering in Batoum, M. Noe Ramishvili, the Georgian Minister of the Interior, referred to the progress that the Georgian Republic has made in the past two years, and drew a striking comparison between Georgian accomplishments and the ruin caused throughout Russia by the Bolshevists. Turks, Denikin, Communists, and other enemies of Georgia's independence, he said, had all been before the gates of the Republic, and all had been repelled. "We have come through all our vicissitudes with honour," he said. "To-day in Batoum the Entente flags have gone, but in their place is the flag of democratic Georgia. I have the courage to tell you that our flag will always remain in Batoum." Ramishvili then went on to say that with all its victories the Georgian nation had become more united, the sentiment of patriotism had been strongly developed, and the people had received new self-assurance and renewed courage. "We have often been told that although we are strong in politics we are weak economically. Foreign assistance has been offered to us, but we will avoid becoming a toy in the hands of international speculation. Our economic situation is certainly not brilliant, but it is better than that in many other parts of the world. We are building, but in Russia there is simply ruin. Here we have construction; there is destruction. Even in Europe, if one considers the figures regarding industry, strikes, and unrest, one can see that everything is not so good as it might be. In Russia the people are dying of famine, dirt, and disease. The Bolshevists have made a cemetery of Russia. If one compares our own Georgia with the Russia of to-day one can see that it is not for the Bolshevists to show us how to construct our State. We are proud of our work, because we are now on the road that is leading us to the realisation of our dreams. We have a university; soon there will be a polytechnic. We have our own provincial local governments that are

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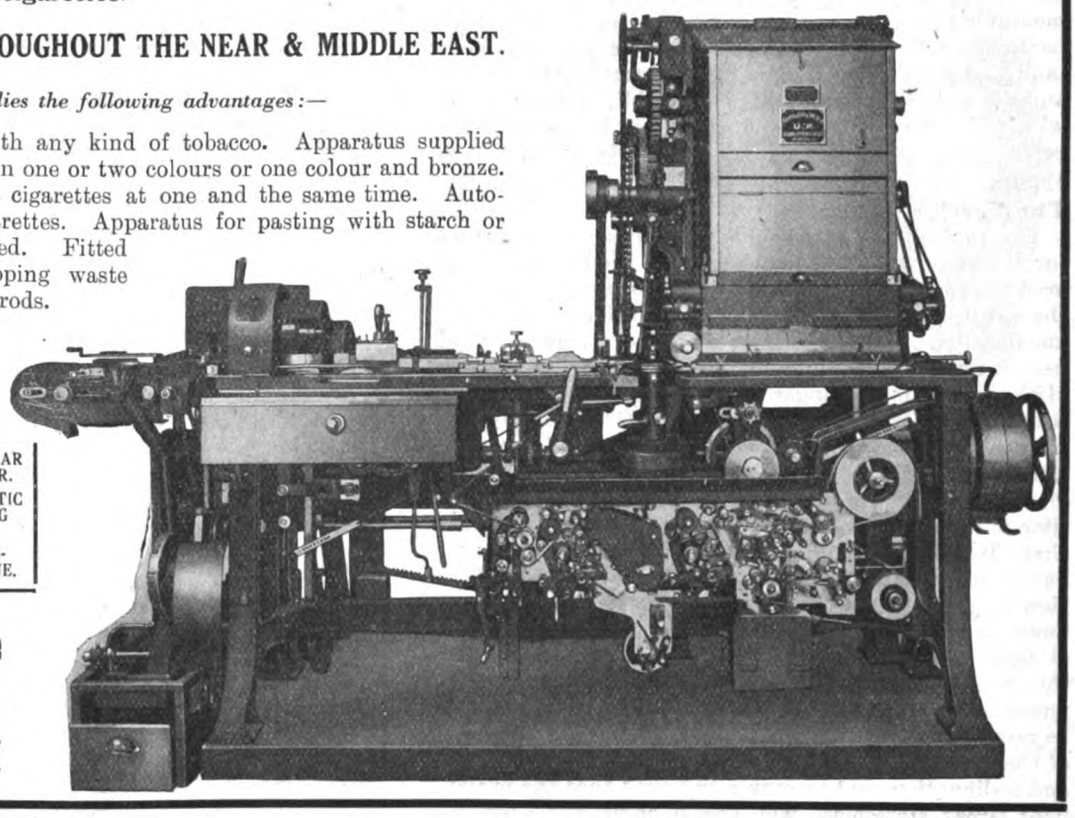

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doing much to arrange the social and economic life of our State. We have an eight hours' day for our workmen. Our telephonic system is greatly increased throughout Georgia. We have almost finished the creation of many new post and telegraphic offices throughout the Republic. The Government has the confidence of the people, and is taking them on the road of progress and civilisation." Finally, Ramishvili appealed to the people to remain quiet and to work in peace, assuring them of the steady co-operation of the Government.

Ramishvili's speech was a great success, and at its close he had a long ovation from the Batoum people.

**Bolshevist Schemes.**

Meanwhile, the Bolshevists continue their underhand work in Tiflis. The Georgian people have already shown them that they will have no Soviet interference in their affairs, and that they will never let their democratic Government be razed by the Soviet rulers. Arrests of Soviet agents are made daily and only a few days ago the *Communist*, a Bolshevist organ, was closed down in Tiflis and the editor arrested. There is talk of Kiroff, the Soviet "ambassador," leaving. And in this there is a deal of humour. As I mentioned in my last letter the consensus of opinion in Government circles was that Kiroff and his mission would have to be expelled if the underhand work they were carrying on continued. Kiroff apparently scented trouble, for he is alleged to have declared that he is suffocating in the "bourgeois air" of Georgia and cannot any more breathe! So, apparently, he will go quietly, rather than be unceremoniously kicked out.

**Baku.**

Things in Baku seem to be going from bad to worse. Workmen, all of whom have been mobilised to forced labour, have received no wages for over two months. Prices are soaring impossibly high. Discontent is general. Bread is supposed to be sold at the fixed price of two roubles a pound, but in reality one has to pay more than 200 roubles a pound. Sugar is priced at five roubles, but sugar is almost non-procurable at any price at all. The workmen's rations are called "famine rations" by the men, as they are totally inadequate. Transport is falling to pieces, although a certain amount of ships are being repaired in the harbour. The armed merchant ships are being "demobilised," and efforts are made to strengthen the fleet of oil ships. Several of the Bolshevist ships from Astrachan and Petrovsk have arrived in very bad condition. Owing to neglect they are only capable of half their former speed.

Here is a case of "Jeddart justice." Some time ago Professor Simina, the well-known orientalist, was killed by the Bolshevists as he was accused of having participated in the death of Shaumian, the 1918 Baku commissar. Following Simina's death an inquiry was held, and it has now been found that he was quite innocent. Too late, of course; Bolshevist mistakes like those of the proverbial doctor, are to be found in the grave.

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## THE SITUATION IN ARMENIA.

The Armenian London Bureau makes the following statement:—

The postponement of a final settlement in the Middle East is obviously producing lamentable results for some of the great countries of Europe with regard to their trade, military expenditure, and general economic conditions, but most nations at least are not suffering from shortage of food or of the bare necessaries of life; in Armenia, on the other hand, the people are not only deprived of most of the necessaries of life; they are also involved in a constant warfare on their Eastern, South-eastern, and South-western frontiers.

A report which has just come to hand from Alexandropol, describes the extent of starvation to which masses of Armenian people are still subjected in various areas within the frontiers of the Republic. It is a common thing to see hungry women and children wandering in the fields in search of roots and herbs to supplement their scanty rations of food. Owing to the uncertainty of the political situation, the Armenian Government had to mobilise various classes of recruits in order to strengthen the front in Zangezour and in the region of Olti against any possible aggressive action of the Turks. The best manhood is thus under arms, and there seems to be no prospect as yet of exemption of the youth of the country to recommence the work of reconstruction.

In the disguised struggle between the British Empire and Bolshevist Russia, the exhausted Armenian nation is struggling for its existence. The signing of the Peace Treaty with Turkey and the recognition of the complete *de jure* independence of Armenia do not seem to bring about a perceptible amelioration of the condition of the Armenian people. The Turks are as yet in occupation of the provinces of Van, Bitlis and Erzeroum, which are laid down as Armenian in the Peace Treaty. Another winter is at hand, rendering the occupation of these provinces by Armenian troops almost impossible until next Spring. That means, of course, that 300,000 refugees from those provinces will have to spend another winter within the borders of the Republic, which can scarcely feed and clothe its native population. Cut off from the seas by its geographical boundaries, the Armenian Republic is still under some sort of blockade, and owing to some mysterious agency, postal and telegraphic communications have not yet resumed their normal course, as one would have expected in the case of a small Allied nation. Fresh trouble seems to be brewing in Transcaucasia, owing to the course of events on the Polish front. There is reason to believe that Soviet Russia is withdrawing all its forces from the shores of the Caspian Sea and Baku, thus widening the scope of Tartar anarchy. It is reliably reported that the Tartar "Mussavat" party, which was defeated last May, and some of whose leaders are hiding in the region of Elisavetpol, has been sending agents to Daghestan and to the Mohammedan mountaineers of the Caucasus, to induce them to rise and avenge themselves on the returning Russians. The reaction of this new development would mean fresh fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and fresh intrigues among the Tartars, Turks and Arabs. Such a development cannot fail to add fresh fuel to the smouldering fire in the Middle East, from which Armenia will not be the only sufferer.

## SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO.

Sir Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, states that, notwithstanding the sufferings of the inhabitants of that country, owing to sickness and want of food, the Serbians, who are in possession of the country, have ordered the relief missions to leave. La Mission Sanitaire Internationale was the first, followed by the British Relief Mission; and now the Canadian War Hospital, headed by Colonel Burnham, has been forced to abandon humanitarian work.

Diplomatic relations between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria have been resumed.

At a meeting of the Viceroy's Council on August 26 an Indian member was informed that General Dyer's pension is £900 per annum.

The Zionist Organisation, 77, Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1, is sending out lecturers to give addresses on Palestine, free of charge.

Ramadan Scetem, the chief of the Misurati region, who was pursuing an anti-Italian policy in Libya, has been defeated and killed in tribal fighting.

The Government have cordially accepted the offer of the Maharaja of Kapurtala of his regiment of Imperial Service Infantry for service in Mesopotamia.

A War Office statement says that an examination of papers captured from a Bolshevist Staff officer in the recent action near Menzil disclose a comprehensive scheme for overrunning Persia and capturing Teheran.

For the around-the-world aerial Derby the proposed route is as follows:—New York to Seattle, to Yokohama, to Shanghai, to Bangkok, Siam; to Karachi, India; to Calcutta and Delhi; to Bagdad, to Rome, to the Irish coast, to London, Newfoundland, and New York. The total distance is 22,207 miles.

The *Zionist Bulletin*, of August 20, states:—

"The Jews in Roumania are still being persecuted. They are obliged to contribute more towards the upkeep of schools than the Roumanians; they are regarded as aliens, notwithstanding the fact that they have already been officially recognised as Roumanian subjects. They are also barred from occupying Government posts."

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

## THE MILNER MISSION AND TURKISH NATIONALISTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—One of our hymnals teaches us that "God works in a mysterious way His wonders to perform," and I am sure that we can find no better illustration of this precept than the Foreign Office policy in Egypt. First, we have armed interference to uphold the despotism of a Khedive. Then, having put the despot on one side, we have a long period of years supporting the rule of another despot (certainly benevolent), followed by the Gorst régime with its endeavours to show that the Egyptians were capable of governing themselves, an experiment which the Government and the world in general looked on as a complete failure. Next comes Lord Kitchener with a personal government even more pronounced than Lord Cromer's. There was no question as to the success of this latter administration, and one could only suppose that Home Rule was indefinitely postponed, especially as at the time of the Armistice the Nationalists were refused a hearing and even imprisoned! Finally, we have once more a complete change of front, and the report of the Milner Commission, or rather the *résumé* of the findings, as published. How far this agreement, if it materialises, will prove a success the future alone can tell, but as I so long ago as last November urged, both in *The Times* and THE NEAR EAST, that the Nationalist leaders should be asked to form part of the Commission, and be given a hearing, I cannot very well find fault with the result of their deliberations. At the same time, many will undoubtedly look on the recommendations of the Commission as very hazardous, and some of the proposals will meet with considerable opposition, and may possibly have to be modified before final acceptance. Not the least of these difficulties will be to find a British resident qualified to exercise *unaided* all the powers reserved for a Second Chamber in the many cases which must affect European interests. There are the minor details which are calculated to raise unnecessary question, and might possibly have been avoided. But appreciating these troubles, I nevertheless welcome the report, because I feel convinced that it will largely assist to undo the mischief caused by the Turkish treaty in the Mohammedan world. It is dangerous to prophesy, but I should indeed be surprised if the publication of this agreement does not have a very soothing effect throughout India and Central Asia. Even the Turkish Nationalists may once more look to England as their best friend, and hope for a not very distant time when the Egyptian policy will be extended to Asia Minor. It will surely, too, have its effect on the French mandate in Syria. Let us, then, take off our hats to the Milner Commissioners who have been broad-minded enough to see that the Egyptian settlement forms part and parcel of the larger Eastern question.—I am, etc.,

COLES PASHA.

Ruishton, Taunton,
August 29.

## STRANGERS' HOME FOR ASIATICS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—We venture to ask permission to appeal to your readers on behalf of the Strangers' Home for Asiatics situated in the East End of London. This institution, founded in 1859, has kept an ever-open door for destitute strangers—chiefly Lascar seamen—resident in the continent of Asia.

The objects of the home—the only one of its kind in the kingdom—are to provide board and lodging under adequate supervision and, when necessary, to help towards repatriation.

The invaluable war services of the mercantile marine have been freely acknowledged by the Admiralty, who declared after the Armistice that they had made "victory possible and complete." Fourteen thousand men of the merchant and fishing services laid down their lives in the war, and 7,750,000 gross tons of merchant shipping were destroyed. Asiatic seamen shared fully and freely in this work and in the casualties, and Lascar crews of torpedoed vessels never failed to volunteer again and again for sea service. Much has been done for the European sailor, but so far his Asiatic brother has not shared in these benefits. A most important part of the machinery of our overseas trade owes, in no small measure, its efficiency to these humble fellow-subjects who man our ships. They stood, and are standing, by us in our need, and we feel sure that it will be acknowledged it is not only our privilege, but our duty, to see that they never want while on our shores.

The only alternatives to this home are the low doss-houses of the East End, and we must close our doors unless an Endowment Fund of £30,000 can be raised. Last year our loss was £1,100, and it is absolutely necessary we should be placed on a sound financial basis. Donations and subscriptions will be gratefully acknowledged by the undersigned, and we would earnestly appeal to your readers for support to enable us to fulfil in some measure the obligations of the Empire to her Asiatic subjects.—We are, etc.,

ISLINGTON, President.
AMPTHILL, Vice-President.
Strangers' Home for Asiatics, West India Dock Road,
Limehouse, London, E.14.

August 27.

# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

## The East.

The *Round Table* of September contains a very instructive article upon "The Changing East." The writer points out that the phrase, "the unchanging East," is now the reverse of fact, and that Asia is, in fact, in the grip of "the civilisation-disease, the inevitable effect of too close contact with the West." He glances back at the past of the various peoples, and finds that even before the war the East was in a state of flux. During the war, he says, Asia discovered the principle of nationality as the basis of political action. Religion as the impulse to movement had gone; and in Asia "not the Galilean, but the politician had conquered."

He proceeds to sketch the future of some of the Eastern peoples. What he says of the Arabs is interesting:—

Arab movements begin in the desert, and usually travel up the shortest way into Syria—for it is remarkable that whereas all prophets go to the desert yet none of them are ever desert-born. It is the Semitic townsman or villager who receives the revelation. For this reason, for what seemed to be the immemorial finger-sign of history, this present Arab movement, the craving for national independence and self-government, was started in the desert. It, too, took the traditional road to Damascus, the traditional first centre of new movements, and with the successful establishment of Feisal there the second phase was finished. This is not, however, the proper end of the Arab movement; the weight and importance of the Semitic states have always lain in Bagdad, for very sound reasons of economics and population. Syria is a poor country, small and mountainous, dry, lacking in minerals and in arable land. There is no probability that her native population will ever be very dense. Mesopotamia has big rivers, and a huge area of irrigable land. Her wealth in grain and cotton will be very great, and nature may have bestowed on her abundance of cheap fuel. Should that be the case, she will inevitably take the headship of the Arab world in the future, as so often in the past. Damascus may hold an interim pre-eminence; Bagdad must be the ultimate regent, with perhaps five times the population of Syria, and many times its wealth. Mesopotamia will be the master of the Middle East, and the Power controlling its destinies will dominate all its neighbours.

Turning to the future of Persia, he says that it "seems possible that Persia will either be united under a national and unfriendly administration, or dismembered as before the war, and fought over by Russian and Persian partisans, nominally Persian subjects." He then gives his attention to two new features that have recently been inserted into the future of the Near East.

Two new elements of some interest have just set foot in Asia, coming rather as adventurers by sea—the Greeks in Smyrna, and the Jews in Palestine. Of the two efforts the Greek is frankly an armed occupation—a desire to hold a tit-bit of Asiatic Turkey, for reasons of trade and population, and from it to influence affairs in the interior. It appears to have no constructive possibilities so far as the New Asia is concerned. The Jewish experiment is in another class. It is a conscious effort, on the part of the least European people in Europe, to make head against the drift of the ages, and return once more to the Orient from which they came. The colonists will take back with them to the land which they occupied for some centuries before the Christian era samples of all the knowledge and technique of Europe. They propose to settle down amongst the existing Arabic-speaking population of the country, a people of kindred origin, but far different social condition. They hope to adjust their mode of life to the climate of Palestine, and by the exercise of their skill and capital to make it as highly organised as a European state. The success of their scheme will involve inevitably the raising of the present Arab population to their own material level, only a little after themselves in point of time, and the consequences might be of the highest importance for the future of the Arab world. It might well prove a source of technical supply rendering them independent of industrial Europe, and in that case the new confederation might become a formidable element of world power. However, such a contingency will not be for the first or even for the second generation, but it must be borne in mind in any laying out of foundations of empire in Western Asia. These to a very large extent must stand or fall by the course of the Zionist effort, and by the course of events in Russia.

He concludes with a suggestion of the attitude that Great Britain should adopt towards the changed spirit of Western Asia. The new Imperialism that he advocates "is not just withdrawal and neglect on our part. It involves an active side of imposing responsibility on the local peoples." He sketches the steps we should take for this end, and says that, although a muddle may be made at first, "on principle it is better that they (the local peoples) half do it than that we do it perfectly for them." His last words are optimistic, but eminently sensible:—

We do not risk losing them to another Power—for the Englishman is liked by everyone who has not too much to do with him, and the British Empire is so much the largest concern in the world that it offers unrivalled inducements to small peoples to join it. Egypt, Persia and Mesopotamia, if assured of eventual dominion status, and present internal autonomy, would be delighted to affiliate with us, and would then cost

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as no more in men and money than Canada or Australia. The alternative is to hold on to them with ever-lessening force, till the anarchy is too expensive, and we let go.

### Mesopotamia.

In the *Manchester Guardian* of August 26 appeared an article on "The Tragedy of Mesopotamia," written by "One of Maude's Officers." It refers to the immense benefits which Sir Stanley Maude, before his death, conferred upon the Arabs, and to the respect in which he was universally held. The article continues:—

After November 18, 1917, there was no one to carry on the Maude tradition. With the end of his life commenced political confusion. No longer was the Arab considered as one to be helped, but rather he was regarded as a potential enemy. The poison of the Indian Government began to permeate the land. The wide, statesmanlike view disappeared, and the petty game of "making a bandobast" took its place. The interests of the Arab were forgotten and became overshadowed by those of Indian officialdom. An expensive, useless, and unwieldy foreign administration was established with British aggrandisement as its object.

Mesopotamia has become a Tom Tiddler's ground for the Indian official. That individual has no more qualification for governing the Arab than has the Eskimo for governing the Chinese. The Arab had hoped for a British regime. He had longed for it. He had tasted its benefits at the hands of Maude. He was eager to co-operate in its establishment. But instead he had the stifling bureaucracy of Indian methods thrust upon him. Those methods are unsuitable to the country and the people. The Arab is proud and intensely independent. The hopeless folly—now about to be reinforced—of garrisoning the country with Indian troops was foredoomed to failure. The Indian soldier has shown himself to be magnificent in our service, but in the eyes of the Arab the troops of the Indian Empire are inferior in race to themselves. Were Mohammedan troops only used it would not be so bad, but the Arab follower of the Prophet will not tolerate the Hindu. The use of white troops he can appreciate and understand, but the employment of what he regards as an inferior black race to play the rôle of policeman over him is certain to provoke revolt. The Arab has seen his aspirations strangled one by one; he has been insulted; he has been treated as one vanquished; he is taxed for an administration in which he has no share and the policy of which is hateful to him. These conditions make rebellion inevitable. After the defeat of the Turk our mission in Mesopotamia was to aid and to guide the Arab race in its development and to assist it to realise its aspirations. These were not inimical to us. The people asked for the bread of progress and were given the stone of coercion. Men trained in Indian methods and with the peculiar type of mind which that training confers are incapable of realising the requirements of Mesopotamia. They wrecked the campaign from 1914 to 1916. They have now repeated the performance. The results promise to be even more tragic.

Mesopotamia and her people, British prestige, blood, and money can yet be saved. The direction of Mesopotamian affairs must be taken from India and placed in the hands of the Home Government. The Arabs must have a full share in working out their own salvation. The present wasteful, irritating, and foreign policy and its instruments must go. It is men of the type of Colonel Lawrence of Arabian fame who alone can bring order out of the present chaos, but even they would be severely handicapped if their subordinates remain tainted with Indian "governmentalism," or consist of those who have no experience of the Arab mind and no sympathy with its ideals.

What is needed is an immediate radical operation. To delay is only to make certain that much British blood will again soak into the sun-scorched plains.

### Egypt.

*The Times* of August 25 takes a favourable attitude towards the new Egyptian propositions. It holds that the solution now put forward—

is both feasible and possible, that it will confer upon the people of Egypt the utmost freedom they have ever sought, and that it will not be inimical to those larger British interests which we are bound to conserve, because they relate not only to the security of Egypt against external aggression, but still more to the safety of the British Empire. It should be recognised that the proposal will give to Egypt an independence such as her people have not known for many centuries. They have never for ages past enjoyed the advantage of full freedom coupled with complete safety from attack. Their history has been one long record of foreign domination. Even to-day the privileges which it is now sought to grant to them are only rendered possible by the curtailment of the power of their former suzerain, Turkey. The scheme about to be submitted has the further advantage that it is generously in accord with the spirit of the new age. The Egyptians have been restive under the yoke, and as in the case of other restive peoples, the yoke will now be new dispensation is quite another matter. Our fear is that a purely Egyptian administration, such as is now contemplated, may be more lax, less efficient, and probably less beneficial to the masses than the order which is about to pass away. The same view is applicable to India, where the extension of popular control is likely to be accompanied by a deterioration in executive efficiency. If these assumptions prove to be unfounded, none will be better pleased than ourselves; but all Oriental experience, and perhaps not Oriental experience alone, supports our contention. Yet it is in accordance with human nature that the Egyptians should prefer to be badly governed by themselves than well governed by others; and so long as British Imperial interests are sufficiently protected, it is on the whole desirable that the change should be made.

It comments on some of the details of the new proposals, and concludes:—

Great Britain is taking a bold and perhaps a startling step in Egypt, but we do not believe it to be a dangerous step. The British nation can confidently leave the story of their occupation of the Nile Valley to the judgment both of contemporaries and of posterity. We found Egypt impoverished, misgoverned, oppressed, and almost derelict save for her perennial fertility. We shall relinquish our detailed control leaving her prosperous almost beyond belief, developed beyond all expectations, and with the condition of her inhabitants improved beyond measure. In spite of occasional mistakes in more recent years, Great Britain has never done a nobler or a more successful piece of work in the cause of civilisation.

The *Morning Post* of August 24, on the other hand, adopts a very different point of view. "The agreement," it says,

manifestly amounts to a sheer surrender. There is nothing in it about constitutional reforms. Egypt, being independent, is free to settle upon her own reforms or to do without them, which is the point the Nationalists contended for from the first. Lord Milner's Commission need never have gone to Egypt if this was the settlement intended. It would have been much simpler to announce Egyptian independence and the dissolution of the Protectorate by Proclamation, and much more graceful than to have it come about as the result of bargaining, and very unsuccessful bargaining on our part. . . And now, it would seem, the surrender is to be made in deference to an agitation which will assuredly use the grant of Egyptian independence as a starting point for a claim upon the Soudan, and will soon begin to chafe at the presence of our garrisons on the Canal. A strange story for sober international politics is that of our connection with Egypt. Wafted there by accident in 1882, we immediately undertake before all Europe to come away speedily. Events being too much for us, we next try to restore the country of the Turks, but the attempt is frustrated when the Sultan is on the point of signing the Convention by French influence! Next comes a time when we laboriously work for the consolidation of our position against European rivals. Finally, when our position has been finally assured and sanctioned by the assent of the Powers, we resign it under pressure of a domestic ferment. It is a very serious matter; for the manner in which the surrender has come about is a direct invitation to the agitators in India to follow in the footsteps of the Egyptian Nationalists and to be content with nothing less than what they have secured.

### The Future of the Arabs.

The *Manchester Guardian* of August 20 pleads for a refocussing of the ideals of 1918 in order to settle the Arab problem. It says:—

The Arabs are at the best a difficult and heterogeneous people; but they have racial if not political entity. Feisul was the most responsible spokesman they had. His deposition has thrown the whole delicate problem once more into the melting-pot. The latest British despatches describe the present warfare of the Arabs as being conducted under the "feudal system,' each chief rallying his men to further his own cause against the Allies. But even the feudal system worked when it was headed by a recognised feudal chief. Such a chief Feisul showed every sign of being. He might have united his people and led them in the path of national progress with Allied guidance, but his authority has been taken from him and chaos has accompanied the step. It should be said for British policy in Mesopotamia that it has suffered mainly through the failure of an Allied plan that would envisage the whole area involved. That failure has cost us lives and money and landed us in a morass of which the limits are not yet visible. But on the practical side we have been doing good work. Basra is once again a great port. The canals and waterways on which the resources of that rich land depend, and which the Turks neglected, have been largely restored, and Mesopotamia is becoming once again a great granary. Politically, too, we are now trying to fulfil our promises single-handed. We have appointed Feisul's brother to be ruler over our sphere, and we have summoned to meet, at Baghdad, Arab representatives who shall form an organic law for the Arab State so far as we are concerned with it. These steps are honest, and if they are tardy, that is not wholly our fault. But they cannot at the best be more than partial. No view of an Arab future can draw lines of government between the Gulf and the Levant. No doubt if we placate the Arabs to the north of us we can settle with more or less security in the Basra villayet, and use the frontier of the Shatt-el-Hai, which links the Tigris and Euphrates below Basra, as the line of defence for Basra and the neighbouring Persian oilfields. But that is a lesser and a baser plan than the reconstruction of an Arab nation. The ideal can be achieved only with French help. However deep the rift in the Entente may be on European questions, need France and England part company on this question? Cannot the impending visit of the Emir Feisul to Europe be made a ground for calmly working out afresh the plans for Arab regeneration that seemed so fair and hopeful when they were made two years ago?

### Article to Note.

"The Case of Italy," in the *Round Table* (September).

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"THE LIFE AND WORK OF SIR JAGADIS C. BOSE." By Patrick Geddes. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 16s. net.)

II.—"A SHORT HISTORY OF THE GREAT WAR." By A. F. Pollard. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

III.—"CRATER'S GOLD." By Philip Curtiss. (London: Thornton Butterworth. 7s. net.)

IV.—"SAPPHO AND THE VIGIL OF VENUS." Translated by Arthur S. Way. (London: Macmillan and Co. 3s. 6d. net.)

V.—"MADELINE OF THE DESERT." By Arthur Weigall. (London: Fisher Unwin. 7s. net.)

## I.—SIR JAGADIS BOSE.

Sir Jagadis Bose's achievements in the field of experimental physics earned a place for him in the front rank of scientists many years ago, but it was only recently that it was accorded to him with the enthusiastic approval of his confrères, and it is now generally admitted that in his case recognition was far too long delayed. The silly legend that he was the victim of race prejudice, and that if he had been an Englishman instead of an Indian, his F.R.S. and other honours would have come to him much sooner is hardly worth discussing, and it is ridiculed even by Professor Patrick Geddes, his biographer and friend. Its persistence only demonstrates how profound must be the ignorance of the ways of the modern scientific world of the people who cherish it. Sir Jagadis Bose has had to pay the penalty of his originality of thought. Had he been content to labour in well-explored and familiar fields his work would have been recognised long ago, but his enterprise in plunging boldly into the unknown, even if it did not arouse the actual resentment of the scientific old guard, disturbed them profoundly, and their insistence on proofs that his discoveries were genuine would have tried the patience of many men less philosophic than the great Indian savant. But, after all, a man who advances revolutionary theories in a science so hedged around with laws as is Physics would be the first to recognise that nothing but the conclusive demonstration of their correctness could secure from the scientific hierarchy the seal of its approval. To his book Professor Patrick Geddes has given the title of the "Life and Work of Sir Jagadis Bose," and even if to non-scientific readers the amount of space devoted to the latter may seem disproportionate they are not likely to dispute the necessity in this case for the biographer to endeavour to bring home to the reader to the best of his ability the magnitude of the achievements of his distinguished friend. With all due deference, however, to an author whose thorough grasp of his difficult subject is obvious, we doubt the desirability of such attempts to reduce into simple form the substance of things essentially complex. It would have been better, we think, if he had divided his matter into two books, the first dealing with Sir Jagadis Bose's work written for the information of science teachers and students, and the second dealing with his life, for the benefit of a wider public. To give an adequate idea of the magnitude of Sir Jagadis Bose's scientific achievements in the space of a short review is obviously impossible, and we doubt whether it can even be obtained by the lay reader from the study of the chapters of the book devoted by the author to Sir Jagadis's work. Sufficient to say that it embraces his great contribution to the discoveries to which in recent years we owe the wonders of wireless telegraphy and kindred marvels, and his subsequent labours in a field peculiarly his own—the life of plants. The popular attitude towards science is frankly utilitarian, the value of a discovery being largely assessed on its wealth-producing possibilities. Judged even by this low standard the importance of Bose's researches is obvious, since it is more than likely that through the opening up for humanity of these new tracts of knowledge we may find a solution for the problem the growth of the population of this planet makes every day more and more insistent. Food shortage may ultimately bring human progress to an abrupt stop unless in the meantime we discover some means for increasing very greatly the productivity of the soil. Hitherto it has been to chemistry alone that we have looked for assistance; now, thanks to Sir Jagadis Bose, we may hope that Physics will bring us even more powerful aid in the future.

The chapters which tell the story of this great man's early difficulties and struggles are pathetic in the extreme, with their tale of long years of uphill work in the face of every conceivable obstacle. But as one reads one sees how great was the part played by adverse circumstances in the building up of the character of the man—a dull, unimaginative officialism hampered him at the start—as a paid professor the "Department" held that research was out of his proper province. When that difficulty was overcome another met him in the shape of inadequate funds; but, nothing daunted, he met it by utilising to their utmost capacity the narrow resources at his command. Financial misfortune having overtaken his father, his high sense of honour compelled him to devote the greater part of his small income to paying off the family debts. Ill-health dogged him persistently. He ignored it, never allowing it for a moment to interfere with his work. His enthusiasm never flagged, and, impervious to "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune," this pioneer of science in India steadily fought his way up until, with the recognition of his work by the scientists of the world and the establishment in Calcutta of the Research Institute which bears his name, he may be said to have reached the goal of his ambitions. That modern India has produced such a man is full of hopeful augury for the future, for it brushes away effectually many of the silly generalisations on the subject of the Indian intellect which, accepted without question by only too many Englishmen in the past, have had so much to do with the widening of the breach between East and West in recent years. When young Bose was recommended by his scientific friends in England for a Professorship of Physics in India in the far-off days of Lord Ripon's Viceroyalty, his appointment was opposed on the grounds that it was unthinkable that an Indian could ever excel in pure science, the official theory being that the Indian intellect had no aptitude for exact methods of thought. No regular list of callings officially deemed to be unsuitable for natives of India has ever been printed, but it nevertheless exists in the minds of many Englishmen who claim to know the country and the people thoroughly, and one suspects sometimes that not a little of the unrest of recent years in India can be traced to the revolt of its over-classified inhabitants. Too long we have been taught to think of them under classified headings, warlike and unwarlike, and the like, forgetting that it is in his tendency to defy classification that man is distinguished from the brute creation. Sir Jagadis Bose is the first Bengali to achieve distinction in the field of experimental physics, and it is safe to prophesy that he will not be the last, for in the East a Master rarely lacks followers, and the force of his example cannot fail to appeal to the imagination of every young Indian with a scientific bent of mind. Sir Jagadis Bose has many friends in this country, and he has travelled in many lands; but his biographer leaves us in no doubt as to the fervour of his devotion to the land of his birth, and his nationalism is of the most uncompromising order. Indian nationalism as presented to the world by the political agitators who exploit it as a means for discrediting British rule has little to commend it, but when one has realised that behind the movement is the desire that India may eventually become self-supporting in every branch of human activity one can accord it a greater measure of sympathy. India is justly proud of Sir Jagadis Rose, but England may well be equally so, for he and all his fellow countrymen distinguished in science, art, letters, and affairs are, after all, the product of British missionary enterprise in the field of modern education. The mere fact that modern India can produce such men as Sir Jagadis Bose more than justifies the labours of the British administrators and teachers who have worked so devotedly for her awakening during the past century.

## II.—THE GREAT WAR.

To attempt to write a history of the European War in 400 pages is a stupendous task, one which no one who had not imagination and a power of generalising could essay; and it is largely through the possession, as full as it is unusual, of these two faculties that Professor Pollard has made his book a great success. There once was a sage jibe that Oxford historians were dull on purpose and Cambridge historians so because they could not help it; but it would now appear that the combination of one of the older universities with one of the newer foundations (in this case, Oxford with London) can remove this reproach. For it is no mere chronicle of events that is here given us; causes and consequences are lucidly explained; the relation which military, political, and economic matters bore to one another is never overlooked; no irrelevant facts are set down; indeed, it can be said that everywhere Professor Pollard has written clearly, certainly, and critically. His book is obviously the result of most accomplished scholarship.

The writer of this work has long been known as an historian of the Liberal School, and in dwelling upon the expediency of the various actions which he describes he therefore never forgets the principles informing them. Of the political side of his book it is difficult to speak too

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highly: he is almost unerring in detecting the strong and weak points of Allied and enemy statesmanship. To summarize what at best was a tangled, and at worst a confused, mass of events, was no easy task, but he has culled the important facts with remarkable decision and acumen. His accounts of the intervention of Roumania and of Greece are particularly admirable examples of his power of knowing what to include.

To all the belligerents he does justice. This history is no mere patriot's exercise; it is a wholly sane and, in so far as the adjective denotes praise, an impartial work. It is true that Great Britain's efforts fill many of his pages, but this is nothing more than an exaggeration of a virtue which few good historians lack. There is no undue tendency to praise our Allies, *qua* Allies: Italy's share, for example, seems to us hardly overrated. But it is ungrateful to point out minor blemishes, or differences of opinion, in a popular work that has eminently achieved its purpose: rather should it be insisted that this book is well worth buying and keeping. Merely as a book of reference it will be found extremely useful, for its index is excellent, and the plentiful maps are quite satisfactory.

Professor Pollard's view of the Peace is deeply critical, but equally hopeful; he recognises the shortcomings of the Entente, but believes that "the Conference of Versailles achieved higher ideals than those attained by any preceding congress of peace"—a most commendable conclusion. When the late European War is really over, and when all the Treaties are ratified, we hope that Professor Pollard will be able to revise his book, and so standardize a work which is already the best short history of the war written.

## III.—AN AMERICAN COMEDY.

Andrew Stiles, who has been a journalist in New York for fifteen years, inherits a fortune and a tumble-down country house from his uncle Crater. In the first five chapters Baumgarten, a Jewish financier, Pullar, the local estate agent, old Judge Tyler, who lives in the neighbouring village, and had been a friend of the uncle's, and, lastly, Charlie Eksberger, the famous theatrical manager and producer, all show a desperate desire to buy the place. Stiles naturally jumps to the conclusion that his property must, for some hidden reason, be of great value, and the reader's interest is thoroughly aroused. Nor is the reader likely to lose his interest until he has finished the last page and seen Stiles off to New York again, engaged to Rose Fuller, the leading lady of one of Eksberger's companies. But his interest will not be quite of the kind that he expected, for the mystery is very soon solved with ingenious simplicity, and although unforeseen and exciting things keep on happening in nearly every chapter, they are not nearly so arresting as the gradual unfolding of the characters of the people concerned. We had expected at the beginning to find rather mechanical figures being hurried through a tale of adventure and mystery. In the end we were sorry to say good-bye to Judge Tyler with his anecdotes of the good old days, and to Pullar, well educated and of good family, making the best of the dullness of life as a country land agent and living for his fishing and his motor. But above all we were sorry to part with Charlie Eksberger—a delightful creation with his tremendous power of succeeding, his childishly simple outlook in life, his unblushing ignorance of subjects outside his own sphere, and his unceasing curiosity and thirst for fresh knowledge. Stiles himself is thoughtfully drawn, rather charming, inclined to be too indefinite, very ready to see both sides of everything. Baumgarten, Mr. Curtiss has tried to make a little like Eksberger, but with a difference, and the result is not very convincing.

## IV.—SAPPHO.

For some years now Mr. Way has enjoyed the reputation of being one of our finest translators of Greek and Latin verse, and in this, his latest, work he shows that he can put into English the grace and tenderness of Sappho's lyrics as well as he conveyed the strength and dignity of Sophocles or Virgil. It is a most delightful little book that he has given us.

The very name of Sappho is enshrouded with romance and mystery. Scarcely anything is known of her for certain, for we have lost, owing to the hasty though explicable actions of Hildebrand and other mediæval ecclesiastics, much more of her poetry than has been conserved. But what of her has remained has exercised a permanent and intense influence on almost all lyric poets. Chief among these is, of course, Swinburne, of whom a living poet has said:—

> His singing mistress verily was no other
> Than she the Lesbian, she the music-mother
> Of all the tribe that feel in melodies.

Mr. Way has attempted the very difficult task of connecting and supplementing the different fragments of Sappho, and he appears to have succeeded most worthily. It needs both a rare critical judgment and a keen poetical sense to piece fragments together into a comprehensible whole, but this translator, without any doubt at all, has the necessary gifts. Here, for instance, is a poem—"To a Girl in a Garden"—composed from four fragments:—

> O soft and dainty maiden from afar
> I watch you. As amidst the flowers you move,
> And pluck them, singing.
> More golden than all gold your tresses are:
> Never was harp-note like your voice, my love,
> Your voice sweet-ringing.

No verse from such sources could be a perfect poem, but it is an achievement. Mr. Way's choice of words is always fresh and clean: he avoids the *clichés* and the dry, classical combinations of older translators.

There is an admirable little introduction upon Sappho in this book; also a translation of the most lovely "Pervigilium Veneris," which, though it was written centuries after Sappho's death, is included because "of all the remains of antiquity, it seems to breathe most of the spirit" of the poetess. Mr. Way's effort in this is extremely good, but the poem has, we think, been better done before. He translates the most haunting refrain in all verse thus:—

> "To-morn who ne'er hath love shall love, and who
> hath loved shall love to-morn."

In these days, when books of lyrics and Greek Anthology are at the height of their popularity, this little volume of translations should be sure of welcome; it certainly ought to be read by both the learned and the wise.

## V.—MADELINE OF THE DESERT.

Many readers of THE NEAR EAST will doubtless be interested in this book before they have read it, by reason of the fact that its author is a well-known and popular Egyptologist; but after they have read it they will feel that it has other claims to their interest and liking. It is, in fact, a remarkably good "first novel," though its author, as so often happens in the case of the first story, has put rather too much into it. We much prefer the first half (or thereabouts) of the book to the second; for in the latter we get the "Labour Question" in exchange for the charm of Egypt, and, after all, we get quite enough so-called "Labour" in our daily papers to enable us to dispense with it in our fiction.

Madeline was "born and brought up in a back street in Port Said," and, having lived her own life very much in her own way, she was, when the story opens, not unnaturally very tired of it. In fact, she had made up her mind to put an end to it, and only the arrival on the scene of the hero prevents her from doing so. This hero, Robin Beechcroft, an explorer of a somewhat shadowy type, is pursued by a most unalluring lady (named Daisy Jones!), who, in turn, is hunted by "a mystic," named Augustus Blake. But Robin and Madeline speedily recognise that they are meant for one another, and lose no time at all in falling in with Fate's decree. Robin's uncle, a likable old priest, who spends his winters on the edge of the Egyptian desert, makes them man and wife, and the story begins. It would be unfair to tell it here, however briefly, and we can with an easy conscience recommend our readers to get the book for themselves and trust Mr. Weigall to interest them deeply. We do not like his "mystic" or his Daisy Jones, and we are not quite sure that we care greatly for his hero or even for his heroine. But the plot is good, and the book gives one plenty to think about.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Festival Stories of Child Life in a Jewish Colony in Palestine." By Hannah Trager. With a Preface by The Very Rev. Dr. Hertz, Chief Rabbi. Illustrated. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd. 3s. net.)

"Stories of Child Life in a Jewish Colony in Palestine." By Hannah Trager. With a Preface by Israel Abrahams. Illustrated. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd. 3s. net.)

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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

## CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

**Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish Dates.**

| Gregorian (New Style). | Julian (Old Style). | — | Moslem. | Jewish. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1920. September. | 1920. August | | 1338. Julhijja. | 5680. Elul |
| 2 | 20 | Thursday | 19 | 19 |
| 3 | 21 | Friday | 20 | 20 |
| 4 | 22 | Saturday | 21 | 21 |
| 5 | 23 | Sunday | 22 | 22 |
| 6 | 24 | Monday | 23 | 23 |
| 7 | 25 | Tuesday | 24 | 24 |
| 8 | 26 | Wednesday | 25 | 25 |

Izzet Pasha has left London for Egypt.

The King of Italy visited Cannes on August 24 and called upon King Nicolas of Montenegro.

Colonel R. Rosetti, Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, left London on August 24 for Bucharest.

Lord Allenby is to receive the freedom of Bury St. Edmunds

Captain F. R. S. de la Cour has left for Ceylon to take up his appointment as A.D.C. to the Governor.

The Maharaja of Alwar left London on August 26 for Aix-les-Bains.

M. Loutis, Secretary to the Greek Legation, left London on August 26 for Paris.

Mrs. A. F. Walter and Mrs. A. E. Gill have returned to England after a four months' tour in Palestine.

The Minister for the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes left London on August 26 for Hastings.

M. Taditch has been sent as Yugoslav *Chargé d'Affaires* to Sofia.

The Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires visited the Foreign Office on August 30.

Captain Arthur Snagge, R.N., left London on August 23 to take up his appointment as Senior Naval Officer on the Danube.

The Indian Caliphate Delegation have concluded their mission to England, and have arranged to leave this week for India.

M. Venizelos left Paris on August 25 for Greece. He appears to have recovered completely from his recent injuries.

Lord Allenby will in all probability return to Egypt in the P. and O. steamer Caledonia, which is due to sail from England about the middle of October.

Brigadier-General H. W. A. Christie, C.B., C.M.G., has left for India on a big-game shoot. Letters to Eastwick, Camberley, will be forwarded.

Dr. Resetar, Secretary of the Legation for the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, accompanied by Mme. Resetar, left London on August 26 for Serbia on leave.

On August 25, at Brussels, King Albert of Belgium received in private audience the Maharaja of Kapurthala, who was passing through Belgium, and also the Patriarch of Armenia.

By command of the King, Mr. Montgomery, Vice-Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, in celebration of the anniversary of the King of Roumania's birthday, called, on August 24, upon M. Boeresco, Roumanian Minister and Chargé d'Affaires, to offer King George's congratulations.

Our Sofia Correspondent writes (August 19):—Last Saturday Sir Herbert Dering, the British High Commissioner in Bulgaria, called at the Foreign Ministry, and had a long conference with the Prime Minister, M. Stambolisky. Sir Herbert is leaving for Bucharest about September 12, to take up his new post in Roumania.

Lt.-Col. J. Procter, Assistant Director-General of the Imperial Ottoman Bank in Constantinople, who has been in England on a holiday, is shortly returning to Turkey. Lt.-Col. Procter has recently been elected President of the Council of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (August 26):—
Marshal Joffre arrived this morning from Bucharest. The famous soldier will be entertained by the Prince, by the Prime Minister, and the French Colony, and will visit the scene of the heavy fighting round Belgrade in 1914 and 1915.

The King has granted permission to wear the following decorations, which have been conferred in recognition of valuable services rendered:—
Egyptian Order of the Nile.—Second Class.—H. P. Keatinge, C.M.G., M.B., F.R.C.S., late Director of the School of Medicine and Kasr-el-Aini Hospital at Cairo. Third Class—H. Mayne, Deputy Inspector-General, late Assistant Inspector-General, Egyptian State Telegraphs. Fifth Class.—F. W. Goodwin, Director of Stores, Quarantine Department, Alexandria.

Sir William Marris, the Governor-designate of Assam, will, with the concurrence of the Governor-General, be proceeding on short leave to England in the winter. The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Sir Nicholas Beatson Bell, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., the present Chief Commissioner of Assam, to be Governor of Assam for the period which will intervene between the introduction of the new form of Government in the Province and the assumption of the office of Governor by Sir William Marris on his return from leave. Sir Nicholas Beatson Bell had expressed the wish to be allowed, for private reasons, to retire from the headship of the Province, but has withdrawn his request to meet the public convenience, for the purpose of inaugurating the reforms in Assam during Sir William Marris's absence.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. de Ledoulx, the French Vice-Consul in Malta, has been promoted Consul.

Mgr. Marmaggi is being appointed Papal Nuncio to Roumania.

Sir Arthur Robert Peel, formerly British Minister to Brazil, will succeed Sir Herbert Dering as High Commissioner at Sofia.

M. Mamartcheff has been appointed Chief of the Press Bureau at the Bulgarian Legation in London.

M. Hadji Micheff has been appointed Bulgarian Minister at Rome.

Prince Max Lobkowitz has been appointed First Secretary of the Czecho-Slovak Legation in London.

### SERVICES IN EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.

The King has given orders for the following promotion in and appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for services rendered in Egypt and the Sudan:—
To be a Knight Commander of the Civil Division: William Goodenough Hayter, Contentieux, Ministry of Finance, Cairo. To be Commanders of the Civil Division: Edward Smyth Crispin, Director, Sudan Medical Department, and Member of Governor-General's Council; Arthur Ferguson Macallan, M.D., Ophthalmic Hospital, Egyptian Department of Public Health; George Farquhar Morice, late Director-General, Public Security Department, Cairo. To be an Honorary Commander of the Civil Division: Mahmoud Fakhry Pasha, Governor of Cairo. To be Officers of the Civil Division: Henry George Fuller Archer, Cairo City Police; Major Stanley Smyth Flower, Director, Zoological Gardens, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo; Hugh Fraser, Director, Lands Department, Sudan Government; Temporary Major Herbert Garland, Arab Bureau, Cairo; Robert Taylor Grundy, Deputy Traffic Manager, Egyptian State Railways; Alfred Lucas, Director and Principal Chemist, Egyptian Government Analytical Laboratory; John Godfrey Matthew, Sudan Civil Service; William Edmonstone Pender, Eastern Telegraph Company; John Dawson Shepherd, Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture. To be Honorary Officers of the Civil Division: Joseph Khlat Bey, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo; Selim Izzeddin Bey, M.B.E., Arabic Secretary to Arab Bureau, Cairo.

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To be Members of the Civil Division: Henry Charles Allen, Superintendent of Printing Office, Survey of Egypt; J. A. Clark, Medical Service, Egyptian Army; Christopher Cookson, Egyptian State Telegraphs; William Curtis, Engineer-Mechanic, Esna Barrage; S. Hague, Refugees Administration, Egyptian Ministry of Interior; Claud Aubry Douglas Hamilton, Cairo City Police; Charles Harle Egyptian State Railways; Alexander Henderson, Engineer-in-Charge of El-Lessi Pumping Station; Miss Helen Henderson, Staff of His Majesty's Residency at Cairo; Edward Burnip Hewgill, Engineer-in-Charge of Mex Pumping Station; William Logan, Superintendent of Geographical Drawing Office, Survey of Egypt; Miss Kate Morrison, Principal, Women's Elementary Training College, Boulac; Nessib Cleanthes Philippides, Legal Department, Sudan Government; George Foster Smith, Lecturer, Sultanieh Training College; John William Oran Treasure, Director of Stores, Egyptian Minister of Education; William Joseph Gabriel Watson, General Traffic Superintendent, Port Said Division, Egyptian State Railways. To be an Honorary Member of the Civil Division: Mahmoud Fahmy El Guisy Bey, Member of the Native Parquet.

## OBITUARY.

The death has occurred of Captain H. O. Newland, of the Government Commercial School, Baghdad. Captain Newland died at Baghdad, of dysentery.

The death has occurred of Colonel George Gordon Young, of the Indian Staff Corps and the Punjab Commission. He held at various times the offices of Deputy Commissioner of Hoshiarpur, Commissioner of the Delhi Division, and of the Divisions of Jullunder and Lahore. He took great interest in the work of Christian missionaries in India.

The death has occurred of Captain Sumpter, D.S.O., a British Intelligence Officer, who was killed in a skirmish between Greek troops and a force of Nationalists near Ismidt.

The death is announced of Captain W. T. Wrigley, M.C. He was killed at Shahroban on August 15. After fighting at Gallipoli and in Mesopotamia, Captain Wrigley was, in April, 1918, appointed as Assistant Political Officer and Administrator at Bakubah, Deltawa, and Deli Abbas. Since November last he had held a post in Mendali, a town on the Persian frontier, and at the time of his death had been but a few weeks in Shahroban.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (August 26):—
Miss Lucy Foote, of the American Red Cross, who had done splendid work for the Serbian war orphans, died this week at Chachak.

## THE NEW STAMPS IN PALESTINE.

We have received the following note in correction of a remark mande in our issue of July 29 on the new stamps issued in Palestine:—

The stamps about to be issued in Palestine for use until the introduction of a specially designed stamp, are Egyptian Expeditionary Force stamps, overprinted with the word "Palestine" in English, Arabic, and Hebrew. The English word is printed across the centre of the stamps, and over the letters "E.E.F." which appear at the top and bottom, are printed its equivalents in Arabic and Hebrew respectively.

## £140,000 FOR JEWISH RELIEF.

At the Jewish World Relief Conference at Karlsbad, it was announced that a gift of £140,000 had been promised by the South African Jews for, first, the relief of Jewish war victims in Europe, and, secondly, for a number of Jewish orphans to be taken to Palestine, where they would be brought up at the expense of the South African community. It was decided that a central committee should be formed in London, under the presidency of Sir Stuart Samuel, for controlling the world relief and economic reconstruction work for the Jewish people throughout Central and Eastern Europe.

## "THE NEAR EAST" INDEX.

The Index to Volume XVII. (January 2—June 24, 1920) of THE NEAR EAST is now ready, and copies will be sent to subscribers on application to the Manager, THE NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery overnesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

# WHERE TO STAY.

**For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—**

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**(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."**

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# THE NEAR EAST.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1920.


## A ONE-SIDED ALLIANCE.

The recognition by France of General Wrangel's Government at a moment when Great Britain was endeavouring to discover a way out of the Russian *impasse* by tentative negotiations with the Soviet regime was a serious blow to the complacency of those who cherished the hope that the experiences of the two nations in the war, quite apart from any formal alliance, rendered any separation of their interests out of the question. It is beside the point whether France was adopting the right course, and was within her right in refusing to follow the lead of Great Britain in a direction which she held to be entirely wrong; the shock to those whose political horizon since the war has been restricted to Western Europe was caused by the wonderfully crude method, amounting, in the sphere of diplomacy, to brutality, with which the French Government chose to indicate its dissociation from the British policy. Close acquaintance with the course of events in the Near East since the Armistice, however, will show that there is a tendency in France to regard the alliance with Great Britain as binding the latter to play watch-dog up against the German fence, but imposing no obligations upon the French themselves in any part of the world. It is because we believe that the understanding between Great Britain and France is in the nature of a fundamental alliance, and because it is essential that the alliance should remain, in M. Millerand's words, "close and cordial," that we venture to call attention to the one-sided interpretation that is being placed upon it, if not by the Paris Government, at least by Frenchmen, official and unofficial, in other parts of the world. In order to prevent the evil from spreading until it threatens the future of the Alliance, it seems better that the fullest light should be thrown upon it in its early stages. The absence of public criticism has already resulted in what may have been at first merely the idiosyncrasies of a few individuals assuming the proportions of a settled policy. If our Allies feel the necessity of soothing their consciences, they have only to reflect that, if the British themselves do not trouble to look after their own interests, it is not for the French to display any peculiar concern for them. On the other hand, French publicists have set an example of plain-speaking when they find themselves in disagreement with British policy, and they will therefore appreciate having their attention called to French shortcomings.

In the case of the Near and Middle East it is no exaggeration to say that French policy since the Armistice, as interpreted on the spot, has consistently run counter to British interests. The most obvious illustration of the fact is the French attitude towards the Arabs. The interests of the British Empire call for good relations between ourselves and the Arab world; we welcomed the Arabs of the Hejaz as our Allies in the war, and used them for a military enterprise which played an important part in deciding the issue of the struggle. France, in common parlance, had "no use" for the Arabs in Syria, and proceeded to deal with them in a way that could only be embarrassing to Great Britain. The Arabs were, no doubt, *difficiles;* but if the least consideration for British interests had been shown in Paris, the French handling of the Syrian problem must have been different. The rising in Mesopotamia is due to various contributory causes; but among them we may safely place the repercussion of events in Syria. For a considerable time we acted as mediators between the French and the Arabs, and the comparative ease with which the former dealt with the Syrian problem was in no small measure due to British efforts to render the Arabs, who had been friendly disposed towards British occupation, amenable to French jurisdiction. Since then, however, we do not seem to have tried to impose any check on French action, and we have apparently accepted the almost impossible task of justifying ourselves in Arab eyes without the least remonstrance to our French Allies. While in Syria France's strange action, in view of the Alliance, has been pursued openly, in other parts of the Near East British interests have been prejudiced in a more subtle manner. Both in Turkey and in Bulgaria the most sedulous efforts have been made to spread the belief that it is to Great Britain alone that both these countries owe the severe terms imposed upon them in the Peace Treaties. France is represented as having striven hard to secure some mitigation of the penalties; but invariably, so the allegation runs, she found the British Government obdurate. Even if the statement were true—in the face of M. Clemenceau's utterances there can be no authority for it—it would conform more with the generally accepted view of "playing the game" if it were not mentioned, inasmuch as the Allies all signed the Treaties, and in common accepted responsibility for them. From political intrigue to securing commercial advantages is a natural transition, and we may suppose that our Allies secretly welcome the supineness that prompts the British Government to accept without complaint an unfair allocation in the transport of mail matter, owing to which English letters and newspapers are penalised many days and sometimes weeks in transit to the Near East.

French action has helped to embroil us with the Arab world, and this difficulty for the present remains unliquidated. Apart from that, however, it need not be supposed that the curious activity of our Allies has achieved its purpose. In Turkey it may have shown the Turks that they can still count upon playing off one Power against another, as in the good old Abdul Hamid days, and it will certainly render the task of carrying out the terms of the Peace Treaty by Allied representatives more difficult; but the French have not enhanced their popularity among the Turks. In Bulgaria it has caused in unofficial circles a certain revulsion of feeling against Great Britain, because the belief in her capacity to secure reasonable terms of peace was previously so strong; but, again, those who dilated on Great Britain's vindictiveness have failed to win for their own country the place vacated in Bulgarian public opinion; for while they preached the disinterestedness of French love, it was France that was doing harm to Bulgaria by delaying the ratification of the Peace Treaty. As far, then, as the direct effect of these French activities is concerned, there would be no need to mention them. We are, however, more exercised over their possible influence upon the "fundamental alliance," for they tend to shake the faith of an increasing number of Britons in the efficacy of that alliance. As already indicated, we regard the policy as the spontaneous effort of individuals rather than as official; it springs from the keenness, amounting to over-zealousness, with which the French are throwing themselves into the work of reconstruction. This explanation will account for the failure to remember the value of the alliance between France and Great Britain, and to appreciate the necessity of allowing nothing to impair the vitality of that alliance. It would seem to need little more than a public reference to the anomaly of these French activities to bring about their immediate cessation. Certain it is that if the French Government cared to issue a formal reminder to one or two of its more zealous agents in the Near East, where it has chosen to send at least one notorious Anglophobe, there would be less cause for comment.

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## THE RISING IN MESOPOTAMIA.

With fuller information received from Mesopotamia it is now possible to understand better the regrettable course of events in that country.

For prime causes we have to go back to the refusal of the United States to accept a mandate in Asia Minor and to the consequent delay in the Turkish settlement. The uncertainty surrounding the future of Mesopotamia affected the Arab population no less than the British authorities. The latter were left without guidance in the matter of policy; the former, having learnt all about self-government, began to chafe at being kept out of the golden opportunities which they associated with the coveted régime. On the top of the spirit of restlessness came the intrigues which the Turkish Nationalists, profiting by the success of their cause in Anatolia, had little difficulty in fomenting among a people who were already finding the ordered administration of the British irksome.

As far as can be gathered there has been no organised rebellion against the British administration. The trouble began in Kurdistan. A Kurdish chieftain seems, or at least considered himself, to have been encouraged in his resistance to the Turks by a British promise of independence. With the occupation of Mosul a political officer was sent to Suleimanieh, where he adopted the attitude of an adviser, and appears to have established satisfactory relations with the chieftain. Suddenly the British authorities in Baghdad decided that a different policy was called for; the political officer was recalled, and another sent in his place, who arrived with "protectorate" ideas, and, as the saying goes, "started collecting the rent." A Kurdish rising followed, some British officers were imprisoned, and a hurried attempt made to relieve them opened the long series of "regrettable incidents," amounting sometimes to disasters, which has been the record of Mesopotamia for the last year. Ultimately a costly expedition had to be equipped, and, after the prisoners had been released, columns were sent out through the country to impress or to punish the inhabitants.

The initial success of this rising, it is to be feared, served to familiarise the Arab mind with the possibility of getting the better of the British; agitators, the passion for loot and a repercussion of events in Syria and Cilicia did the rest. The spasmodic and isolated character of the earlier outbreaks is evidence against anything in the nature of organised rebellion, and it is probable that the success attending the various attempts has been the prime factor in bringing about what now amounts to something approaching a general rising. In spite of the outcry against the excessive cost of the military occupation of Mesopotamia, the fact remains that for the extent of the country the army has latterly been altogether too small. Some surprise is felt in England that certain garrisons which have been besieged should have to wait so long for relief. The only possible explanation is that there are no troops available to relieve them. In the early stages of the trouble it was within the power of the Army to send out mobile forces able to deal effectively with isolated outbreaks, and the effective manner in which these did their work tended to rob the outbreaks of any significance, and, no doubt, was responsible in part for the veil of silence thrown over the incidents. Before long the recurrence of unrest began to tell on the Army. There is a limit to which troops can be rushed hither and thither; moreover garrisons have sometimes to be left behind and lines of communication held; and the adequate guarding of lines of communication in Mesopotamia calls for a bigger army than the Commander-in-Chief had under him a few months ago. Again, the British section of the Army of Occupation, since the veteran forces of the war were relieved, belongs to the New Army; a large proportion is inexperienced, those with experience—and in this category will come the officers, probably all as brave as lions—will know more about trench fighting than what is required of them in Arab warfare. Very little has been heard of the Army's point of view in Mesopotamia; but it requires little imagination to understand the terrible strain under which it has lived for the past year or so. It has been numerically unequal to its task, and conditions of life have been on a war footing rather than what might have been expected after two years of occupation. The Arabs, led probably by officers trained in the Turkish army, have been formidable antagonists in guerilla warfare. Late in the day it has been realised at home that the rising in Mesopotamia has attained the proportions of a war, and it is to be hoped that adequate reinforcements will now be supplied.

Whatever may be the future relationship of Great Britain and Mesopotamia, there can be no doubt that the present system of administration cannot be liquidated until the Arab insurgents have been decisively quelled. For the benefit of those who think otherwise, it may be suggested that it would almost certainly require a larger force to enable us to evacuate the country at this moment than to restore order. The theory that we are confronted with a vast national rising against British interference or British administration cannot be borne out by the facts known to us. Reference has been made to the fortuitous beginning of the trouble arising out of the wrong-headed policy adopted against a single Kurdish chieftain. Subsequent outbreaks had other causes, and it is necessary to know something of Arab characteristics, of the intrigues at work, of the attraction of loot, and of the rivalry of tribes, which may be worked off in a common purpose at the expense of the British as well as against one another, before one can complete an analysis of the situation. That the Arabs want self-government, and must have it, cannot be gainsaid; but our responsibility does not end with meeting Arab wishes and minimising our own troubles. Immediate withdrawal from Mesopotamia in existing circumstances would certainly lead to the massacre of every Christian and Jew in the country. Great Britain cannot be party to such a horror by merely considering her own convenience. Not only have we to quell the rising and convince the Arabs that such outbursts do not pay, but we shall have to ensure the future safety of the Christian and Jewish inhabitants, whose lives will not be worth many weeks' purchase if we relaxed our hold upon the country altogether. British policy may have been actuated in the past, as the scoffers allege, solely by considerations of oil; but recent events have brought a worthier responsibility upon Great Britain's shoulders, and of this she cannot divest herself for financial or any other reasons. The extent to which we are willing to meet native opinion is shown by the offer now being made to the Egyptians, and there can be no fear that the Arabs will be prevented from indulging their desire for self-administration; but unless the British Government takes effective steps to safeguard the non-Moslem population after the events of the last few months, it might as well append its seal to their death-warrant.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
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KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN

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# GREECE'S RÔLE IN THE NEAR EAST.

## By JEAN DRAGOUMIS.

[*The following article was written shortly before his death by M. Jean Dragoumis, who was killed in the disturbances that broke out in Athens. On August 13, M. Dragoumis entered the Greek diplomatic service and rose to be Minister in Petrograd. After the outbreak of the European War he left the service and was returned to Parliament as Member for Florina. He belonged to the Opposition, but, as far as is known, his influence was on the side of moderation. This article proves him to have been a thinker with a keen political instinct.*]

The Near East is undergoing one of its most important historical phases, and Eastern affairs are about to take a critical turn. At this precise moment, unfortunately, the Greek nation is found divided and weakened by internal dissensions of an unprecedented intensity, instead of being a united Greece, ready to face the new situation with a single mind and with its full strength.

I always believed and advocated that Greece, at a certain stage of the great war, especially after the Russian collapse and America's intervention, would have to join the Entente side, since the fate of the Near East was to be decided, and on no account should our nation have stood apart from the actors of this great drama. The Hellenic nation is such an important factor in the Balkans and in Asia Minor that it could not possibly remain indifferent to the approaching solution of the Oriental problem.

Greece's entry in the war with her forces fresh enabled her to render the Allied cause invaluable service on the Eastern front, in the same way as America did on the Western, and contributed to the final victorious turn in the struggle. This, however, does not at all imply that in the period of opportunist neutrality, favourable as it was to the Entente Powers, Greece had not afforded valuable aid to their cause in the East. Greek territory was used as bases by Allied troops and fleets, Greek volunteers joined the French, English and American armies, and under cover of Greek neutrality the Serbian Army was enabled to be reconstituted; these facts, apart from the help offered in various ways by the Greek unredeemed populations, prove that the Allies' cause received indisputable support during the three years.

As a result of not having been wasted at an early stage, (Greece's greatest asset from an opportunist neutrality) the powers of the Hellenic nation, both military and financial, were found in good condition at the hour of Greece's participation in the war; they remained in strength for the period after the Armistice, so full of unforeseen events; but the split of the Greek people into "Nationals" and "Anti-Nationals" was conducive to weakness.

Thus, two years have elapsed since the Armistice, years abounding in events, during which, notwithstanding the powerful Greek assets, the gains obtained by our nation have not been equal to its opportunities. Our national vitality is so great that we have overcome so far several of the difficulties created by the entirely new state of things in the Near East; but no one can assert that we have succeeded in overcoming all these difficulties. The agitated period of warlike peace, which followed the great war, has not come to an end, and we have not fulfilled all the objects which a nation like ours has in view and is capable of accomplishing. In order that peace should be established in the Near East, the modification to be brought about in the frontiers of the various States in the Balkans and Asia Minor should take a definitive form as near as possible to the ethnological distribution; at the same time, a somehow tolerable existence should have been secured by self-government, or by joint governmnt of Greeks and Turks, for the compact masses of Greek communities, which could not be included in the Greek kingdom. I do not advocate the complete destruction of Turkey, because it is neither wise, nor possible, nor just. As a nation, the Turks also have a right to live as an organised State in the interior tableland of Asia Minor, where five or six millions of compact Turkish population exist, though Greek communities as well are disseminated in these regions. I maintain that in the parts of Asia Minor where Greeks are in a majority, they should enjoy self-government, while in those districts where they are in a minority they should co-operate in the government on the basis of civic and political rights, but without interference of foreign elements in the country's government. After the severance from Asiatic Turkey of the Arab and Armenian countries, there remains under Ottoman rule only Asia Minor, a country in reality Greco-Turkish, in which, of necessity, Greek and Turk have to live together. Therefore, a way has to be found for both elements to live in peace, either jointly governing the country or each enjoying self-government.

In this humanitarian and just solution, it will be seen what an important mission the Hellenic nation has to fulfil in the Near East. This mission requires in consequence a most careful watch, in order to avoid any action in the wrong direction, and to keep all faculties united by a single purpose. In spite of Turkey's defeat, and after two years of Greek efforts, it is still necessary that we should act with energy. I much prefer for my nation peaceful political action rather than a military one, but if it is necessary to continue the military effort for some time longer in order to attain our above objects, this should be done, but with the powers of the whole nation in unison.

If my contention is right, it is incumbent on the Government—the obligation is imperative—to stop at once the policy of dividing the Greeks in "Nationals" and "Anti-Nationals." The continuance of this policy is bound to lead to disaster. Government must stop the trials against so-called "traitors," close definitely the period of menace, oppression, and persecution, and make use of every Greek who in the past has rendered useful services to the nation.

# CHESS.

The following game, played between Mr. R. H. V. Scott and Mr. G. E. Wainwright in the first round of the British Championship, gives a good example of the attacking methods adopted by the British champion :—

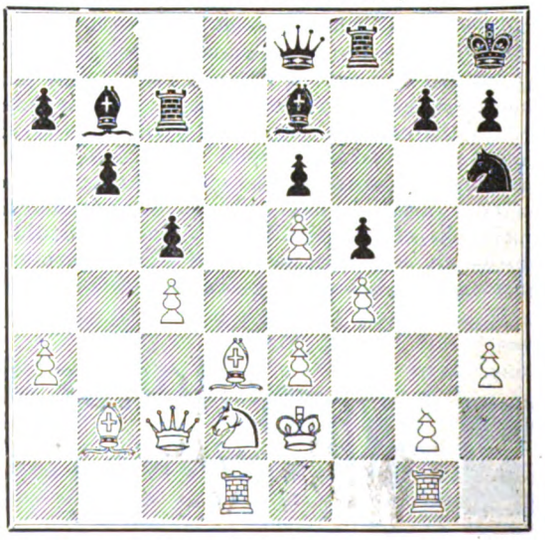
QUEEN'S PAWN OPENING.

| | White. R. H. V. Scott. | Black. G. E. Wainwright. | | White. R. H. V. Scott. | Black. G. E. Wainwright. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | P—Q4 | P—Q4 | 24 | K—B (5) | Q—Q2 |
| 2 | Kt—KB3 | Kt—KB3 | 25 | P x P | KtP x P |
| 3 | P—B4 | P—K3 | 26 | Kt—Kt5 | P—R3 |
| 4 | P—K3 | B—K2 | 27 | P—K4 | P x P |
| 5 | QKt—Q2 | 0—0 | 28 | Kt x P (K4) | B x Kt |
| 6 | B—Q3 | P—QKt3 | 29 | B x B | B—R5 |
| 7 | P—QR3 | B—Kt2 | 30 | R—KB3 | Q—Q. |
| 8 | Q—B2 | QKt—Q2 | 31 | P—B5 | P x P |
| 9 | P—QKt3 | P—B4 | 32 | B x P | R—KKt2 |
| 10 | B—Kt2 | R—B | 33 | R x R | K x R |
| 11 | Kt—K5 | K—R (1) | 34 | P—K6 (disch) | B—B3 |
| 12 | P—B4 | P x BP | 35 | R—Q3 | B—Q5 |
| 13 | KtP x P | Kt x Kt | 36 | Q—Kt2 (ch) | K—R |
| 14 | QP x Kt | Kt—Kt5 (2) | 37 | B—K4 | Kt—Kt |
| 15 | K—K2 | P—B4 | 38 | R x B (6) | P x R |
| 16 | P—R3 | Kt—R3 | 39 | Q—Kt | R—B3 (7) |
| 17 | KR—KKt | R—QB2 | 40 | B x QP | Q—Q3 |
| 18 | QR—Q | Q—K (3) | 41 | K—Kt2 | Q—B5 |
| 19 | P—Kt4 | Kt—Kt (4) | 42 | Q—Kt4 | Q—Q7 (ch) |
| 20 | Kt—B3 | B—Q | 43 | B—B2 | Q—B3 |
| 21 | R—Kt3 | P—Kt3 | 44 | Q—K4 | Q—Kt2 |
| 22 | K—Q2 | B—QB3 | 45 | K—R2 | P—Kt4 |
| 23 | QR—KKt | Kt—R3 | 46 | P—K7 | Resigns |

(1) With the object of playing Kt x Kt without being liable to the check after moving the Kt at B3. But the move is useless, for White can, and does, play P—B4. P x KP might have been played to force White to castle on the King's side, followed by R—K and Kt—B enabling the Kt at B3 to be moved and the KB and K pawns to advance if necessary.

(2) While Black manages to gain freedom, the Kt is subsequently forced into an awkward position in which its utility is largely curtailed. (3) R—Q2 should have been played, followed by Q—B2 and KR—Q. Black would then have had a strong centre with good winning prospects. (4) Another wasted move. (5) Had Black played correctly the King would have been unable to gain this refuge. Now, of course, White has gained practically complete freedom for the attack. (6) A venturesome sacrifice, justified in success, but actually unsound. (7) Giving back the exchange without reason. Kt—B3 was quite good enough, and Black might then have justifiably hoped to win after a prolonged end game.

Position of Black's 18th move, Q—K.



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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Notable among the addresses given at the meeting of the British Association was that of Mr. J. H. Clapham, who dealt with the existing financial and economic problems from the historical standpoint, drawing a most valuable comparison between the economic condition at the close of the Napoleonic wars and the position to-day. Mr. Clapham emphasised the advantageous situation of an agricultural state after a great crisis such as that through which we have just passed. France recovered rapidly a century ago because she was then a rural country, a land of peasants, like Yugoslavia to-day. All the Near Eastern countries approximate, as a matter of fact, to France's position in 1815, and therein lies their strength. One and all, they depend mainly on the land for their wealth, and, as it was with France a century ago, even the worst situated of these countries should be able to carry out the work of reconstruction readily. That fact makes it possible to ignore the present position in the Near East as only a nominal reflex of the real state of things. Two good harvests, says Mr. Clapham, sufficed to restore France, so that given a good harvest in the Balkans next year we may anticipate that the exchanges will then reach what may be termed the stabilised level.

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There is, however, another and a less pleasant aspect to the comparison with the situation after Waterloo. Then, as Mr. Clapham showed, Great Britain alone was partially industrialised, and suffered acutely. It was assumed that there would be an almost limitless demand for goods, but while the event proved that to be true, the fact was also disclosed in due course that the would-be purchasers lacked the means to pay for commodities. In those days, of course, the credit system was quite unequal to meeting such an emergency, and the resultant crisis and trade depression were inevitable. To-day the position is in many respects entirely different. Modern finance has enabled the nations affected by the war to obtain commodities and raw materials for the re-establishment of their economic life, and by so doing has tided over a considerable interval after the Armistice. It has in short put off the critical moment for the international trade in manufactures.

***

As to the eventual outcome, it must be borne in mind that in this, as in all other parallel cases, time counts. The longer a crisis is put off, the less severe it is likely to be. In the present case, it is a race between the approaching incidence of two factors. On the one hand, to use Mr. Clapham's words, there is the problem of when will the inability of the war-damaged nations to pay for what they want in goods and materials make itself felt. On the other hand, there is the question of the length of time it will take these countries to resume their normal activities, and once again to play their part in international trade. Mr. Clapham's view is that Great Britain will do well if there is nothing worse than a gradual decline which would be eased by our extensive connections with undamaged countries and our willingness to buy most things that any nation has to offer. He points out that the situation will be still further alleviated if countries such as Germany and Russia develop what might be termed a reconstruction demand to take the place of the satisfied reconstruction demands of our Allies.

***

Some remarkable particulars are given in an article in the current issue of the *Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States of alleged thefts on a large scale at Constantinople of goods afloat and in the Customs, discharged from British ships, only a portion of which have been recovered. The instances cited are far too numerous for me to give in detail, and I must perforce confine myself to giving a few examples. In one case, a lighter containing 17 bales disappeared; the goods were afterwards recovered at Derindje in the Gulf of Ismidt. Another lighter, into which were discharged 73 barrels of oil, absolutely vanished. The barrels were eventually recovered empty of their contents. Besides these examples of robbery on a large scale, it appears that goods have been changed in transit, and have in some instances been obtained by false pretences from the Customs. It is to be hoped that by now, as the result of the representations made by the Chamber, strong action has been taken to put an end to what is clearly a most intolerable state of affairs.

***

In recent months there has been a rather pronounced decline in the prices of Indian railway stocks. To give a few instances in the case of shares quoted in these columns: Bengal and North-Western, which at one period of the year stood at 143, have dropped to 115½; Bengal-Nagpur are now in the neighbourhood of 100, after having been as high as 121; while Madras and Southern Mahrattas have dropped from 113 to 95. Among the reasons for this are, it is to be presumed, the general financial position, which has had a repercussion in all markets, not excepting oils, and the decline in rupee exchange; but I imagine it is also significant to a certain extent of a growing apprehension on the part of shareholders as to probable developments in India. It must be remembered that signs have not been lacking of the growth of a labour movement somewhat on the lines of that with which we are unhappily only too well acquainted with here, and while the signs may have been given undue importance, the mere utterance of the work "strikes" is quite sufficient excuse in these times for timidity on the part of investors.

***

The curious report was published last week that an American company was negotiating with the Bulgarian Government for the monopoly of the whole of Bulgaria's import and export trade and shipping business. No one could accuse the Americans of a lack of enterprise, but I do not imagine that any of them would approach a Government with a proposition of this character with any hope of success, for clearly anything of the kind would be vastly against the interests of a country whose prospects are so evident as Bulgaria's, as it would mean a restriction on the freedom of commerce of the most irksome kind.

***

I have made enquiries as to the origin of the report, but, as I expected, without finding anything to account for it. Very possibly some limited negotiations are in progress with regard to the export of produce, and that has become magnified into a much more glorious operation. But even that slender foundation is by no means certain. In recent months quite a number of reports of similar "deals" have appeared in the Continental Press, and the season is quite a sufficient excuse for the present version.

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# Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

## EGYPT.

PORT SAID, August 18.

**Oil Displacing Coal.**

Trade is much as usual in Port Said. The decreasing number of ships that are taking bunker coal here is very noticeable. there being a consequent increase, of course, in the number of ships that take oil fuel, while there is probably a large number of ships that burn oil, but fill up in the Far East sufficient for the round voyage. Also the number of ships fitted with internal combustion engines is increasing by leaps and bounds.

**Coal from Delagoa Bay to Denmark!**

A significant commentary on the coal situation was demonstrated by a large ship which passed through the Canal recently. She had brought coals from the United States to Genoa, and is now on her way to Delagoa Bay in ballast, and from there she will take a cargo of coals to Denmark! Put in another way, the ship will have to steam 5,700 miles without an ounce of cargo. When she gets her freight, she will have to steam 7,900 miles to her destination. To sum up, she will probably burn at least 2,500 tons of coal, and travel 13,600 miles to bring 8,000 tons of coal to a place within 700 miles of Newcastle.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, August 18.

**Petrol Distribution.**

The Council of Ministers, at its meeting on August 14, discussed a bill for the formation of a new company to undertake the distribution of petrol and its products. It is expected that the I.R.D.P., the distribution company, lately formed by a decree-law which has not been ratified by Parliament, will be superseded by another more acceptable to the majority of producers.

**Austrian Commercial Delegation.**

It is reported, but without official confirmation so far, that the Austrian Commercial Delegation, which was recently received by the Minister for Industry and Commerce, has been able to conclude a contract with the Roumanian Government for the delivery of manufactured articles, machines, and chemical products. If this is so particulars will probably be published shortly.

**Miscellaneous.**

Delivery is shortly expected of 75 million boxes of cigarettes from Czecho-Slovakia destined for Transylvania and the Banat. There is still a shortage of matches in Roumania, and a box costs one leu, or more.

Owing to the continued shortage of sugar, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce has taken the necessary steps to have the Transylvanian sugar factories adequately supplied with fuel. The price of sugar is about 7s. 6d. per kilogramme, or 3s. 6d. per lb.

**The Floating Debt.**

The following figures from the report of the Budget show the amount of the debt (not yet consolidated) which has been contracted by the Roumanian State during the period between the time when military preparations were begun and April 1 of this year (the figures being in lei):—

| | Capital Borrowed. | | Interest. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10% Loan from National Bank against Treasury Bonds | 1,600,000,000 | ... | 16,000,000 |
| 6% Treasury Bonds placed in Italy in Italian lira, at par | 10,012,500 | ... | 600,750 |
| 5% Treasury Bonds placed in England, in pounds sterling, at par | 1,300,000,000 | ... | 65,000,000 |
| Loan from National Bank against Treasury Bonds, free of interest | 1,500,000,000 | ... | — |
| New Loan from National Bank against Treasury Bonds at 0.50% interest | 1,000,000,000 | ... | 5,000,000 |
| Loan from Banque Belgo-Argentine of 25,000,000 francs, at par | 25,000,000 | ... | 2,500,000 |
| Internal Loan against Treasury Bonds at 5% interest | 400,000,000 | ... | 20,000,000 |
| Loan against Treasury Bonds abroad, in pounds sterling, francs, dollars, pesetas, for "ravitaillement," at par and on account of Bureau Britannique | 1,300,000,000 | ... | 65,000,000 |
| Loan granted by French Government | 10,000,000 | ... | 500,000 |
| Treasury Bonds for purchase of locomotives from Philadelphia, payable in five years, capital and interest | 17,387,500 | ... | 2,432,719 |
| Totals | 7,162,400,000 | ... | 177,033,469 |

That was the position on April 1. Since then a loan of five milliards has been granted to the Treasury (free of interest) by the National Bank, which is to be used solely for the purpose of the withdrawal from circulation of kronen, roubles and the notes of the Banca Generala. This brings the non-consolidated debt to the enormous figure of 12,162,400,000 lei. Besides this, Roumania's share of the debt of Transylvania, Bukovina, and Bessarabia will amount approximately to 10 milliards, which brings the total of the floating debt up to 22,162,400,000. When to this is added the consolidated public debt of 3,986,008,329 it will be seen that the total public debt of Greater Roumania amounts to more than 26 milliards of lei, or about twenty times more than the public debt of the Old Kingdom at the beginning of the war. No provision appears to have been made in the Budget for the payment of the interest on the above loans. It is the intention of the Government to raise another loan for this purpose.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, August 20.

**Miscellaneous.**

Travellers leaving Yugoslavia are now allowed to take 1,000 dinars with them, as well as such foreign currency as has been already authorised.

The Ministry of Finance has forbidden the export and import of certificates of pre-war and war loans of the former


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Austro-Hungarian monarchy until the stamping of the same is completed. This will begin on September 6, and will take place at various official offices throughout the kingdom.

**Poor Montenegrin Harvest.**

The position in Montenegro appears to be deplorable. The *Politika* reports that the harvest is very poor; in addition to all their other difficulties, the Montenegrins have suffered from a plague of locusts, which have consumed more than half the crops. The winter wheat, on which great hopes were placed, is reduced to about a quarter of the estimated yield, and the locusts have made very nearly a clean sweep in the districts of Podgoritsa, Cetinje, and part of the Bar (Antivari) and Nikshich districts. It was hoped that compensation would be forthcoming from the maize crop, but the drought of the last three weeks has so dried up the country that only about one quarter even of this valuable crop can be counted upon.

According to statistics, the country requires 400 truck-loads of flour and as many of maize, as there are 150,000 people to feed. 250 truck-loads of salt, 60 of lard, 60 of sugar, 60 of dried beans, and 30 of petroleum are also required.

BELGRADE, August 26.

The Yugoslav Government has ordered 30 million dinars worth of small coins, of 5, 10, and 20 paras value. The coins are being minted in Vienna, and delivery is shortly expected.

It is reported that the English "Danube River Syndicate," after securing control of various Central European steamboat companies on the Danube, has approached the Belgrade Company, but that every effort will be made to retain the purely national aspect of this undertaking.

## BULGARIA.

**Development of Hydraulic Resources.**

SOFIA, August 19.

The Government has asked the diplomatic representatives of Great Britain, France, Italy and America for information as to the terms on which their respective Governments would consent to send engineers and experts here to inspect the surveys made by the Water Department of the Ministry of Agriculture in connection with the programme for the development of the country's hydraulic resources, and to express their views on the measures which the Ministry has in view. It is the Government's aim to attract foreign capital with a view to carrying out its programme in its entirety.

**Large Grain Deal.**

The negotiations between the Consortium and the Czecho-Slovak Mission have resulted in the conclusion of a contract for the sale to Czecho-Slovakia of 19,600 tons of wheat containing 3 per cent. mixture and 20,000 tons of wheat containing 6 per cent. of spoiled maize from last year's harvest. Czecho-Slovakia is to make arrangements for the export of this grain by the end of the month. The terms of payment are cash on delivery of cheque in Paris.

The Consortium now has for disposal 1,120 tons of good quality wheat, 20,000 tons of rye, 2,100 tons of barley, 400 tons of oats, 200 tons of millet, 20,000 tons of maize containing more than 6 per cent. spoiled grain and 6,000,000 kilogrammes of extra quality wheat flour.

The result of the above contract is that the Consortium will bring into the country more than 160,000,000 levas in foreign valuta. The effect of this will be to cause a considerable rise in the leva.

## TRANS-CAUCASIA.

**State Bank.**

TIFLIS (Georgia), July 25.

The new Georgian State Bank was opened yesterday in the presence of most of the Georgian Ministers and a large gathering of public men. Following this ceremony, the cashier's department was open for business for half an hour. In that short time, 85,000,000 roubles were deposited.

**Speculation in Grain.**

The Minister of the Interior has issued a statement warning against any speculation in grain. The new crops are excellent, and the present slight food crisis will soon be over. Any speculation in grain or any export of grain is to be severely dealt with.

**Mail Services.**

Georgia has now entered the world's postal union. The Government has addressed a note to the Italian Minister of Posts and Telegraphs regarding the transportation of all inward and outward mails on Italian ships. An arrangement will shortly be concluded whereby Georgian mails for the time being will be carried on Italian ships.

**Georgian Valuta.**

At an important meeting in Tiflis yesterday, Professor Avaliani, Acting Minister of Finance, M. Chavjanidze, Assistant Minister of Supplies, and several important members of the Government discussed the question of valuta and the means of improving the rate of Georgian money. Professor Avaliani stated that he did not think the low rate of local money was so much due to speculation in the Caucasus as it was owing to the general situation in Western Europe. To regulate the valuta, he proposed: (1) increased exports, (2) the establishment of a valuta fund, (3) the monopoly of all operations in the different Government properties, especially in the State Bank.

Mr. Abkhazi, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that the low rate of cheques was due to the economic and political situation in the Caucasus and to the impossibility of dealing profitably with foreign trade. He proposed (1) state economy and the printing of less money, (2) the regulation of transport, (3) to interest foreign capital (loans and concessions), (4) to profit by the geographical situation of the republic to strengthen commerce and to have greater credit, (5) to control imports (prohibiting the importation of articles of luxury), (6) to increase exports, (7) to stimulate home industries, (8) to appoint an economic council to work out the right policy.

M. Chavjanidze declared that one of the chief causes of the present situation was that merchants did not go further than Batoum for their goods. As they did not buy at first hand, they were compelled to purchase articles at too high a price.

The whole matter was carefully discussed, and it was finally decided to arrange a valuta fund immediately; to arrange for the economic council; to combat speculation and therefore to arrange that merchants bought at first hand and that goods did not pass through the hands of a number of people; and to improve the rights of merchants.

Georgia is immensely rich in raw materials, and with careful management the republic is assured of a prosperous future.

## PALESTINE AND THE PAPER INDUSTRY.

The *Palestine Weekly* suggests that the Holy Land may become a valuable new source of supply for the paper industry. Papyrus grass grows luxuriantly in the country, and there are vast quantities of peat in the swampy districts of Northern Palestine. The possibility of producing paper from peat pulp has recently been demonstrated by experiments in Manchester.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended August 14 amounted to £8.621.

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**POPULATION. About 17,400,000.**

**IMPORTS (1915). £8,533,234.**

United Kingdom, £848,997; Austria-Hungary, £3,718,182; Belgium, £43,230; Germany, £3,575,159; France, £660,287; Turkey, £558,238; Italy, £762,023.

**EXPORTS (1915). £21,742,379.**

United Kingdom, £2,238; Austria-Hungary, £13,576,255; Belgium, £2,343; Germany, £7,044,803; Turkey, £443,325; Italy, £37,838.

[NOTE.—In 1914 the Imports from the U.K. amounted to £2,231,773, and the Exports to it to £1,433,535.]

# BANQUE DE CREDIT ROUMAIN

(Joint Stock Company)

FULLY PAID-UP CAPITAL:
**70,000,000 LEI.**

**BUCHAREST. BRAILA.**
**GALATZ. CONSTANZA.**

The BANK opens current accounts, collects and discounts bills, &c., on Roumania and other countries. Collects dividends, makes advances on shares and other securities, and upon merchandise, and carries on all usual banking transactions. Receives cereals on consignment and undertakes their sale.

# BANCA ROMANEASCA. *Established 1911.*

**Authorised Capital, 160,000,000 Lei. Capital Paid Up, 100,000,000 Lei. Reserve Fund, 38,936,306 Lei.**

**Head Office in BUCAREST, 5, Strada Smardan.**

**Branches in BAZARGIC, BRAILA, CONSTANTZA, CZERNOWITZ (Bucovina), GALATZ, KISHINEFF (Bessarabia), SILISTRIA, TULCEA, TEMESVAR.**

**Council of Administration:**—*President*, G. N. BAGDAT, former President of the High Court of Justice and Cour de Cassation.
*Vice-President*, G. I. STOICESCO, former Vice-President of the Senate, Professor of the University.
**Board of Directors and Members:**—C. G. COCIASU, Barrister, former Vice-President of the Senate; V. BRATIANU, former Manager of the Banque Nationale de Roumanie, former Minister; D. D. BRAGADIRU, Merchant and Manufacturer; Al. F. BADESCU, Engineer, General Manager of the Societé de Tramways de Bucarest; G. CORBESCO, Barrister; I. G. DUCA, former Minister; I. I. STANCULEANU, Barrister, former Member of Parliament; Al. N. STEFANESCU, former Manager of the Banque Nationale de Roumanie.
**Auditors:**—D. MATAK, Engineer, Manufacturer; H. FULGA, retired, former Bank Manager; V. V. STEFAN, former General Manager of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce; Em. DAN, former General Manager in the Ministry.
**General Manager:**—N. P. STEFANESCO, Engineer, Inspector-General, former General Manager of the Navigation Fluviale du Danube.
**Manager:**—I. SAVESCO. **Sub-Managers:**—N. BANULESCO, C. T. TEODORESCO, Ion C. PILIDI, S. HENZEL, D. CONSTANTINESCO.

Banking transactions of every description. Deposits repayable on demand and with notice. Cheques and letters of credit issued on all countries. Stock Exchange orders executed in Roumania and abroad. Advances on securities, discounts and collections. Bonds, shares and objects of value received for safe keeping. Applications received for all issues without charge.

**Telegraphic Address: ROMANEASCA, BUCAREST.**

***LONDON AGENTS:*** **BARCLAYS BANK, LIMITED. COMPTOIR NATIONAL D'ESCOMPTE DE PARIS. BANQUE BELGE POUR L'ETRANGER.**


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# THE WORLD'S MONETARY SITUATION.

## PROBLEM OF ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION.

A very able survey of the financial and economic problems with which belligerent and neutral nations alike find themselves confronted in varying degrees as the result of conditions arising out of the war is given by Professor Cassel in his "Memorandum on the World's Monetary Problems." Its outstanding merit is its absolute directness. Professor Cassel is nothing if not concise, and in the plainest of terms he sets forth the problem that the nations have to solve for their well being, disposing on the way of the numerous fallacies regarding high prices, the exchanges and other matters that have been allowed to interfere with clear thinking on this vital subject, and then explains the path that it seems to him must be pursued if the disease is to be remedied. He does not cover new ground in his suggestions; the expedients he advises are those which have obtained general acceptance among economists and financiers, but those who expected novelty can scarcely fail to be convinced by his closely reasoned presentation of the case.

### High or Low Exchanges Immaterial.

What he says in regard to trade and the exchanges is of special interest. The restrictions on trade that have been introduced by various countries come in for strong condemnation. The prohibition of exports, the licensing or rationing of exports, measures to keep up higher prices for foreigners than for the home market, are examples of methods, it is pointed out, which all work in the direction of a corresponding depression of the international value of the currency of the country applying them. There are, of course, exceptions to the rule, as for example the restrictions on the imports of luxuries which obviously must have an enhancing effect on the international value of a currency.

It needs no emphasis that any deviation from the purchasing power parity of the exchange between two countries must adversely affect trade, but Professor Cassel lays stress on the point that as soon as this parity has been established it is immaterial whether the level is high or low. "Thus, the export trade of a country is not hampered by low quotations of the foreign exchanges as long as these quotations only correspond to a high level of prices in foreign countries or a low level at home; nor is it specially stimulated by high quotations of the foreign exchanges as long as these only correspond to the relative purchasing power of the monetary standards quoted. Likewise, low prices on foreign currencies do not mean an encouragement of imports from them or a handicap for the home producer, provided these exchanges are a true expression for the purchasing power of the foreign money; on the same condition, high prices of foreign currencies do not in any way hamper the import from them. In fact, the terms 'high,' or 'low' exchanges have no sense in themselves; if they are to be used they must obviously refer to the normal rates of exchange, i.e., to the purchasing power parities. But when used, as is generally the case, in reference to old parities which have lost all real significance, they are in the highest degree misleading."

### New Parities.

The temptation to regard the exchanges from the light of the pre-war parities is inevitable and natural, but it is, Professor Cassel points out, a grave mistake, as the result is that people often represent an exchange as being against a country when the opposite is the case, and *vice-versa*. The world, he says, will never come back to the pre-war parities, and sooner or later people will have to accustom themselves to look upon the new purchasing power parities which will in due course be evolved as the true parities. In commercial circles here, this view has long obtained, but it is not so abroad, where the parity to sterling, given that sterling itself is at par, is still looked upon not as an ideal, but as a readily realisable project. Obviously, the maintenance of this belief means the hampering of trade until it is understood that the parity to be looked forward to is the purchasing power parity, and not a parity which represents conditions that cannot be reproduced.

The exchanges are based on a country's internal financial position, and an improvement of a country's exchange can only be brought about by enhancing the internal value of its monetary unit; and to do that, Professor Cassel points out, a country must succeed in reducing its inflation. That is the way to the world's financial reconstruction, whether one considers the problem of the exchanges or any other aspect of the complicated situation. As Professor Cassel expresses it, "As long as inflation is allowed to go on, deteriorating still further the monetary standards, there is no hope for any work of reconstruction." Eighteen months have passed since the Armistice, but there has been so far no serious attempt to tackle the problem of inflation; on the contrary, by one means or another (perhaps unconsciously in the case of subsidies, etc.), the opposite policy has been pursued, and the problem that has now to be grappled with is far more serious than it was on November 11, 1918.

### Evils of Inflation.

The result of the continuance of inflation is that as the supply of available money can be arbitrarily increased, opportunities for its utilisation automatically increase, labour wants more wages, prices are increased, and the vicious circle is established. "In one word," says Professor Cassel, "we shall have all the factors moving which people generally look upon as the real causes of a general rise of prices. The deficiency of the popular explanations is plain enough: these factors are *always* at work as tendencies; but they are, normally, kept within due limits by a definite scarcity of money, imposing the hard necessity of restriction." The restoration of the scarcity of money is the only way, he points out, of combating the enhancement of prices and the rising cost of living.

The stabilisation of the monetary standard depends on a limitation of the supply of money, and can be achieved only by the imposition of severe restrictions alike on the business community and on the demands of Governments for money. These demands have obviously been the chief factor in the inflation that has taken place during the war, and has been going on to a greater or lesser degree since the Armistice. Professor Cassel urges that as soon as possible there must be a complete end to attempts to reduce the prices of commodities or services by means of subsidies. The withdrawal of the subsidies will obviously mean an increase in prices, the consumer's purchasing capacity will be decreased, and the tendency will be to the depression of other prices. In other words, the movement towards the re-stabilisation of internal values will have set in, and as soon as that process has been successfully accomplished the stabilisation of the exchanges will also have been achieved.

While inflation must be ended as the first step in financial and economic reconstruction, Professor Cassel does not view the idea of deflation with favour except in certain cases. A deflation within definite limits is possible, he points out, in the case of this country, where a reduction in the general level of prices by about 20 per cent. would probably be sufficient to establish the parity between the paper pound sterling and the gold sovereign, and therefore also to bring up the dollar exchange value of the pound sterling to its old parity. But it is emphasised that in other cases this aim is undesirable as the effect on industry would be seriously out of proportion to what would be achieved.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

This week's Indian cable states: Rain has fallen fairly generally in North-Eastern, South-Western and Central India. Local in Kashmir, United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, Bihar, and South-Eastern Madras. Crop conditions generally good, but more rain required in parts for transplanting rice, steeping jute and other agricultural operations. Churni Bridge-Santipur Railway.— Detailed survey of 10 miles by Eastern Bengal State Railway sanctioned. Bombay cotton market easy. Fully good Broach August Rs. 445. Piece-goods market quiet, with some retail enquiry and steady prices. Calcutta jute market old crop quiet, with some business done. Heavy goods steady, with strong demand for Cornsacks. Hessians firm with prices advanced. No change in Bank Rates.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.—An Interim DIVIDEND of 8s. per Share has been DECLARED PAYABLE on the 3rd September, on account of the profits for 1920. Coupon No. 28 will therefore be payable on that date. Forms for Listing Coupons may be obtained at the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William-street, E.C.4.

CENTRAL BANK OF GREECE

Head Office: 12, Aristeides Street, ATHENS.

*Paid-up Capital - - - 3,500,000 Drs.*

*Administrative Council:* LEONIDAS SKENDER (*Chairman*), GEORGE EMBIRICOS (*Vice-Chairman*), K. SALLIARIS, A. DAMBASIS, Ph. LOUKISAS, M. EVLAMBIOS (*Director of the National Bank of Greece*).

*General Manager:* GEORGE MOUSTAKAS. *Manager:* G. A. KARYSTINAKIS.

EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED

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## GENERAL BANK OF GREECE.

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

**Head Office - ATHENS.**

BANKING OPERATIONS:
Every description of Banking business transacted.

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

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

## POPULAR BANK OF GREECE.

**Head Office, ATHENS. Branch, PIRÆUS.**

Correspondents throughout Greece.

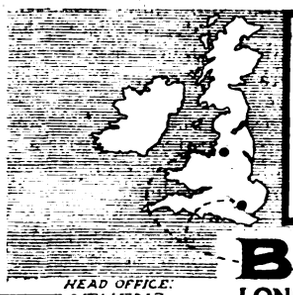
Established June, 1905, by the National Bank of Greece and a group of Capitalists.

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

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

*General Manager:* D. LOVERDO.

## TRADE WITH THE NEAR EAST



WITH its offices in all the principal towns in **Greece**, in **Egypt, Cyprus, Crete, Constantinople**, and in **Smyrna, the Bank extends exceptional Facilities for Export and Import Trade between Great Britain and the Near East generally**, and invites enquiries and correspondence relating thereto.

HEAD OFFICE: ATHENS.

## BANK OF ATHENS

LONDON 22, Fenchurch Street E.C.3. MANCHESTER 57, Mosley Street

## COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE, LIMITED.

**CAPITAL PAID-UP - Drs. 15,000,000.**
**RESERVE FUNDS Drs. 2,845,010.45.**

**Head Office: ATHENS.**

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

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

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

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

## GREECE.

Area 43,522 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,746,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 296,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

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

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

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

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

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

**COINAGE.**—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 32·25 Drachmæ to £1.

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

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

## BANK OF NATIONAL ECONOMY (of Greece)

Head Office: ATHENS.

*Branches:*

PIRÆUS, SYRA. PATRAS.

**Capital Paid Up - Drs. 10,000,000.**

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

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

## THE HELLENIC COMPANY OF MARITIME ENTERPRISES

(PALIOS LINE.)

**Head Office - PIRÆUS.**

A. P. PALIOS, Founder. M. P. PALIOS, General Manager.

**REGULAR MAIL, PASSENGER, and FREIGHT SERVICES from PIRÆUS to MEDITERRANEAN PORTS, GREECE, SEA OF MARMORA, BLACK SEA, SEA OF AZOF, ASIA MINOR, SYRIA, and EGYPT.**

26 PASSENGER and CARGO STEAMERS.

85 AGENCIES in Greece, Sea of Marmora, Black Sea, Sea of Azof, Asia Minor, Egypt, Mediterranean and principal Ports of the World.

Coaling Yards and Repair Shops.

GENERAL AGENTS for the High Commission of Sea Transports; for all Passenger Steamers requisitioned by the Greek Government.

*Cable Address—Navigation Palios.*

*Codes used—Scott's (1905) 10th Edition; A.B.C. (1901) 5th Edition.*

## MARITIME BANK of GREECE

**AUTHORISED CAPITAL FULLY PAID DR.10,000,000.**

Founder—A. P. PALIOS.

**Head Office: PIRÆUS, GREECE.**

Cable Address: "Maritime Bank."

Codes Used.
Scott's 1906—10th Edition. A.B.C. 1901—5th Edition. Palios 1919

*Branches and Agents in the Principal Cities of Greece and the Levant.*

*The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business, and by reason of its connections, throughout Greece and the Levant, is in a position to offer to the trade exceptional facilities.*

**Advances and Collections of B/Ls., Shipowners' Remittances and Disbursements to and from all parts of the World, by cable or mail. Loans on Vessels and other hulk. Bills of Exchange Negotiated. Letters of Credit and Drafts issued on the Principal Cities of Greece and Foreign Countries. Confirmed Credits at Home and Abroad. Loans on Government and other Securities. Loans on Goods and Warrants of Bonded Stores.**

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BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO, London.
For the U.S.A.—NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK CITY, U.S.A.

## BANK OF ORIENT.

**Capital Paid Up - - - Drs. 25,000,000.**

**Head Office - ATHENS.**

Every kind of Banking Business Transacted.

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


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## COTTON'S VIOLENT FLUCTUATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I am inundated with correspondence from my business connections asking for my opinion as to the prospects of the cotton trade. I have always objected to playing the rôle of prophet, but have been anxious and willing to give at any time the results of a world-wide experience of the industry to enable the trade and the public to form correct judgments. These inquiries have been increased by the remarkable fluctuations in the prices of raw cotton that have recently taken place. I am one who firmly believes in the absolute indispensability of the legitimate middlemen who handle the cotton crop of the world, but I am entirely against those who make the raw material of an international industry a counter for gambling operations. It is this that is mainly responsible for the want of confidence and the lack of stability at the present time. The fall on the American cotton exchanges during the last few days is followed immediately by an almost unprecedented rise and another fall. The figures that appear in the Press of these fluctuations are misleading to those who are not conversant with the methods of the trade. The prices of the finer qualities of cotton, required by England more than by any other country, have been going up when the official prices recorded in the Press have been going down, and it is not unusual for futures to be declining while actual cotton has been rapidly going up.

I have always felt that such prices as usually appear in the Press should be supplemented by an explanation of the actual state of affairs. So far as people in the industry are concerned, all this technical information has been available for the last twelve years under the scheme for the regulation of wages, and may be had whenever it is called for in a wages dispute. This scheme, as I have often pointed out, might be applied to every industry in the country.

The dominant factors in the present situation are:—

(1) From various causes there is still a large amount of the cotton machinery of the world idle.

(2) Production has been considerably curtailed by the reduction of the working hours in England from 55½ to 48 hours per week and this process has been going on throughout the world during the past 12 years, or more.

(3) The machinery available, it is obvious, dominates the situation as regards the supply of the manufactured goods, and a fall in the raw material would not alter the present situation, especially as raw material bought now would require six, nine, twelve months, or even longer before it could pass through the numerous processes necessary.

(4) It is possible, as recent experience has proved, for any fall in the cost of the raw material to be counteracted by increases in wages and by the ever-growing cost of everything that enters into the manufacture of cotton goods.

(5) An enormous reduction has taken place during the war period in the output of cotton fabrics, which play a preponderating part in clothing the people of the world.

(6) The textile machinists, who were very largely employed on munitions, have an almost impossible task in making up the leeway of the war period, both in regard to renewals and in regard to the normal extension of textile machinery which obtained in the year before the war.

In conclusion, I would add that these are contingencies which may be gauged, but what cannot be estimated are the results of legislation by inexperienced men, of extravagance in the conduct of the nation's affairs, and interference by politicians in labour matters, to which I attribute more than to anything else the industrial unrest which has been and is so prevalent and which may ultimately prove disastrous both to the interests of Capital and Labour.—I am, etc.,

CHARLES W. MACARA.

33, York Street, Manchester.
August 24.

WANTED by an established London firm, a thoroughly qualified man to take charge of their Import and Export Department. Applicant must have had experience in purchasing goods, shipments and fixing up agencies. A good salary with interest in the nett profits would be entertained for the right man. A knowledge of the Markets in the Near East and East would be advantageous. Reply, which will be treated as strictly confidential, stating full experience with suggested remuneration, to—"Export 106," care Deacons, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.3.

## COMMERCIAL POSITION IN TURKEY.

### Brisk Trade in Motors.

One of the most marked changes in Constantinople, says the Commercial Secretary to H.M. Commission, Constantinople, in a report covering the June quarter, was the large influx of motor-cars. To the casual observer the town seems to be already overstocked. Italian competition in this field, however, which during 1919 was considerable, seems recently to have greatly diminished and to have been replaced by American. One American firm in particular is expecting to do very large business in Anatolia when communications with the interior are opened. At the same time, a British firm has recently built a large modern garage in the best quarter of Pera.

Owing to the political position and consequent lack of organisation, companies are loth to commence any new industries or new commercial undertakings under the present conditions. A small concern, however, has been formed under the name of the British Sterilising Milk Company for the supply of sterilised milk. This is the only one of its kind in Constantinople, and should have a good future. Numerous representatives of United Kingdom firms are in negotiation and generally in the process of looking round for suitable openings, but for the most part they were not prepared to do anything until the conclusion of peace with Turkey.

The general anticipation is that this year is to be a very favourable one, and crops are expected to be a great improvement on 1919. Nevertheless, ultimate results must largely depend on the commercial situation.

During the last few months there has been in Constantinople a marked increase in building. This is especially noticeable, as during the previous year little or nothing was done. Bricks are difficult to obtain, even at very high prices. There is, however, a plentiful supply of Russian cement.

Summer in Constantinople being relatively a slack period for trade, business has suffered a lull, which, however, has been much more accentuated than during the same period in former years. In spite of this and the general fall of prices in the United Kingdom of the leading articles of export, such goods as mohair, wool, gum-dragon, and skins have maintained their price largely owing to the lack of supplies from Asia Minor, which has led to the gradual diminution in stocks on the local market.

## GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to June 30, 1920 (new style January 14 to July 13, 1920).

| | Monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper & Naxos emery. | Piræus Customs. |
|---|---|---|
| | Drachmae. | Drachmae. |
| Gross receipts, June, 1920 ..... | 5,247,816·67 | 4,174,651·50 |
| Do. do. 1919 ..... | 3,974,152·05 | 5,093,872·70 |
| Estimated receipts for 6 months (Law of Control) | 14,450,000·00 | 5,350,000·00 |
| Actual do. do. 1920 | 31,010,269·29 | 29,971,854·05 |
| Do. do. do. 1919 | 22,767,019·95 | 23,053,257·60 |
| Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 6 months ..... 1920 | +16,560,269·29 | +24,621,854·05 |
| Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 6 months ..... 1919 | + 8,317,019·95 | +17,703,257·60 |

Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1/5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund on the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmae at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at the average rate.

A plan has been submitted to the French Chamber for the extension of Algiers Harbour.

The British Commercial Commissioner at Sofia reports that the Bulgarian Minister of Finance has been instructed to take in hand the winding up of the Direction de Prevoyance, which will probably take about a month. The victualling section will be placed under the Ministry of Agriculture and the control section will be under the control of the Ministry of Commerce. The remaining sections will be abolished. The Grain Consortium has been prolonged for another four months from August 1, the date on which it should normally have been dissolved.

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# "STANDARD" TOBACCO MACHINERY

Designed and constructed by the Pioneers of Tobacco Factory Mechanical Equipment, "STANDARD" Machines have been developed to a unique degree of perfection, and consequently represent the most efficient and satisfactory methods of preparation and manufacture of Tobacco for all purposes.

*From Plantation to Finished Product.*

**"STANDARD" CIGARETTE-MAKING MACHINE.**
**The World's Premier.**

Output up to 36,000 Cigarettes per hour, printed in two colours, or one colour and gold, pasted seams, adaptable for cork, gold or paraffin tipping and "crimped" seams.

**"STANDARD-JUNIOR" CIGARETTE-MAKING MACHINE.**
**The Small Manufacturers' valuable asset.**

Output up to 7,500 Cigarettes per hour, pasted seams, printed in one or two colours.
Adaptable for either hand or power drive.

**Cigarette Packing Machinery.**

For Wrapping Cigarettes in paper or foil and inserting in paper "cups" or cardboard packets of the "shell and slide" type.

**Tobacco Cutters.**

In various sizes, ranging in output from 400 to 4,000 lbs. per day, each adjustable to produce any desired cut from the finest to the coarsest.

**Tobacco Mixers, Coolers, Dressing Machines, Sprayers, Stem Flatteners, &c.**

***Write for our Illustrated Lists, stating the class of Machines you are interested in.***

**AMERICAN MACHINE & FOUNDRY CO., LTD.,**
**59, HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON, E.C.1.**
New York, Brussels, Geneva, Athens, Christiana, Cairo, Tunis.
*Cables: "AMMAFOCO, LONDON."* *Codes: All usual.*


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## ENGINEERING.

### A Lighting Outfit.

A new motor-cycle electric lighting outfit is now ready for the market, particulars of which have been sent me by the makers, the Rotax Motor Accessories Co., Ltd., of Willesden Junction. For some time past this firm has been working with a view to producing an appliance of the kind which should be suitable not only for users in this country, but which should meet the needs of overseas users, and following to some extent the lines of their well-known train lighting and motor-car lighting dynamos, a valuable speed current generator has been designed which will give a maximum output of five amperes. The dynamo is provided with three, instead of the usual two, brushes, and is shunt-wound, with the winding across the positive and demagnetising brushes.

The outfit is light, weighing only just over six pounds, and occupies little space. The small switchboard is designed so that it can be fixed into the side of the tank, or placed on top of it, as may be desired. It carries a barrel switch, which has three positions: for lighting the lamps, for charging, and for "off." At the top of the switch-box is a small slot, which shows white when the switch is off. When the engine is running and the switch is turned to either the "lamps" or "charge" position, this white mark is replaced by a red signal, which shows that the battery is being charged.

Provision is made, by arranging for all openings for wires, etc., to be at an angle, for protecting the interior of the switchboard from damp, rain, or dirt, and a suitable box is provided for holding the battery. The dynamo is arranged to be driven by means of a leather link belting from a pulley driven by the engine. In the case of engines with outside fly-wheel, the drive is easily arranged, as a small driving-pulley can be bolted to the outside. In other cases a small belt pulley could be attached to the spokes of the back wheel. In all cases, I believe, the makers would be glad to give such hints and information as lies in their power. The set in question is extremely well made and substantial, and has been subjected to prolonged tests before having been put on the market, and a good deal of attention has been paid to such details as arrangements for focussing the light, cleaning the lamp, and for rendering the whole attachment weather-proof.

### Roads and Road Making.

In the course of a powerfully-written article advocating the adoption of concrete roads in this country, an engineer of evident experience points out that loads can be hauled with less expenditure of power along roads made of this material than they can along almost every other class of road, with the exception of specially constructed asphalt. He points out that a load can be hauled, at a given speed, along a concrete road for, say, 30 lb. per ton. It would require from 60 to 100 lb. per ton to haul the same load at the same speed along any kind of macadam road, and from 50 to 90 lb. per ton along a road paved with stone blocks. In his view, the experiments going on in connection with road-making in different localities are all to the good. He says: "Even the rubber road now being constructed may turn out eventually to be of value to some others besides rubber companies."

But the fact seems to be that practically all modern methods of construction have been found wanting in that they deal with the conditions of traffic to-day, and show no signs of having been inspired by an intelligent anticipation of the needs of to-morrow. Concrete roads, however, are no longer in the experimental stage; they are the outcome of sound theory justified in every case by practice. So far as we have arrived, they offer the only solution to the traffic problem, and the sooner British engineers become aware of the fact the better.

Concrete roads should be reinforced either with steel bars or patent steel meshes, and the argument is that this raises the cost of such roads beyond that of those of macadam or other material. But it is sound business policy to pay more during construction if the results are of commensurate advantage. Another point is that where steel reinforcement is not used, it is advisable to have transverse joints or joints running right across the road, at every 20 yards distance. With reinforced concrete, it is not necessary to have these, and all that is necessary is the joints running the whole length of the road on each side between the roadway and the curbing.

What, it may be asked, are the chief advantages of concrete roads? In the first place, they have a far longer life and require considerably less repair than roads of any other kind, and, further, such repairs as are ever necessary can always be done locally. In that way, only small areas of a road are affected at a time, and no repairs need interfere with the traffic.

### An Efficient Car.

From an economical point of view, there is a good deal to be said in favour of the well-known Overland car, of the touring five-seater type. I understand that with a full load it will average, on an ordinary give-and-take road, from 28 to 30 miles to the gallon of petrol, which means that whilst some drivers do not get this result, others get a correspondingly greater mileage. Another feature which makes for economy is the scientifically-designed system of lubrication by which the car is enabled to run for 1,000 miles on one gallon of oil. The suspension of the car has been the subject of special study, and the weight is so distributed that, given a good set of tyres to begin with, the makers claim that from 8,000 to 10,000 miles should be obtainable before a new set is needed. The car only weighs 16 cwt., and its three-point suspension Triplex springs render it a particularly comfortable car to ride in. This efficient springing also protects the engine and chassis parts from undue vibration, and also tends to lengthen the life of the tyres. The car is well finished, and is remarkably cheap at the price at which it is offered.

### Air Pressure Lamps.

From Messrs. Stanleys (Stratford), Ltd., are to hand some details of the new air pressure and gravity lamps they are putting on the market. These are of quite a new type, and a variety of patterns ranging from hand lanterns to large chandeliers are obtainable. The lamps are fed with either petrol or benzol under air pressure, and the supply of vapour to the burner enables any intensity of light from a glimmer up to 300 candle-power, to be obtained. The petrol consumption for a 300-candle-power lamp is, I understand, about one gallon for 60 hours' burning.

It is stated that an increasing demand exists for motor vehicles in India, especially of the commercial type. Lorries up to four tons' capacity should sell well, and shippers able to obtain supplies of these should make the fact known to their Indian representatives.

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The Persian Government has decided to extend the Mohammerah-Burudshird line to Hamadan.

According to the *Journal de la Marine Marchande*, the Greek Government intends to build at Smyrna a modern harbour, with all facilities for steamers to load and unload at the quays.


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# INDIA'S COAL RESOURCES.—III.*

By JOHN KIRSOPP, M.I.M.E., F.G.S.

The Daltonganj coalfield has recently been opened, but its development is still only in an initial stage.

In the Palamau district in 1918 one mine was operating in the Daltonganj field, yielding 63,805 tons of steam coal and 19,766 tons of slack. In the Sambalpur-Hingir Rampur three mines aggregated 36,692 tons of round and 14,347 tons of slack. These two fields produced a total of 128,150 tons in 1913.

The chief prospective coalfields of the provinces of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa are :—

(*a*) Daltonganj, containing one coal seam 9 feet in thickness, covering a proved area of one square mile and containing an actual reserve of nine million metric tons of first-class coal.

(*b*) Hular, containing three coal seams, 8 feet, 8 feet, and 13 feet 8 inches respectively, covering a probable area of twenty square miles, and containing a reserve of nine million metric tons.

(*c*) Aurunga, containing a probable reserve of twenty million metric tons of low grade coal.

(*d*) North Karanpura, containing coal seams aggregating 55 feet in thickness, covering a probable area of 250 square miles, and containing approximately a reserve of 8,900 million metric tons.

(*e*) South Karanpura, containing coal seams aggregating 50 feet, covering a probable area of 15 square miles, and having a reserve of 75 million metric tons.

(*f*) Bokara, containing coal seams aggregating 12 feet, covering a probable area of 180 square miles, with a reserve of 1,525 million metric tons. A large output may be expected from the Bokara Ramgarh coalfield within the next few years.

(*g*) Rajmahal Hills, with one coal seam 5 feet in thickness, covering a probable area of 70 square miles and having a reserve of 210 million metric tons.

Outside the Peninsula area the Gondwana rocks have not been proved to be continuous, patches being found at intervals along the base of the Himalaya from the Tisha Valley below Darjhiling to the gorge of the Dihong in the Abos country, and the belt being crossed at various points in Bhutan, and in the Aka and Duffa Hills. The coal is badly crushed, and of little value.

In Central India the coal-bearing Gondwana rocks occupy a large area known as the Rewah basin, lying in the southern part of the native State of that name. A number of distinct fields have been recognised in this basin, the chief being those of Umaria, Kórár, Johilla, Sohagpur, and Singrauli (others are Kurasia, Koreagarh, and Jhilmili, that of Umaria being the only field worked at present, and having an annual output of about 150,000 tons.

The coalfields of the Rewah State (Umaria, etc.) contains coal seams of from 7 feet 8 inches to 12 feet 4 inches in thickness, extending over a probable area of 2,000 square miles, and containing a reserve of 22,657 million metric tons.

The mean analyses from the different fields situated in Central India are as follows :—

(*a*) Umaria Field :—Moisture, 3.71 per cent.; volatile matter, 27.55 per cent.; fixed carbon, 56.14 per cent.; ash, 12.60 per cent. The coal as now sold is, however, much higher in ash than this figure.

(*b*) Johilla Field :—Moisture; volatile matter, 34.85 per cent.; fixed carbon, 54.47 per cent.; ash, 10.72 per cent.

The coalfields of the Central Provinces lie apparently in three separate basins of Gondwana rocks, viz., basins of Sarguja and Chattisgarh on the north-east, the Satpura and Chhindwara basin on the north-west, and the Godavari basin extending for nearly three hundred miles from the south-western corner of the province, down the valley of the Godavari and its tributaries, through the Nizam's dominions, into the Madras Presidency. Although apparently separate, it is possible that the coal-bearing rocks between the two first-mentioned basins may be continuous beneath the intervening mantle of Deccan trap, and again may pass beneath the trap of the districts of Betul and Amraoti into the great belt of Gondwanas deposits of the Godavari valley. Enormous reserves of coal may, therefore, have been preserved beneath the cretaceous lava flows which cover such a large portion of the Indian peninsula.

The Sarguja and Chhattisgarh fields form the south-easterly continuation of the great area of coal measures known as the Rewah Gondwana basin. Several fields, notably Ramkola-Tatapani, Jhilmili, Bisampur Korba, Rampur, have been more or less cursorily examined, but sufficient development has not been done on any one of them to form the basis of even an approximate estimate of the amount of coal available, though the coal measures extend over an area of several thousand square miles, and the reserves must be very large.

The coal resources of the portion of the Rampur coalfield, situated about twenty-two miles N.N.W. of Sambalpur, was first brought into prominence about 1890 (and, in fact, the whole of the Chhattisgarh coalfields) by the construction of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway line through this known Burrakur area, and the great distance to the nearest coal supply. Analyses of coal seams from three localities give :—(a) Dhoramuda, at a depth of 309 feet: moisture, 7.3 to 9.8 per cent.; volatile matter, 21.1 to 25.4 per cent.; ash (white), 30.7 to 40.0 per cent.: fixed carbon, 30.8 to 38.4 per cent. (b) Dhoramnda, at a depth of 768 feet: moisture, 6.2 per cent.; volatile matter, 19.0 per cent.; ash (yellowish-white), 31.4 per cent.; fixed carbon, 43.4 per cent. (c) Kodopali, at a depth of 352 feet: moisture, 4.6 to 7.5 per cent.; volatile matter, 17.5 to 19.6 per cent.; ash (reddish), 34.4 to 35.3 per cent.; fixed carbon, 38.5 to 42.6 per cent. (d) Eeb Bridge seam: moisture, 8 to 9 per cent.; volatile matter, 20.9 to 24.3 per cent.; ash (buff), 11.8 to 18.9 per cent.; fixed carbon, 52.2 to 54.9 per cent. A and b seams were not considered good enough quality to be workable; c, although of about the same quality, had a little better section, and was considered workable for local consumption, but for high temperatures, *e.g.*, smelting, etc., of small value; d is the best seam of this coalfield, of good steam quality, free burning, does not clinker, non-caking, possessing an average calorific value of 12.7, eminently suitable for locomotives or stationary boilers, and compares very favourably with Raniganj coals.

(*To be continued.*)

*The previous articles of this series appeared on July 1 and August 19.

The transit dues of the Suez Canal are to be lowered 25 centimes as from October 1. The dues will then be 8 francs 25 centimes per ton for vessels in cargo and 5 francs 75 centimes for vessels in ballast.

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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—The dominating factor in the market position is the shortage of supplies, and this week has seen a further sharp rise in practically all varieties. The crop yields generally appear to have been unsatisfactory. The Greek currant crop is reported to be small, while unfavourable advices are to hand regarding Smyrna sultanas. This of itself would inevitably react on prices, but there is, in addition, a further important factor to be taken into consideration, tending in the same direction, and that is the increased competition for dried fruit which is to be anticipated not only from Central Europe, but also from America. Altogether, it cannot be said that the outlook is in any way promising to consumers, and what has been happening this week probably reflects the likely course of events. Currants are up on the average about 3s. 6d., while there has been an increase in sultanas of from 9s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. Dates have advanced from 1s. to 5s. for various qualities, while figs are 1s. harder.

Sugar.—The position remains much the same. A quiet tone has characterised the free market. West Indian crystallised has been done at 110s. to 120s. Home refined continues in good demand at the official rates. Crop reports are better, except from Cuba, and the outlook as regards Continental beet sugar is said to be rather promising.

Coffee.—Business continues somewhat restricted, especially for export, and prices favour buyers. Costa Rica has been done at 160s., and Mocha at 170s. The futures market has improved. Quotations are: September, 70s. 3d.; December, 70s.; March, 68s. 9d.; and May, 69s. 6d.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been inactive, Indian being 9d. down at 38s., while La Plata has fractionally improved to 36s. Rapeseed is firm, Toria showing a rise of 9d. at 34s. 3d., while Brown Cawnpore is 6d. up at 31s. 6d. Yellow Cawnpore has been done at 32s. 6d., while real bold Ferozepore is 3d. up at 32s. 9d. Egyptian cottonseed is unchanged at 20s., but Indian is 9d. down at 14s.

Oilcakes.—The demand for certain descriptions has improved during the week. Linseed is in fair request, and at 21s. 3d. is 6d. up. Coconut cake is 1s. up at 14s., while an advance of 10s. is to be recorded as regards cottonseed cake. Arachis cake is now quoted at 15s., while palm nut kernel cake has come to business at 10s. 6d.

Seed Oils.—On the whole, the market has shown a firm tendency. Linseed at 80s. is 1s. 6d. down, while for September-December the quotation is now 76s. 6d. Crude rape oil has improved 3s. to 75s. Cotton oil is again harder, Egyptian crude being 77s., an advance of 4s., while the deodorised is 5s. up at 95s. Bombay crude has improved 4s. to 67s. Turpentine at 151s. is 4s. up.

## OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended August 14:—The sales this week on our market amount to 20 cases at 17s. 6d. to 21s. per lb. as to quality. The principal feature to be noted in our opium situation this week is that the arrivals from the interior have jumped up from 32 cases to 132, or a round number of 100 cases in a week's time. Should these important arrivals continue for a few weeks longer, we shall very soon replenish our stocks, and thus we hope to see an easier market.

## SUDAN PRODUCE.

### Gum.

The C.E.B. report for June states that the exports of gum during the month amounted to 14,934 kilos of bleached of the value of £E916, 843,579 kilos of hashab of the value of £E43,331, and 45,183 kilos of talh of the value of £E1,445, via Port Sudan, and 499 kilos of bleached of the value of £E31, via Halfa.

Kordofan Province.—7,215 kantars were sold in El-Obeid market during June. Arrivals from Nahud were 3,916 kantars.

Sennar Province.—93 tons of hashab gum and 100 tons of talh gum were exported by rail from Sennar, and 50 tons of hashab and 177 tons of talh gum were exported in June.

### Cotton.

Red Sea Province.—The exact amount of cotton bought during May was 38.137 kantars, total value £E189,899. The amount bought up to the end of May, 1920, is 142,373 kantars, total value £E872,176. The cotton season closed on June 21.

Kassala Province.—Considerable difficulty has been experienced in obtaining camels for the transport of the bales to Suakin; at the time of writing there are about 500 bales awaiting transport, but it is hoped to get them off in a few days' time. For the transport of the seed to Sassareib the Lhawin camels came fairly punctually, but the Sukria have been very backward; the early Gash flood and the rise on the Atbara have increased the difficulties in getting the seed away, but it is hoped to have the whole of the seed transported to Sassareib by the end of July or middle of August.

### Dura.

Blue Nile Province.—The dura price was again stable during the latter part of the month, remaining at 2,035 mims per ardeb of 300 rottles (135 kilos). The lowest price was 1,821 mims. The amount coming into Moradas increased slightly, viz., Medani 3,540 and Vassahissa 1,603 ardebs.

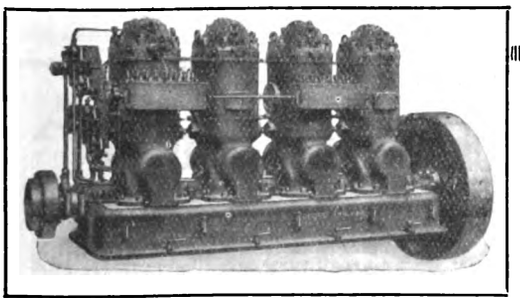
Berber Province.—Grain prices have not dropped yet, but it is expected that they will do so shortly. There has been a considerable fall in the price of certain commodities, both local and imported, and there is a generally optimistic tone among the people.

Dongola Province.—The dura is now coming up and looks well, and at present no reports of damage by pests have been received. The price of dura was 16 P.T. per kirat.

Nuba Mountains Province.—Some 200 ardebs of grain are being moved by Halafa bulls from Rashad Merkaz towards Rahad for the Army. The bulls engaged on this work are, however, in poor condition, and it is doubtful whether they can proceed further than El Butha and Tagale, in which places the dura is at present stored.

## PATRAS CURRANT CROP OUTLOOK.

While the Greek Government has fixed August 22 as the opening day for new-crop shipments, it does not seem probable that any important quantities of fruit can go forward on that date (says the United States Consul at Patras in a recent report). For the last four years the crop has been ready for shipment later and later each year. Lack of labour is probably the most important cause of this condition. It does not seem probable that labour conditions will be any better this year than in 1919, and it is thought no larger quantities of new-crop fruit can be prepared for shipment before September 15. The season has been very wet, and this has been a decided encouragement to the growth of peronospora, a most destructive fungus. The actual damage, so far, cannot be considered serious; but should present conditions continue throughout the next four weeks there would undoubtedly be a real danger that conditions such as existed in 1900 might repeat themselves, when fully two-thirds of the crop was destroyed by this pest.

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The Johnston Line s.s. Pomeron, for Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila, closes for cargo at Liverpool on September 22.

The Johnston Line s.s. Cranmore, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila, closes for cargo at Liverpool on October 2.

The Ellerman Lines s.s. City of Oxford, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria, will close for cargo in Liverpool on September 11.

The Moss Line s.s. Aberlour, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria (accepting goods for transhipment to Morocco, Cyprus, and Syrian Coast ports), will close for cargo at Liverpool on September 4.

The Prince Line s.s. Syrian Prince, for Tunis, Malta, Morocco, Cyprus, and Syrian Coast ports, will close for cargo at Manchester on September 2.

The Cunard Line s.s. Tyria, for Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina, will close for cargo at Liverpool on September 4.

The Anchor Line s.s. Olympia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Liverpool on September 4.

The Bibby Line s.s. Yorkshire, for Marsailles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on September 8.

The Henderson Line s.s. Bhamo, for Port Said and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on September 15.

The Harrison Line s.s. Magician for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Liverpool on September 4.

The Power Line s.s. Pangbourne, for Tangier, Larache, Rabat, and Saffi, will close for cargo in London on September 4.

The R.M.S.P. Co. will dispatch a steamer to Moroccan ports about mid-September.

### Notes.

The new Bibby Line motor ship, Dorsetshire, which is intended for the Eastern service, left the Mersey on August 27. This fine vessel, which has been built by Messrs. Harland and Wolff, Ltd., Belfast, is 450 ft. in length between perpendiculars, with a beam of 57 ft., and a carrying capacity of approximately 12,000 tons. She is built for carrying cargo but there is accommodation in six state-rooms for a dozen passengers. A remarkable feature of the ship is the small space occupied by the machinery, which is arranged slightly aft of midships. The total length of the engine-room, which includes two fresh water-tanks, is 64 ft. Seven engineers are carried, and ten greasers, in addition to two electricians. The fuel consumption of the Dorsetshire will be fourteen tons of oil per day of 24 hours, when sailing at full speed, and she will be able to take on sufficient oil in the East to return from Rangoon to London and back to Rangoon without the necessity of refuelling at any intermediate port. It is estimated that a motor ship on this run will save seven days on the round trip.

The trial trip took place, on August 19, of the s Chantala, built and engined by Messrs. Barclay, Curle, and Co., Ltd., Whiteinch, to the order of the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. The run was entirely satisfactory, a mean speed of fully 14 knots being obtained. This vessel, which is intended for the Persian Gulf trade, is 342 ft. long, 46 ft. broad, moulded, and 32 ft. 6 in. deep, moulded to the shade deck. This steamer has accommodation for twelve first-class and 24 second-class passengers, state-rooms being arranged on the upper and shade decks. She is also designed to carry about 2,000 native deck passengers in 'tween decks, airing spaces being provided for these passengers by side openings in shell at forward and after ends. The propelling machinery is of the triple expansion direct acting surface condensing type, driving a single propeller, the steam being supplied by four single-ended boilers. The owners were represented by Mr. P. W. Armour, secretary of the company, Capt. Hodginson, marine superintendent, and Mr. J. L. Leslie, supt. engineer.


# ANCHOR LINE

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**PASSENGER SAILING DATES—**
**CIRCASSIA ABOUT SEPT. 4.**
**OLYMPIA ABOUT SEPT. 14.**

**ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LTD.,**
**16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.**


## LANCASHIRE COTTON

### Irregular Market.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

We have experienced an irregular market during the past week, and after a further decline in raw cotton rates there has been a recovery. The feeling prevails in many quarters that after the drop in values the time is ripe for placing orders in yarn and cloth on a freer scale, and to-day there has been an increased inquiry. The industrial situation still causes anxiety, and political news is not by any means all that could be desired. Advices relating to the Egyptian crop have continued healthy, and prices have moved in sympathy with the changes in the American staple. Rather more inquiry is now being met with in Egyptian yarns, but prices continue very irregular. Stocks at certain mills are beginning to show themselves, and some producers are being forced to curtail production. In piece goods for Egypt, a rather better demand is now coming round. Occasional sales have been put through in grey and white shirtings and printing cloths. The other outlets of the Near East, however, have given very little support. Wires on a considerable scale have been received from India asking for prices with a fair number of offers and a rather more encouraging turnover has taken place, especially in light bleaching descriptions. The China market remains quiet. Only isolated lines have been booked for South America. Prices of cloth when tested have displayed much variation. More demand is now being experienced in home American yarns than a few days ago, and prices are steadier. Business has been about in bundles for India, chiefly in fine counts. Bids in coarse numbers for the Near East have not been quite so scarce as recently.

## NEW COMPANIES.

### Anglo-Italian Trading.

The Anglo-Italian Trading Company, Ltd., was registered on August 19 as a private company, with a capital of £100,000 in £5 shares. Objects:—To carry on at Constantinople and elsewhere the business of general merchants. First directors: M. W. M. Cuningham, 19, Nazli Han, Rue Voivoida, Galata, Constantinople; G. Algardi, 19, Nazli Han, Rue Voivoida, Galata, Constantinople; H. M. Stourton, Club de Constantinople, Rue Calriston, Pera, Constantinople. C/o Messrs. Middleton, Sanders and Co., Ltd., 70, New Oxford-street, W.

### E. Constantinidi.

E. Constantinidi and Co., Ltd., was registered on August 23 as a private company with a capital of £20,000 in £1 shares. Agreement with E. Constantinidi. Manufacturers of and dealers in tobacco, etc. Registered office, 16, Coleman Street, E.C.

## OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields—Gemsah—Production for week ended August 22, nil tons (last week two tons). Hurgada, 2.622 tons (last week 2,555 tons).

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97 7/16 |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 32·25-32·80 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 87-89 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/10⅜-1/10½ |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 153-158 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/10⅜-1/10½ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 409-429 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅔ | 3·54⅞-3·56⅛ |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 51-51·55 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 200-205 |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 30¼ |

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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

STAMBOUL, August 14.

There has been some commercial activity as the result of purchases for Roumania and the Marmora coast. But these purchases have only had a small effect on the market, which is far from recovering its normal activity. Prices of manufactures are a little firmer.

Sugar.—Numerous offers from centres of production for consignments afloat have not affected the market, which maintains its previous tone. Disposable is quoted £121-£122 per ton, afloat £108-£109 per ton, and in customs £T63 per 100 kilos.

Coffee.—No change is to be reported, despite the improvement at Marseilles. Rio is quoted Ps. 48.51 the oke, and Santos Ps. 52-55,

Petrol.—Large stocks exist here, and the lack of outlets in Anatolia has caused a marked fall in prices. Baku is sold at Ps. 530 per two bidons.

Sardines.—The large quantities sent here in consignment have depressed prices.

There is complete stagnation as regards exports. Opium, arrivals, 6 cases; Balikessar, no sales. Nominal prices £T10-£T10.20 Druggist, £T10.40-£T10.60 Maltia, £T11 Zillé, Tokat.

Mohair.—Arrivals 280 bales. Sales 160 bales Angora. Prices per oke: Extra Ps. 110, I. 100, II. 90.

Wool.—No arrivals and no sales. The market is weak.

PANDERMA.

The report for July states: The month saw the occupation of Panderma by the Greek troops. There has been no commercial activity.

The crop results, as our forecasts indicated, are very satisfactory. But arrivals, owing to the prohibition of exports, are appearing very slowly in our market. Disposable stocks of cereals amount to 40,000 kilos of wheat, valued at Ps. 11 per kilo.

Imports remain in the same stagnant condition, and the country is suffering, for there is a great need of many commodities.

HAIFA.

The report for June states: There has been a little business in the new crops of wheat, barley, and lentils. The harvest not being over the arrivals are not abundant.

The export of wheat from Hauran, in transit for Haifa, being authorised a rapid movement to Beyrout is to be noted.


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**Paid-up - £5,000,000**

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| VISCOUNT GOSCHEN. | CHARLES DE CERJAT. |
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The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

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

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.


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## TENDERS INVITED.

**Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—**

### Egypt.

(*The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked* (L) *are to be obtained.*)

Motor Launch.—The Inspector-General of Irrigation, Upper Egypt, invites tenders for the supply of a motor launch for 4th Circle of Irrigation. September 18. (L.)

Sewage Main.—The Chief Engineer, Main Drainage Dept., Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and laying of a 12-in. cast-iron sealed sewage main. September 21. (L.)

Air Compressing Plant.—The Chief Engineer, Main Drainage Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of an air compressing plant at Mansûra, consisting of two crude oil engines, driving two single-stage air compressors, complete with auxiliary machinery, water cooling plant, a travelling crane, machine tools, air mains, electric wiring, etc. October 1.

Pumping Machinery.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of pumping machinery for a pumping station at Tawila, in the Province of Gharbicha. October 15 (L.)

Dynamo and Switchboard.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 2 kw. dynamo and switchboard for Kombera Pumping Station. September 15 (L).

Paper, etc.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper and office requisites, including paper (writing, typewriting, oiled copying, tissue, drawing, sectional, tracing, etc.); cloth-lined envelopes and buff envelopes; note blocks, blotters, waste paper wicker baskets, copying books, card index cabinets, vertical files, tracing cloth, ink pots, inks of all kinds, tie-on labels, note books, numbering machines (triplicate, six figures), stamping ink pads, penholders (wood), pen nibs, paper weights, shapirograph apparatus, copying presses, typewriters (European script), and copyholders for typists, etc. Tenders will be received up to noon on September 9, and should be addressed to the Director, Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo. A copy of the specification, etc., together with a list of articles required, may be consulted at the Department of Overseas Trade.

Cotton Handkerchiefs, Cloth Clothing.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for—(1) Cotton handkerchiefs; tenders due September 1, and to remain open seven days. (2) Cloth clothing; tenders returnable by September 8. (L.)

### India.

Iron Pipes, etc.—The Madras Corporation invites tenders for the supply and delivery of about 220 tons of cast-iron spigot and socket pipes, with special castings, sluice valves, etc. (Specification, 5s., Messrs. James Mansergh and Sons, 5, Victoria Street, S.W.1.). Tenders will be received until September 8.

A firm of paint manufacturers is establishing a new factory at Bombay, for which a complete plant will be required. The firm also requires locks, decorative corners, hasps, handles, etc., for steel travelling trunks and kindred goods of various sizes and designs. Firms interested should write enclosing catalogues and full particulars, prices, possible dates of delivery, etc., to the company, whose name and address can be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade.

### Algeria.

H.M. Consul-General at Algiers reports that a local trader desires to receive quotations from United Kingdom firms for the supply of iron or soft steel hoops for barrel-making. It is understood that the applicant is prepared to pay cash for the material. Firms in a position to offer supplies of the material in question can obtain the name of the inquirer, specifications, etc., from the Department of Overseas Trade.

## ON 'CHANGE.

### Business More Restricted.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

Business has been even on a more restricted basis during the past week than it was in the previous one, and prices have been on the dull side.

Among Government stocks Egyptian Unified has dropped half a point to 67, and the 3½ per cent. Pref. stock has again shed another quarter at 55¼. Greek securities, although not at the best, are a steady market; but a little stock has come in here and there, and prices have consequently been rather inclined to sag. The 1881, 1884 and 1890 Loans have each shed a point to 55, and the 1902 Loan has also lost half a point to 47½. The 5 per cent. Greek "Currant" bonds are in request at 90.

Among Banks shares National Banks of Egypt have declared an interim dividend of 8s. per share, but are ⅛ lower at 19¼. Agricultural Bank shares have changed hands once or twice at 4 7-16, at which price they close.

In Land descriptions New Egyptians are again easier at 36s. 6d., and Aboukir have also shed 6d. to 36s. 6d., Béhéras have lost 1¼, they are in request at 15¾ with a small seller at 16¼. Delta Lands have changed hands several times at 15s., at which price there are still buyers. Sudan Plantations have dropped to 4¾, and Union Foncière, although there are not many sellers about, have also declined to 5, at which price they are in request.

In the Miscellaneous Group Alexandria Water have been done at 5⅞, a drop of 1½, Egyptian Hotels at 2, and Salt and Soda at 47s. 3d. and 47s., closing at the lower price. There has been some demand for Morums Oriental Stores, which in consequence have appreciated 9d. to 18s. 9d.

Among Oil shares Anglo-Egyptian B have been a weak market, falling ⅛ to 2 11-16, but Roumanian Consolidated are 6d. better at 21s. 6d.

## AUSTRO-ROUMANIAN COMMERCIAL TREATY.

Reuter's Agency learns that Austria and Roumania have concluded a commercial treaty which will temporarily be in force for one year. Neither of the contracting parties being at present in a position to renounce entirely its right to peace embargoes upon imports and exports, the treaty stipulates in what cases and up to what amounts exports must be permitted. Thus Roumania undertakes to permit the export to Austria of 120,000 tons of maize, 150,000 tons of barley, 20,000 pigs, 20,000,000 eggs, 46,000 tons of benzine, 72,000 tons of petroleum, etc. Austria will permit the export to Roumania of iron and metal goods, vehicles, electrical supplies, woven goods, hosiery, leather goods, paper, chemical produce, musical instruments, etc. By a special agreement Austria undertakes the repair of 500 Roumanian locomotives. Traders must not be dictated to by their respective Governments in what currency to pay. Each country will treat the subjects and the trade of the other no worse than the subjects and the trade of any third Power.

Madras Railway Annuities.—Registration books will be closed from September 6 to 30, inclusive.

The Loire-Maroc Company is instituting a cargo steamer service between Nantes and Casablanca.

A rich iron ore deposit has been discovered in Morocco near Oum-er-Riba and the Oued-El-Abid waterfall.

The output of the Kenedsa coal mines in Algeria, the exploitation of which was begun two years ago, now amounts to 100 tons a day.


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(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.)
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# "NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

| LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE. | Price Aug. 23. | Price Aug. 30. |
|---|---|---|
| **GOVERNMENT STOCKS.** | | |
| Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892 | 37 | 37 |
| Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907 | 51⅛ | 51⅛ |
| Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909 | 28⅜ | 27⅞ |
| City of Alexandria 4%, 1909 | 60 | 60 |
| Egyptian 4% Unified Debt | 67⅛ | 67 |
| Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890 | 55⅜ | 55½ |
| Greek 5%, 1881 | 56 | 55 |
| Do. 5%, 1884 | 56 | 55 |
| Do. 4%, 1887 | 45 | 45 |
| Do. 4% Rentes, 1889 | 44 | 44 |
| Do. 5% 1890 | 56 | 55 |
| Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893 | 56 | 56 |
| Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902 | 48 | 47½ |
| Do. 4% Loan, 1910 | 41½ | 41⅜ |
| Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) | 56⅜ | 56⅜ |
| Do. 5% Currant | 89 | 90 |
| Montenegro 5% Loan | 68⅛ | 68⅜ |
| Persia 5% 1911 | 64 | 64 |
| Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913 | 38 | 38 |
| Serbian 4% Unified Bonds | — | — |
| Turkish 4% 1891 | 63⅛ | 63⅛ |
| Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894 | 57 | 57 |
| Do. 4% Unified | 34⅛ | 34⅛ |
| **BANKS.** | | |
| Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) | 4 15/32 | 4 7/16 |
| Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) | 5⅜ | 5⅜ |
| Do. 3½ Bonds Red. | 61 | 61 |
| Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red. | 63 | 63 |
| Bank of Abyssinia | 1⅛ | 1⅛ |
| Bank of Athens | 4 | 4 |
| Bank of British West Africa | 6 13/32 | 6⅜ |
| Bank of Roumania | 5⅜ | 5⅜ |
| British Trade Corporation | 8½ | 9⅛ |
| Imperial Ottoman Bank | 9⅛ | 9⅛ |
| Imperial Bank of Persia | 7 29/32 | 8⅛ |
| Ionian Bank, Limited | 5 | 5 |
| Land Bank of Egypt Ord. | 5 | 5 |
| London County and Westminster | 13 25/32 | 13⅛ |
| National Bank of Egypt | 19 25/32 | 19¼ |
| **RAILWAYS.** | | |
| Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer | 5 25/32 | 5 25/32 |
| Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord. | 9 25/32 | 9 25/32 |
| Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref. | 10 | 10 |
| Do. Do. 4% Debs. | 43 | 43 |
| Do Do 5% 2nd Debs. | 44 | 44 |
| Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry. | 27 | 27 |
| Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½% | 55 | 55 |
| Do. Do. 3% Bonds | 40 | 40 |
| **LAND.** | | |
| Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) | 37/- | 36/6 |
| Do. 6% Debs | 135 | 135 |
| Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt | 13/- | 13/- |
| Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment | 75/- | 75/- |
| Béhéra Co. | 17½ | 16 |
| Do. Pref. | 3⅜ | 3⅜ |
| Building Lands of Egypt | 1½ | 1½ |
| Egyptian Consol 5/- | 2/7½ | 2/7½ |
| Egyptian Delta Land and Invest. | 15/4½ | 15/- |
| Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs. | 80 | 80 |
| Do. Land and General Trust | 1/6 | 1/6 |
| Do. and Foreign Trust | 13/3 | 13/3 |
| Ghabieh Land Co. | 3⅜ | 3½ |
| Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt | 26/- | 26/- |
| Do. 4½% Debs. Red. | 84⅜ | 84½ |
| Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red | 61⅜ | 61⅜ |
| Mortgage Co. of Egypt | 6⅜ | 6⅜ |
| Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red. | 74⅜ | 74⅜ |
| New Egyptian Co. | 37/- | 36/6 |
| Sidi Salem Co. | 2⅛ | 2⅛ |
| Sudan Plantations | 4 15/16 | 4⅞ |
| Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. | 5⅛ | 5 |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | |
| Abyssinian Corp. | 7 7/16 | 7 7/16 |
| Alexandria Water Co. | 7⅜ | 5¼ |
| Associated Cotton Ginners | 25/- | 25/- |
| Egyptian Hotels | 2¼ | 2 |
| Do. Markets Ord. | 1 1/16 | 1 1/16 |
| Do. do 5% Debs. Red. | 86⅛ | 86⅛ |
| Do. Salt and Soda Bearer | 2 1/16 | 47/- |
| Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs. | 92 | 92 |
| Khedivial Mail Ord. | 5 1/16 | 5 1/16 |
| Do. Do. Prefs. | 3¼ | 3¼ |
| Levant Co. (fully paid) | 16/1⅛ | 16/1⅛ |
| Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref | 18/- | 18/9 |
| Suez Canal | — | — |
| **Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.** | | |
| Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series | 99 | 101 |
| Chinese 4½% 1898 | 54 | 55 |
| Do. 5% 1896 | 69 | 68 |
| Argentine 5% 1890 | 76¾ | 77⅜ |
| Do. 5% 1907 | 80 | 80 |
| **OIL.** | | |
| Algerian | 2/10 | 3/- |
| Anglo-Bulgarian | 5/1⅛ | 5/- |
| Anglo-Egyptian B | 2 1/32 | 2 1/16 |
| Anglo-Persian Pref. | 21/- | 21/3 |
| Do. 5% Debs. | 78⅜ | 78⅜ |
| Anglo-Roumanian | 5/3 | 5/3 |
| Cyprus Oil Trust | 3/- | 3/3 |
| Maisel's Petroleum Trust | 10/7½ | 7/6 |
| Roumanian | 21/- | 21/6 |
| Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs. | 100 | 100 |
| Suez | 3/9 | 4/- |

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HOTEL CONTINENTAL,
HOTEL SPLENDID PALACE
owned by the KENDA COMPANY, Ltd.

# "NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES
*(Continued.)*

| BRUSSELS BOURSE. | Price Aug. 19. | Price Aug. 27. |
|---|---|---|
| Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs. | 412·50 | 412·50 |
| Do. do. Priv. | 590 | 640 |
| Do. do. Cap. | 470 | 505 |
| Do. do. Div. | 375 | 412·50 |
| Anglo-Belgian Co. | 37·50 | 42·25 |
| Cairo Electric Railways Cap. | 215·25 | 225 |
| Do. do. Div. | 302·50 | 307 |
| Caisse Hypothécaire Act | 477·50 | 477·50 |
| Do. do. (10 eme p.b.) | 70·25 | 72·125 |
| Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½% Debs. | 362·50 | 362·50 |
| Do. do. Priv. | 475 | 467·50 |
| Do. do. Div. | 175·50 | 172·50 |
| Compagnie Immobiliére Deb. | 399·50 | 399·50 |
| Do. do. Cap. | 150 | 157·50 |
| Do. do. Fond. | 200 | 230 |
| Enterprise and Development Cap. | 243·75 | 242·50 |
| Do. do. Div. | 111·25 | 117·50 |
| Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte) Priv. | — | — |
| Do. do. Ord. | 395 | 395 |
| Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap. | 189 | 170 |
| Do. do. Div. | 110 | 110 |
| Salonika-Constantinople Railway | 248 | 248 |
| Salonika-Monastir Railway | 250 | 262·50 |
| Smyrna-Cassaba Railway 4%, 1894 | 285 | 165 |
| Do. do. 4%, 1895 | 260 | 165 |
| Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv. | 115 | 115 |
| Do. do. Div. | 150 | 150 |
| Tramways du Caire Priv. | 442·50 | 443 |
| Do. do. Jouiss | 605 | 602·50 |
| Travaux Publics du Caire Priv. | 230 | 230 |
| Do. do. Ord. | — | — |
| Do. do. Div. | 25 | 34·50 |

# INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

**INDIAN FUNDS.**

| Interest Due. | Name. | Aug. 23. | Aug. 30. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc. | India 3½% Stock,* 1931 | 52⅜ | 52 |
| Various dates. | Do. Rupee Paper 3½% | 54 | 54 |
| | * Redeemable. | | |
| **CORPORATION STOCKS.** | | | |
| Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959 | | 79 | 79 |
| Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40 | | 63 | 62 |
| Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938 | | 66 | 66 |
| **BANKS.** | | | |
| Chartered of India | | 75 | 76 |
| Eastern | | 7 5/8 | 7 5/8 |
| Mercantile of India A. | | 29⅛ | 28⅝ |
| National of India | | 53 | 53¼ |
| **MINES.** | | | |
| Balaghat Gold Mining | | 13/32 | 13/32 |
| Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref. | | 13/9 | 13/9 |
| Burma Corp. | | 10⅜ | 10⅜ |
| Burma Ruby Mines Ord. | | 6/3 | 6/3 |
| Champion Reef Gold | | 2/6 | 2/6 |
| Mysore Gold Mining | | 7/32 | 5/32 |
| Nundydroog | | 1 9/16 | 1 |
| Ooregum Gold Mining Ord. | | 14/- | 13/9 |
| Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf. | | 19/- | 20/- |
| Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.) | | 12/6 | 12/6 |
| **OIL.** | | | |
| Assam Oil | | 30/- | 30/- |
| Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref. | | 27/6 | 27/6 |
| Brit. Burmah | | 1 3/32d | 1⅜ |
| Burmah Oil Co. Ord. | | 8 5/16 | 8¼ |
| Do. 6% Cum. Pref. | | 18/- | 18/- |
| Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref. | | 8⅞ | 8⅞ |
| **RAILWAYS.** | | | |
| Assam Bengal | | 50 | 50 |
| Bengal and N.-Western Ord. | | 114/- | 115½ |
| Do 3½% Cum. Pref. | | 48½ | 48½ |
| Bengal-Nagpur | | 100½ | 99½ |
| Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India | | 96 | 95½ |
| Burma Railways | | 101 | 101¼ |
| Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb. | | — | — |
| E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953 | | 11¼ | 11¼ |
| East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957 | | 11 1/16 | 11 1/16 |
| Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948 | | 10¼ | 10¼ |
| Madras and S. Mahratta | | 97½ | 95 |
| Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord. | | 121 | 121 |
| Nizam's Guaranteed State | | 64 | 57½ |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | | |
| Bengal Iron Ord. | | 57/6 | 56/9 |
| Do. 7½% Cum. Pref. | | 19/1½ | 19/3 |
| P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P. | | 75½ | 75 |
| Do. Deferred | | 403 | 407 |
| **TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.** | | | |
| Assam Co. | | 55⅜ | 56½ |
| Bengal United Tea Ord. | | 15⅜ | 15⅝ |
| British Indian Tea Ord. | | 6 | 6 |
| Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord. | | 15 | 15 |
| Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord. | | 9/- | 9/- |
| Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. | | 52/6 | 52/6 |
| Consolidated Estates | | 38/- | 38/- |
| Darjeeling Co. | | 17/6 | 17/6 |
| Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. | | 35/- | 35/- |
| Dooars Tea Ord. | | 38/- | 38/- |
| Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. | | 16/3 | 17/- |
| Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est. | | 30/7½ | 30/7½ |
| Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber | | 28/6 | 28/- |
| Hewagam Rubber Co. | | 21/ | 21/- |
| Jhanzie Tea Association | | 8⅜ | 8⅜ |
| Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. | | 14⅜ | 14⅜ |
| Kepitigalla Rubber Estates | | 14/10½ | 14/4½ |
| Lanka Plantations Ord. | | 21/6 | 22/7½ |
| Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord. | | 17/7½ | 17/7½ |
| Malayalam Rub. and Produce | | 35/9 | 34/4½ |
| Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. | | 12¼ | 12¼ |
| P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates | | 33/1½ | 53/- |

# STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

| | July 23. Rs. | July 30. Rs. |
|---|---|---|
| **GOVERNMENT LOANS.** | | |
| 3½% Government Paper | 59 | 59½ |
| 4% Government Paper, 1916-17 | 74 | 74 |
| **BANKS.** | | |
| Alliance Bank of Simla | 300 | 300 |
| Bank of Bengal | 1705 | 1695ex |
| Bank of Bombay | 2225ex | 2115ex |
| Bank of Madras | 1590 | 1590 |
| Bank of India | 152 | 145 |
| Tata Industrial Bank | 41¾ | 44½ |
| **COAL.** | | |
| Baraboni | 14¾ | 14¾ |
| Bengal | 775 | 770 |
| Burrakur | 51¾ | 51½ |
| East Indian | 38¾ | 38ex |
| Equitable | 49¼ | 49½ |
| Pench Valley | 330ex | 330ex |
| Raneegunge | 68 | 67¾ |
| Standard | 83½ | 85 |
| **COTTON.** | | |
| Bengal Nagpur | 600 | 625½ |
| Bombay Dyeing, etc. | 3650 | 3675 |
| Bowreah | 1578 | 1570 |
| Buckingham | 2600 | 2600 |
| Carnatic | 1100 | 1100 |
| Century | 1202 | 1267 |
| Central India | 5325 / 2662½ | 5395 / 2697½ |
| Elgin | 265 | 265 |
| Gold Mohur | 400 / 200 | 400 / 200 |
| Khatau Makanji | 740 | 740 |
| Muir | 388 | 388 |
| New Ring | 1320 | 1281 |
| Phœnix | 1100 | 1100 |
| Svadeshi | 5430 | 5500 |
| **JUTE.** | | |
| Alliance | 805 | 842½ |
| Barnagore | 175 | 179 |
| Budge Budge | 645 | 689 |
| Clive | 318 | 344 |
| Dalhousie | 583 | 621 |
| Delta | 686 | 714 |
| Fort Gloster | 1110 | 1131 |
| Gourepore | 1280 | 1325 |
| Howrah | 54½ | 55 |
| Kamarhatty | 1129 | 1139 |
| Kanknarrah | 848 | 860 |
| Khardah | 688 | 710 |
| Kinnison | 1270 | 1430 |
| National | 410 | 460 |
| Standard | 770 | 805 |
| Union | 970 | 1035 |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | |
| Bengal Paper Mills | 140 | 141½ |
| Bengal Timber Trading | 480 | 480 |
| British Indian Corp. Ord. | 13⅜ | 13¼ |
| British Indian Corp. Def. | 21¼ | 22⅜ |
| Burn and Co. | 300 | 300 |
| Carew and Co. | 109 | 121 |
| Cawnpore Sugar | 46⅜ | 46⅜ |
| Champaran Sugar | 40 | 43¼ |
| Howrah Oil Mills | 35½ | 34¼ |
| India General Steam | 135 | 137 |
| Indian Iron and Steel | 140 / 88 | 140 / 85 |
| Marshall Sons and Co. | 12 | 11½ |
| Titaghur Paper | 530 | 512 |

# ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

PRICES ON AUGUST 6.

| | |
|---|---|
| Agricultural Bank of Egypt | £4½ |
| " " " Fond. | £370 |
| Alexandria Water Co., Ltd. | £7½ |
| Anglo-American Nile Steam | £4⅜ |
| Assoc. Cotton Ginners | £1⅜ |
| Banque d'Orient | Fr. 97 |
| Béhéra Ord. | L.E. 16 |
| " Priv. | £3 |
| Bonded Stores | £14 |
| Brasseries d'Egypte Priv. | Fr. 22 |
| Building Lands of Egypt | £⅜ |
| Cairo Heliopolis Railway | £11 |
| Cassa di Sconto | Fr. 87 |
| " " Priv. | Fr. 10 |
| Ciments d'Egypte Priv. | Fr. 58 |
| " " Div. | Fr. 30 |
| Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte | £1 |
| Consolidated Land | P.T. 13 |
| Crédit Foncier Egyptien | Fr. 60 |
| " Fondateur | 790 |
| " 1886 Oblig. | 388 |
| " 1903 " | 267 |
| " 1911 " | 269 |
| Crown Brewery Priv. | Fr. 240 |
| " " Div. | Fr. 227 |
| Eaux du Caire Capital | Fr. 83 |
| " " Jouissance | Fr. 114 |
| Egypt and Levant S.S. Ord. | 31 |
| Egyptian Delta Light Railways | £5 |
| Filature Nationale d'Egypte | £18 |
| Frig. orifique d'Egypte | L.E. 2 |
| Gabbari Lands | L.E. |
| Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. | £6 |
| Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv. | £2 |
| " " Ord. | 109 |
| Kom Ombo Ste. Ane. de Wadi | £8 |
| " " Fondateur | £7 |
| Land Bank of Egypt Actions | £5 |
| " " Parts de Fond. | £4 |
| Lots Turcs | Fr. 7 |
| Menzaleh Canal Navigation | P.T. 34 |
| Nungovich Hotels | 8 |
| Ramleh Railway | 3 |
| Salt and Soda | 51 |
| Tram d'Alexandrie Priv. | Fr. 62 |
| " " Div. | Fr. 70 |
| Union Foncière d'Egypte | £5 |
| Upper Egypt Hotels | £1 |
| Urbaines and Rurales | 8 |

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 488.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

In an article published elsewhere in this issue Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah puts forward the suggestion that a solution for the troubles of Mesopotamia may be found in the appointment of Ali Haidar as ruler. The proposal recalls the view expressed in these columns last week that one of the most effective ways of ensuring the maintenance of peace after the present trouble has been settled would be to obtain the co-operation of a ruler whose claims to overlordship have a good chance of being widely accepted in the Arab world. Whether Ali Haidar possesses the necessary qualifications remains to be seen; but the writer's statement of his claims will be read with interest. It must be pointed out, however, that the British Government is not called upon to appoint the ruler of Mesopotamia or to suggest claimants for the post. That is the task with which the Arab world is confronted, but it is well that the names of possible rulers should be brought before the people, especially from Mohammedan quarters. A unanimous choice is not to be anticipated. The candidate who could secure a substantial following in the towns ought, if he fulfilled the necessary conditions in regard to lineage and religious orthodoxy, to have little difficulty in winning the allegiance of the less settled population.

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The enlargement of the borders of the Lebanon and its recognition as a State was proclaimed by General Gourard at Beyrout on September 1. The frontiers are to be:—North, the Dahr el-Chodib; South, the frontier of Palestine; East, the coast; and West, the heights of Anti-Lebanon. The national flag is to be the French tricolour with a cedar tree superimposed on the white ground; and the capital will be Beyrout. Made at the latter place, the announcement was naturally received with enthusiasm by a great crowd of Lebanese. What degree of independence the new State is to enjoy is not clear from the very brief telegrams reporting the event; nor is any mention made regarding the fate of those members of the Lebanese Mejliss who were arrested, apparently, for desiring "the complete and absolute independence of Lebanon."

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Signor D'Annunzio has been spending some of his superabundant energy in drawing up a Constitution for a new State to be called the Italian Regency of the Quarnero, which, it is announced, "has been constituted for the town of Fiume and for the islands which belong to Venice by the tradition of centuries." At the same time it was announced by the Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* that the Italian Cabinet had decided to place no obstacle in the way of any decision by Fiume regarding its independence. Whether the appearance of the two announcements on the same day is to be attributed to anything more than coincidence we need not, perhaps, inquire. It is safe to say that no settlement of the Adriatic question as a whole can be regarded as likely to last unless it be approved by Italy's Allies. Therefore, while D'Annunzio's essay at constitution-drafting may be regarded with interest, and even as a quite creditable attempt of its kind, the Regency of the Quarnero must be considered a somewhat delicate infant, whose chances of life are entirely dependent upon whether Nurse Europa will make herself responsible for its upbringing.

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Although, as already reported, the Bolshevists repulsed the Persian Cossacks' attempt to seize Enzeli, and drove them back in some confusion upon Resht, they either could not or would not follow up their success. Reports are somewhat conflicting, and by no means clear, but it seems that both sides are leaving Resht alone just now, and that the Bolshevists have even withdrawn from Enzeli also. It is not to be expected that they will be content to leave things in a condition which from their point of view is most unsatisfactory, and sooner or later they are almost sure to endeavour to recover the ground they have just lost; but at present their hands are so full that this particular region may be left free from their obnoxious presence for a while. If so, it is to be hoped that the Persian Government will be able to turn the breathing-space to good account.

---

In Turkestan Bolshevism is losing ground in a way that is causing the Moscow *Pravda* much uneasiness, and, according to a Stockholm report, the middle classes have seized the power and are successfully countering the Bolshevist propaganda. As a result the Commissary Peters, of Sidney Street notoriety, has been despatched to the district with instructions to bring it back into the "Red" fold. What methods he will use can only be conjectured, but Turkestan is not the City of London, and it is possible that the fate he so richly deserves will overtake him ere long. Unfortunately in Bokhara the Bolshevists have been able to bring off a *coup d'état*. They are reported to have seized the reins of government under the cloak of a "Young Bokharan Party," and Bokhara has been proclaimed a Soviet republic. It



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is hoped, however, that their successes will be short-lived; for the Bokharan Army, which was in process of mobilisation when the *coup* took place, is said to be able to deal with the Young Bokharans if they are not actively supported by Bolshevist troops. Whether the hope will be justified remains to be seen; but, unless the mobilisation was very near completion, it would seem unwise to build much upon it.

---

Mustapha Kemal has thus far failed conspicuously to execute any of his terrible threats against the Allies, but that fact in no wise deters him from indulging in further rodomontade. He has lately been telling his followers that Bolshevism, "that force which is so worthy of respect," and "unconquered Germany," are ready to help them, and suggesting that a kind of new Triple Alliance has come into being. The chief point of interest about this arrangement is that Mustapha Kemal has undertaken that should the Soviet Government be compelled to evacuate Persia temporarily, he will replace the Russian troops by Turkish and Persian soldiers. The present time would seem to be not entirely unsuited to testing his ability to fulfil this engagement.

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Another plot to murder the Grand Vizier has been discovered, and a Nationalist who had travelled from Anatolia to Constantinople with the intention of assassinating Damad Ferid Pasha has been arrested, after a stiff resistance, which cost the life of a Turkish policeman. What purpose the Kemalists can hope to serve by such methods it is hard to imagine. If they should succeed in removing the Grand Vizier they would be no nearer to securing control of the government, and they would, if possible, have still further alienated the sympathy of the world from themselves. It is reported that their opponents have borrowed a leaf from their book, and that an attempt has been made on the life of Mustapha Kemal himself at Tokat. The assassin was captured and, after trial, executed.

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As announced in another column, M. Stambolisky, Prime Minister of Bulgaria, will pay a visit to Great Britain in October. As a guest of the British Government, he will be welcomed both on his own account and in recognition of the studiously correct attitude that Bulgaria has maintained under his guidance. M. Stambolisky's record during the war is sufficiently well known to prevent the least suspicion as to the sincerity of his present attitude towards the Allies. He opposed Bulgaria's entry into the war on the side of the Central Powers, and he suffered imprisonment for his uncompromising hostility to King Ferdinand's policy. He is now equally determined that, as far as he can provide for it, Bulgaria shall make the best of her misfortunes and by disciplining herself to a hard course of work achieve her salvation on peaceful lines.

---

M. Stambolisky's visit to Great Britain and France, it may be taken for granted, has nothing to do with any question of Treaty revision. Its main purpose, unless we are mistaken, is educational. The Bulgarian Prime Minister has already experienced the difficulties of administration under existing conditions, and knows that they cannot be overcome solely by personal shrewdness, of however high an order. All the Balkan States are confronted with similar problems, they have to raise the maximum revenue without penalising future sources of income, and they have to encourage foreign interest in their country without sacrificing either independence or self-respect. The different Governments appear to have made mistakes in coping with these two problems, but it has proved easier for the Bulgarian than for any other to admit the possibility of error, and to try to meet legitimate objections. During his tour, M. Stambolisky will learn how the problems with which Bulgaria is faced are met in other countries, and for this reason it is to be hoped that he will meet not only the British Prime Minister, but also other Ministers and experts in various spheres.

If any evidence were needed of the risk of such incendiary agitations as have been recently conducted in India, it could be found in two items of news published last week, one coming from the always dangerous north-west frontier, the other from a remote corner of the peaceful province of Oudh. The Khalifate agitators have so far failed to set India ablaze, but the sparks so lavishly scattered have not in all cases been without result, and it is unfortunately impossible to conclude that the incidents already reported complete the tale. The Hazara district, where a definitely anti-British movement has broken out, lies between Kashmir and the ill-omened Black Mountain country along the Indus; it has not been concerned in the recent frontier operations, the seat of which lies far to the south and west, and the disturbances thus represent an addition to the various sources of anxiety with which the Indian Government has to reckon. The prospects here cannot be estimated with any approach to precision, but the movement is undoubtedly significant.

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Even more significant is the atrocious murder of Mr. Douglas Willoughby, the Deputy-Commissioner of the Kheri district, a rural backwater with no politics of its own and little interest in the politics of India. The evidence already published shows that even in such soil incendiary preaching has produced deplorable results; the population, pre-eminently Hindu, has not been affected as a whole, but individual Moslems have been incited to the traditional exploits of fanaticism, and this unprovoked murder is the immediate consequence. Relations between rulers and ruled have for long been so cordial in this part of the country that the idea of precautionary measures would have been scouted if it had ever been suggested. Englishmen move freely among the people, assured of a welcome, and we do not doubt that the crime is viewed with horror throughout the length and breadth of Oudh. The fact that it has been committed is some measure of the responsibility incurred by the men who have set this agitation on foot.

---

The official statement explaining the Indian Auxiliary Forces Bill indicates a certain change of front on the question of compulsory service. In the House of Commons last May Mr. Montagu stated that he had held up the Government of India's proposals because he was opposed to compulsion in time of peace. Now we read that compulsion has not been provided for in the Bill, in view of the expressed opinions of the Imperial Government with regard to the general question of conscription throughout the world. There is a substantial difference here, but of greater practical importance is the further statement that adequacy of numbers will decide the question in the long run, and that if this consideration demands the adoption of a system of universal training, the matter will be one for determination by the Indian Legislature. The logic of this last sentence strikes one as defective, for if compulsion is proved to be necessary, there is surely not much left to determine, but the intention is obvious enough, and Europeans must either volunteer in sufficient numbers or face the prospect of being compelled to serve.

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The death of Sir Charles Lyall is a serious loss to Oriental scholarship. Officially he was known for his exceptional abilities in what is spoken of in India as secretariat work, and his presence at headquarters, first at Simla and subsequently in Whitehall, was almost taken for granted; but his most permanent achievements were in the field of Arabic learning, too advanced perhaps for general appreciation, but known to a small band of scholars as always worthy of respect and very often as definitive. His death will be greatly felt by the Royal Asiatic Society, of which he was a vice-president, and, following so quickly on the losses of Dr. Vincent Smith and Mr. James Kennedy, comes as yet another reminder that the old guard of Anglo-Indian scholars must be steadily reinforced.

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# THE WEEK AT HOME.

**Strikes and Lock-Outs.**

The industrial troubles, long predicted for the autumn, are now clearly upon us. The miners have finished their voting, and a strike is to be declared in the last week of September. A squabble over a foreman in Sheffield has produced a lock-out in the electrical trades. A printers' dispute at Manchester, which is involved in hopeless obscurity because the men struck without authority and the union is taking disciplinary action, threatens to lead to an impasse in that trade that will involve the whole of England, bar London. And there are difficulties in many other trades of less importance.

Each side, of course, is campaigning against the other; but the battle is not, of course, always to the stronger propagandist, and the arguments, although ingenious, are not always convincing. The *Daily Herald*, for example, states that the employer—who in those pages bears a suspicious resemblance to Milton's Satan—has created an artificial depression of trade to enslave the working class. I have known a good many employers, small and great, clever and stupid, but none of them has been such a fool as that; and even if they tried, I doubt if they could create an artificial depression. People either will buy or they won't buy, and the employer is as helpless as the workman if they won't buy, which is the case at present, because we are all hard up.

On the other hand, an employer's manifesto, published last week, struck me as one of the most futile things I had ever read. It is no use mincing words about this matter. The pronouncement drew a dreadful picture of Bolshevism. Now the ordinary British workman is not a Bolshevist, or anything remotely resembling it; he is quite extraordinarily the same type of man as his employer. But because his employer has been frightened about Bolshevism, the employee finds it very useful to pretend to believe in Bolshevism. In the second place, the employer's manifesto discussed the export of coal to starving Europe in humanitarian terms. But the British workman does not spend sleepless nights because of supperless Yugoslavs. He is thinking of his own interests, which is very wrong of him. And his employer is doing the same.

Most of this propaganda, then, may be disregarded; it does not touch the real issues. The employer is determined to refuse higher wages, because he has reached a point at which he finds it increasingly difficult to sell his goods; and, after all, an employer's real business in life is to sell goods, not to employ labour. The employee is determined to get higher wages, partly because prices go up, and partly because he thinks he can get higher wages. When that is the attitude on both sides, there is nothing for it but to fight it out sooner or later.

My own impression, derived from facts which would take too long to set out here, is that prices will rise still higher in essentials and fall in non-essentials, and that wages, on the whole, are not likely to rise much further, save in one or two special trades. In that event, the standard of living will fall a little during the next year. In recent movements the unskilled worker has done better than the skilled worker, as the jealousy between dockers and railwaymen proves; but the skilled man always asserts his superiority in the long run, and this tendency will probably begin to take effect in the immediate future.

A word may be added about a more sinister side of the trouble. A few foolish employers are out to kill Trade Unionism, and some stupid leaders on the other side are out for revolution. These people are making a great deal of noise, and the more noise they make the more important they feel; each side naturally exploits the other's folly as an awful example of grinding tyranny or callous indifference. But the extremists in both camps will fail. There is a certain amount of bad blood about, but not enough to kill the patient.

The Trade Union Congress meets this week at Portsmouth. It is bound to support the miners officially, but unofficially it is believed that it may seek a *modus vivendi*. Mr. Smillie is in the ascendant at the moment, but Messrs. Clynes and Thomas usually play the tortoise successfully to his hare. The proceedings are generally rather lively, and this year is not likely to be any exception, as there are two distinct streams of opinion in the Labour ranks, and the delegates generally speak their mind.

**The Newest Theology.**

There has been considerable discussion of Canon Barnes' sermon on the origin of matter, and his rejection of the fall of man. General Booth certainly scored a point by his remark that the Canon's "stuff," from which everything rose, seemed to him "stuff and nonsense"; the Salvation Army still believes in Adam and Eve. Various clerics have written to *The Times*, but the paper itself is uncommitted.

But the clergy have not shone in this discussion. There has been far too much reliance on the argument that, although the historical truth of Genesis can be no longer maintained, it is valuable as a record of religious truth. To the ordinary layman that is sheer casuistry of the worst description, and nothing will convince him that the person who employs such an argument is sincere.

**The End of Cricket.**

The greatest cricket season on record came to an end with one of the finest matches of the year. The result of the championship was uncertain until the third day of Surrey v. Middlesex. Surrey led on the first innings, and for some time it looked like being their game even on Tuesday, but they were not quite equal to the strain. There was no "rot," but man for man they were not good enough, and by winning the match Middlesex won the championship as well. Until a month ago they did not strike me as being quite in the same class as Kent, but Kent lost the fine edge of their achievement in August; and with Surrey as uncertain as a woman, Middlesex became the best all-round team, although perhaps the least brilliant.

Unluckily Mr. P. F. Warner has determined to retire, and the match which gave him one of his greatest triumphs saw his last innings at Lord's. He will be very badly missed from the game, for he was an excellent bat, just short of the classic excellence of the Palairets; and as a captain he was in the same rank as Shuter.

**Street Accidents.**

A return has just been issued of the street accidents in London, from which it appears that an average of two people are killed every day by the traffic. This is

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BICENTENARY A.D. 1920.

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ALEXANDRIA: Societe Generale de Pressage et de Depots.
CYPRUS: Najem Houry & Sons.
CONSTANTINOPLE: Messrs. J. W. Whittall & Co., Ltd.
SMYRNA: Messrs. C. Whittall & Co.
JERUSALEM, JOPPA: Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited.


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not more than is to be expected among a regular population of seven million and a floating population of nearly one million, not all of whom are overcareful in crossing the road. It is not so much the pace that kills, as the fact that different classes of traffic move at different speeds, the taxi being the quickest, then the motor bus, then the tram, then the horse-drawn dray. The motor lorry varies its pace, and so does that most exasperating and dangerous type, the small boy on a bicycle.

The motor-bus driver has the most difficult task, as he has to keep to time on a long route which may reach from one end of London to the other or beyond—Camden Town to Reigate, Victoria to Wanstead, or Stamford Hill to Raynes Park. The accuracy of the drivers' steering is astonishing, and there is little doubt that most of the accidents that occur are more the fault of the public than of the drivers.

**The Theatres.**

Stageland is preparing to reopen—indeed, the autumn season began last week with a dramatisation of Mr. Stacpoole's book, "The Blue Lagoon," which seems to be very successful. This next fortnight there will be first-nights every evening; it is to be hoped that the pabulum will be better than was put on the boards a year ago.

**The Anglo-Saxon Olympic.**

It is impossible to summarise in a paragraph the athletic feast staged at Queen's Club on September 6, when teams representing the British Empire and the United States drew with five wins each.

Certainly since the London Olympic of 1908 no finer collection of athletes has been in London, and if one may throw the Paris apple to any two of those specimens of the human form divine I should be tempted to select Earl Thompson, the Canadian hurdler, and G. B. D. Rudd, the South African half and quarter miler. But there are others. There were some 30,000 spectators of the games, with thousands turned away.

Queen's Club, with all its classic reputation, is no track for record breaking, with three corners in the quarter-mile and seven for the half. The high jump, again, was staged in the south-east corner of the ground, some 120 yards from the Press table. Apart from these complaints the amateur promoters provided a magnificent day of sport without a hitch in time or temper, and the magnificent athletes, selected from 180,000,000 dwelling under the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes, did the rest. G. B. D. Rudd's quarter-mile in the mile relay race in 48 2-5 secs. from an upright start with three turns to negotiate must surely have been equal or superior to the world's record for a straight quarter.

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The first of September used to be renowned as the first day of partridge shooting. This year the public was the partridge that was shot. Telegrams went up from ninepence to a shilling on that day. Coal cost two shillings a ton more. Railway freight rates went up. Receipt stamps increased from a penny to twopence; newspaper postage from a half-penny to a penny, and the half-penny stamp will henceforth be a rarity like some useless antique. Workmen's tickets were doubled, and in some cases trebled; and it was announced that the price of petrol was to be put up, which presumably means higher motor-bus and taxicab fares very soon.

All the increases synchronised on the morning of the first of September, but perhaps the most extraordinary feature of that amazing day was that the sun came out in London for an hour or so. The Cockney, who had almost forgotten its existence, so sedulously has it hidden itself behind the clouds for several weeks, looked at this strange phenomenon in the sky with somewhat of the same curiosity as he would show towards a pre-war relic, and was just beginning to regret that he had not shed his winter clothing on the first day of autumn when the rain began again.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, August 18.

**The Case for the Defence.**

After almost four weeks' sittings of the Military Court which is trying the alleged members of the "Society of Vengeance," we know at last what the defence is. In the case of Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy, Cairo secretary of the Nationalist Delegation and the first on the list of the accused, it is a complete denial of the allegations against him. Last Saturday morning Mr. Mitchell-Innes, K.C., made his opening speech for the defence. He laid stress on the fact that there was not one scrap of documentary evidence against his client. He directed attention to the fact that 186 houses had been searched throughout the length and breadth of Egypt; that over sixty sacks of documents had been examined; and that upon not one of these documents did the name of his client appear. He submitted that if his client was to be connected with the "Vengeance Society" it must, therefore, be by the oral evidence which had been given in the Court. He then proceeded, in striking phrase and with stinging satire, to review the character of the evidence given. The first witness had been the ex-member of the society who had turned "King's evidence." In other countries this man would be regarded as a vulgar malefactor seeking to save his skin. Further, he was an accomplice, and according to English legal traditions a jury could not convict on the uncorroborated evidence of an accomplice without being warned of the danger of such a course. The next witness was a man whose record was sufficient to warrant his evidence being put out of Court. But even if it was acceptable to reasonable men, he had, in his own perjured evidence, declared he had been willing to join the "Society of Vengeance," and to prove his fidelity had expressed his willingness to shoot a British officer. Therefore he was an accomplice, and could not corroborate the evidence of the informer. The next witness had been a wretched youth (continued Mr. Mitchell-Innes) who had been under the domination of the previous witness. The youth had made a clean breast of the manner in which he had been intimidated into perjuring himself, and therefore the evidence of the previous witness was doubly damned. The witness after that was a man whose finger-prints had been proved in Court that morning, and who was a thief and forger, and now a perjurer.

And so the K.C. went on until he came to the penultimate witness for the prosecution. Here his invective became stronger. In stirring tones he directed the attention of the Court to "a matter of the gravest importance." This witness, and the informer also, had stated that they had visited the house of Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy. The witness described it in detail; the informer had merely mentioned that it had a garden in front. Counsel stated that the description did not fit his client's house, but tallied with one a little distance from it. He suggested that these witnesses had been given the approximate position of the house, had, as they thought, studied it from the outside, taken the wrong one, and described the wrong one. The Court's answer to this, given yesterday, was that it would go and view the two houses.

In summing-up, Mr. Mitchell-Innes submitted that the prosecution had endeavoured to bolster up a case against his client on the evidence of two informers, two criminals, and a number of ignoble youths who had deposed and recanted till the truth was wholly indiscernible in the maze of lies. Finally, his client had never been a member of the "Society of Vengeance." He knew not who were its members; he knew not what were its objects. The first time his client had ever believed in the existence of the Society was when he was charged with being connected with it. The counsel for the other defendants followed on the same line—complete and thorough denial.

Earlier in this week Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy gave evidence on his own behalf. He deposed substantially what his counsel had said he would say. He also added that he had twenty-five years' service under the Egyptian Government, and recapitulated the various decorations that had been awarded him in recognition of his meritorious service. He characterised the evidence against him as lie upon lie, and held that the disciples of Ananias, who had come to swear away his life, had perjured themselves because they were paid to do so. Under cross-examination he admitted that he had retired from the Government service at the age of forty-three—the age limit then being fifty-five—on a pension of L.E.34 per month.

Yesterday afternoon there was a procession of two retired generals, two ex-ministers, and two ex-officials who had held high posts under the Government before the Court. These distinguished witnesses deposed that they had known Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy all his life, that they had ever cherished the highest opinions of his character, and that they had been deeply surprised to learn he had been charged with conspiracy and incitement to murder. And so the case goes on into the fifth week.

**Coptic Bishop holds Ideas of Reform.**

For some months a Bishop of the Coptic Church in Cairo has been expressing dissatisfaction with the existing regulations of his Church. Particularly has he been opposed to celibacy. He has stated that many of the stern disciplinary regulations in vogue to-day did not exist in the time of Christ. They had been instituted through the ages by the ecclesiastical courts, and, therefore, being man-made laws, could be changed or abolished by the ecclesiastical courts to-day. Some of the younger clergy gathered round him, and finally he addressed a memorandum to the Coptic Patriarch upon the matter. Immediate attention was given to the document, and an ecclesiastical court was convened, but not for the purpose desired by the reverend bishop. He was indicted, the court tried him, and yesterday the decision was announced: banishment to a distant monastery near the Red Sea for three years—or unfrocking.

**News of the Negotiations.**

On Monday last there arrived what seemed to be the greatest journalistic scoop of the decade from London. *Al Ahram*, the leading Nationalist organ, issued a special edition, proclaiming that "there is now complete agreement between the Milner Commission and the Nationalist delegation on all essential points!" From the Egyptians' point of view, there could be only one meaning to what may be considered at best an ambiguous telegram. Incidentally the news had come from the correspondent of *Al Ahram*, but Reuter had sent no confirmation, nor did official circles admit any knowledge of the successful termination of the parleying. As I have said, the Egyptians could see only one meaning: that the Nationalist delegation had been able to break down the opposition to their demands, and were on the eve of returning with a document which doubtless would read like a combination of Magna Charta and the Declaration of Independence. The Local Nationalists confidently expected that corroboration was on its way, and when an even more ambiguous telegram arrived from Saad Zaghloul Pasha the Nationalist Press became as jubilant as

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the Censorship would allow it. The telegram from the head of the delegation was to the effect that negotiations had reached a satisfactory stage, but conclusions were delayed "to allow both parties to enter into indispensable *pourparlers*." Then comes the announcement: "We have thought fit to pass these weeks in France."

In the absence of definite trustworthy information I will not be so unkind as to venture a guess at what has happened. But there is one point here in Egypt which seems to be well worthy of notice. Upon the evening of the day upon which the telegrams arrived there was a notable arrogance in the demeanour of a certain section of the population. It was not apparent among the educated classes, but was obvious among that class which last year seemed to take pleasure in vandalism—the ignorant, vindictive classes whom no leaders could ever hold. It is a grave charge. But I make it with a full sense of responsibility and upon the strength of what I saw personally. It is significant that though for days there has been no attempt to encourage the men who are being tried in the conspiracy case, yet upon that night a crowd assembled outside the Court, and when Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy came out on the way back to the barracks the cheers lasted till he was well out of hearing and sight. There was the same evidence of subtle excitement at Alexandria, and added precautions were at once taken to guard against the repetition of the disgraceful scenes of last year.

**A Fourth Train Robbery.**

Somewhere in the vicinity of Wasta is a gang who have found a way of making easy money. The plan is simple. They merely enter the train at or about Wasta, eject the safe containing the railway receipts of the stations thereabouts, and apparently have a few weeks of glorious life till the necessity for more money arises—when they merely steal another safe. The latest *coup* was on Friday evening last. The Luxor-Cairo express arrived as usual at about 9 p.m. at Cairo, and the railways officials went to take a safe which wasn't there. Instead, they found the lock and chain of the door of the van in pieces. The safe, which had contained about £E1,400, had been there at Wasta. At Cairo it was missing—and it is still missing. This being the fourth successful robbery under exactly similar conditions, and in the same locality, suspicion fell upon some of the officials of the train, who accordingly were arrested, but have since been released because no evidence can be found against them. Approximately £E5,000 having disappeared, the railway authorities have decided that for the future two armed guards shall protect the treasure from the bandits.

**Railway Mishap.**

On Sunday evening last there was a mishap upon the railway line between Cairo and Alexandria, the results of which were serious enough; but the potentialities for disaster were infinitely greater. Approaching the station about a third of the way from Alexandria, the engine of a goods train rushed on to an iron bar placed across the rails. Sixteen of the goods-vans fell in various ungraceful postures on either side of the line, and all traffic was blocked for about six hours. At the spot where the accident happened some men had been repairing the line, and the explanation is that this bar was left across the line "by mistake."

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, August 26.

**Municipal Elections.**

The sensation of the week has been provided by the municipal elections throughout the old kingdom of Serbia, in which, to the astonishment and disgust of the public, the Communists, led by one Philip Philipovitch, a Socialist educated in Russia, have won the battle in the chief towns of Belgrade, Nish, and Kragujevats. In Belgrade they polled about 3,700 votes against the Radicals 3,300 and the Democrats 2,800. The truth is that the two chief political parties were engrossed in their own affairs, and never took the Communists seriously; no less than 20,000 voters abstained; and the Republicans obtained a paltry 605. Consequently, the Communists won the day, and announced their intention of taking office. It may be remembered that when they headed the polls at Zagreb, owing to the support of the non-Slav element, they were unable to take the necessary oath, and so could not assume office. Considerable interest was, therefore, aroused in Belgrade when they announced that they would take


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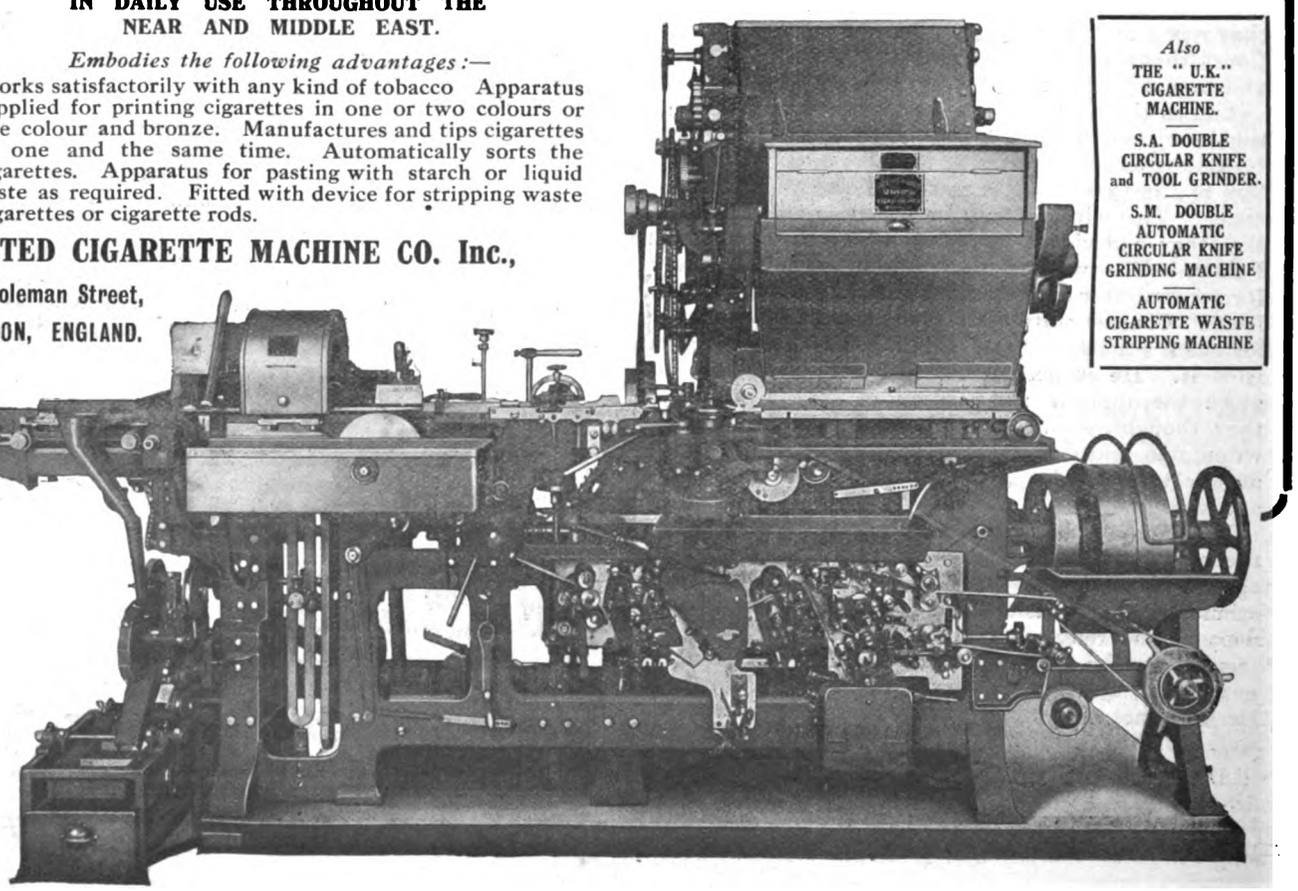

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the cath, subject to certain reservations. Yesterday there was a meeting at which the outgoing municipality were to hand over. The Communists triumphantly announced their intention of administering the town in the light of their own peculiar views, to which both the Radicals and the Democrats took exception.

This morning, however, there are complications. It appears that the Ministry of the Interior has served a notice on them that their reservations when taking the oath nullify the proceedings, and that they cannot legally take over unless they take the full oath in proper legal form. Consequently, the old officials refused to hand over, and some of the Communists ran off to the Ministry of the Interior to see what was the trouble. If this decision holds good, new elections will be necessary, at which, presumably, the Communists will not stand, unless they are prepared to take the oath in proper form. In that case, the negligent abstainers will probably wake up and the Communists be washed out. But if they do come in again, and consent to take the oath, they must be bound by it.

**Communism and the Country.**

As Serbia is essentially a country of yeoman farmers owning their own land, Communism is really unimaginable outside the towns unless, as at Uzhitse, a purely farming and stock-raising mountain community of pretty shrewd men, the Communists can succeed in deceiving the voters by fair words. It is, therefore, interesting to note the results from the country, more particularly as this is the first time the people have been articulate since the outbreak of hostilities against Turkey in 1912.

In Serbia there are 33 " okrugs," or counties; in six of these no elections were possible, owing to the Albanian invasion (incidentally, a very good proof that it is not the Serbs who are wantonly harrying and sacking Albania). The results of the elections are worth tabulating, and the following figures show the " opshtine," or communes or parishes, won by the respective parties. These are:—Radicals, 594; Democrats, 574; Radical-Democrat Entente, 32; Agricultural Party, 58; Undetermined,150; Non-Party, 7; Communists, 37; Republicans, 2; decided by lot, 2; no elections held, 14; Liberals, 25. This list is subject to correction when the provincial prefects issue the final official figures; but, meanwhile, it is interesting to note the utter rout of the Republicans in this monarchical country, the decline of the old Liberal party, the shrinkage of the once all-powerful Radical vote, and the growth of the brand new Agricultural Party, which is little known, but is most probably a healthy sign. The number of seats gained by the Agriculturalists, Communists, and the undefined groups is probably a form of protest against the constant party squabbles and almost eternal state of crisis which has afflicted the country since the end of the war. It will be most interesting to see how these municipal elections can be regarded as a forecast of the general elections in three months' time.

Preparations are now being made to organise Montenegro on the same lines as Serbia, and municipal elections will take place there when the organisation is complete.

**Bad Times for Brigands.**

Brigandage, one of the inevitable consequences of a prolonged war in the Balkans, and especially in the more unsettled districts, is now almost completely suppressed, owing to the energetic action of the gendarmerie and police authorities. The last brigands in the Belgrade provinces were rounded up a couple of weeks ago, and now a famous character, Stefan Lazarevitch, has been laid by the heels near Pozarevats; this precious fellow admits to five bad cases of highway robbery this summer, in one of which he murdered five people, in another two, and in the other three one only.

A regular story-book case is reported from Slovenski Brod, on the Save, between Bosnia and Slovenia, where a gang made their lair in some excavations underneath an old Austrian internment camp. The patience of the police eventually ran them literally to earth, where they found seven brigands and a couple of women carousing among a huge accumulation of goods and merchandise of all kinds, which they were dealing in very profitably both wholesale and retail. It is a hard time for robbers in Yugoslavia now.

The Albanian raids, or rather invasions, are being repelled as fast as troops and material can reach these remote districts. The Croatian and Slovenian recruits have especially distinguished themselves. It seems that the Roman Catholic Albanians are the most violent, and indeed, the Catholic tribesmen have always been considered among the most turbulent. The Mohammedan and Orthodox Albanians who are Serbian subjects remain loyal, and in some instances have given very valuable help to the authorities. The remarkable thing is that the papers report that the Albanian Government has apologised to the Serbian Government for these excesses, promising that the guilty parties shall be punished. They will have their hands full. As d'Annunzio has openly stated his intention of proceeding to Albania to fight the Serbs, it is not surprising that the Press sees Italian influence in these unprovoked attacks, but it is surprising to find the name of the Bulgarian *komitaji* leader, Protogeroff, associated with these intrigues. Presumably both parties will be repudiated by their respective Governments.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, August 28.

**The Royalists' Plot.**

The investigation in connection with the discovery of a plot aiming at the overthrow of the Government is still in progress. The greatest secrecy is maintained by the authorities who have disclosed no information whatever to the impatient public; so no one really knows what the examination has, so far, revealed. Many fresh arrests of persons suspected of complicity have been made, but at the same time a number of those originally arrested have been released, nothing incriminating having been found against them. The opposition papers which, apparently, suffered less damage than was at first thought, have, one after another, made their appearance again, and promptly resumed their old tactics of attacking and abusing the Government, despite the fact that the editors of four of them are still in prison.

M. Venizelos is expected to return shortly. No definite date is yet given, but from all accounts his condition has shown so much improvement of late that he will be able to travel in a few days. A great official reception is awaiting him in Athens on his return; this will, in all probability, be held at the Stadium a few days after his arrival.

The Turkish Prince Sabbah ed-Din, on being informed of the attempt on the Greek Premier's life, personally expressed his regret to the High Commissioner for Greece in Constantinople. Speaking to a journalist, the Prince stated that he had met M. Venizelos ten years ago, and that they have been good friends since. " Sentiments," said Prince Sabbah ed-Din, " have nothing to do with politics, and I am extremely glad to hear that M. Venizelos is out of danger."

**An Armenian Ex-Prime Minister.**

The ex-Prime Minister of the Armenian Republic, M. Hadisian, accompanied by his wife, arrived at the Piræus yesterday from Alexandria. He was welcomed by many members of the Armenian colony in Athens. In the afternoon a service was held at the Armenian church here, which was attended by M. Hadisian, who immediately afterwards visited the Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Politis.

The distinguished Armenian statesman stated that he had just completed a tour of Paris, London, and Rome, where he had successfully concluded a national loan of 20 million dollars for the needs of his country. M. Hadisian is leaving to-day for Armenia, via Smyrna and Constantinople.

**Turks and Greeks in Asia Minor.**

During the advance of the Greek troops in Asia Minor a large number of Mussulman families, fearing

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reprisals on the part of the invaders, had abandoned their homes and proceeded in all haste to the interior of the country. But the exemplary conduct of the Hellenic troops in the occupied territories and the calm which has reigned in these regions since the occupation dispersed the unjustified fears of the Mussulmans, and a considerable number of families have already returned to their homes. Thus, in the town of Philadelphia, up to July 26 6,000 Mussulmans had returned and asked permission to re-install themselves in the town. Naturally, this permission was immediately granted, and all possible assistance was afforded to them by the Greek military authorities. On the same day seven-eighths of the Mussulman population of Axari had already returned.

Between the dates of July 28 and August 2, 281 Mussulman families returned to their homes in the Aïdin region, and 515 families in that of Philadelphia.

From July 23 to August 2, 1,900 Mussulman families, representing approximately 6,000 people, had asked permission from the Greek authorities in Brusa to return to that town. Finally, between August 2 and August 6, 700 more Mussulmans returned to the Aïdin region and 690 to that of Philadelphia.

**Italy Evacuates the Dodecanese.**

In accordance with the recent Greco-Italian agreement, the Italian troops are now making preparations for an early evacuation of the Dodecanese Islands. A few days ago the Italian authorities in the Island of Kos—the second largest island of the group—notified the Greek Metropolitan that Italy had decided to restore the islands to Greece. The population received the news with great joy, and Te Deums were held in every church. All the restrictions imposed by the Italian military authorities have now been removed. It is thought that it will be possible to hold elections in the Dodecanese simultaneously with those in Old and New Greece. The Government has ordered 200 gendarmes to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to the Dodecanese for duty.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, August 27.

**The Political Situation.**

The Polish victory has caused a sudden change of opinion in the leading political circles, and an immense relief amongst the masses, who are absolutely against starting another war, having already suffered too deeply during the late one. Strict neutrality has been strongly upheld, so that the few interventionists found themselves in the minority from the beginning. Only in the case of an actual invasion of the country would the Roumanians have risen to defend their rights. Moreover, the way in which "the necessity to save Warsaw" was put was not sufficiently convincing for the people; and had general mobilisation been risked it would have roused strong feeling in the villages, where up to now the Socialists' Bolshevist propaganda has not been fruitful.

The aim of the political leaders of to-day is to consolidate peace, and to further good relationship with all neighbouring countries. General Averescu's position has been strengthened by his neutral and peace-loving attitude. If he would adopt the same principles in his economic policy he would reap better results, though he is still handicapped by such things as transport difficulties, financial crises, reduced production, exaggerated import, unfavourable rate of exchange, etc. The present situation could be much improved by a large foreign loan of many milliards, which would enable Roumania to ease the strain, thereby increasing her production of cereals and petroleum, improve her transport system, expand her commerce with foreign countries, and reduce her imports by creating new industries in the country. Thus with her natural riches, backed by a sounder economic policy, Greater Roumania would in due time be able to rank herself among the foremost European countries.

Great hopes are cherished here that the External Loan which the Roumanian Government is now treating for through its representative, M. Titulescu, will materialise very soon.

The present parliamentary session will close towards the end of this week, after a very stormy existence, despite which the Government has succeeded in passing the following Bills:—The Pastureland Bill, Regulation of Labour Bill, Budget, Unification of Currency Bill, War Dependents Bill, and the Ratifications of the Treaties. A credit has also been passed (up to 30 million lei) for the reconstruction of the areas damaged by the war. The splitting up of the land among the peasants will begin very shortly.

There are signs that the Cabinet will be reconstructed during the recess. M. Matei Cantacuzino, the Minister of Justice, has already sent in his resignation, which goes to show that there is far from being complete harmony in the present Cabinet.

Since the visit of Dr. Benes, the Foreign Minister of Czecho-Slovakia, to Bucharest last week, a feeler has been thrown out to arrange an alliance between Czecho-Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Roumania, Poland and eventually, Greece, one of the objects of which is to prevent a Danubian Federation, by which Hungary would benefit most.

**General Joffre's Visit.**

When it was announced that General Joffre was coming to Bucharest, it was at first rumoured that it was on something more than a military mission, and people even talked about an "ultimatum" to Roumania, and of her being asked to intervene in the Polish-Russian struggle. These rumours proved to be false. General Joffre was received everywhere with enthusiasm by the Roumanians, and he fulfilled his mission by decorating the King with the "Medaille Militaire," and the towns of Bucharest and Marasesti with the Croix de Guerre. He also gave, on behalf of the French Government, several hundred thousand francs to various war relief funds.

General Joffre passed a very pleasant week amongst the Roumanians, and was a guest at several banquets and receptions given in his honour.

**Fire at Constantza.**

A disastrous fire has taken place at Constantza, in a large Government store, where imported goods of various kinds, ordered by the Ministry of Commerce, were awaiting distribution. The damaged goods are estimated to have cost 25,000,000 lei, although the present market value of same is estimated at 120,000,000 lei. They were insured for 80,000,000 lei.

A statement was made in the Chamber to the effect that there was evidence that certain quantities of these goods had been stolen before the outbreak of the fire, and a careful inquiry into the facts has been ordered.

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# GEORGIA AND THE GERMANS.

**By Scotland Liddell.**

*(Mr. Scotland Liddell, the well-known war correspondent, was the Official British Press Representative in Mesopotamia and the Caucasus towards the end of the war. After twenty months in Trans-Caucasia, during which he was attached to the Intelligence Department of the British Staff in Tiflis, Mr. Scotland Liddell has only recently returned to England).*

Once upon a time there was a British newspaper correspondent who went to Tiflis. He only remained one day in the town, but he wrote a long article about the political situation in Georgia; and this article was published, and this article was absolutely untrue. Now, it so happened that the British correspondent went into a shop to buy a souvenir. He spoke to the shopkeeper in French, but the shopkeeper did not understand. Then he spoke in German, and the shopkeeper understood. But the shopkeeper did not say afterwards: "That Englishman is pro-German," but the Englishman wrote that the entire Georgian nation was Germanophil!

The libel spread, and the allegation has become a somewhat favourite one with those who have only a superficial knowledge of Georgian history, and who, briefly, do not stop to think before they write. So I must protest; the charges against Georgia have all been so very unfair. Georgia has come creditably out of many difficult situations; let us give honour where honour is due.

The latest cry of "pro-German Georgia" comes from the correspondent of a famous London daily who seeks to prove his charges by referring to (1) the Georgian-German alliance in the summer of 1918; (2) the employment of Germans in the Georgian Government departments; (3) the predominance of German goods in Georgia before the war; (4) the Georgians' knowledge of the German language; and (5) the fact that "large numbers of the leading public men, lawyers, doctors, and those engaged in commerce" were educated in Germany, and that "increasing numbers of Georgians start every day for a course at the German universities." Further, he states that the German was popular with the Georgians "even when German troops occupied Tiflis a year or two ago."

Now, as regards this last statement and that referring to the "Georgian-German alliance," there is only one fact that need be mentioned. In May of 1918, after the Russian *débâcle*, Georgia was faced with three evils—the Germans, the Turks, and the Bolshevists. She chose the first. On May 26, 1918, Georgia declared her independence, and the fact that the Georgian Republic was established with the aid of German bayonets is by no means to Georgia's discredit. The Bolshevists were thrown back, and the Georgian people were spared the agonies that Russia is suffering to-day.

Assuming that there really are "Germans" employed in Georgian Government offices, the correspondent ought to have made it quite clear that these officials are former Russian subjects—now Georgian subjects—from the German colonies in the Caucasus. These "Germans" and their families have been in Russia for generations. During the reign of Catharine II. (1762-1796) thousands of agricultural colonists came from Germany to Russia. "German" villages are dotted about the Caucasus. I have no recent statistics by me, but in the year before the war there were 60,000 German colonists in the Caucasus. Of these, 18,000 were in Trans-Caucasia, chiefly in the Tiflis and Elisavetopol provinces. To escape the horrors of Bolshevism, thousands of German colonists from South Russia have sought a refuge in the Caucasus, so that the figures are probably very much larger to-day than they were in 1913. If a government is pro-German because it has in its employment and service men of German origin, between whom and Germany there are a hundred and fifty years, then how very much more pro-German must the British Government be?—But this, of course, need not be gone into further! . . .

Before the war, Georgia was for a century a part of the Russian Empire—throughout which German goods predominated. Perhaps the German-Russian commercial treaties were specially advantageous for the trading Hun; perhaps the old-time Russian ministry was Germanophil; perhaps, simply, our British merchants were backward—no matter. The presence of German goods does not imply pro-German feelings. One might as well sneer at our little boys and girls because their nurseries were full of German toys.

As regards the Georgians' knowledge of the German language—this, also, is no crime. German, Russian, Georgian and Armenian are all spoken in the "German" colonies. The simple Georgian peasant invariably speaks at least two languages. The educated Georgian speaks three or more. During the Russian *régime*, the Russian schools—the only state schools then in Georgia—gave the German language first place in their curriculum. According to the new system of teaching modern languages in the Georgian schools to-day, the French language is given preference. Incidentally, I edited a weekly newspaper published in English in Tiflis, and as recently as June of this year three or four hundred copies were sold each week to local readers in Tiflis alone. Further, although the correspondent states that increasing numbers of students are proceeding from Georgia to German universities, he does not mention the fact that the Georgian Minister of Education has sent youths at the expense of the Georgian Government to be educated in England, France, Italy and the United States.

It has been repeatedly stated that secret treaties exist between Georgia and Germany. This is quite false. On the contrary, the presence in London to-day of the Georgian Economic Mission Extraordinary under the presidency of M. Kandelaki, the Georgian Minister of Finance, Commerce and Industry, shows Georgia's desire for economic relations with the Entente. This Mission has taken every means to interest British manufacturers in the exploitation of the forests, mines, and other natural products of Georgia, as is well known to the Chambers of Commerce of Manchester, Sheffield, and other large centres of industry, and to several British Ministers. If the energetic work of the Mission has not yet had much response from British capital it is no fault of the Georgian Government.

No doubt there are faults in Georgia's administration. But Georgia is only a baby Republic. She must creep before she can walk. With all her faults, there is this much to her credit: Georgia is, perhaps, the only part of the former Russian Empire where law and order exist to-day; Georgia is the only country of the former Russian Empire where Bolshevism has not obtained a footing—*au contraire*, the Bolshevists, having found strong opposition, have had to acknowledge Georgia's independence, and make a Treaty of Peace with her; during the two years of her independent existence Georgia has succeeded in organising her State administration and local self-government, has opened a large number of new schools and is almost the only part of the former Russian Empire where the lines of communication are working normally.

Finally, following the Bolshevist occupation of Baku, the Red army troops transgressed the Georgian frontiers with the object of linking-up with the Turkish Nationalists in Asia Minor, and setting the whole Mussulman world on fire with the Bolshevist-Young Turk torches. Georgian soldiers stubbornly resisted all attacks, and threw the Bolshevists back with heavy losses. War materials had been promised months before by the Allies, but they never materialised. Georgia unaided stemmed the Bolshevist advance, and for this alone we should ever be grateful to her. The Georgian Republic has been recognised by the Allies. The Allies should now help Georgia, and in doing so they will help themselves.

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

## ITALY AND YUGOSLAVIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of August 5 you published a short letter of mine, in which I ventured to protest against what seemed to me the anti-Italian animus of an article written by your Correspondent in Belgrade. My object was to deprecate all violence of contumacious writing in view of the present state of international unrest.

In your issue of August 26 you published a letter from M. Glishitch containing a violent attack against myself. He accuses me of condemning Yugoslavian policy, which I never mentioned, of exaggerating Italian help to the Serbs in Albania, which cannot be exaggerated, and of saying no word of praise of the heroism of the Serbian army, which was certainly not in question and which goes without saying. Moreover, M. Glishitch takes the opportunity of repeating once more a mass of calumny against the Italians in Fiume and Dalmatia, which is totally without foundation, save in the heated imagination of himself and of his countrymen.

I yield to no one in my admiration of Serbian valour, proofs of which came to me almost daily for three years; but I had equal proofs of Italian valour in actions that took place under my own eyes. I am proud to number among my friends many Serbian officers, including Marshal Meshitch; but I have a still larger number of friends in the Italian army.

The Serbs have many reasons for gratitude towards Italy, not only because the Italian Fleet, with some aid from the Allies, saved the remnant of their heroic army in Albania. If M. Glishitch is ignorant of the proportionate aid of the three nations, let him consult the valuable little book by Mr. Archibald Hurd, entitled "Italian Sea Power in the Great War," published in the spring of 1918 by Constable. In it the author writes, on page 56: "It is not conceivable that restored Serbia will ever forget the debt she owes to Italy." "Nothing more epical in the war has been set on record than the amazing rescue of that stricken remnant," and he shows the truth of Mr. Balfour's remark in the House of Commons on February 23, 1916, that this amazing work was "chiefly due to the energy and ability displayed by the Italian Fleet." In any case, my letter was intended to be conciliatory, and to point out that Serbs and Italians were united in bonds of friendship when they fought together in Macedonia against the common enemy, and that there is no earthly reason, except the violence of such writing and calumny, why they should not be friends to-day. My only criticism of Yugoslavia was that they are "A young race with the hot blood of youthfulness." Does the violence of M. Glishitch's letter afford us a perfect demonstration of the justice of that criticism?—I am, etc.,

HAROLD W. E. GOAD,
(On behalf of the British-Italian League).

74, Grosvenor Square, London, W.1, September 2.

## ALBANIA AND ITALY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Having read the appeals of Miss N. E. Durham and the Hon. Aubrey Herbert in behalf of Albania in the recent issues of THE NEAR EAST, and knowing that your policy is to give the British public an opportunity to hear all sides of a disputed question, I believe that you will be as generous to the Epirotes as you are to the Albanians by permitting a few remarks to reach the British public through the columns of your excellent publication.

To-day, I received a communication from the President of the Northern Epirotic Society at Janina, containing valuable information about the Italo-Albanian war. The writer from Janina assures me that the reports sent out to the world about a real war between Italy and Albania are a smoke-screen. Northern Epirotes near the scenes of the reported battles assured him that the Italians have evacuated the country without a serious attempt at resistance; the casualties on both sides have been humorously few, and the Italians without the slightest resistance abandoned guns, machine guns and ammunition sufficient to equip fully an Albanian army of at least 15,000 men.

The letter then explains that Italy had long ago decided to abandon Albania, unable to raise men and money to hold and administer that country. But since Italy was the foremost nation to convince the Peace Conference that the Albanians were incapable of self-government, and would, therefore, need a mandatory—Italy—she could not now withdraw altogether from Albania, and permit another nation to administer the country of the Skypetars. Moreover, Italy could not look with equanimity upon the occupation of Northern Epirus by Greece. It was necessary for the sake of Italian interests to reconvince the world that the Albanians are a united people with a highly developed sense of nationality. And to attain this end the Italians, in spite of their agreement to surrender Northern Epirus to Greece, surrendered it to an Albanian Provisional Government, leaving to the latter large quantities of guns and ammunition with a view to enabling the Albanians to resist Greek occupation of the Province. This done, the so-called Italo-Albanian war was staged up in order to show the world that the Albanians are so united and so patriotic that they are capable of routing the armies of one of the Great Powers of Europe. The conclusion would thus be drawn that the Albanians would be able to defeat Greece if she attempted to enter Epirus.

Another letter from Korytsa gives the number of pupils attending the Greek schools of the district as 4,175, and those attending the Albanian schools as 442. It also states that France is pursuing a policy similar to that of Italy in respect of Korytsa. Thus, when the French troops evacuated Korytsa, the administration was not surrendered to Greece in accordance with the provisions of the Allied Note to Yugoslavia, of January 20, 1920, but was handed over to the notorious bandit, Sali-Boutka, who in 1916 sacked and burned the historic city of Moschopolis, with its last twenty-four Byzantine churches of rare architectural art. The French, like the Italians, left all their guns and ammunition to the Albanians with a view to opposing Greek occupation of the district.

Italy and France, for selfish reasons, are obstructing the union of Northern Epirus with Greece. There is only one great and loyal friends left to the Epirotes and the Greeks in general—Great Britain. Great Britain solemnly signed the note of January 20,1920. Whatever other nations may consider the violation of their solemn pledges, the British people look upon such practices with abomination, and abhor them as treacheries. The hope of the suffering Epirotes lies in the justice and the friendship of their beloved England.—I am, etc.,

N. J. CASSAVETES,
President Pan-Epirotic Union in America.

122, West 64th Street, New York, August 19.

## THE "LITTLE ENTENTE."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The entente arrived at between Czecho Slovakia, Yugoslavia, and Roumania as a result of Dr. Benes' recent visit to Belgrade and Bucharest has aroused considerable interest in European political circles, and has, on the whole, been favourably commented upon. Only a few Italian papers, such as the *Idea Nazionale*, evinced some misapprehension of this new entente, fearing that it might turn against Italy. These fears, however, have no justification whatever, for the main object of the Little Entente is the maintenance of peace in Central and Eastern Europe. It has no aggressive purposes at all. The idea of bringing these three States together was already developing in President Masaryk's mind during the war, and has been pursued ever since. To those who pleaded for the dismemberment of former Austria-Hungary it was evident from the very beginning that some kind of free economic and political co-operation must be brought about. The necessity for co-operation between Czecho Slovakia, Yugoslavia and Roumania has become all the more urgent in view of the threatening attitude of the Magyars, who even now cannot reconcile themselves to the present state of affairs in Central Europe.

The importance of the Little Entente can best be appreciated by the fact that it represents over forty million of people. Its constitution is the best answer to those who were afraid that, after the collapse of Austria, Central Europe might become a disturbing element and a danger to European peace.—I am, etc.,

ALEXANDER BROZ.

Czecho Slovak Press Bureau, 8, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1,
September 2, 1920.

In the third annual report of King George's Fund for Sailors, which, though inaugurated during the war, is to be a permanent fund, it is stated that among the grants made by the General Council during the year were the following:—£2,500 towards the establishment of the King George's Merchant Seamen's Hospital at Malta, and £1,000 to the Port Said Hospital towards the purchase of a new site for further extensions.

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# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

## Egypt.

*The Nation* of August 28 is avowedly thankful that British rule in Egypt is at an end. In commenting upon the condition in which we are leaving Egypt, and in particular of the benefits we have conferred upon her, it says:—

But there is one thing which we did not do in Egypt, and which time and fate have now decreed we shall never do. We gave Egypt the model, incomplete if you will, of scientific government. We never gave her institutions. When we, a people in the foremost files of time, leave Egypt to the Egyptians, as we are about to do, we bequeath them a country without a Constitution, a Code of Law, a system of education, or a University worthy of the name. We leave her village life unreformed and in its physical aspects untouched from the neglect of centuries. We bequeath to her new governors an all but illiterate population. And we have barely envisaged the Roman plan of enlisting the best thought and character of the people in the simple task of administering a country three-fourths of whose politics depend on the management of Nile water. The story of British administration in Egypt falls within a single chapter. With all its limitations, Lord Cromer's work of material amelioration was the deed of a master. It was achieved with a handful of disciples, and it never had a sequel. The more officials we added to his exiguous staff the less they did. Something lacking in our genius, a touch of spiritual sympathy with the people, and of political courage in our approach to them, stayed the work of reconstruction at the point when it might well have risen to moral grandeur. The second stage of the British occupation of Egypt is that of an Imperialism in decline.

It proceeds to say that "the final dissolvent of the Egyptian occupation was the war"; and so "it has happened that one of the great military and civil feats of the governing Englishman has begun and ended with an Occupation." It concludes:—

That the new relationship has been wisely conceived we have little doubt; nor do we share Sir Valentine Chirol's evident fears for its stability. If indeed it be true that after nearly forty years of mastery of Egypt we have left one of the most intelligent of Eastern races unprovided with a governing or an official class, Imperialism is its own accuser and judge. But in moving out of Egypt's way, while remaining by her side as a friend and adviser, we have done our best to ensure the success of this essay in a mixed Eastern and Western civilisation. Egypt is a simple problem in government; and if her rich will abstain from oppressing her poor, they may well make a better job of it than we made of Victorian Lancashire. Egypt under Great Britain was less a State than an outpost of Levantine trade. But with our departure the Capitulations come to an end, and the reign of equal law and taxation for native and foreigner begins. The Sudan does not, indeed, revert to her. But she will claim an equal share with us in the distribution of the waters of the Blue and White Nile; and as the Empire begins to take in sail, and to concentrate on the tremendous problems of its life nearer home, that dominion of the sand will lose its charm for the adventurous Englishman. Elsewhere there is pure gain. We are quit of a desperate and losing struggle with a united people of great political aptitude. We spare the best part of an Army Corps. We acquire a friend and a house of call on our way to the East, and an absolute security for that passage. We pacify Mohammedan India, and re-open the fast-closing path of the Montagu reforms. We husband our strength, moral, financial, political, and rise refreshed from at least one of the miserable conflicts of the war. We create a nation instead of destroying one; and build a bit of the new world, instead of waging insensate strife on its most plastic material. Imperialism is indeed stricken. Henceforth it is bound to recede in the national consciousness, and to take an ever lower and less honoured place in the fabric of the British Commonwealth. And that, in our view, is the greatest gain of all.

## Mesopotamia.

The *New Statesman* of August 28 utters a very plain opinion that Mesopotamia should be evacuated at the earliest possible opportunity. Its defence of this position is worth quoting.

We foresee several objections that will be raised to this plan. It will be urged that any such withdrawal will seriously injure our prestige, that our position in the East, and notably in India, requires a peaceful and amenable Mesopotamia, that the oil of Mosul is a real necessity, and that our presence is the only guarantee of its being effectively produced. None of these objections seem to us considerable. The capitalists of Europe and America have achieved more difficult things than getting the oil of Mosul; that is a task which can safely be left to them to manage, as they managed it under the old Turkish régime. And their power will not be weakened by the facts that the British Government is the largest of them and that the French Government is entitled to a quota of 25 per cent.! All the protection in a material sense that is needed for India will be assured by our position at Basra, whilst any attempt to enforce our will upon Northern Mesopotamia will only produce disturbances which will work us actual harm in India. As for our prestige, the days are gone when that depended on a large display of guns and bureaucrats. And surely to evacuate Egypt and yet to be frightened of the possible taunts of a few Kurdish tribesmen is to strain at a gnat and swallow a camel! All this, of course, is not to say that we ought at this moment to bolt before the "rebels" down the Tigris and the Euphrates. But we ought to make it clear that, if we are forced to "pacify" the country, that pacification is only the preliminary step to our leaving it. Trajan conquered and pacified Mesopotamia eighteen centuries ago, and Hadrian set it free within a year or two. Hadrian was a wise man.

## Egypt and Palestine.

In its issue for August 28 *Palestine* comments upon the new Egyptian proposals, and sketches their probable effect upon Palestine. It says:—

The agreement between Lord Milner and Zaghlul Pasha has a very direct strategic bearing upon the future of Palestine. Great Britain's strategic interest in that part of the world is constituted by the Suez Canal. That international highway, the road between the Eastern and Western halves of the British Dominions, must be kept secure. It was that necessity which brought England into Egypt. Now for practical purposes England is to abandon Egypt, for a garrison of 2,000 to 3,000 men in the Suez Canal zone by itself forms an inadequate security. This small force must have a strategic reserve in the immediate neighbourhood to which it can look. That immediate neighbourhood can henceforth only be Palestine. It is understood that Kantara is to be the headquarters of the Canal zone force. Kantara is the point on the Suez Canal from which the desert railway starts across the Sinai Peninsula to Palestine. The journey is not a long one, and as the Sinai Peninsula is practically uninhabited the railway line is safe. It is evident that the reserves for the Canal zone garrison will be stationed in Palestine, and that henceforth Palestine will be the real military bulwark for Great Britain of the Suez Canal.

Then, after showing how the substitution of Palestine for Egypt as the military base for the defence of the Suez Canal has been forced upon Britain, it proceeds:—

Economy, and particularly military economy, is the burning question of the day. Palestine is very happy to assume the task with which it is now entrusted, but its position must be understood. The defence of the Suez Canal is an Imperial burden, and that must be remembered when the accounts of Palestine are examined. The size of the garrison we shall keep in Palestine will be determined not by the needs of Palestine alone, but by the needs of the Suez Canal also, whose reserves will be maintained in Palestine. This distinction must be kept in mind in justice to Palestine, but there is a larger moral also. The strongest Palestine, the Palestine which is most capable of acting as warden of the Suez Canal, the Palestine which will relieve the British taxpayer of financial responsibility, is a Palestine inhabited by a laborious, devoted, intelligent, and politically mature population. It is, in other words, a Jewish Palestine fit to take its place among the self-governing Dominions. The policy of wisdom and the policy of financial prudence is to hasten, by every practicable measure of encouragement and assistance, the development of a Jewish Palestine.

## Articles to Note.

"The Palestinian Problem," by Horace B. Samuel; and "Admiral Millo and the Government of Dalmatia," by Lucy Re-Bartlett, in the *Fortnightly Review* (September).

"Early Arabian Poetry," by Mrs. Hamish MacCunn; and "A Famous Kashmir Duck Shoot," by Gilfrid Hartley, in the *Cornhill* (September).

"Gun-Running in the Gulf," by Brig-General H. H. Austin, in *Blackwood's Magazine* (September).

"From the Palestinian Bench," by H. B. Samuel, in *The XIXth Century and After* (September).

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"KOSTES PALAMAS: LIFE IMMOVABLE." Translated by Aristides E. Phoutrides. (U.S.A. Harvard University Press. $2.00.)

II.—"WANDERINGS WITH A CAMERA IN MESOPOTAMIA (BABYLONIA)." By Alfred Vowles, F.R.G.S. (London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent and Co. 6s. 6d. net.)

III.—"THE BRIDE OF SHIVA." By Henry Bruce. (London: John Long. 7s. net.)

## I.—KOSTES PALAMAS.

It was because we were told on the cover of this book that French critics have already placed its author, Kostes Palamas, as the greatest of all poets of contemporary Europe, that we opened it with misgiving and the chill fear of probable disillusionment. For the ordinary French critic has a flair for discovering genius: it is a habit of which in some extraordinary way he does not seem to tire. However, we freely admit that we are quite unable to appreciate the worth of the verse of Palamas, for the translation which Mr. Phoutrides here gives us is avowedly tentative—he has not, for instance, "attempted to render rime, a dangerous obstacle to a natural expression of the poet's thought and diction." We can but guess, therefore, that there is a beauty in the original which the translator has not been able to convey.

Kostes Palamas, Mr. Phoutrides tells us, was one of the group of Μαλλιαροί, whose contention that modern Greek literature should be written in the living language and not in the classical tongue of Ancient Greece raised such bitter quarrels among students in Athens about twenty years ago. The translator of this book himself was, when a student at Athens, on the side of the purists against Palamas, but gradually he saw reason, and after he had lived for some time in America the greatness of this poet "began to dawn" on him. Just before the European war he, as a travelling fellow from Harvard University, visited Palamas in Greece, and became a whole-hearted convert to his views. It is as a tribute to the man whom he once reviled that he came to compile this volume of translations.

The greatness of Palamas is not manifest in these English words. There is not enough life in the translation—not enough colour—to convince us that here the voice of a new poet is speaking. But Mr. Phoutrides wishes his work to be judged "as that of a mere pioneer," so that criticism must be withheld. At times, however, it must be admitted that he does succeed in faintly outlining what must be magic in the original; as, for example, in the opening of a sonnet on Athens in "Fatherlands," which is the first of five collections of poems that go to make up the first half of "Life Immovable":—

> Sky everywhere; and sunbeams on all sides;
> Something about like honey from Hymettus;
> The lilies grow of marble witherless;
> Pentele shines, birthgiver of Olympus.
>
> The digging pick on Beauty stumbles still;
> Cybele's womb bears gods instead of mortals;
> And Athens bleeds with violet blood abundant
> Each time the Afternoon's arrows pour on her.

It will be seen from this extract that though the translator does not come near to writing poetry, there must be something very like it in the original Greek. But his purpose in preparing this book is admirable, for modern Greek literature is very ill known outside Greece; and we hope that his work will succeed in arousing interest in the contemporary writings of what is now the greatest nation in the Near East.

## II.—PICTURES IN LOWER MESOPOTAMIA.

The title of this little book leads us to expect that the illustrations will be at least as important as the letterpress; and the expectation is justified. The photographs, of which there are sixty, placed together at the end of the book, are extremely good as a rule, though some of them would have looked better if reproduced to a larger scale; the letterpress is less satisfactory, by reason of a certain lack of cohesion. This defect is due, no doubt, to the circumstances in which the author gathered his material: he was a lieutenant in the 1/4th Dorsetshire Regiment, and must very often have had other things to think of than taking photographs or writing up the diaries on which his book is based. But if his notes take second place to his photographs' first, that is not to say that they are either uninteresting or valueless. As a matter of fact, they are the direct opposite. Mr. Vowles has a keen eye, an inquiring mind, and a large stock of enthusiasm, and his observations are shrewd and interesting. It is particularly refreshing to find him writing of the country with something like affection, and deprecating the "abuse and adverse criticism heaped upon it." Naturally he is particularly interested in the changes that have been wrought in the land since we set foot in it as its liberators; and his observations and descriptions, sometimes his casual mention of some point in connection with these changes are calculated to astonish those of us who knew the old land when the Turk still ruled over it. One or two of his pictures, too, set us rubbing our eyes, but others seem to show that in some ways at least the country and its people remain much as we knew them, and—frankly—we prefer them to the others. Therein we think lies the greatest charm of what is really a very pleasant little book: it will summon up agreeable memories for those who know the country; and to all who served with the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force it is sure to make a strong appeal. We congratulate the author on a very creditable bit of work, and the publishers on their share in the production.

## III.—SHIVA, THE DESTROYER.

When we realise that this novel deals with the subject of the worship of Shiva in India and the rites connected with that worship, we expect to find it pervaded by a sinister atmosphere. And its whole tone is indeed one of sordid tragedy. Among the chief characters to whom Mr. Bruce introduces us is a native woman who had been a temple dancing girl, dedicated to the service of Shiva, and who had married an Englishman. Since her husband's death it has been the passionate desire of Venubai to atone for this marriage by gaining as a recruit to her former profession her beautiful half-caste daughter, Betty Stuart.

The difference between the native mother and the half-English Betty is very cleverly brought out. Fulton, a young Englishman, who loves Betty and tries to save her from her fate, and to enlist the help of the British Resident, is quite powerless against Hari Pant, chief priest of the temples of Lingam, the guide and adviser of the girl and her mother. In the end we leave Fulton terribly wounded in a religious riot, and the Resident killed by snake bites—a death planned by the priest. But even this rather lurid climax does not produce such an impression of gloomy horror as an episode near the beginning of the book. It describes a several days' journey, undertaken during the monsoon by a bigoted, fanatical missionary with his wife and family, and ends in his being swept away in an attempt to cross a flooded river. He refuses to travel on the Sabbath, and the picture of the family, ill and wretched, shivering through the day in the damp, cheerless, dâk bungalow, is most unpleasantly realistic.

There are some words in the last chapter which suggest that Mr. Bruce may mean to tell us more of Betty Stuart's fate in another volume.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Yarns of the Near East." By Basil Mathews. (London: United Council for Missionary Education. 1s. net.)

"Hymns of the Russian Church." By John Brownlie, D.D. (Glas.). (London: Humphrey Milford. 5s. net.)

"Saint Sophia and Constantinople: History and Art." By Dr. Michael D. Volonakis. With a Prolegomena by Prof. Gilbert Murray. (London: Hesperia Press. 3s. net.)

"Sweet Aloes." By Elizabeth Stirling. (London: Stanley Paul and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

## CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

**Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish Dates.**

| Gregorian (New Style). | Julian (Old Style). | — | Moslem. | Jewish. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1920. September. | 1920. August | | 1338. Julhijja. | 5680. Elul |
| 9 | 27 | Thursday ..... | 26 | 26 |
| 10 | 28 | Friday ..... | 27 | 27 |
| 11 | 29 | Saturday ..... | 28 | 28 |
| 12 | 30 | Sunday ..... | 29 | 29 5681 Tesbri. |
| 13 | 31 | Monday ..... | 30 1339 Moharram. | 1 |
| | September | | | |
| 14 | 1 | Tuesday ..... | 1 | 2 |
| 15 | 2 | Wednesday ..... | 2 | 3 |

Mr. H. S. Job, manager of the National Bank of Egypt, left Khartoum on August 13 for England.

Princess Bibesco and her brother, Mr. Anthony Asquith, left London on September 1 by aeroplane for Paris.

Ghaffer Khan, Persian Minister Resident, returned to London on August 31 from Hastings.

An exhibition of the statuary of the Serbian sculptor Ivan Mestrovitch was opened on August 29 at Antwerp.

The Hon. Percy Thellusson has left England for Egypt and India.

King Alexander has conferred upon M. Venizelos the Croix de Guerre with laurel leaves.

Lady Clerk, wife of the British Minister to Czecho-Slovakia, has returned to Prague.

Prince Carol of Roumania is staying for a short time at the Ritz Hotel.

A State visit by the Crown Prince of Yugoslavia to Bosnia and Herzegovina is being arranged.

Mrs. Sefton Findlay sailed on September 5 by the steamship Morea to join her husband in India.

M. Jan Masaryk, son of President Masaryk, has been transferred from Washington to the Czecho-Slovak Legation in London.

Mr. Tcheidze, the President of the Georgian Legation in London, accompanied by Colonel Prince Melikov, has arrived in town from Paris.

Mme. Gavrilovitch, the wife of the Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, returned to London last Friday from Hastings.

The President of Czecho-Slovakia, Dr. Masaryk, has left Prague for the country, where he intends to take six weeks' holiday.

M. Take Jonescu, Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, is expected to arrive in London during the third week of September.

Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Webb has retired from the post of Assistant High-Commissioner at Constantinople, which he has filled for about eighteen months.

M. Stambolisky, Prime Minister of Bulgaria, who is coming to England at the invitation of the British Government, is expected to arrive in London on October 1.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (September 1):—

Captain Yovanovitch, who is well known in London, where he lived several years before the war, and then served as Assistant Military Attaché, has been appointed Honorary Consul-General.

Before leaving Belgrade, Marshal Joffre presented 2,000 dinars to provide milk for war orphans, and 15,000 dinars for the benefit of war invalids.

Exequatur has been granted to Don Sebastiano Romer y Radigales, the new Spanish Consul on the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

Dr. Ante Trumbitch, Minister of Foreign Affairs, has arrived from Paris.

Admiral de Bon, commanding the French Mediterranean fleet, with 15 officers and 15 marines, has arrived at Jerusalem.

Sir Murdoch and Lady Macdonald have arrived at the Grand Hotel, Broadstairs, where the Maharanee of Cooch Behar is also staying.

Professor Garstang, of Liverpool University, who is Director of the British School of Archæology in Jerusalem, is preparing to excavate the famous Crusader city of Askelon.

It is stated that Lord Hardinge, now Permanent Secretary of the Foreign Office, will be appointed to the British Embassy in Paris upon Lord Derby's retirement in November.

M. Michel B. Boeresco, Minister Plenipotentiary and Chargé d'Affaires of the Roumanian Legation, entertained at luncheon on September 1 Captain Bowring, the British Naval representative in Bucharest, and Lieutenant Fletcher, R.N., of the Admiralty.

A marriage has been arranged and will take place in London on September 18 between Mr. A. Harold Masters, Secretary to the Consul-General of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in Belgium, and Miss Mabel Whybrow, of Selhurst, Surrey.

The King has granted authority to Commander Sir Edmund Wyldbore Smith to wear the insignia of a Commander of the Greek Order of George I., and to Mr. Octavius Pelly Dick, Mr. Henry Charles Reeve, and Mr. Bernard Henry Dobson, to wear the insignia of Officers of the same Order.

Mr. James Hamilton, of The Hollies, Newlands, Glasgow, merchant, of Messrs. William Milne and Co., of Glasgow, manager of the Burma Oil Company, Limited, who died on July 18, left personal estate valued at £212,829, of which his holding in the Burma Oil Company, Limited, is valued at £127,200.

The Crown Prince of Siam is expected to arrive at Calcutta on October 5. Arrangements have been made for him to visit, among other places, Simla, Peshawar, Delhi, Lucknow, Agra, Saugor, Bombay, and Madras. He will leave Calcutta on November 23 for Rangoon. The Prince will be the guest of the Government during his tour in India.

Sir Percy Cox, who is on his way to Mesopotamia as High Commissioner, has selected as his Chief Civil Secretary Mr. C. C. Garbett. Mr. Garbett, who is joining the Morea at Marseilles on September 11, has had considerable experience in Mesopotamia, for during the war he was responsible for the agricultural development scheme undertaken by the military authorities. Since 1918 he has been acting as additional Assistant Secretary in the Political Department of the India Office, where he has been studying the English side of the administration of Mesopotamia. During the Peace Conference meetings in Paris last January, Mr. Garbett accompanied Mr. Montagu as expert on Mesopotamian problems.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The Bulgarian Government has agreed to the nomination, as Italian Minister Plenipotentiary at Sofia, of Count Alduvandi Marescotti di Viano, who held Cabinet rank under Baron Sonnino.

Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart Symes, Assistant Director of Intelligence to the Sudan Government, has been appointed Governor of Haifa.


## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

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## OBITUARY.

The death took place on September 1 of Sir Charles James Lyall, K.C.S.I., C.I.E. Sir Charles, who was born in 1845, joined the Indian Civil Service in 1867 and served in the North-West Provinces as an assistant magistrate and collector. He acted as Under-Secretary to the Government of the North-West Provinces in 1871-2, and after holding other Under-Secretaryships became Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, and later Judge and Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts. Other offices held by him included those of Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department, Chief Commissioner of Assam, and Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces. After his retirement in 1898 he served for two years as Secretary of the Judicial and Public Department at the India Office. Sir Charles was a great authority on Hindustani and Arabic. He was the author of articles on Hindustani literature in the "Encyclopædia Britannica," and had published a sketch of the Hindustani language, as well as translations of ancient Arabic poetry. In addition to being a vice-president of the Royal Asiatic Society, he was a member of many other Eastern bodies. His son, Mr. Charles Elliott Lyall, who was born at Simla in 1877, entered the Sudan Civil Service in 1901 and since 1917 has been Governor of the Kassala Province.

Sir Henry Stewart Cunningham, late a Judge of the High Court of Calcutta, died at his house in Eaton Place on September 3. He had been ill for a long time, and during the past few weeks had been gradually sinking. He was born in 1832, and was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1859. He was Advocate-General of the High Court of Madras and an additional member of the Governor's Council in 1872-7, and sat as a Judge in the High Court of Calcutta from November, 1877, until his resignation in July, 1888. The following year he was created a K.C.I.E. He was a man of strong literary tastes, and the author of several good novels of Indian life and of two excellent biographies.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Imperial War Museum at the Crystal Palace has acquired the flag of truce hoisted by the Turks on the surrender of Jerusalem, the flag used by Lord Allenby on his entry into the town, and the flag of scarlet silk laid by the ex-Kaiser on the tomb of Saladin at Damascus (presented by Emir Faisal).

The Secretary-General of the League of Nations, on behalf of the Council, has invited the German, Austrian, Hungarian, and Bulgarian Governments each to appoint three delegates to attend the International Financial Conference, to be held at Brussels on September 24.

Persia has expressed regret for the murder of the German Consul, Herr Wustrow, at Tabriz, and for the recent attack on the German Consulate at Tabriz.

Lieutenant Vladimir Jabotinsky, the founder of the Jewish Legion, arrived in London last week.

A brother of the man Tserapis, formerly an official in the Foreign Ministry, now in the custody of the Paris police in connection with the attempt on the life of M. Venizelos, has been arrested at Athens.

The Zionist correspondent of *The Times* at Jerusalem writes (August 31)):—Jewish immigration has begun without incident, and the hundreds arriving weekly are finding work on Jewish farms and in the building of roads. The authorities have ordered every official announcement to be published in English, Arabic, and Hebrew.

A message from Valona states that the last Italian troops have left the town.

The *Kolnische Zeitung* reports that the Italian and South Slavonian Governments have asked Austria for the extradition of war criminals, among them Reichsgovernor von Horthy.

It is proposed to erect a memorial in India to the Gurkhas and their officers who were killed in the war. The memorial will take the form of a cenotaph and hostel at the recruiting headquarters of Gorakhpur and Darjeeling, where the widows of the fallen come to draw their pensions.

Prince Ahmed-Fuad-Eddin gave a dinner at Milan last Thursday in honour of the Emir Faisal and the chief members of his suite.

While on his voyage to England from the United States, the Crown Prince of Roumania presided over a concert in aid of seamen's charities, held on board the Aquitania. The Prince said that the Roumanian people were thoroughly cognisant of the noble contribution made by the British Merchant Service towards the winning of the war by the civilised nations of Europe. Many passengers were presented to the Prince by Viscount and Viscountess Maitland.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (September 1):—Diplomatic relations have been restored with Germany, whose Minister, Herr von Keller, was received by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on August 31.

In the new Constitution of Malta the Colonial Secretary of Malta has decided that a proviso shall be introduced requiring a deposit from each candidate for the Legislative Assembly of £20, which will be returned if the candidate secures a prescribed number of votes.


# WHERE TO STAY.

**For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—**

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(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1920.


## PEASANTS AND POLITICIANS.

To the observer at a distance the population of the Balkan regions appears to be composed entirely of peasants and politicians, and while the generalisation, like most others of the kind, is, of course, not formally accurate, it is nevertheless true that these two classes are most conspicuous to the foreigner, and that their activities are the principal sources of the misapprehensions regarding Balkan politics which have prevailed for so long. The ordinary Englishman knows by experience what politicians are, but he is usually unable to forecast their activities in the Balkan countries; of peasants he knows nothing whatever, and any attempt to argue from experience of capitalist farmers to nations of small holders must inevitably lead to ludicrous misunderstanding of the real position. For there is a definite peasant mentality, tinged indeed by racial and regional peculiarities, but fundamentally one, and recognisable in Europe, Africa, and Asia, wherever masses of men earn their living by working on the land, not, as in England, for an assured wage, but for whatever return their toil and knowledge can extort. To the peasant, life and work mean the same thing. He knows nothing of fixed hours or "overtime," and if the day be too short for the task, the night must be pressed into the service of his holding. The land claims everything: the wife must work by her husband, the children by their parents. If relaxation be desired, it must come when no work is waiting to be done; the holding is a stern taskmaster, and the tale of the bricks is not diminished though the supply of straw may be withheld. In the conditions which have hitherto prevailed, such a life inevitably produces a distinctive character and outlook. The peasant in the Balkans, like his brothers in France, or India, or Egypt, is easily to be recognised by his strong points as well as by his weak. Narrow, suspicious, pessimistic, covetous, if you will, he is at the same time patient, sturdy, steadfast, and an admirable foundation for a strong and stable State.

If we ask what such a community can be expected to produce in the way of politicians, we shall be forced to recognise that the available sources are scanty. The peasant himself can rarely take an active part, for even though he should possess the necessary attainments, the land claims all his time and nearly all his thought. A wealthy leisured class may or may not exist, but at the best it is exceedingly unlikely that its members will be bound by that tradition of gratuitous and disinterested public service which has counted for so much in English history, and which in a somewhat different form is such a remarkable feature of life in the United States. The peasants must look to the towns and cities for their politicians, and until commerce and industry are highly developed, the demand must be met from the professional classes, and very largely from the law. Now, we are far from sharing the popular prejudice against lawyer-politicians as such. Lawyers are an indispensable element in our modern civilisation, and it is only right that they should bear their proper share of the national burden; but a superfluity of lawyers is a different matter, and we believe that informed opinion in general accepts the dictum of the Joint Report on Indian Constitutional Reform, that the preponderance in politics of men of any single calling is not in the interests of the community as a whole. In a peasant state, however, the lawyer-politician has a peculiar drawback arising from the nature of his relations with his constituents. We have described the peasant as suspicious, and, speaking broadly, his suspicions are concentrated on lawyers as a class. He hates the money-lenders, whose practices he can understand; but he suspects the lawyers, whose ways are beyond his comprehension, and his mistrust is ordinarily tinged with fear. A lawyer can, therefore, rarely hope to stand out as the natural leader of a peasant community, or even as the natural representative of a peasant constituency; to secure such a position, he must rely largely on promises, which, in order to be effective, must be concrete and localised. A new branch railway, a road or a bridge, a subsidy of some sort or other; these are offers which the peasant can appreciate, and we cannot wonder if they enter largely into electoral contests; but it is important to realise that, unlike some classes of electors, the peasant will insist on the delivery of the goods. Promises must be carried out, or a new constituency sought, and it is to the nature of the electioneering imposed by the conditions we have indicated that we must attribute many of the least satisfactory aspects of political life. When a large proportion of the popular representatives are committed in advance to distinctively local interests, the legislature as a whole is likely to be dominated by activities of the type described as "log-rolling," and to be characterised by dangerous incoherence of parties and the sacrifice of permanent national interests to momentary sectional advantages, while the administration must be weak at home, and can scarcely hope to escape the injurious contempt of other nations. In administration and legislature alike, corruption will be imputed, if it does not, in fact, exist, reasoned argument will give place to discussion of the motives affecting individual conduct, and the whole political environment is apt to take a sordid tint.

If such is the type of politics to be expected in a peasant State, in whatever continent it may be situated, let us turn to consider the possibility of its improvement. It may be taken as certain that for any permanent advance we must look to the peasants themselves. We do not suggest that they should cease to be peasants, but it is possible for them to develop gradually a wider outlook on the world, an increased reliance on their own judgment, and at the same time a demand for better politicians than those whose services they now secure. It is, however, exceedingly improbable that any body of peasantry will advance far in this direction without external guidance and inspiration: the impetus must come from the relatively small number of citizens whose experience has caused them to be dissatisfied with existing conditions, and who are sufficiently patriotic to be willing to devote time and energy to their improvement. The precise nature of the impetus will probably vary with the circumstances of individual States: in some cases a purely cultural movement may suffice, while in others a definitely economic basis may be required, but in all alike the burden must be shouldered in the first instance by the few. Perhaps we should rather say, the privilege must be claimed. In the Balkans, as in other peasant States, there are men and women profoundly dissatisfied with things as they are, but regarding the direct reform of politics as a hopeless enterprise. Let them turn their attention to the peasant, more effectively than they have yet done: let them concentrate their effort on widening his outlook: let them devote themselves to his education in the broadest sense of that ambiguous term, and we are confident that they will find the enterprise very far from hopeless. Experience gained in various countries shows that even a small advance in economic and social life may produce an altogether disproportionate effect in the political field. The way to get better politicians lies through the gradual uplifting of the masses of the peasants.

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# THE RULERSHIP OF MESOPOTAMIA.

**By Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah.**

It is a recognised and strictly observed principle of British diplomacy to make no suggestion and offer no advice on matters in which there may be a risk of international misunderstanding involved; and the British people, wishing not to hurt French susceptibilities, have refrained from discussing the present Near Eastern problems. But now that we are on the eve of what would seem to be a prolonged and troublesome war in Mesopotamia, the writer, an Afghan, may, perhaps, with advantage set forward the Moslem point of view, which is taken in the Middle East regarding events in Mesopotamia. What will follow is a very faithful account of facts.

It has been stated that an attempt has been made to "run" the Mesopotamian administration on Anglo-Indian lines, also that the Arabs have been heavily taxed in connection with the exploitation of the country, and have found British rule a good deal more irksome from the financial point of view than any other system of government they have yet experienced. Whatever the facts that support these statements, it remains undisputed that such ideas have actually got a firm grip in certain quarters. Moreover, in the general desire for self-determination, the Arabs have shown a wish to be governed by a chief of their own race. They have no intention of throwing off the British mandatory influence, just yet, but with it they will remain content if an extravagant bureaucracy be replaced by an administration economical in method and of reasonably intelligent aims, and if a man of their own race with a knowledge of Arab idiosyncracies be set over them to act as intermediary between them and the British officials who have been appointed to guide the destinies of their country into modern channels.

Perhaps no man is better fitted to rule the emirate of Mesopotamia or is more likely to mediate successfully between the Arabs and British officialdom than Shereef Ali Haidar, now in exile in Constantinople. He comes of a family which has in the past shown marked Anglophil sympathies, and he himself, despite the part he has been forced to play by German diplomacy, is no less a friend of this country than were his fathers before him. His ancestors have ruled in Arabia for one thousand years, and only ceased to do so through the machinations of the late Sultan Abdul Hamid.

The story of Ali Haidar is eloquent of the spirit of Oriental intrigue.

So lately as two generations ago the emirate of Mecca was held by Shereef Ghalib, who was exiled to Salonika through the intrigues of Mohammed Ali of Egypt. This schemer then suggested Mohammed Ibn-Awn as Emir, and effect was given to his wishes. But soon afterwards, Ali Haidar's grandfather, Shereef Abdul Muttalib, was restored to the throne of his fathers. In 1880, he offered a strenuous resistance to Turkish pretensions in the Hejaz; but when the family of Mohammed Ali proposed an anti-Turkish alliance with him the memory of ancient wrongs received from their house proved too strong to enable him to accept. In revenge for this the descendants of the Egyptian Khedive declared that Adbul Muttalib was intriguing with the British against the Turks. This statement naturally excited the strongest suspicions at Constantinople, and these were by no means allayed when the Sultan exiled Midhat Pasha to Mecca, with secret orders to Abdul Muttalib to kill him. That piece of treachery the Emir refused to carry out; he had, indeed, given Lord Dufferin his word that no harm would befall Midhat through his agency; and when, at last, Midhat was killed, Muttalib was imprisoned in his palace till the act was consummated.

At length, in 1882, Muttalib was deposed by Abdul Hamid for his pro-English sympathies, and it is clear that his countrymen seem also to have regarded him with some suspicion as being the friend of England. Indeed, *The Times* of June 5, 1882, states that they "attribute to the British Government designs of gaining ground and influence in Arabia." Muttalib's grandson, Ali Haidar, had been sent as a hostage to Constantinople whilst yet a child, and he grew up under the eye of the Turkish authorities. This, however, did not prevent him from being suspected of inheriting his grandfather's sympathies for the English, a suspicion which was carefully fostered by Refik and his party, whose head, Hussein, was given the emirate of the Hejaz.

When Muttalib died Ali Haidar, now grown to manhood, laid formal claim to the emirate of Mecca. But owing to his supposed pro-British attitude he was passed over and his cousin Ali was chosen. Circumstances arose which compelled Ali to fly to Egypt, and he was succeeded by Hussein, head of the rival branch of the family. When the great war broke out, and Turkey declared for the Central Powers, Hussein and his sons rebelled, and the Turkish authorities offered the emirate to Ali Haidar, thus acknowledging his right of succession. His acceptance was only natural, and when in 1916, with a large Turkish force under his command, he proceeded to Medina, he was, in reality, opposed to his British friends through circumstances over which he had no control. On the defeat of Turkey, Ali Haidar, of course, forfeited his emirate, which returned into the hands of Hussein, who is now King of the Hejaz.

To-day the Arab world is seething with discontent, and the outbreak in Mesopotamia might easily spread until it embraced the whole of Arabia proper. We shall do ill if we permit this to come to pass through lack of consideration of the claims of those great chieftains who are best fitted to voice the needs of their own race.

Ali Haidar, did he succeed to the emirate of Mesopotamia, would be the last to countenance the feuds which have distracted this district for so many generations. He is eminently a man of peace, and war or disturbance of any kind would be the last thing he would desire for the people over whom his ancestors formerly ruled. Nor would he place any difficulties in the way of Hussein or Faisal, who are his kith and kin. Haidar has undoubtedly a better right to an Arabian emirate than Hussein or Faisal, for not only is his ancestry from the ancient emirs of the country duly proven, but as a firm friend of Britain and a naturally capable ruler he is more suitable personally than either for the vacant throne. Moreover, he would be most acceptable to the Arabs of Mesopotamia, who hold his descent in the greatest reverence, and rightly regard him as in the true line of the Prophet. He would thus be able, because of the influence he could bring to bear on the more unruly chiefs, to mediate in all matters between them and the British officials who would adminster the affairs of the country. Nor would he in any way attempt to set up a rival Arab state in opposition to the Hejaz, or make efforts to annex that country, such as other claimants for the emirate might do.

It is unfortunate indeed that Haidar and his claims are not better known in England. He must in no sense be identified with the rebellion that has broken out, of which he is entirely innocent; and those who know him are aware that his love of constitutional and pacific methods would never have countenanced such a proceeding. Nor can it be too strongly declared that he has absolutely no connection either with Turkey or Germany. When he went to Mecca with a Turkish force, it was not because he desired to side with these reactionaries, but merely because he wished to claim his rightful inheritance.

Ali Haidar's family tree is in the hands of the writer. The importance of his branch of the House of the Prophet is shown by the fact that it has produced no fewer than twenty shereefs, while that of Hussein has produced only three. This circumstance naturally weighs very greatly with the Arabs, who regard him as a fitting and proper leader of the national cause. Such leaders as would be acceptable to the British Foreign Office are few and far between, and it would be most unwise to pass over the claims of Haidar in favour of those who are not regarded by the Arabs as having so strong a claim to the throne.

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Nor are the claims of Faisal in Syria any less clear. Taking everything into consideration, his banishment by the French authorities has undoubtedly been a most maladroit act. Not only has Faisal proved himself a true friend to the Allies, but there is the clearest evidence that had he not assisted them in Syria in the most whole-hearted manner the French could not have been enabled to secure a sphere of influnce in that country. The causes of his banishment are obscure to all but those who brought it about, and the policy which dictated his removal cannot be regarded as sound by persons who have a knowledge of the political affairs of the Near East. Faisal himself will shortly arrive in this country, where it is to be hoped his case will receive that just and patient hearing to which it is most eminently entitled.

It is of the utmost importance to Great Britain that the interior affairs of the several Arab states should at the outset of our suzerainty of these regions be placed on a foundation prepared by sound and just statesmanship, otherwise, as has unfortunately been the case in certain of our Eastern Protectorates, internecine strife and age-long irritation will undoubtedly ensue, leading to the most vexatious and expensive disturbances, and turning what might be an excellent *milieu* for commercial expansion into a chaotic wilderness more fruitful of faction and rebellion than of industry and progress. In the welter of controversy in which our governors at present find themselves hasty decision regarding Mesopotamian affairs is much more strongly to be deprecated than would be the case elsewhere, because as our foundations are in that country, so will be the edifice we gradually raise upon them—ever insecure and threatening to fall, or sound and able to endure.

The State Department in America has received the British reply to the recent American Note requesting information on the reported Anglo-French policy regarding oil supplies, notably in Asia Minor. The Note, however, was so badly mutilated in transmission that it is incomprehensible.

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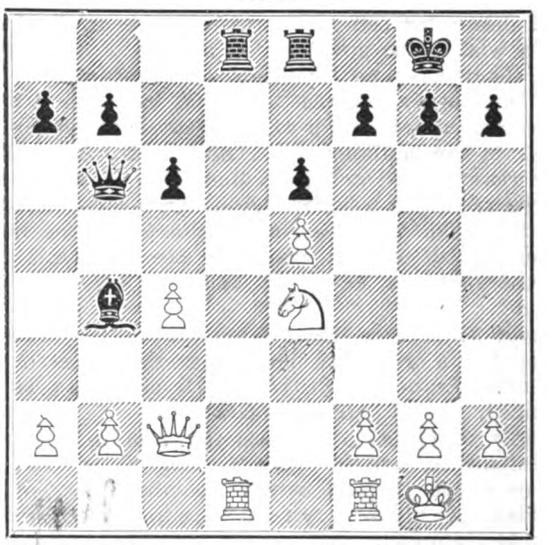
CARO-KANN DEFENCE.

| White. Sir G. A. Thomas. | Black. R. H. V. Scott. | White. Sir G. A. Thomas. | Black. R. H. V. Scott. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 P—K4 | P—QB3 | 22 KP x B | R—Q2 (6) |
| 2 P—Q4 | P—Q4 | 23 R—Q4 | Q - Q |
| 3 Kt—QB3 | P x P | 24 Q—R4 | P—K4 |
| 4 Kt x P | B—B4 (1) | 25 R—Q3 | P—QR3 |
| 5 Kt—Kt3 | B—Kt3 | 26 R—K | Q—B3 |
| 6 Kt—B3 | P—K3 | 27 Q—KKt4 | Q—K3 |
| 7 B—QB4 | Kt—B3 | 28 Q x Q | R x Q |
| 8 0—0 | QKt—Q2 | 29 R(Q3)—K3 | P—B3 |
| 9 Q—K3 | B—K2 (2) | 30 P—B4 (7) | K—B2 |
| 10 B—Kt3 (3) | Kt—Q4 (4) | 31 P x P | P x P |
| 11 B—Q2 | 0—0 | 32 R x P | R x R |
| 12 QR—Q | R—K | 33 R x R | K—B3 |
| 13 Kt—K5 | Kt x Kt | 34 R—K8 | K—B2 |
| 14 P x Kt | Q—Kt3 | 35 R—K3 | P—QKt3 |
| 15 P—QB4 | Kt—Kt5 | 35 P—QKt4 | P—QKt4 |
| 16 B x Kt | B x B | 36 K—B2 | K—B |
| 17 B—B2 | B x B | 37 R—QR3 | R—QR2 |
| 18 Q x B | QR—Q | 38 K—K3 | K—K |
| 19 Kt—K4 (5) | B—K2 | 39 K—Q4 | K—Q |
| 20 P—B5 | Q—R4 | 40 K—K5 | Resigns |
| 21 Kt—Q6 | B x Kt | | |

Position at White's 19th move.

Black.



White.

(1) Kt—B3 is much preferable. Then would follow 5 Kt x Kt, KtP x Kt with a fair game. QP x P is often recommended at this stage for Black, but it has the defect of leaving the centre very weak.

(2) B—K3 should have been played. In this opening the B serves no useful purpose at K2.

(3) Preparatory to P—QB4.

(4) Waste of time in view of White's previous move. Better would have been O—O followed by Kt—Kt3 with a view to a concentration on White's QP and also to prepare for P—QB4 after QR—QB.

(5) All this is excellently played by White, who is now in a position to establish himself at K6.

(6) P—Kt3 would have led to the isolation of the White P at K6, but it would not have saved the game.

(7) Winning a pawn.

CARO-KANN.

## AN EXPERIMENT IN PALESTINE

An interesting experiment in the allocation of public works in the Holy Land is reported in the *Palestine Weekly*, a contract for the construction of a road between Semech and Tiberias having been placed with the Jewish Agricultural Labourers' Association, a co-operative undertaking. The Association has its own system of taxation and a sick fund, and a portion of the wages of each member is placed to reserve to provide for the contingency of loss on the contract. Recently the Association was approached by the Palestine Arab Club of Tiberias with a view to local Arabs participating in the work, and a certain number of Arabs have been employed on a co-operative basis, the Arab Club being responsible for the behaviour of the workmen. This incident is typical of the better feeling now prevailing in Palestine between Jews and Arabs.

An unconfirmed report of an attempt to assassinate Kemal Pasha near Tokat has been received in Paris from Constantinople. It is stated that Kemal Pasha was wounded, and his companion, named Samis, was killed.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

British labour troubles are followed with close attention all over the Continent, and particularly in South-Eastern Europe. There the experiences of Western countries are faithfully reproduced, but, somehow or other, with a certain amount of unreality. Presumably labour has not found its feet to the same extent, and its efforts to imitate countries more highly industrialised fall short of the desired effect. Be that as it may, the threatened coal strike, we may be sure, is being watched with considerable interest, because, if the worst happened, the Near East must be affected in some degree. But for the benefit of our Eastern readers we will hazard the prophecy that the worst will not happen. The miners may come out on strike on September 27, but if our tenderfeet, whether inside or outside the Government, will "sit tight" and let them strike, the Labour movement will receive the biggest setback that it has known, and it will receive that setback in a remarkably short time after the declaration of the strike. The miners' leaders appreciate the fact; hence the mobilisation of other trades unions for the purpose of making peace before the strike day arrives.

***

The production of petroleum in Roumania for the first six months of this year amounted to 464,669 tons as compared with 539,392 tons for the same period in 1919, a reduction of 14 per cent. The output in 1919 represented a decrease of 25 per cent. as compared with that of 1918. This year's figures have benefited by certain oil eruptions (one on the property of the Steaua Romana and another from a bore-hole belonging to the Astra Romana). Otherwise a still further reduction would have had to be recorded. The backward condition of the industry is due to lack of machinery, aggravated by the labour question and, of course, the deficiency of transport. The total output in 1919 was 919,847 tons, as compared with 1,783,947 tons in 1914, and 1,885,619 tons in 1913.

***

On another page appears an authoritative statement regarding the present position of Roumania's oil industry. The author of the paper of which a summary is given estimates production for the rest of the year at only 2,200 tons a day, or 42 per cent. of the pre-war total. Whether this is an unduly conservative estimate remains to be seen; but it is certainly well below the output for the first five months of 1919. With this diminution of production goes the increased home consumption, due to the additional territory incorporated in the Roumanian kingdom as a result of the war, and the net result to the outside world is that it is likely to be shorter of petroleum products, as far as Roumania is concerned, by one million tons.

***

Elsewhere we publish the main features of a recent Order of the Direction de Prévoyance in Bulgaria issued with a view to preventing speculation in commodities and to limiting the profits of traders. The measures, it will be seen at once, are drastic, and in their entirety are not altogether feasible. I can quite understand that they have caused consternation among foreigners dealing with Bulgaria, especially our own countrymen. For instance, is it possible that a British manufacturer will appreciate having to have his invoices certified by "a Bulgarian Consulate, the local Chamber of Commerce or Municipality"? Unless I am mistaken, representations on the subject, which have already been made in Sofia, will cause the more vexatious of the provisions to be rescinded.

***

Full sympathy will be felt with the Bulgarian authorities in their desire to prevent their people from being exploited, and with the leva at anything between 150 and 300 (actually to-day 180) to the pound sterling, the need for preventing profiteering will be appreciated. But it is essential that trade should not be hampered, that is to say, in regard to those goods which are needed in the country. I think luxuries, of course, in the present state of all the Balkan countries ought to be banned. The danger is that when restrictions become unnecessarily vexatious, a grave injury is done to commerce, and they defeat their own end, because honest merchants drop out of the running and the trade is left in less desirable hands. Bulgaria has good reason to tread warily in this matter just now. At this distance away it looks as if the two State bodies, the Direction de Prévoyance, which superintends food distribution and controls the import and export trade, and the Centrale des Devises, which regulates exchange, had been appointed without sufficient attention being paid to the ability and experience of their members and chiefs.

***

According to a German paper, a commercial firm known as the Panhellenic Society of Salonika proposes to establish in that town a German commercial museum, which is to serve as a permanent exhibition of German goods. "This organisation," it is stated in the prospectus or in a letter, "will not be restricted to a simple exhibition of samples, but will combine with it a selling agency at Salonika with branches in Athens, Smyrna, Adrianople, and Constantinople. . . . Those who participate in the German commercial museum can be certain of dominating the Eastern market. Our society has reason to be proud of this important enterprise, and it is no exaggeration to say that with the means at our disposal and with the help of German exporters and manufacturers, the German commercial museum will constitute in the East one of the strongest wholesale establishments of the world."

***

All this, I suppose, is good business instinct. The letter, or prospectus, is printed in the German paper in French. I am wondering whether the Greek prospectus of the "Panhellenic" Society of Salonika is worded in the same way, and, if so, whether its Greek clients will share the satisfaction expressed by the Society at being the first in the East to revive German goods and "the traditional taste of the German race." It is necessary that Germany's export trade should be revived, and this can only be done by her goods finding a market abroad; but the "Panhellenic" has rather overdone its fulsomeness.

***

In Roumania the index numbers of current prices prepared by the Director-General of Statistics shows that the cost of living in 1919 had risen to fourteen times above the figure for 1901, and ten times the index number for the quinquennial period 1911-15. Anyone who has been to Roumania lately, I am told, knows that there have been further increases in the cost of things since 1919, and one is tempted to wonder how the people manage to subsist. But the depreciated currency (materially assisted by the German printing presses) and the shortage of foodstuffs started the vicious circle. If for foodstuffs grown in the country they have to regard the *leu* as the equivalent of ten *bani*, instead of a hundred as before, everything else must be priced accordingly. The depreciation would not matter so much, as was pointed out in the extracts published in our issue last week from Professor Cassel's Memorandum, if there were not such violent fluctuations. In regard to these the position of the foreigner in Roumania is particularly unfortunate. He or she is dependent upon imported goods, especially groceries, wearing apparel, and household articles, and the prices of these mount in proportion to the downward tendency of exchange; but having once touched rock-bottom, they show no sign of falling in sympathy with any improvement in exchange.

COMMENTATOR.


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# Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, August 27.

### Agriculture.

Roumania, essentially agricultural, exported annually before the war approximately 200,000 trucks of cereals, of which wheat was her most important product. Through her expansion she has gained the granary of Bessarabia, and a good part of that of the Banat, both of which granaries are famous for the quality as well as the quantity of their contents. Even this year, although having a middling production, Roumania will be able to export about 120,000 trucks, of which 80 per cent. will be maize, while the remaining 20 per cent. will consist of rye, oats, barley, millet, rapeseed, beans, peas, etc.

It will be some years before Roumania can reach her maximum production, or at least the pre-war one. This is mainly due to the land being split up amongst the peasants, thereby abolishing the big farms, where mostly agricultural machinery was employed. It is now up to the Government to assist the peasants, by procuring new machinery and inducing them to use more modern means of tilling the soil.

### Petroleum and Mines.

The internal oil distribution arrangement has now been ratified by Parliament. This concession will be turned over to a stock company for thirty years under State control. The capital of this company will be subscribed as follows:—25 per cent. by the State, 50 per cent. by the oil companies in the country, and 25 per cent. by Roumanian consumers.

The exploitation of the riches existing in the subsoil of the Roumanian mountains is still in its infancy. Petroleum, coal, lignite, natural gases, iron, gold, copper, silver, salt, etc., are all only exploited more or less on the surface, and are estimated to exist in gigantic quantities. The exploitation of these minerals was mostly in the hands of German and Hungarian companies before the war, but the Government is now liquidating these, or converting them into Roumanian concerns. This scheme will not be able to be carried out by Roumania single-handed, on account of the lack of sufficient capital and specialists for the work connected with them. Therefore immediate collaboration on the part of the Allies would be welcome.

There is a great scarcity of tools and machinery for the oil industry.

### Timber.

Another field for Allied collaboration is the exploitation of the great tract of forest land, which covers an area of about seven million hectares. Small quantities of timber have already been exported to the neighbouring countries, but this is nothing compared to what could be exported with a bigger and better organised system of exploitation, backed up by better means of transport.

### Trade and Money Market.

After the stagnation which prevailed during the last two or three months, the market is showing signs of improvement. Merchants are beginning to provide themselves for the autumn and winter season.

The exchange has lately become more stable—that is, fluctuating round 150 lei to the pound sterling. The Stock Exchange is a little firmer also, since the war scare has died away.

### Metal Currency.

A Bill was presented to the Chamber yesterday by M. Take Jonescu, by which the Ministry of Finance would be authorised to issue metal currency to the value of twenty million lei, in the following proportions:—30 million pieces of 50 *bani* and 20 million of 25 *bani*. The questions of the kind of metal to be used, dimensions, and weight are to be settled by the Council of Ministers upon the recommendations of the Ministry of Finance.

The expenses of the coinage are to be covered by the value of the coins, and the profit realised is to be added to the Budget.

These will be the first metal coins to appear since they were withdrawn by the Government at the outbreak of the war.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, August 28.

### Returns and Production of Salt.

Salt, which is a Government monopoly, has yielded 5,481,680.30 drs., in 1919, as against 5,405,754.80 drs. during 1918. The amounts realised by the Government from the sale of salt from 1914 to 1917 were as follow:—1914, 3,666,541.55 drs.; 1915, 3,539,321.20 drs.; 1916, 3,690,913.05 drs.; 1917, 4,354,744.45 drs.; the average for the years 1914-1918 being 4,131,275,01 drs. The monopoly price for salt in 1919 was 25 lepta per oka for the whole of Greece, with the exception of the privileged islands of Zante and St. Maura, where only 15 lepta per oka is charged. The returns for 1919 show an increase of 75,925.50 drs. on the amount realised during the previous year, and an increase of 1,350,405.29 drs. on the five years (1914-1918) average.

The quantity of salt sold in the country in 1919 amounted to 22,198,294 okas, of which the 21,519,362 okas were sold at 25 lepta and the remainder (in Zante and St. Maura) at 15 lepta. In 1918, 22,115,273 okas were sold, viz., 83,021 okas less than in 1919. The production of salt in the various salt pits of Old Greece in 1919 amounted to 17,772,010 okas. Of these Missolonghi produced 4,702,970 okas, St. Maura 4,699,294 okas, Anavyssos 5,027,995 okas, and Zante 1,163,817 okas. The production in 1918 was 20,652,611 okas, viz., 2,880,601 okas more than in 1919.

The total quantity of salt produced during 1919 was insufficient for the needs of the country, and the Government was obliged to import from abroad 11,269,636 okas; furthermore, in order to cope with the demands of consumption in 1920, an adjudication was held for 6,000 tons. The salt pits in the provinces of New Greece have only yielded 940,380 okas of salt. The average consumption in Greece per inhabitant and per annum was 10.764 kilos in 1918 and 10.795 kilos in 1919.

### Tobacco Production in Macedonia.

According to information received from the Ministry of Agriculture, this year's tobacco production in Macedonia will, it is anticipated, reach the following figures:—In the province of Serres 3,500,000 okas, in the province of Drama 4,000,000 okas, in the province of Salonika 750,000 okas, and in the province of Kozani 200,000 okas. The total production of Macedonian tobacco is, therefore, expected to reach about 8,450,000 okas.

### Greek Chamber of Commerce in Paris.

The Government has decided to establish a Greek Chamber of Commerce in Paris for the purpose of protecting Greek commercial interests in France and developing business transactions between the two countries. The necessary steps are now being taken to obtain the sanction of the French Government.

## MOROCCO.

The French General Residency in the Sous region of Morocco frequently receives requests from Europeans who desire to establish themselves at Agadir in commerce. As matters stand at present, however, it is impossible to give satisfaction to these demands, because the region in question is in the zone of insecurity. Commercial operations and transactions in real estate are, for the moment, forbidden. It is, consequently, useless to address demands which cannot be granted, says a French contemporary. The public will be advised when Agadir can be opened to trade and colonisation.

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## TURKISH FRUIT CROPS.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows, under date August 20:—Our previous report was dated July 1 last.

Sultanas.—With the cessation of hostilities during the past few weeks it is now possible to communicate more freely with the fruit-growing districts and to obtain comprehensive information about the general prospects of the vineyards. Owing to the unsettled conditions which have prevailed throughout the province since last autumn, it is now becoming evident that the vines in many districts did not receive the attention which was necessary to assure the bearing of a full yield. Reports reaching us from our agents in the principal growing districts are to the effect that the yield is likely to prove below earlier estimates, and it is anticipated that the final result will not exceed 20-22,000 tons. On the other hand, the grapes are in sound condition and of exceptionally good development. Weather prevailing is favourable and if no rains fall during the next month, the fruit will be cut under satisfactory conditions, and the run of qualities should in such case prove superior to last season. The supply of inferior grades is likely to be small. Arrivals of new fruit to date amount to about 500 sacks, say 70 tons, which have been promptly taken up day by day at prices ranging from 105s. to 125s. cost and freight, mainly for sample purposes. Arrivals from all districts will not become general for at least another fortnight. The small lots of fruit that have so far come forward show exceedingly well as regards quality.

Red Raisins.—Prospects are unchanged and point to a reduced production. No prices have yet been named for forward delivery. This fruit will only be available for shipment towards end September or early October.

Black Raisins.—We have nothing to add to the forecast made in our previous report. As in the case of red raisins, this fruit will not be available for shipment before the early part of October.

Figs.—Outlook is in all ways satisfactory. Practically the whole of the Meander Valley, which is the centre of the fig production, is now under control of the Greek military authorities, and arrangements have been made by the Ottoman Railway Company for the quick transport of the fruit to market. First arrivals are expected in the early part of next week. The crop is estimated at anything between 80-85,000 loads, and the fruit, owing to the favourable and dry weather which has prevailed, gives promise of exceptional soundness.

General Remarks.—The military operations undertaken by the Greek Army during the past three months have necessitated the requisitioning of a large number of camels and carts in all districts for transport purposes. Complaints are now general of the want of sufficient transport for the moving of the crops, and owing to these considerations some fears are entertained that arrivals may not immediately come forward in the volume which under ordinary conditions we should expect.

As regards prices, buyers abroad are exercising considerable prudence, and have displayed little anxiety so far to operate for forward shipment either on sultanas or figs. If this policy is persevered in, our market will have to conform to the ideas of consumers abroad. Last year both sultanas and figs were under control, and owing to the heavy purchases effected by the British Ministry of Food, about 20,000 tons of sultanas and 10,000 tons of figs were rushed forward between September 1 and the end of October. Control was removed on the 2nd of this month, and it is unlikely that such heavy shipments as were effected last season in the course of two months can possibly go forward in the present campaign. Shippers will doubtless exercise some caution in the extent of their consignments, and unless encouraged by satisfactory and prompt sales abroad, will have little inducement to force large consignments on unresponsive markets.

So far as figs are concerned, American buyers, as a rule, were accustomed to operate on a large scale in advance of the season, but owing to the disastrous results of their purchases last year, are working very cautiously this season. Owing to their reserve they have been successful in forcing down prices to an unexpectedly low level. The extent of orders, moreover, which they have placed on our market is very much smaller than usual, and in view of the promising crop it is certain that prices will have to rule at a low and attractive level to stimulate consumption abroad, and to permit of the disposal of our crop on foreign markets.

First shipments of the season will go forward by the s.s. "Coya" and the s.s. "Venetian" for London and Bristol, and by the s.s. "Austrian" for Liverpool. These steamers are advertised to sail early in September.

## TRADE WITH GEORGIA.

On the occasion of a visit to Constantinople towards the end of July, Major F. W. Pinder, Commercial Adviser to the British High Commissioner in Tiflis, had some interesting remarks to make on the subject of trade with Georgia to a meeting of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey. From the Chamber's Monthly *Journal* we learn that Major Pinder, in the course of answering questions put to him, made the following points:—

Export Duties at Batoum are the same as those prevailing at Poti. Their application has brought about almost entire cessation of export. The fact has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Georgian Government, which, however, has so far taken no steps to remedy it. That the charges may be reduced owing to the continued decrease in exports is not likely, as the Government's economic policy is of a very primitive nature, and the Georgian officials lack the experience to foresee the negative results which their present policy is producing.

Major Pinder said that he would refrain from putting in any reports to the Board of Trade for a month, during which time he gave the Georgians a chance to organise the export of tobacco and release this product from Government control and the heavy Customs duties to which it was subject.

Cash Before Delivery.—Major Pinder's advice to all traders is to exact payment beforehand. This applies to the Georgian Government as well as to the individual Georgian dealer. He pointed out the great difficulty many traders are experiencing in obtaining money due to them for goods delivered in Georgia.

The Export of Manganese.—The manganese industry and export is controlled by the Government. To arrange export is not easy. The terms are as follows: The Georgian Government takes 25 per cent. of all export profits, and, above this, 19 per cent. on the total output of manganese.

The "Shemo," a combine of manganese producers and exporters, has lately been joined by two British firms, and it is hoped that some sort of control over the export of this product will be possible.

What Georgia has for Export.—Major Pinder stated that the choice of goods for export from Georgia was very limited. The chief products available for export are manganese, tobacco, and carpets, the latter item in limited quantities. As regards the manganese and tobacco, the export of these products is "regulated" by the Government, with the result that it is very difficult to get these products out of the country. The duty on tobacco is £2 per pood (36 lb.).

Trade Difficulties.—Major Pinder said that as regards foreign trade in Georgia there was no favoured nation there at present. That is to say, all foreigners, whether they were British, French, or Italian, had to contend with the same difficulties and drawbacks. In this respect there was an equal chance for all.

The economic policy of the Georgian Government, as has been pointed out above, is a very unsatisfactory and shortsighted one. Unfortunately, it is a factor which must be considered, as at present there seems little hope of a change in their methods, which they consider the best.

The disrespect the Georgian Government has shown for Consular and Diplomatic regulations, and for official seals and documents, is another difficulty with which the merchant has to contend and overcome as best he can.

Bulgarian official reports state that this year's beet crops will be excellent.

The Bulgarian Grain Consortium has been prolonged for another four months from August 1, the date on which it should normally have been dissolved.


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# THE OIL INDUSTRY OF ROUMANIA.

## THE PRESENT POSITION.

The following is a summary of a Paper on the position with regard to petrol production and export in Roumania read before a meeting of the Association of Engineers and Technical Experts of the Mining Industry on May 30 last by Mr. N. C. Matasaru.

The total stock in the refineries and conduit depôts on May 1 was as follows (in tons):—Light benzine, 50,211; heavy benzine, 28,711; lamp oil, 160,358; gas oil, 27,555; residues, 10,044; oils, 7,284.

It is estimated that up to the end of December of this year the following quantities will be produced (in tons):—Light benzine, 42,204; heavy benzine, 26,400; lamp oil, 137,280; gas oil, 31,630; residues, 221,760.

Taking the sum of these figures then we have the total quantity available up to the end of this year (in tons):—Light benzine, 92,415; heavy benzine, 55,111; lamp oil, 297,638; gas oil, 59,235; residues, 231,814.

These figures do not include insignificant quantities of petrol in stock at one or two small refineries nor the oil in the pipe-line itself (in the Constantza pipe there were about 10,000 tons of lamp oil).

The figures given for the production up to the end of this year are based upon an average production of 220 wagons, or 2,200 tons per diem. When it is remembered that the average production in 1913 was 5,237 tons per diem, it will be seen how far the industry is from its normal activity. The present figures show a falling-off even from those of the last two years; for in 1918 the daily production was 3,372 tons, and for the first five months of 1919 it was 3,156 tons. This decline is the more regrettable as the home consumption for Greater Roumania will be at least double that of the former kingdom. The relative positions may be stated as follows, the first figures being the amount (in tons) of the annual home consumption before the war, while the figures in brackets represent the estimated future consumption annually:—Light benzine, 8,000 (25,000); heavy benzine, 23,000 (40,000); lamp oil, 53,000 (100,000); gas oil, 48,000 (60,000); residues, 580,000 (800,000); mineral oils, 9,000 (20,000).

The amount of oil required for home consumption during the last seven months of this year Mr. Matasaru estimates as follows (in tons):—Light benzine, 20,000; heavy benzine, 26,000; lamp oil, 60,000; gas oil, 40,000; residues, 221,760; mineral oils, 13,000.

It is significant that this estimate of the heavy benzine and gas oil required for consumption exceeds the amount at present being produced. If we deduct from the computed stock of petrol products available up to the end of this year the above quantities put aside for home consumption during that period, we find that the following amounts (in tons) will be available for export:- Light benzine, 72,000; heavy benzine, 29,110; lamp oil, 231,630; gas oil, 19,230.

Certain contracts have been made for delivery abroad, of which part delivery had been made before May. The contracts actually signed up to May 1 represented the following amounts (in tons), the figures in brackets being the amounts delivered before May 1:—Light benzine, 61,910 (7,590); heavy benzine, 28,080 (3,290); lamp oil, 156,570 (49,842); gas oil, 20,020 (9,960); residues, 780 (780); mineral oils, nil (nil); crude oil, 7,100 (7,100).

Thus, after these contracts have been fulfilled there remains available for export the following surplus (in tons):—Light benzine, 18,090; heavy benzine, 3,770; lamp oil, 184,990; gas oil, 9,170.

On the basis of Mr. Matasaru's calculations, therefore, there are only some 216,000 tons of petrol products available for export this year (and for 20,000 tons of this an option has been granted which will probably be taken up), whereas the pre-war surplus, calculated in conformity with the above figures, was about 1,196,500 tons.

A new law has just been published considerably modifying the high export taxes which have been enforced for some time. This will introduce Customs duty of 20 per cent. on the world's market price on all petrol products exported, but it also provides that no exports are to be allowed until the home supply has been provided for.

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An illustrated pamphlet giving interesting notes on "Carpet-knotting and Weaving" by Mr. C. E. C. Tattersall, of the Department of Textiles, South Kensington Museum, has been issued at the price of ninepence. Its purpose is to supply particulars of the technique of hand-knotted and hand-woven carpets of the kind largely made for many centuries in Persia, Turkey, and other Eastern countries.

Lecturing at a meeting of the Institute of Petroleum Technologists, held at the Crystal Palace on September 1, Mr. G. Howell referred to the importance of Mesopotamia as a source of supplies. The future of the country was, he said, assured by the rich petroliferous sands to be found there.

## THE ROUMANIAN OIL DEAL.

Another important landmark in the world's oil history—they crowd upon one another these days—has been reached with the arrangement now in process of completion for the liquidation of the German interests in the great Steaua Romana Company. The holding of the Deutsche Bank in the share capital of this company amounted to just over 50 per cent., and it is this block of shares that has now been apportioned between three syndicates—British, French, and Roumanian. Of the 100,002 shares involved 50.1 per cent. will be taken up by the Roumanian group, while the balance will be divided between the British and French groups, each taking 24.95 per cent. The three new groups retain control jointly of the Steaua Romana Company by means of a voting agreement, and together they will contribute eight directors—four Roumanian, two British, and two French.

The British company, to be known as the British Steaua Romana Company, will be launched under the auspices of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Messrs. Stern Brothers, and Messrs. James Dunning and Co. For its shareholding of 24,950 shares, it will have a capital of £2,025,000, divided into 2,000,000 ordinary shares of £1 each (of which the Anglo-Persian Oil Company take one-third) and 500,000 deferred shares of 1s. each. The ordinary shares will carry a cumulative dividend of 8 per cent., and after the deferred shares have received a cumulative £40,000 the ordinary shares will be entitled to four-fifths of the surplus. A sum amounting to about £1,000,000 will be lent at 10 per cent. to the Roumanian banks forming the Roumanian syndicate—*i.e.*, Banca Marmorosch Blank, Banca Romaneasca, Banca Generale, and Banca di Credit Romana.

The French group comprises La Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, MM. Mirabaud et Cie., La Société d'Etudes et d'Entreprises, MM. Mallet Frères et Cie., and an industrial group represented by M. Mercier.

This arrangement gives effect to the understanding reached at San Remo when the British and French Governments agreed that the two countries should participate equally in any reversion of enemy concessions in Roumania.

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Postal correspondence between Bulgaria and Austria was established on August 17.

It is announced that the steamer Von Steuben, formerly the German ship Kronprinz Wilhelm, is being fitted up at South Brooklyn into a floating industrial exhibition, provided with 1,500 exhibits of American manufacture for a cruise round the world. According to the proposed itinerary the Mediterranean would be reached after the ship had been to South America, South Africa, Australia, the Far East, and back by the Suez Canal. The ports to be visited are to include Constantinople, Salonika, and, we must conclude, the Piræus.


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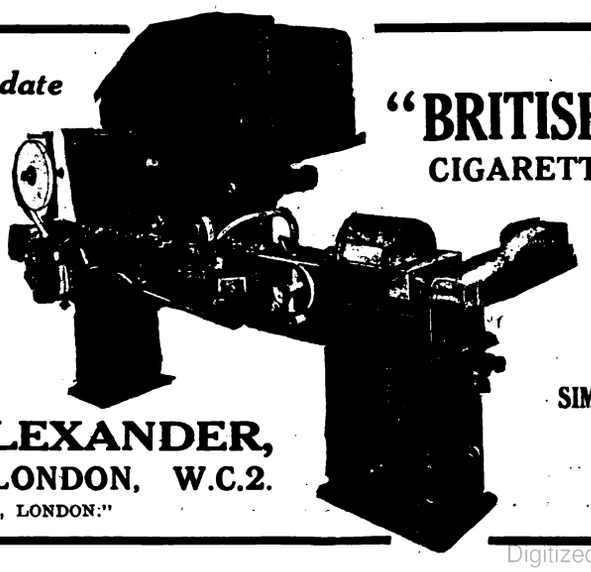

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## ENGINEERING.

### A Request.

For certain reasons, which may or may not be obvious, I am desirous of compiling a roll of those readers of THE NEAR EAST who are able to drive motor lorries and other heavy motor vehicles, steam tractors or electric vehicles running on rails. I should also like to have some idea as to which readers, possessing that ability, would have any time on their hands which they would be willing to fill up in an interesting and certainly a useful manner. I would also like to get a list of those owner-drivers of motor vehicles, ranging from the possessor of a Rolls-Royce, Napier, Vauxhall or Lanchester to the reader who only rides a little light-weight motor cycle, who would be willing, should occasion arise, to do a little something which may be specified later. I don't suppose all this is half as vague as it sounds, but whether it is or is not, I would like to have names and addresses. There is no need to write a letter; a postcard will do. But—and here I may say *verb. sap.*—I'd like the names as quickly as possible. So drop a card to-day to the "Motoring Correspondent," NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

### Manganese Steel.

One of the outstanding features of the recent development of engineering has been the increased use of alloy steels, and it is safe to say that nothing like the same degree of progress in connection with machine tools, internal combustion engines, frames and general machinery could have been made without the great assistance rendered to industry by the chemist and metallurgist. Alloy steels themselves are of unusual interest to the engineer, not only because of the large number of different combinations of properties that can be obtained, but also because of the increased efficiency of these comparatively new steels. Further, not only have these steels themselves practically revolutionised engineering practice; they have also brought about a great number of changes in the design and method of working machines employed to bring these steels into shape for use as tools, as well as of machine parts. Of course, carbon steel, which we have known for so long, is itself really an alloy steel, but when reference is made by engineers and in engineering publications to alloy steels, what are usually meant are steels to which certain proportions of one or more of the so-called rare metals have been added. Amongst these metals, used for steel alloying, are nickel, chromium, vanadium, tungsten, molybdenum and manganese. The most interesting, although perhaps not the most important of these, is manganese, and manganese steel which contains from 12 to 14 per cent. of manganese is one of the most generally useful and valuable known.

It is a matter of history that this particular alloy was discovered by Mr. (now Sir) Robert Hadfield in 1886, although it was not until the late 'nineties that its valuable properties became generally recognised. The chief point to be considered in connection with it is that up to the time it was discovered, all metals that were hard enough to resist abrasive wear were too brittle to be used for any but special purposes. To illustrate what is meant by this, it may be pointed out that chilled iron is intensely hard but very brittle, and consequently unfit for many purposes. Ordinary steel is tough but not hard unless heat-treated. Hardened tool steel is hard and stiff, but is easily broken under shock. Manganese steel on the other hand is exceptionally hard, and at the same time is extremely tough, and can only be broken by great force.

### Machining Difficulties.

This property of toughness with hardness, as was pointed out by the Norton company recently, is obtained only after the manganese steel castings are heat-treated. When cast and allowed to cool slowly the castings are hard, but also are very brittle. After removing from the moulds the castings are heated and thrown into cold water, the result of this treatment being to render the casting not only hard and tough but so malleable that it can not only be rolled and forged but can be drawn out into fine wire. In this state it cannot be machined, that is, on a commercial scale, with any steel tool yet known, but it can be ground to shape. Where the finished castings will have to be drilled or tapped, or a keyway cut in them, provision is made for this by placing pieces of ordinary steel in the mould so that the manganese steel flows round them but leaves them in such a condition that the machining necessary can be done.

The uses for manganese steel, as has recently been pointed out by Mr. R. M. Johnson, who has had exceptional experience with the alloy, are practically without limit. In general, where moving parts are constantly exposed to gritty dust, manganese steel castings will give exceptionally good service. Possibly an enumeration of some types of machinery in the construction of which this steel is used, will be of interest. It can be employed to considerable advantage in the working parts of crushing and pulverising machinery for ores, coal, slag and cement; for clay working machinery; emery mill rolls; buckets, chains and sprockets for bucket elevators; for cement and concrete mixing machinery; for corrugated rolls, segments, gears and pinions of coal crushers; for wire ropeways, for wearing parts of steam navvies and steam shovels; for dredging and digging machinery; for pumps of both the reciprocating and centrifugal types, and a variety of other machines which have to withstand abrasive action. Manganese steel is also used in traction work for crossings, lay-outs, and guard rails, as well as for tractor links and sprockets, and also for the gears and pinions commonly used in steel mills. It is also employed to a large extent in the construction of office and other safes.

### Oil-Driven Trains.

Considerable interest was aroused amongst the general public by the announcement that an express train would run from London to Birmingham, drawn by an engine using oil fuel. Many regarded this as a novelty, and more than one newspaper treated it in the same way, regardless (or ignorant) of the fact that this particular oil-driven engine has been pulling trains over the North-Western Railway system for some months. Further, as every engineer is aware, oil-fired locomotives have been in use on British, American, and Continental railways for many years, and it is not easy to see why this sudden interest was aroused. It appears that the engine was an ordinary coal-burning locomotive of the "Precursor" type adapted for oil burning, and incidentally it may be mentioned that the changing-over of any locomotive from coal to oil burning can be carried out in about four days. When coal fired this particular engine consumed 70 lbs. of coal per mile and now used 30 lbs. of petroleum residue. Incidentally it may be pointed out that the newspapers which spoke of this substance as "waste, of which large supplies are available," may have given their readers a somewhat wrong impression. The inference some readers will draw is that the oil used was "waste" in the ordinary sense of the word, and that the "new" method of firing would consequently enable use to be made of something previously thrown away—or, at any rate, of little use. As a matter of fact the "petroleum waste oil" one paper referred to is a rather high-priced commodity, and the saving between the consumption of 70 lbs. of coal and 30 lbs. of oil per mile is considerably smaller than most people would imagine. The chief advantages of oil firing are that a


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BANKERS' REFERENCES:—

The London Joint City & Midland Bank, Ltd. (Foreign Dept.), London.
The American Express Co., New York.
The Bank of Industry, Athens.

***Reference can also be made to "THE NEAR EAST."***


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furnace can be "forced" more quickly than when coal is used; that the cost of transport of fuel is reduced; that there is little or no handling; that there is greater potential power, weight for weight; and that the strenuous task of the fireman is either simplified or eliminated altogether from train working.

### Optimism Justified.

I learn that a leading British firm of engineers has just secured two considerable oversea contracts as against American, French, Italian, and other competition, although the firm's tenders were easily higher than those of the nearest competitor. The secret of success in this case was that this British house was the only one to quote an outside fixed price, the buyers thus knowing the limit-expenditure imposed upon them. All the other competitors tendered the usual indefinite price dependent on rise in cost of material, etc., etc., which in these perilous times of distracted trade is not the courageous road of the noble optimist. The successful British house was, however, justified in its bold policy by the fact that the greatest portion of its raw material was in stock—coal, included, I will hope.

## PERSIA.

### Trade of Mohammerah.

The following statement on the trade of Mohammerah is taken from a recent report of the Acting British Consul :—

The trade of the port of Moharomerah during the Persian fiscal year, March 21, 1918, to March 20, 1919, amounted to £11,433,441, as compared with £8,117,635 during the previous year, an increase of £3,315,806, or 40.85 per cent.

Of this, total imports stood at £4,615,423, showing a decrease of £636,939 over those for 1917-18, and exports amounted to £6,818,018, as compared with £2,865,273 in the preceding year.

The great increase in exports is due mainly to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's heavy exports of refined and crude kerosene oil and its products, including shipments on Government account amounting to £5,752,027. Opium exports also showed an increase of £403,092 over 1917-18. Of the total metal imports of £701,613, the Anglo-Persian Oil Company took £687,143 in 1918-19, and £577,974 in 1917, of a total of £598,218. Had it not been for the extensive operations carried on by this company, the metal trade of the port would be negligible.

Cotton piece-goods still held first place among articles imported, although they showed a decrease in value of £387,404 over 1917-18.

### Shipping.

During the greater part of the year under report there was such a congestion of imported goods at Mohammerah, due to the great shortage of river transport, that the existing Customs storage accommodation was inadequate, and it was only in the early part of 1919 that this congestion was relieved.

Seventy-four British ships (110,971 net tons) entered the port, and 39 (67,092 net tons) were cleared during the year, as compared with 81 steamers (132,075 net tons) entered, and 49 (81,887 net tons) cleared in 1917-18. The large difference between ships entered and cleared is due to the exclusion from the returns of ships which left Mohammerah without taking outward cargo for India or other foreign ports, and whose next port of call was a Persian port or a port in the Persian Gulf. In addition, 109 oil tankers (327,649 net tons) entered in ballast, and 110 tankers (332,064 net tons) cleared with cargo of kerosene oil and its products in 1918-19.

### Transport to the Interior.

Goods intended for the interior of Persia are shipped by country river craft and river steamers to Ahwaz and forwarded thence by caravans to Isfahan, Resht, Teheran, Hamadan, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Kasvin, etc. Goods which do not arrive ready packed for forwarding by mule, camel, and donkey caravans are opened up at Ahwaz and repacked into smaller packages so as to suit the kind of transport animals to be employed. Firms in the United Kingdom desirous of shipping goods ready packed for transmission to the interior of Persia should therefore bear in mind that each package should not exceed 260 lb. in weight, and that such packages should be of the following dimensions :—34 in. x 17 in. x 11 in.; 32 in. x 15 in. x 13 in.; and so on. Two such packages make one mule-load.

## OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ending August 20 :—The sales this week on our market amount to 18 cases at 17s. 6d. to 21s. per lb. as to quality. The exchange to-day is piastres 417 per pound sterling for cheque on London and 0.87 dollars for one Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are 160 cases against 360 at same date last year.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The following telegram has been received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated September 1: Rain has fallen fairly generally in North-Eastern and Central India, Eastern Rajputana, Konkan, Malabar, and North Coast of Madras; local elsewhere. General crop conditions good, but more rain required for transplanting rice and other agricultural operations in parts of Burma, Bihar and Orissa, and especially in the Punjab. Bombay Cotton market irregular. Fully good fine Oomra September Rs. 265. Piece-goods market practically unchanged with fair enquiry though little actual business. Calcutta jute market steady with little doing. Hessians firm. Heavy goods firm without much business passing. There has been no change in bank rates.

## SUPPLIES FOR ROUMANIA.

A Bucharest firm has secured from the Roumanian War Office an order for the following articles, and is anxious to purchase the goods in England. For further particulars application should be made to the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1.

Vermorel apparatus for the disinfecting of rooms, 500 pieces; motor stretchers complete, for the transport of wounded (as used in the British Army), 200; bandage gauze (chiffon, hydroscopic), 500,000 metres; 3,000 knives, 3,000 forks, and 300 spoons (as used by the British Army); 10,000 enamel plates (as used by the British Army); 1,000 Primus lamps, with one and two burners; 3,000 thermometers for taking temperatures (corrected); surgical scissors: 2,000 straight, 2,000 curved; 20,000 glass cups for cupping (Ventuse); Record syringes: centimetre 1, 2,000, centimetre 2, 2,000, centimetre 5, 1,000, centimetre 10, 500; surgical knives: straight, 1,500, curved 1,500; platinum needles: 2 centimetres, 3,000, 3 centimetres, 5,000, 5 centimetres, 2,000, longer 1,000.

The 1920 tobacco crop in Western Greece is estimated at 4,000 to 5,000 tons, compared with 6,000 tons last year. The market is quiet, due to the reluctance of American buyers to take more stocks at existing prices.

Mr. James F. G. Hopkins, Controller of the Bureau of Commerce and Industry of Cairo (a Department of the Egyptian Ministry of Finance), is at present on a visit to Europe, and will be in London about the middle of September.

M. Vedor, a civil engineer representative of the Bulgarian State Railways, arrived in London on September 6 from Sofia. The object of his visit, we are officially informed, is to purchase materials for the Bulgarian State Railways, which have been considerably damaged during the great war.

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In 1914 the cultivated area was (according to an estimate of Dr. Colesco) 34,475,750 acres; of which 13,074,922 were ploughed lands, 468,670 were vineyards and orchards, 1,436,960 were meadows, 2,948,472 were pastures, and 5,705,750 were forests.

**POPULATION. About 17,400,000.**

**IMPORTS (1915). £8,533,234.**

United Kingdom, £848,997; Austria-Hungary, £3,718,182; Belgium, £43,230; Germany, £3,575,159; France, £660,287; Turkey, £558,238; Italy, £762,023.

**EXPORTS (1915). £21,742,379.**

United Kingdom, £2,238; Austria-Hungary, £13,576,255; Belgium, £2,343; Germany, £7,044,803; Turkey, £443,325; Italy, £37,838.

[NOTE.—In 1914 the Imports from the U.K. amounted to £2,231,773, and the Exports to it to £1,433,535.]

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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—Prices continue their upward tendency, but it is probable that there will be a considerable shortage in this commodity in the near future. Very few offers are being made.

Sugar.—The recent improvement in the tone of the American markets has not been maintained, and a considerable decline has occurred. Home refined is still in good request at the official rates.

Coffee.—The market has been dull. Costa Rica are in request, and prices are steady. Mocha and Indian very quiet. The futures market was closed.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been firmer, with a tendency to rise. La Plata mid-October sold 36s.; September-October, same price; and October-November, 35s. 6d. Rapeseed is quiet and unaltered, Toria quoted September-October 34s. Brown Cawnpore remains firm at 31s. 6d. Real bold Ferozopore is up 3d. at 30s. Egyptian cottonseed is unchanged at 20s., and Indian also keeps the same level at 14s.

Oilcakes.—Although early the market is showing improvement. Linseed remains fairly steady, selling at from 21s. to 22s. Coconut improved a shilling up to 15s., while cottonseed was a little uneven, ranging from 13s. to 14s. 3d. Arachis cake quotations were 18s. to 18s. 6d. for decorticated, and 13s. to 14s. for undecorticated.

Seed-oils.—Fair sales are still being done in this commodity. Linseed is firmer, spot 80s., while for September-December the quotation is now 77s. 10d. Crude rape oil is lower at 74s. Cotton oil has dropped, Egyptian crude being 74s., a fall of 3s.; while the deodorized is 2s. down at 93s. Bombay crude has fallen 3s. to 64s. Turpentine has had a fluctuating market; quotations for September-December are 142s. 3d., and for January-April, 146s. 6d. Supplies of olive oil still fall far short of the demand.


**CENTRAL BANK OF GREECE**

**Head Office: 12, Aristeides Street, ATHENS.**

***Paid-up Capital - - - 3,500,000 Drs.***

*Administrative Council:* LEONIDAS SKENDER *(Chairman)*, GEORGE EMBIRICOS *(Vice-Chairman)*, K. SALLIARIS, A. DAMBASIS, Ph. LOUKISAS, M. EVLAMBIOS *(Director of the National Bank of Greece)*.

*General Manager:* GEORGE MOUSTAKAS. *Manager:* G. A. KARYSTINAKIS.

**EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED**

**Banque Franco-Serbe.**

**Capital Frs. 20,000,000.**

*Offices:*

| | |
|---|---|
| PARIS | MONASTIR (BITOLJ) |
| LONDON | USKUB (SKOPLYE) |
| BELGRADE | ZAGREB (AGRAM) |

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

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

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

**BANQUE D'EXPORTATION PRIV. DU ROYAUME DE SERBIE.**

(Royal priv. Serbian Bank for Exportation.)

**BELGRADE, SERBIA.**

**Capital, Paid-up, 5,000,000 Dinars**

**Reserve - - 1,200,000 Dinars**

The Bank transacts all Banking Operations, undertakes all manner of financial, commercial and industrial enterprises and effects Money-Transfers to and from Foreign Countries.

*The Commercial Department* of the Bank deals mainly in the Export of Native Products on its own account and on commission basis.

***Cable Address Exportbank, Belgrade.***


## LANCASHIRE COTTON

### Unsettled Market.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

The market throughout the past week has presented an unsettled appearance. The conditions generally have been dead against business of weight being done. There are grounds for believing that a coal strike will be averted, but both the Government and the miners so far have refused to give way. There is every probability, however, of mediation of some kind. The strike of printers in Manchester and Liverpool continues to cause much inconvenience. Some advices relating to the Egyptian cotton crop are not quite so favourable. There is talk of the plants being injured by the pink boll worm. Lancashire spinners continue to purchase rather sparingly. In Egyptian yarns the demand remains slow. Users have only purchased small lots to meet urgent requirements. In standard counts the margin of profit has practically disappeared. Some producers, however, are fully sold up to the end of this year. Violent fluctuations are still taking place in American cotton futures, and the tone is very unsettled. Rather more inquiry has been about in piece goods for the Near East. Occasional transactions have been put through in grey and white shirtings for Egypt. Demand has also been mentioned in printing cloths. India has provided a considerable inquiry in a variety of fabrics. Most of the trade has been in light bleaching descriptions and offers in sized materials remain unworkable. Practically nothing has been done for China. Only small lots have been sold for South America. More cloth manufacturers are pressing for fresh orders, and there is a tendency in some weaving districts for curtailment of production to be extended. American yarns are cheaper than a week ago, and demand continues dull. There has been no activity whatever in shipping counts.

## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

### Forthcoming Sailings.

The Johnston Line s.s. Fernandina, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonica, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constanza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on September 11.

The Johnston Line s.s. Pomaron for Tulcea, Galatz and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on September 22.

The Ellerman Line s.s. City of Oxford, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria will close for cargo at Liverpool on September 11.

The Ellerman Line s.s. Maronian, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonica, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constanza, and Sulina, will close for cargo at Liverpool on September 18.

The Cunard Line s.s. Sea Serpent, for Piræus, Smyrna, Constantinople, and Galatz, will close for cargo in London on September 11.

The Harrison Line s.s. Discoverer, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Liverpol on September 21.

The Bibby Line s.s. Derbyshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon, will close for cargo in Liverpool on September 22.

The Henderson Line s.s. Bhamo, for Port Said and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Glasgow on September 11 and at Birkenhead on September 15.

The Papayanni (Ellerman Lines, Ltd.), s.s. Belgravia, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonica, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constanza, and Sulina, will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 2.


**ANCHOR LINE**

**FAST PASSENGER SERVICE.**

**LIVERPOOL to BOMBAY.**

**KARACHI (via Bombay) calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.**

**LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.**
**FITTED WITH ELECTRIC FANS.**
**MARCONI WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.**
**RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.**

**PASSENGER SAILING DATES—**
**OLYMPIA ABOUT SEPT. 14.**
**SCINDIA ABOUT OCT. 20.**

**ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LTD.,**
**16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.**


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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

ALEXANDRETTA.

Trade with the interior was non-existent during July, as communications with Aleppo were continually interrupted owing to the armed bands which infested the country. The production of silk cocoons shows an increase on that of last year, amounting in all to 41,543 okes (2.8 lb.) for the sanjak of Alexandretta, and to 150.000 okes for Antioch and Suedieh. The price for cocoons is 45 silver piastres the oke (about 70 Syrian piastres), but no buyers have been forthcoming at this price, as merchants have preferred to wait for a better exchange in Europe.

ADRIANOPLE.

Imports to this town during June amounted to £T100,000, but in July to £T30,000 only.

Political events in the region of Adrianople had already effectively stopped trade during the second week in July, and at the same time telegraphic and railway communications with Constantinople were cut. From that moment the people of Adrianople waited for the military events, which were gradually unrolling themselves, and which materialised suddenly on July 20. A fierce artillery duel did little damage on either side, but the Turks broke and fled three days after the opening of hostilities. The Greeks occupied Adrianople on July 28.

Exports for June and July included the following: Wool, £T5,000; cheese, £T45,000; brushes, £T5,000; skins, £T1,000.

Harvesting proceeded actively in spite of the departure of the able-bodied men for the front. As military events were anticipated, the villages hastened to get in their crops. Some even sold their barley on the market. The harvesting and sale of new cocoons took place towards the end of June, the price being 120 to 150 piastres the kilo. Maize on the high ground would seem to have been slightly affected by the excessive dryness of July; the maize in the plains, on the other hand, is most promising.

STAMBOUL.

The local market has been quiet throughout the week ending August 21, the small amount of business transacted for Roumania and the immediate neighbourhood having come to an end.

The scarcity of money weighs heavily on the market, and the prices of stocks held tend to fall more and more without finding buyers.

There is complete stagnation in regard to manufactured goods, with prices still weaker.

Sugar.—Offers of the producing countries, the absence of any demand and a few arrivals from Alexandria have contributed to a drop of £4 per ton. Sugar available is quoted at £117-£128 per ton; afloat at £103, and for despatch during August £100.

Rice.—The demand continues, and the few arrivals from Marseilles have easily found purchasers. American $28-30 per 100 kilos.; Saigon No. 1 Ps. 31-32 the oke; Baku, Ps. 35-36 the oke.

American Flour has risen £T0.50 to £T1 per sack, according to quality. This rise is attributed to the appreciation of the dollar and the lack of arrivals. A large cargo of 50,000 sacks is expected to arrive in a fortnight.


# IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

**Capital - £10,000,000**
**Paid-up - £5,000,000**

## GENERAL COMMITTEE.

**LONDON.**

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E. C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

**PARIS.**

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE
J. BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
HENRI HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

## London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.
Assistant Manager: W. P. SHEPPARD.

**PARIS:**
**7, Rue Meyerbeer.**

**MANCHESTER:** 25, Pall Mall.
**MARSEILLES:** 41-45, Rue Grignan.

**CONSTANTINOPLE.**
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

**EGYPT.**
Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

**PALESTINE.**
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

**CYPRUS.**
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

**SYRIA.**
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. | Beyrout. Damascus. | Hamah. Homs. | Saida. Tripoli.

**SALONICA. TUNIS. AFRICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.**
**(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)**

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

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

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.
**Letters of credit granted.**


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## TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—

### Egypt.

(*The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked* (*L*) *are to be obtained.*)

Motor Launch.—The Inspector-General of Irrigation, Upper Egypt, invites tenders for the supply of a motor launch for 4th Circle of Irrigation. September 18. (L.)

Sewage Main.—The Chief Engineer, Main Drainage Dept., Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and laying of a 12-in. cast-iron sealed sewage main. September 21. (L.)

Air Compressing Plant.—The Chief Engineer, Main Drainage Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of an air compressing plant at Mansûra, consisting of two crude oil engines, driving two single-stage air compressors, complete with auxiliary machinery, water cooling plant, a travelling crane, machine tools, air mains, electric wiring, etc. October 1.

Pumping Machinery.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of pumping machinery for a pumping station at Tawila, in the Province of Gharbicha. October 15 (L.)

Dynamo and Switchboard.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 2 kw. dynamo and switchboard for Kombera Pumping Station. September 15 (L).

### India.

Iron Pipes, etc.—The Madras Corporation invites tenders for the supply and delivery of about 220 tons of cast-iron spigot and socket pipes, with special castings, sluice valves, etc. (Specification, 5s., Messrs. James Mansergh and Sons, 5, Victoria Street, S.W.1.). Tenders will be received until September 8.

A firm of paint manufacturers is establishing a new factory at Bombay, for which a complete plant will be required. The firm also requires locks, decorative corners, hasps, handles, etc., for steel travelling trunks and kindred goods of various sizes and designs. Firms interested should write enclosing catalogues and full particulars, prices, possible dates of delivery, etc., to the company, whose name and address can be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade.

### Algeria.

H.M. Consul-General at Algiers reports that a local trader desires to receive quotations from United Kingdom firms for the supply of iron or soft steel hoops for barrel-making. It is understood that the applicant is prepared to pay cash for the material. Firms in a position to offer supplies of the material in question can obtain the name of the inquirer, specifications, etc., from the Department of Overseas Trade.

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The estimated traffic receipts of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin for the week ended August 21 were £8,815, or £23 5s. 2d. per mile.

The Egyptian *Journal Officiel* of August 9 contains a Notice from the Department of Supplies, Licensing Section, to the effect that, until further notice, empty barrels and barrel staves may be exported from Egypt without a specific licence, to all destinations with which trade is allowed.

Arrangements have been completed between the Department of Overseas Trade and the British Manufacturing Confectioners' Export Union for the despatch of an investigator to the Eastern Mediterranean markets to ascertain the conditions and prospects for the sale of British-made cocoa, chocolate, confectionery, jams and pickles. In the course of his tour the investigator will visit the following places:—Athens, Piræus, Canea, Salonica, Constantinople, Smyrna, Rhode Island, Crete, Cyprus, Beyrout, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Alexandria, Cairo, etc.

## ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

The market has again been very quiet during the past week, and prices consequently have been inclined to sag.

Among Government securities Egyptian Unified have fallen to 65¾ and the 3½ per cent. stock to 54¾. In Greek Loans, Rentes are ½ a point higher at 44½, Funding Loan 1 point lower at 55, and the 1902 is also a point lower at 46½. The 5 per cent. 1914 Loan is now ex. div. at 54.

In bank shares National of Egypt are at 18⅜ ex the interim dividend of 8s., while Agriculturals are 1-16th easier at 4⅜, Bank of Athens have fallen ⅛ to 3⅞, and Imperial Ottomans are no better than 9¼.

Among Land descriptions Aboukir are 6d. easier at 36s., Delta Lands have shed 6d. to 14s. 6d., and New Egyptians are 1s. down at 35s. 6d.

In Miscellaneous descriptions Salt and Soda are again easier at 45s., and Morum's Oriental Stores have lost the advance of the preceding week and are closing 18s.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptians have shed a further 1-16th at 2⅝; other shares are unchanged.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97 7/16 |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 32·75-33·20 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 92-94 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/9⅜-1/10¼ |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 151-153 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/10⅜-1/10½ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 413-433 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅜ | 3·55 |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 51·25-51·60 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 180 |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 28½ |

## TRADE CREDITS IN YUGOSLAVIA.

A Decree of August 3 prohibits the granting of credits in Yugoslavia to persons or societies abroad to pay for the export of national produce.

In an explanatory note on the above announcement, the British Minister in Belgrade writes :—

"The business of trading with foreign countries, and buying or paying in foreign money by means of cheques or any bank or commercial paper, is controlled by the Centrale des Devises. It appears, however, that certain banks have lately opened credits with foreign countries, and these credits are being used to buy goods for export. Several consignments of goods have, therefore, been exported for which no monetary equivalent has been received thus causing the exchange value of the dinar to fall. It is understood that the above Decree is directed principally against Austrians, who, it is stated, have purchased in the Kingdom grain and other foodstuffs to the value of about 100 million dinars, but have been unable to purchase sufficient dinars or other good currency abroad to pay for these commodities. They therefore desire to open credits for the purpose."

---

In order to check profiteering the Ministry of Trade and Industry at Sevastopol announces that traders importing goods into the Crimea must produce the relative invoices.

The British Vice-Consul at Skoplje (Uskub), Serbia, will be glad to receive catalogues from United Kingdom manufacturers of agricultural and carpenters' tools. These were principally obtained from Germany prior to the war, but there is now a preference for British goods.


# BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

Telegrams: 'TRABANQUE, LONDON."

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.)
13 AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telephones: LONDON WALL, 2947-2948

**CAPITAL.**

**Authorised, £10,000,000.** | **Subscribed and Paid up, £2,000,000.**

*Governor*, THE LORD FARINGDON. *Deputy Governor*, SIR HENRY BABINGTON SMITH, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.S.I.

*Manager*, A. G. M. DICKSON.

*London Manager*, P. C. WEST. *Secretary*, G. DE B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation is prepared to assist in the development of the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and offers exceptional financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their export and import trade.

It has Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world, and transacts Banking business of every description.

It invites enquiries, and will endeavour, where necessary, to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

*Branches :* BATOUM. BELGRADE. DANZIG.

*Affiliated Companies:* THE NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY, Constantinople and Branches

THE TRADE INDEMNITY CO., LTD. *(Established for the Assistance of British Trade by the Insurance of Accounts)*


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## GENERAL BANK OF GREECE.

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

**Head Office - ATHENS.**

BANKING OPERATIONS:
Every description of Banking business transacted.

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

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

## POPULAR BANK OF GREECE.

**Head Office, ATHENS. Branch, PIRÆUS.**

Correspondents throughout Greece.

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

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

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

*General Manager:* D. LOVERDO.

## TRADE WITH THE NEAR EAST

WITH its offices in all the principal towns in **Greece, in Egypt, Cyprus, Crete, Constantinople,** and in **Smyrna, the Bank extends exceptional Facilities for Export and Import Trade between Great Britain and the Near East generally,** and invites enquiries and correspondence relating thereto.

HEAD OFFICE: ATHENS.

## BANK OF ATHENS

LONDON-22, Fenchurch Street E.C.3. MANCHESTER-57, Mosley Street

## COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE, LIMITED.

**CAPITAL PAID-UP - Drs. 15,000,000.**
**RESERVE FUNDS Drs. 2,845,010.45.**

**Head Office: ATHENS.**

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

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

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

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

## GREECE.

Area 43,522 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,746,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 296,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

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

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

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

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

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

**COINAGE.**—The unit is the Drachma, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 32·25 Drachmæ to £1.

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

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

## BANK OF NATIONAL ECONOMY (of Greece)

Head Office: ATHENS.

*Branches:*

PIRÆUS, SYRA. PATRAS.

**Capital Paid Up - Drs. 10,000,000.**

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

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

## THE HELLENIC COMPANY OF MARITIME ENTERPRISES

(PALIOS LINE.)

**Head Office - PIRÆUS.**

A. P. PALIOS, Founder. M. P. PALIOS, General Manager.

**REGULAR MAIL, PASSENGER, and FREIGHT SERVICES from PIRÆUS to MEDITERRANEAN PORTS, GREECE, SEA OF MARMORA, BLACK SEA, SEA OF AZOF, ASIA MINOR, SYRIA, and EGYPT.**

26 PASSENGER and CARGO STEAMERS.

85 AGENCIES in Greece, Sea of Marmora, Black Sea, Sea of Azof, Asia Minor, Egypt, Mediterranean and principal Ports of the World.

Coaling Yards and Repair Shops.

GENERAL AGENTS for the High Commission of Sea Transports; for all Passenger Steamers requisitioned by the Greek Government.

*Cable Address—Navigation Palios.*

*Codes used—Scott's (1906) 10th Edition; A.B.C. (1901) 5th Edition.*

## MARITIME BANK of GREECE

**AUTHORISED CAPITAL FULLY PAID DR.10,000,000.**

Founder—A. P. PALIOS.

**Head Office: PIRÆUS, GREECE.**

Cable Address: "Maritime Bank."

Codes Used.

Scott's 1906—10th Edition. A.B.C. 1901—5th Edition. Palios 1919

*Branches and Agents in the Principal Cities of Greece and the Levant.*

*The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business, and by reason of its connections, throughout Greece and the Levant, is in a position to offer to the trade exceptional facilities.*

**Advances and Collections of B/Ls., Shipowners' Remittances and Disbursements to and from all parts of the World, by cable or mail. Loans on Vessels and other hulk. Bills of Exchange Negotiated. Letters of Credit and Drafts issued on the Principal Cities of Greece and Foreign Countries. Confirmed Credits at Home and Abroad. Loans on Government and other Securities. Loans on Goods and Warrants of Bonded Stores.**

AGENTS AND CORRESPONDENTS:—

For the U.K.—LONDON COUNTY & WESTMINSTER & PARR'S BANK, London.
BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO, London.
For the U.S.A.—NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK CITY, U.S.A.

# BANK OF ORIENT.

**Capital Paid Up - - - Drs. 25,000,000.**

**Head Office - ATHENS.**

Every kind of Banking Business Transacted.

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


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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 489.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Not many days have passed since a certain amount of concern was caused by the report that Italy had decided to maintain the rank of Ambassador for her representative in Constantinople in opposition to the decision of the Allied Governments to appoint Ministers only. Then came the assurance that the question was the subject of deliberation between the Governments concerned, and it was confidently expected that Italy would fall into line with the rest of her Allies. What has happened apparently is that the Allies have fallen into line with Italy, for the British Government has also decided to retain an Embassy with the Sublime Porte and not to reduce it to a Legation. The immediate result of this decision is that the appointment of Mr. Max Müller has been cancelled—shortly after (unless we are mistaken) his servants and a considerable quantity of his luggage had reached Pera—on the ground that his position in the diplomatic hierarchy does not yet qualify him for ambassadorial rank. If the post is to go by Foreign Office seniority, it is not unlikely that Sir Horace Rumbold, Bart, will proceed to Constantinople.

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At first sight it might seem that the question of the status of the Allied representatives in Constantinople was mainly a matter of words, so long as the Great Powers agreed among themselves as to the status to be maintained. Even the plausible theory that the importance of Constantionple calls for ambassadorial experience, in contradistinction to the inferior qualifications of a mere Minister, breaks down when a Minister-elect, who has made a special study of Turkish affairs, has to make way for an Ambassador to whom Turkey and the Turks will be an entirely new experience. But, unfortunately, at the root of the incident it is something more than a question of words.

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Before the war the Great Powers were represented in Constantinople by ambassadors, as was indeed fitting in view of the tremendous issues at stake on the Bosphorus. The decision to reduce the embassies to legations was in keeping with the self-complacency with which the Supreme Council hugged to itself the belief that it was fashioning a "settlement" of the Near Eastern question. That the decision has now been cancelled we may take as a tardy recognition that the miserable tinkering applied to the Near Eastern question has left the matter as bad as, or worse than, it was before. It is no remedy, however, for its past mistakes for the British Government to be guided in its appointments by a close scrutiny of Foreign Office lists. What is required is a scrutiny of the man, and not of his place in any particular hierarchy, and a knowledge on the part of those who make the appointment of the post to be filled and of the qualifications required for it. As far as can be gathered the Appointments Committee of the Foreign Office is falling back, in respect to the Near East, into the old methods that made us a by-word in the Balkans before the war, and were largely responsible for the prolongation of the war.

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The announcement that the Greek Opposition leaders, who were summarily arrested at the time of the riots which broke out in connection with the recent attempt on the life of M. Venizelos, have been liberated—with the exception of one—will be received with genuine satisfaction outside Greece. As was stated in these columns a few weeks ago, it was hard to believe that these men, however bitter their opposition to the existing Government, had stooped so low as to identify themselves with a policy of assassination. If they had, it would have meant that the internal situation in Greece was very much worse than had been realised abroad. The release of these leaders without trial is, to this extent, reassuring; but, on the other hand, it seems to throw rather a lurid light on the precipitancy of their arrest.

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The domestic history of the Balkan Peninsula would have been a happier one if political parties when in power had made a more sparing use of imprisonment as a counter in the political game. Much of the bitterness between parties in all the States is traceable to the fact that individual politicians have spent a certain time in gaol. It may not have been possible to eliminate the prison-house altogether; but there have been scores of instances where arrest and immediate release on bail would have been a wiser policy to adopt. Before the recent occurrences in Athens there was reason to hope that the breach between the Government and the bulk of the Opposition was gradually being narrowed. It remains to be seen what effect the imprisonment of the Opposition leaders—with the regrettable death of one of their number on his way to prison—has on them. One thing they will not fail to notice: they were arrested in the absence of M. Venizelos, and they were liberated immediately after his return. After an absence, to all intents and purposes, of close upon two years, the man

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who has made his mark in Europe for his statesmanship will surely be able to exorcise the evil spirit that has been responsible for dividing his own country into two such bitterly hostile camps.

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A special correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports that serious disturbances have been taking place in Croatia, where the registration and marking of horses and cattle by the military authorities gave rise to rumours that the animals were to be seized and exported. This led to rioting at various points by bands of armed peasants, who attacked the official buildings and assaulted the officials, and communications with Zagreb were for a time interrupted. A disquieting feature of the occurrences was the way in which arms and munitions suddenly appeared in the peasants' possession, while the rapidity with which the trouble spread among the lower classes is said to have suggested a powerful organisation behind the movement. In Belgrade foreign influence is strongly suspected, but even if the suspicion should be shown to be correct, it would still be rather disconcerting to find the inhabitants of the newly-united kingdom so easily stirred up to mischief.

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News from Mesopotamia is rather better this week. We still hear of small garrisons invested, and of attacks at many points by Arab bands, but a British column is conducting sweeping operations north-east of Baghdad, and is teaching the raiders and rebels that they can no longer act as they have been doing with impunity. It is very satisfactory to learn that Mrs. Buchanan has been released, and that one of the men concerned in the murder of her husband has been executed, and the later news that Captain Lloyd has also been set free is welcome. It is less satisfying to have to note that these results have been secured only by greatly increasing the number of our troops in the country.

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The report of a Bolshevist *coup* at Bokhara, to which we referred last week, is, unfortunately, confirmed, and it is definitely stated that the Emir is a fugitive. This looks as if the real Bolshevist troops had had more to do with the move than their dupes, who are described as the "Young Bokharan Party." But the victors, whoever they may be—or however they may describe themselves, as we should perhaps say—have made a false step that may cost them more than a failure of their plot would have done: for a reason as yet unknown, they have arrested all the Afghans in Bokhara and cast them into prison. According to Indian telegrams, this high-handed proceeding has given rise to intense indignation in Moslem circles throughout Central Asia, and there seems to be a tendency to look to the Ameer of Afghanistan to take the lead in decisive action against the apostles of Anarchy. Should he decide to do so, those of our readers who have studied Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah's articles would feel little surprise. At one time Afghanistan appeared to be ready to coquet with the Bolshevists; but the Afghans are a shrewd people, and it was not to be thought that they could remain very long blind to the true meaning of Bolshevism. It would be rash, indeed, to prophesy what they will do, for their Ameer has a difficult hand to play; but it will be surprising if they accept calmly such an insult as the imprisonment of their countrymen at Bokhara.

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At the time of writing there is no news of any marked Bolshevist activity in Persia, although Apfelbaum (alias Zinovieff), Bela Kun, and some others of the same kidney are holding an "Oriental Congress" not far away, at Baku. One of the principal subjects to be discussed at this Congress is, it seems, the freeing of India from British "tyranny." What fresh steps the philanthropic Kun, Apfelbaum and company propose to take for the realisation of their project the world has yet to learn. Meanwhile, it is satisfactory to observe that their disciples in Persian territory are having a distinctly unhappy time just now, being kept actively on the move by the Persian Cossacks, who are harrying them and driving them from one village to another in a way to suggest that the advance to India by this particular route would prove a tedious affair for them.

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All this is very well, as far as it goes, but it would be the height of folly to believe that the Bolshevists will leave Persia to go her own way if ever they feel themselves strong enough to attack her with a fair chance of success; and though she has done well against them so far, it is extremely doubtful whether she is fit to offer a prolonged resistance to strong pressure, or will be so for some time. It is therefore greatly to be regretted that she should, unofficially, though not officially, regard Great Britain with considerable suspicion. That such is the case, however, will hardly be denied by anybody competent to judge. Conscious of the honesty of our intentions towards Persia, we have been, as we always are, inclined to believe that the world at large would give us credit for that honesty, but as a matter of fact the world—as it always does—has felt cynical on the point; so that we have once more been living in a fool's paradise.

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Our Persian policy is undoubtedly to blame for this condition of things. Honest in itself, it was worked out in a way suggestive of the old style of diplomacy, and it failed to take into account, or, at any rate, to give due importance to, certain factors, notably that determination to run before they have learned to walk which is so characteristic of certain "Young Persians." The result was that when the Anglo-Persian Agreement was made known it at once gave rise to intense indignation among a large circle of Persians, and the feelings with which it was received in France are well-known to our readers. French politicians have never forgiven our Foreign Office for—as they regard it—stealing a march on them, and Lord Curzon has been freely accused of sharp practice. The cry of "Perfide Albion" has been raised once more and has done untold harm, and it would be foolish to shut our eyes to the fact that the harm extends to Persia. Soon after the conclusion of the Agreement the Shah made his visit to Europe, and spent the greater part of his time in Paris, and, judging by subsequent events, it would seem that his entourage was during that time inoculated with an anti-British feeling which was reflected in the Press at Teheran, and was probably largely responsible for the overthrow of the Cabinet. These things all tend to increase the influence of the revolutionary spirit in Persia, and though we may hope that Teheran will not follow the example or share the fate of Bokhara, at any rate, so long as we have any troops in Northern Persia, we cannot regard the situation with any complacency. The meeting of the Mejliss may do little to improve things, but it should serve to let us know exactly how the Persians regard us and the Anglo-Persian Agreement.

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In a volume of his "Recollections," just published, Baron von Eckhardstein tells, in all good faith, a story about a conversation which, he says, took place at Cowes in 1895 between the German Emperor and Lord Salisbury, regarding the future of Turkey. According to the Baron, Lord Salisbury propounded a scheme for the partition of the Sultan's dominions between Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Great Britain, but the Kaiser would have none of it. As nobody else was present at the time, it will obviously be as impossible to prove the story false as it would be to prove it true: but, although we do not forget that Lord Salisbury once remarked that we seemed to have "put our money on the wrong horse" in backing Turkey, we shall decline to believe that he ever made such a proposal as the one now attributed to him. He was, after all, a great statesman and an English gentleman; and he would not have forgotten either Great Britain's position as a Moslem Power or her duty as an honourable nation. The truth would seem to be, as shown in an article contributed to *The Times* by Sir Valentine Chirol, that the Kaiser calmly attributed to Lord Salisbury a proposal which actually emanated from himself. That, at least, is what Lord Salisbury said when the matter was brought to his notice, his com-

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ment being that the story "showed the expediency of having a third person present when talking to the Emperor."

We published last April some particulars of a proposal to raise an endowment fund for Christ Church, Constantinople, and to place in the church a memorial to those of our race who fell in the Near East during the war. A further announcement in connection with the scheme has lately been made, and from this we regret to learn that "funds are now so urgently needed that the church may have to be closed." This, it is to be supposed, does not indicate that the situation has actually become worse since April; but it is not agreeable reading, and the circumstances themselves are not to our national credit. Apart from any thought of the present proposal for a memorial, it is sad to think that a church built as a memorial to the heroes of the Crimean War has never been able to secure an endowment, and the fact can hardly fail to give rise to strange reflections on the part of Moslem Constantinople. We have now an opportunity to remove the reproach, and it is unthinkable that an appeal addressed—as this one is—to Great Britain, Australasia, and India, should fail of success. The joint hon. treasurers in this country, to either of whom subscriptions of any amount may be forwarded, are: Lady Lawrence, Sudbury Hill, Harrow-on-the-Hill, and Admiral Sir Edmond Slade, 35, Surrey Street, Strand, London, W.C.2.

# THE WEEK AT HOME.

### The Coal Crisis.

The great coal question still fills the papers. The Government, through Sir Robert Horne, have had a long discussion with Mr. Smillie, which came to no definite conclusion; but nobody expected it would, for it suits Mr. Smillie's book to prolong the agony and keep us on tenterhooks, and probably he enjoys power and publicity as much as anybody. The discussion was courteous and good-tempered, and really served the purpose of explaining the respective standpoints to the general public, who are supposed, by a convenient fiction, to be the arbiters in the dispute. In actual fact, the public are helpless; they are ready to support the Government and to damn Mr. Smillie, but their maledictions are as impotent as those of the Cardinal in the historic case of the jackdaw of Rheims.

The Government appears to be willing to discuss the question of miners' wages, but not the reduction of the price of coal, which is coupled with that question. Mr. Smillie's agents have naturally made some capital out of this, but it has not proved very effective propaganda. A reduction in the price of coal—which has just gone up again, owing to increased railway freight charges—would certainly be welcome, but as it would merely mean increased taxation next year, it would have no real effect on the cost of living. The reduction proposed is, in fact, a move in the nationalisation campaign, and is, therefore, proposed for ulterior reasons—a consideration which the public has not forgotten; and it seems likely that in any appeal to the country on the nationalisation versus private ownership issue, the former would be in a considerable minority. The Labour Party as a whole appears to recognise this prejudice or convention, and to be opposed to any election on this issue at the present time. Nor does the country generally seem to be clamouring for an election, which is an expensive luxury that interrupts business; for an election at the present time would leave the parties in very much their existing position. It might improve the standard of membership in the House of Commons, but even that is rather doubtful.

### The Trade Union Congress.

Mr. Thomas delivered a carefully thought-out presidential address at the Trade Union Congress, and the proceedings, though not lacking the usual breezes and an occasional approach to a storm, were more interesting than usual. But the Congress rather carefully avoided the question of the miners—which gave the impression that the delegates were only formally in sympathy with the demands, and that they were thinking more of the unemployment in other trades which would result from a coal strike. Mr. Thomas definitely predicted a "black winter" in so many words; and it is obvious that a strike, followed by an enforced closing-down of many industrial works, would be a disastrous matter in these days of high prices.

Moreover, a coal strike differs from a railway strike in the fact that recovery is slow. Two days after last year's railway strike things were in running order again, and within less than a fortnight it was forgotten; but it would take many weeks to restore the coal supplies to factories and private houses. Both sides are well aware of this fact, and although available stocks are high at the moment and the railways are said to be well supplied with reserves of fuel, both sides are taking the position into account in their calculations of the chances.

### Home Trade.

The shadow of these threatened strikes and other troubles is very visible in home, and more particularly retail trade, just now. Although the majority of holiday-makers have returned to London, the shops hardly appear to be doing much business. The fact is that, hit by rising prices on the one side and uncertainty of employment on the other in the event of a strike, people are holding tightly to whatever money they have. The secretaries of charitable societies and similar organisations are pulling long faces, and lamenting the niggardliness of old supporters, and the Stock Exchange does not seem in much happier condition than the philanthropists. A few new issues have made their appearance recently, but values as a whole show a tendency to shrink, and they are not likely to recover this year, according to the prophets. But the worst slump of all is in the motor trade.

### Increased Rates.

A good many protest meetings have been held recently, and are being held now, in London, against the present and forthcoming increases of rates. In most cases these have doubled since the war, and they are likely to rise still further next year. They are now a very serious burden, and there is a general impression abroad that considerable economies could be effected in the municipal services without loss to health or efficiency. Several recent bonuses and advances of salaries of wages to officials have been sharply criticised, or even refused, by local councils, and more is likely to be heard of this matter.

### A Novel Placard.

The walls of London are now being decorated with a mysterious message to the effect that "Millions now living will never die." The statement seems to emanate from an American judge, whose photograph is displayed alongside the prophecy. So far as I can understand the announcement, it promises that those of us who can succeed in remaining alive until 1925 will secure earthly immortality. It professes to be a new interpretation of some obscure predictions in one or more of the Major or Minor Prophets, of a kind that was more familiar forty years ago than in these disillusioned days, and it is probably the herald of a new evangelistic campaign.

In that event, it is likely to fail, at any rate in London—the provinces, perhaps, give a kindlier welcome to these millennial excitements. The clergy of all denominations are nowadays opposed to these revival methods, and hardly give them the welcome they did, for past experience has shown that they do little good, and although the public, as a whole, is still ready as ever to credit a marvel, it has tired of Habakkuk and prefers spiritualism and the occult and other mysteries. In particular, the exact date of the end of the world no longer moves anybody. It has been postponed so often.

### Taxis and Tubes.

There was some talk of a taxicab strike early in the week, owing to the increased cost of petrol. Happily the danger seems to have died down, at least for the

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time; but the increase in Tube fares—which is due in about a fortnight—will in the long run hit people more severely. Here again the trouble in the electrical trade has led to threats of a Tube and tram stoppage, such as London experienced eighteen months ago, but no definite announcement of the actual position has been made. It is quite apparent that some of the people who are fomenting this trouble are doing so with ulterior motives.

**The Population Question in France.**

The 1919 population statistics of France, which have just been published, have excited some interest and sympathy in London this week. While our own population is increasing by leaps and bounds, and babies come not in single spies but in battalions in every English county, in France the position is, unhappily, just the opposite. In every department across the Channel the past year saw an excess of deaths over births, and this, on top of the heavy mortality in the war, is a very serious matter. It is not known whether the position has appreciably improved in 1920, but it will be watched with considerable anxiety for some time. France was not really overpopulated even in 1914, and it is now actually suffering from under-population.

**"Bolshevist Gold."**

Two or three weeks ago the *Daily Herald* was indignant at the suggestion that it had taken Bolshevist gold. The anger was apparently assumed for the occasion. The paper in question has now admitted that one of its directors was in touch with Bolshevist agents, who offered a sum of £75,000 to the proprietors. As the paper is losing money every day, the amount seems of vital importance to it, and its directors say they can see no reason why they should not take it. They also profess that the Bolshevists will leave the journal a free organ of opinion after they have bought it, but this is not only childish in itself, but augurs a belief in the childishness of its readers. It is suggested that the particular director engaged in these negotiation entered upon them independently, and without committing his fellow-directors, but that also is a little difficult to credit, particularly in view of the wireless messages between the Russian agents whose genuineness can now hardly be disputed.

The *Observer* remarks that the *Daily Herald* has only confessed the truth because it knew it would be exposed if it did not; *The Times* suggests legal action, since the Bolshevist money would, in fact, only be subscribed with the idea of fomenting a disturbance, and, if possible, a revolution, in this country—a policy which the Bolshevists have long frankly confessed as essential to their purpose.

Whatever the *Herald* may now say or do about these transactions, it has seriously damaged its reputation. The ordinary man does not care to have his opinions decided for him by foreign money, whatever his politics. And, further than that, the *Herald* attitude as regards these negotiations has given the impression of being disingenuous. Only those who read the first denial very carefully could see that it left a loophole for prevarication, and the subsequent admission has seriously prejudiced, not so much its political as its moral character. Its future career may be variegated, but it is hardly likely to be glorious.

**A Club's Troubles.**

A curious story is being told of a crisis in the affairs of one of the West-end clubs. The committee recently moved into a new building, and extensive alterations were necessary. They were quite prepared to spend money on making the premises more suitable, and a contract was agreed upon with the builders for thirty thousand pounds. Unfortunately the committee, who were not business men, made other alterations and extensions after the contract had been signed, without discussing the price. When the work was completed the total bill came in for over a hundred thousand pounds, and the members are in a quandary.

In any event, club finance is not an easy matter in these days of high wages and food prices. Some clubs seem to have put up their coffee-room charges beyond all reason, others are unexpectedly cheap. But then some have a long waiting list, and others of a more old-fashioned kind are quietly making it known that they could do with a few new members of the right sort. The war has hit them rather badly, so many men on their waiting list having been killed or otherwise dropped out, while the new-rich is not wanted, and in any case that type of person will only join the more pretentious establishment.

**The Week's Books.**

A book of permanent interest as regards the war has been published this week in Colonel Repington's "The First World War" (Constable)—a provocative title, which indicates that the famous war correspondent has no belief in the idea that "the war has ended war." Much of the two bulky volumes detail the intimate personal gossip of the Government and the War Office and the General Staff in London, and it throws an extraordinarily interesting light on individual opinion at that time, in such matters as the Cabinet's attitude towards Lord Kitchener and the Shell and Gallipoli controversies, the Derby scheme, the relations between Mr. Lloyd George and Lord Kitchener, and a hundred other matters of which the outer public had only vague knowledge. The author knew everybody and went everywhere, and he is not overburdened with a sense of reticence; he tells the truth as he saw it.

Another work which will find many readers is Mrs. Philip Snowden's "Through Bolshevik Russia" (Cassell). Mrs. Snowden was taken on a personally conducted tour through Lenin-land early in the year. She knew nothing of the language, little of the people, and she evidently went out with a prejudice in favour of the Soviets. Personal experience seems to have cured her; she kept her eyes and ears open, and came back disillusioned as to democracy in Russia. The book shows considerable shrewdness of observation and honesty of purpose.

A very well-written work is "The Evangelical Revival" (Methuen), by the Rev. S. Baring-Gould. Evangelicalism is not the fashionable Anglican creed of the day, but it has had a great deal of influence in the Church, and produced at its height many considerable figures—men of action rather than thought. For that reason those who are interested in the rise and fall of ecclesiastical opinion will turn to this record with interest.

A much more formidable book is "Space, Time, and Deity" (Macmillan), by Professor S. Alexander. These are the Glasgow Gifford Lectures, 1916-18, and are, in fact, an exposition of that body of thought which is called the New Realism. The subject is controversial, but they are not written in the spirit of controversy—a fact which will be appreciated in these days of gentler manners in theology. It is an important contribution to thought, whose influence is likely to make itself felt rather slowly.

A war book of a rather novel kind is "Secrets of Crewe House" (Hodder and Stoughton), by Sir Campbell Stuart. Crewe House was the headquarters of our war propaganda under Lord Northcliffe, and the record of its activities certainly will not diminish his fame.

Perhaps the most curious point that emerges from the work is the fact that in the early part of 1918 the Allies had not finally determined on the break-up of Austria. A memorandum from Crewe House asked for a sketch of their policy in this matter for the purposes of propaganda. The reply was apparently rather vague, and Crewe House formulated a more definite plan, which involved the independence of the subject nationalities—probably the hand of Mr. Wickham Steed, the editor of *The Times*, was visible here, and also Dr. Seton-Watson. The plan was approved, and put into action on the Italian front and in Austria, with considerable effect on opinion there; and it has since been carried out. It is well known that there were contrary influences in the early part of the war, and even early in 1918 the Entente Governments had not got beyond "full autonomy," as one of Mr. Lloyd George's speeches shows.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, August 28.

**The "Vengeance" Trial.**

The trial of the alleged members of the "Society of Vengeance" is still occupying the attention of the special military court that is sitting for the purpose, and is likely to do so for some weeks yet. During the past week, owing to the Kourban-Bairam holidays, the court has not been sitting. Since my last letter was written two sittings have been held, on Saturday and Sunday. One of the principal accused, Lutfy el-Musallamy, was further examined by his counsel, Mr. Moriarty. To the latter, as well as to several counsel for the defence who interrogated him, he monotonously repeated that the things he had written about the society, such as the list of members, were all dictated to him by the man who had turned "King's Evidence." He stoutly denied most of the charges made against him, put the responsibility of the others on the shoulders of the Sheikh "ex-conspirator," and spoke of a Students' Syndicate which was not to be confounded with the "Society of Vengeance." He was examined on the following day by the Prosecutor, Mr. Maxwell, and his cross-examination showed that he was certainly a past-master in the art of fencing, hardly ever failing to see whither a question might lead him, and always parrying it with marked ability—and this despite the fact that he was constantly confronted with a statement that he had signed at the first inquiry. After Lutfy el-Musallamy, the accused, his father came to give evidence, and corroborated his son's statements, again charging Abdel Zaher with deliberate falsehoods.

On the previous day further evidence for Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy was heard, when Mohammed Fahmy Khutry, ex-Sub-Mudir of Beni.Suef—at the time when Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy was Mudir of that province—was examined by Mr. Mitchell Innes, K.C., and cross-examined by Mr. Maxwell. This witness gave fuller details than had been given before as to the "good though strict administration" of the Mudir, and told the court the whole story of the difficulty Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy experienced in finding a residence on his arrival at Beni Suef. Witness stated that he, himself, had found three abodes for his Mudir, and two of them were eliminated, the first because the owner did not want the Mudir to pay any rent for it, and the second because its owner did not have the necessary £E400 for repairs. The witness further denied the charge of immorality which was made in connection with Abdel Rahman Fahmy Bey, and finally stated that when the accused had retired from the Government service, when he was Mudir of Giza, it was to become Sub-Director of the Wakfs Administration. The court resumes its sittings to-morrow.

**The Anglo-Egyptian Agreement.**

The news of the provisional agreement reached between the Egyptian Delegation in London and Viscount Milner has been received in Egypt with mixed feelings. Among the native population, naturally, there has been a good deal of jubilation at the success which appears to have crowned the efforts of Zaghloul Pasha, albeit it is fully recognised that the end is not yet. The Pasha, in telegraphing to his supporters thanking them for their congratulations, emphasises the fact that it is still necessary to "work to realise the unalterable aspirations of the nation." The native Press, on the whole, adopts an expectant attitude, and the meagre comments on the agreement have not been very illuminating. It is apparent that the thinking public prefers to await the arrival of the members of the Delegation, who are bearers of the text of the agreement, before pronouncing a definite opinion. These delegates are due to arrive in the course of the next week. Meantime, I understand that the Egyptian Government has been officially advised of the terms of the agreement, and intends to facilitate the task of the four delegates in consulting their fellow-countrymen.

Among the European community the telegram announcing the terms of the agreement was received at first with a feeling almost of consternation. The public had been prepared to learn that the British Government would concede a good deal, but they never expected that it would contemplate the granting of such a large measure of independence as is foreshadowed in the present agreement. There can be no doubt that a purely Egyptian Administration would be laxer and less beneficial to the whole community, and there are many who view the contingency with feelings akin to alarm. It is generally expected, however, that the agreement, when finally passed by Parliament, will be so hedged with safeguards as to limit the dangers which, at first sight, would seem to threaten the country. In a sense, this measure of independence will be welcome, inasmuch as it will, in the first place, regularise the position of Britain in Egypt, and, secondly, it will enable the country to pursue its peaceful development untrammelled by political agitation.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, September 1.

**Communists' Difficulties.**

The Communist Municipality has after all not been able to assume its functions, because at a critical moment, when the outgoing officers were handing over, there marched in a police official with an order from the Minister of the Interior forbidding the transaction on the grounds that the reservations with which they hedged their oath were illegal; and so the old municipality is carrying on pending a settlement, which will mean new elections. Meanwhile, the Communists have appealed to the State Council, which is the supreme court of appeal, with power to quash not only the decrees of Ministers but even resolutions of the Ministerial Council, upon legal grounds. The Council will have its hands full, for it is stated that it has already 500 election petitions to try. It is reported that the Communists at Nish have taken the formal oath, and so are allowed to remain in office; but by doing so they seem to stultify themselves and go back upon their own principals.

**Back to "the Bad Old Days."**

The Communists' victories in such out-of-the-way places as Jakovo, Veles, Kumanovo and so on are not really any victory for Communism; they are to be explained as an organised attempt of the anti-Serbian elements there to undermine the State. There appears to be a plot on the part of the Mohammedan Albanians of the Kossovo district, where there is a reign of terror, as in the bad old Turkish days, and *komitajis* are in the field again. The Serbs are asserting that they have traced connection with the Italians and support from Bulgarian *komitajis*, and there has been fighting with Bulgarian bands; the Press asserts that Protogeroff is the ringleader of the Bulgarians. It will be remembered that he is a Bulgarian general who was imprisoned for abuse of power in the war, but escaped from confinement at Sofia, and is now at large. He was an active *komitaji* in the old days, and seems to be at his old tricks. The enemy are supplied with Italian stores and munitions, and Italian uniforms have been seen among them. The genuine enemy Albanians have now been driven out and the captured villages liberated. The resident Albanians in the Prizrend district and elsewhere are loyally supporting the Government, but the enemy have destroyed their homes whenever they had the chance. Nikolite Montenegrins are also seen in the enemy's ranks.

Kossovo and the surrounding districts have been for

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centuries essentially Serbian in character, but during the latter part of the Ottoman period the Turks gave every encouragement to Albanians to settle there in order gradually to outnumber the Serbian element, and undoubtedly there are places which have been Slav for a thousand years where to-day the Serbs are in an actual minority. This sowing of hatred between Albanians and Serbs is very regrettable, as the two peoples can, and have, lived in harmony side by side. Serbia has no wish to live on anything but friendly relations with her Shkipetar neighbours; and if they were left to themselves both parties would probably jog along all right, and jointly defend the principle of the Balkans for the Balkan peoples.

**Statement by Prime Minister.**

The Skupshtina met yesterday for the first time after the crisis, and M. Vesnitch made a statesmanlike speech. After a brief reference to the past crisis, he stated that the prime object of the Government was to effect the general election and bring into being the Constituent Assembly. He then passed to agrarian reform, quoting at some length from the Regent's Proclamation of December 24, 1918, promising the abolition of serfdom and of great properties, and referred to the agreement on the details of the question of the provincial governments. He insisted once more upon the necessity of all working together with the object of restoring and confirming order and prosperity in the country. Passing to foreign affairs, he referred with regret to the Russo-Polish fratricidal war between two Slavonic peoples, in which the South Slavs must remain neutral. He dwelt at some length, and with great moderation, upon the conflict with Italy, stating that the Government was in negotiation with Rome on the question of the unhappy disturbances in Splijet, Zadar (Zara), Fiume and Trieste, pointing out the disastrous result of maintaining the purely provisional state of affairs left by the armistice with Austria-Hungary. He pointed out that it was the duty of both parties to come to an understanding, and expressed the hope that the negotiations broken off at Pallanza would be renewed and the problem be brought to a conclusion which would be to the advantage, if not to the entire satisfaction, of all immediate demands, of the two peoples. "The declarations," proceeded M. Vesnitch, "which have been recently made by prominent and authoritative Italian statesmen inspire us with hope that even at Rome they are beginning to regard our relations in a proper light, which is what I always anticipated from a statesman of the wisdom and patriotism of Signor Giolitti."

M. Vesnitch then referred to the Albanian invasion, which has now been completely repelled; his congratulations to M. Venizelos on the occasion of his narrow escape were met with applause; bonds of sincere friendship unite the country with Roumania, especially when the affairs of that country are directed by such men as General Averescu and M. Take Jonescu. Then he announced the signature of a close defensive alliance with Czecho-Slovakia. Finally, he reminded his hearers that the international position and prestige of the country depends entirely upon the state of affairs in the interior, and he invited Parliament therefore to vote the indispensable laws in full agreement, to make it possible within the shortest delay to call the electors to the ballot-boxes.

**A Sequestered Estate.**

The Serbian authorities must take a peculiar delight in administering the sequestered estates of the Archduke Frederic, who distinguished himself for his brutality in the invasion of Serbia in 1914. The revenues of the estate are about as great as the total revenue of Serbia before 1912; the fishing rights alone bring in two million dinars, and the revenue from the sugar factory is about eighty million; the total annual revenue is said to be about 200 million dinars.

September 4.

Serbian gendarmes have been in action with Bulgarian *komitajis*, who had penetrated as far as the right bank of the Vardar; there were a few casualties on each side and the Bulgars withdrew.

**More Communist Troubles.**

A split is reported between two wings of the Communist party in Zagreb, probably because it is composed of very heterogeneous elements. It is reported that the police have confiscated the paper *Nova Istina* ("The New Truth"), together with 3,700 dollars which are said to have been sent from America to help the Communist movement in this country.

**Russian Immigrants.**

The Russian colony in Yugoslavia, though diminished by the departure of a considerable number to join General Wrangel, is still numerous, and also energetic; it provides most of the talent, some very good, for the entertainment in Belgrade, and among the more serious enterprises the chief is the Rusko-Slovenska Banka, of which the leading mover is M. Lebedoff, who acted as Minister of Commerce under General Denikin. This institution is already owner of two factories, and has now taken a coal-mining area. There is a Russian Insurance Company here, and commission agencies in several towns, also publishing houses, an engineers' association, a school of actors, some restaurants, a bootmaker's, and other commercial undertakings; many engineers, doctors and other professional men have filled in some of the gaps left here by the war; they are founding a university at Skoplje, a Cadet School at Serajevo, and schools for girls and boys.

The Electoral Bill has been passed by the Skupshtina, and the General Elections for the Constituent Assembly fixed for November 28.

**A Profitable Deal.**

Here is a strange story of an official's visit to the Argentine during the war to recruit volunteers among the Yugo-Slav colony in South America. He took 800,000 francs with him for his expenses. This money, being a simple soul, he converted into Argentine currency on arrival, instead of doing it according to his needs. After two years, during which he did his work very well, he had spent 200,000 pesos out of the 600,000 which he had received for his francs. On returning to Europe he found that, owing to the depreciation of the franc and the rise in the peseta, he actually had a profit of 2,000,000 francs to return to the Government. This is indeed a model official. His name is worth publishing, and is Shpiro Poznanovich. The story is vouched for by the *Politika*. *Si non e vero, e ben trovato.*

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, September 3.

**Political.**

Parliament closed on August 27, after a very strenuous session, which was not rendered any easier by the hot weather that prevailed during the greater part of the summer; so that members were very glad to get their long-promised holiday.

On the surface there seems to be a calm in political circles. Leaders and party whips are very active in preparation for the next session, and are not losing any time in trying to bring their members up to scratch in readiness for the re-opening of Parliament.

It looks as if in certain influential quarters attempts are being made to bring about collaboration between the Government and the Transylvanian National Party, under the leadership of MM. J. Maniu and Vaida Voevod, in order to ensure smooth working in carrying out the reforms necessary for the reconstruction and consolidation of the country and its new provinces. Should this collaboration not take place, however, it is bound to have an effect on the present Cabinet, and changes in the personnel will most probably occur. Besides, there is a rumour that the number of ministers now existing— that is to say twenty in all, including the Under-Secretary for the Treasury—is to be reduced; probably by abolishing the posts of Ministers without Portfolio (these posts representing the newly-joined provinces), as they are now considered superfluous, in view of the consummation of the unity between the provinces and the mother country.

**Roumania and the League of Nations.**

M. N. Titulescu, the Minister of Finance, and the first Roumanian delegate at the Peace Conference, and the two University professors, Dr. Thomas Jonescu and M. D. Negulescu, have been appointed Roumanian delegates to the League of Nations.

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**M. Take Jonescu.**

M. Take Jonescu, the Foreign Minister, has left Bucharest to confer with the British and French Premiers. He will endeavour to negotiate for the foreign loan of which Roumania is in urgent need. It is reported that M. Titulescu has succeeded in obtaining a postponement of the reimbursement of the Roumanian War Loan for one year, and possibly longer. It is further rumoured that in case the United States should renounce the interest on the War Loan in favour of Roumania, England would do the same.

It is also reported that England has undertaken to indemnify Roumania against damage to the oil-fields during the retreat of the Roumanian army, in addition to her share of the indemnities imposed on the defeated nations.

**Civil Rights of the Royal Family.**

An additional statute to the existing act concerning the civil rights of the Royal Family has been passed by Parliament.

With this statute, any civil formalities in connection with the Royal Family, wherever they may be at the time, will have to be done in the presence of the Minister of Justice, assisted by the General Secretary. Any marriages contracted by the Crown Prince or Princes or Princesses of the Royal Family must have the consent of the King, otherwise they are void. Further, any act of adoption is forbidden.

As a consequence of this statute, the question of the marriage of Prince Carol to Mlle. Zizi Lambrino, and the eventual adoption of their child, is definitely settled.

The Queen and the Princesses Elisabeth and Marie have arrived from abroad, and have proceeded direct to Sinaia, to join the King, who has taken up his summer residence there.

**Farewell Dinner to H.M. Charge d'Affaires.**

A farewell dinner was given on August 31, at the Hotel Boulevard, by the British colony in Bucharest in honour of Mr. Frank Rattigan, H.M. Chargé d'Affaires, on the eve of his departure from Bucharest to take up another diplomatic appointment.

Mr. H. M. Watson presided, and the following gentlemen were present:—Messrs. Rattigan, Hartopp, Adams (H.M. Commercial Secretary), Rivett-Carnac, L. Keyser (H.M. Consul), Philip Simpson, McDuff, Rogers, Humphries, Guest, F. P. Archbold, F. B. Archbold, Hartley, Monckton, Johnston, Perrott, F. Masterson, T. Masterson, Smith, Hayward, Cooper, Back, Hillard, Reeve, Harwood and Evans. The following military officers were also present:—Col. Duncan, Military Attaché to H.M. Legation; Lt.-Col. Boyle, Col. Reid, Major Allen, Major Thynne, and Major Middleton.

The Chairman, in proposing the health of Mr. Rattigan, said that while Mr. Rattigan had been here he had been of great help to the British community in matters relating to the intercourse of the two countries, and in smoothing the way between the Roumanian authorities and Englishmen generally in the establishment of business relations.

Mr. Frank Rattigan, in reply, said:—

Gentlemen,—I appreciate very sincerely your kind thoughts in organising this farewell dinner to myself. Most of us have gone through critical and troublous times together, and I have been not a little proud of the courage and uncomplaining spirit displayed by my compatriots in this country. The British Colony have felt it their duty to stand by Roumania in her trials and adversities, and I believe that the Roumanians themselves realise what you have done to help them, and are grateful for the confidence you have shown in their ability to weather the storm.

The worst of the crisis through which Roumania has had to pass is now over, and I think we can all look forward with entire confidence to her regaining her pre-war prosperity, and, indeed, developing it to an extent which should make her one of the most prosperous countries in this part of the world.

For the development of her resources, however, Roumania must for some time to come be largely dependent on assistance from abroad. We must all sympathise with the wish of any country to develop itself unaided. "Roumania for the Roumanians" is a perfectly legitimate cry, and if it were a possibility we should have nothing to say against it; but the Roumanians themselves, or those of them who are aware of the real conditions of their country, fully realise that at present they cannot do without foreign help. It is up to us to show them that we are able and ready to afford them the assistance they require. British firms have never asked anything else than to be allowed to compete in an open market. They welcome rather than fear competition. They are confident of the ability of their goods and workmanship to stand the test of comparison with those of other countries. It has been suggested in a section of the Roumanian Press that it is apparently the desire of Great Britain and British firms generally to impose economic bondage upon this country. Nothing could, of course, be further from the truth. It is indeed difficult for us, who know that the prosperity of the British Empire is founded on the open door and fair dealing, to understand how such an idea could be seriously and honestly entertained; but as it does—though without the slightest apparent foundation—seem to exist in certain quarters, I should like to take this opportunity of making the following declaration, in which I am quite sure you all concur. British merchants are not professional philanthropists (let me hasten to add that I do not mean that they do not carry on a great deal of private philanthropy), but they do not carry on business on purely philanthropic lines. They expect, and have a right to expect, fair profits for the money they invest, the risks they run, and the work they execute, but they do not ask more than this. Moreover, the British theory is that loyal co-operation is the only right way of doing business. Our idea is that we grow rich ourselves, not by the impoverishment of our neighbours, but by their increased prosperity. Consequently, apart from the question of sentiment, and speaking merely from the point of view of business and common sense, we feel it to be in our interests to do all we can to contribute to the prosperity of those with whom we do business. It is true that most responsible Roumanians, and certainly all those who know Great Britain, are fully aware of this, and welcome our loyal co-operation in the development of their country; but as long as any doubts of our motive exist, it can do no harm to insist on the fundamental principles upon which British commerce and industry are based.

You have been kind enough to express your regret at my departure and to thank me for such assistance as I have been able to render you. I need hardly say that it is a matter of real satisfaction to me to feel that I have been of some assistance to you. It used to be a common complaint in old pre-war days that British diplomatists were out of touch with British business men, and confined themselves almost entirely to political work. I do not know that this charge was ever really justified, but I am quite sure that all his Majesty's representatives are now, at any rate, fully alive to the overwhelming importance of supporting British trade and commerce with all the means at their disposal. In thanking you once again for all your kindness to me, and for your open dealing and straightforwardness, without which no help of mine could have been of any avail, I would like to say that my regret at leaving this country is tempered by the thought of the many friends I have made amongst the British Colony here.

Col. Duncan, H.M. Military Attaché, in an interesting speech, referred particularly to the old question of founding a British Club in Bucharest, where all Englishmen in the town could have a common meeting-place for discussing matters of common interest, and especially that the club should be open to Britons passing through or staying in the town for a short time. They should be made to feel that they were not strangers in a strange country, but that here was an English institution where they could get accommodation, and everything that they required. He hoped that this club would soon be started, and he would do all he could to help to this end.

## TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, September 4.

**The True Situation.**

A recent article in a French paper concerning the strength of the Nationalist forces has been the subject of contemptuous comment in Constantinople, and is being cited as an instance of the inaccurate information supplied by European correspondents in this country. There appears to be considerable misapprehension as to the actual nature of the Nationalist forces, but recent

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events have amply shown that they have absolutely no military value in comparison with a well-equipped, disciplined force such as the Greek Army. The truth of the matter is that the Nationalists have neither the money nor the material, nor, indeed, any of the supplies which are absolutely essential to the conduct of serious military operations. The Greeks are having a walk-over, and no really serious resistance has been offered, nor is such resistance possible. The Nationalist forces are inadequately supplied with rifles, their artillery is hopelessly defective, their food supplies are insufficient, the men are unpaid, and indiscipline is rife. The troops desert at every available opportunity, and, taking refuge in the hills, indulge in indiscriminate brigandage.

Mustapha Kemal and the former commander of the 56th Division, Bekir Sami, were recently attacked by one of these wandering bands near Tokat. It is reported that Mustapha Kemal was wounded and his companion killed. The peasantry, enrolled by force, are thoroughly dispirited, and there can be no question of their standing up to the Hellenic forces, which also greatly outnumber the Turks.

The question naturally arises: If these be, indeed, the facts of the case, upon what does Mustapha Kemal rely to save the country from final and irretrievable disaster? Here one must take into account the atmosphere of Angora, where there are no Allied troops, and no High Commissioners to recall hotheads to a sense of realities. Moreover, the Nationalists have been buoyed up with hollow promises of assistance, not only from the Russians, but also from the Italians; and with the spirit of the true gambler, Mustapha has staked all upon dissensions among the Allies and upon the arrival of Bolshevist armies. Now that it must be clear even to the fevered brains of the Extremists that Italian help cannot amount to much beyond honeyed words, all the hopes of the Nationalists are turned to Russia. The enormous distances that would have to be traversed by an army, and the almost insurmountable natural obstacles to the arrival of any considerable force, seem to have been left out of consideration, and the Nationalist press is full of absurd stories concerning the approaching arrival of Bolshevist armies on the Smyrna front.

### The Greek Advance.

The fall of Ushak and the steady advance of the Greek army, practically without loss, have recently stirred the Turks in Anatolia to some realisation of the true hopelessness of the situation. The press is publishing appeals exhorting the population to fulfil its duty and die, rather than be enslaved; but as the population has known nothing else but practical slavery for the last six years, the appeal is not likely to make a very deep impression. It is understood that the objective of the Greek troops is Eski Shehir, the most important junction on the Anatolian railway. Here, also, are situated the only ordnance works that the Nationalists possess. Thus the capture of Eski Shehir will be the heaviest blow the Nationalists have yet received, and there is not the slightest prospect of their being able to avert it. For the rest, it appears that in the occupied regions the utmost order prevails, and so long as the Greeks are wise enough to keep a light but firm hand upon the bridle there is every prospect of their having an easy task.

### In Constantinople.

The Government continues to discuss plans for the despatch of a military expedition to suppress the "rebellion" in Anatolia, but in many ways the Sublime Porte is in no better posture than the Great National Assembly. The treasury is empty, and far from being able to provide funds for a military expedition, there is no money to pay the salaries of the considerably reduced number of officials in the capital. It is rumoured that the Government contemplates the sale of State property in order to be able to pay the officials their August and September salaries, but this has not been confirmed.

With regard to recruiting for the projected expedition to Anatolia, men are no more plentiful than money; and even were they to come forward, there is every probability that they would desert at the first opportunity.

It is natural that there should be a Cabinet crisis at this moment. One is just about due, but the only trouble seems to be whether Tweedledum can agree with Tweedledee. How long the present situation can endure it is not easy to say, but that it is fraught with the utmost danger for Turkey goes without saying. The appetite of the Greeks for more territory is by no means appeased, and there are indications that unless the Turks show some energy, there are further disasters in store for the country.

## CYPRUS.

CYPRUS, August 10.

### The Cypriot Mission.

News from the delegates in London shows that they have been to Paris for a visit of some days, and on their return are renewing their visits to persons friendly to the Hellenic cause and likely to take up that of the Cyprus Unionists. They have hoped that questions would be asked in the House of Commons before the recess. Cypriot Greeks are urged not to be in any way discouraged by the recent Italo-Hellenic discussions, all of which imply that there may be, at the worst, longer delay as to a favourable ultimate solution than had been lately anticipated. It is held that the Cyprus question is now bound up with that of Rhodes. In the island the Italo-Hellenic differences are keenly debated, and the various phases, as reported in the European Press, eagerly followed. The latest rumours relate to the alleged decision which involves the retention of Rhodes by Italy for fifteen years, after which the question as to which Power shall possess the island will be decided by votes of the people under the supervision of the League of Nations. There could be no question, it is argued, as to the result. If Italy—unmindful of her Mazzinis and her Garibaldis—should desire to retain her hold for fifteen years, she would realise how unthinkable it is that the Greek element could swerve in the slightest degree from its age-long devotion to Greece. Neither in Cyprus, even after forty years of liberal British rule, could the flame of Hellenic patriotism be extinguished. It is only necessary that there should be such patience as M. Venizelos advocates.

### Accident to Police Commandant.

The Chief Commandant of Police, Colonel Gallagher D.S.O., while proceeding from Limassol to Nicosia, has had a narrow escape from what might have been a fatal accident. On reaching a bridge which crosses a small torrent near the village of Moni, about ten miles from Limassol, the car was precipitated below the bridge, the occupants being thrown violently out. Colonel Gallagher sustained serious injuries, and the chauffeur was less gravely damaged. Villagers who were near ran to give what first-aid they could; and fortunately a Greek from Limassol, M. E. Georgallides, who was approaching in his motor soon after, hastened to assist. He conveyed Colonel Gallagher to a house of his own at Moni, and, after doing all that was possible in dressing the wounds, sent him in his motor to Limassol, where medical attendance was at once procured. Happily, the injuries are not of a dangerous nature.

### General News.

The heat has been excessive, combined with great humidity in the plains. Fortunately for the carob crop, there have not been any parching winds. In the hills there have been refreshing showers, sometimes with hail, which is very unwelcome in the vine lands.

Hotels and all available houses and cottages are crowded at Platres, and considerable gaiety prevails in this favourite summer resort. There has been a continuous flow of visitors from Egypt by every steamer. Communications between Limassol and Troodos are vastly improved. Several of the Platres hotels run motors of their own. The greatest credit is given to the Cairo company which conveys passengers and mails in large and comfortable cars between the six chief district towns of the island. Meanwhile, there is much grumbling that in spite of these benefits mails are still carried between Limassol and Platres by mules; especially as large numbers of business men spend holidays in the hills.

The High Commissioner, Mr. M. Stevenson, has been to Limassol, notwithstanding the heat, for inspections, and to discuss various local matters. These visits of the Governor to places where various interests are at stake and can be much promoted by personal interviews, give great satisfaction. It is probable that His Excellency will arrange a visit to Papho before returning to the capital, as well as another to Limassol.

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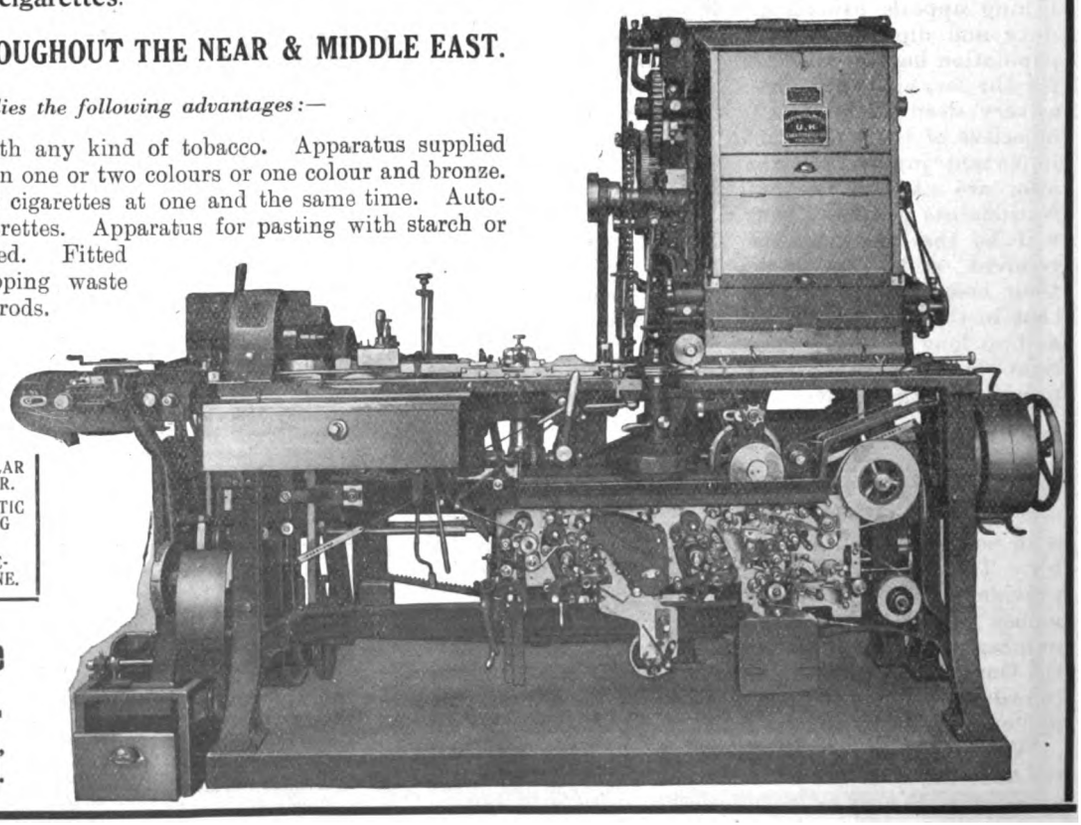

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## PRINCE CAROL OF ROUMANIA.

Apart from the time spent on board ship, the few days of his stay in England must have represented almost the only respite experienced by the Crown Prince of Roumania in his long tour round the world. The visit to London did not belong to the formal programme, but was determined by the exigencies of geography or transport. It coincided with the holiday season. The King and Queen are in Scotland, and many of the people whom on personal grounds the Prince would have liked to meet were out of town. The Prime Minister returned from the Continent on September 7, but affairs of State, particularly pressing at the moment, prevented him from meeting his Royal Highness until the day of his departure. A luncheon given at Claridge's Hotel on September 9 by M. Boerescu, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, was almost the only "set piece" of the London visit. On that occasion Prince Carol met a number of the diplomatists accredited to the Court of St. James's, as well as Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, the representative, in the absence of Lord Curzon, of the Foreign Office.

The Crown Prince's tour comprised visits to Egypt, India, and Ceylon, and he touched at Singapore, Hong Kong and Shanghai on his way to Japan. With India, it is understood, he was deeply impressed; the programme arranged for him by the authorities was a comprehensive one, and, in view of the heat, proved not a little strenuous. In Japan he had a mission to execute, the discussion of trade relations between Japan and Roumania, and for this reason more time had to be given to business. The Japanese, however, are past-masters in the art of entertaining, and would know how to enable the busiest visitor to appreciate some of the charms of their attractive country.

After the studied politeness of Japan, the aggressive attentions of American newspapers proved more than embarrassing, and it was with considerable relief that the Crown Prince left the Press-ridden United States and arrived in England, where some deference was paid to the private nature of his visit.

Prince Carol left London on September 11, travelling direct to Roumania. He will have been absent six months, and will return with a wider vision and with knowledge acquired that will always be at the service of his country. To Britons it is of interest to know that Prince Carol is an outdoor enthusiast. In the Carpathian Mountains the Roumanians have a wonderful asset both for mineral wealth and for physical relaxation. Now that the northern slopes have been brought within the kingdom it will be possible to develop winter sports in Roumania, and the movement with this end in view is led by the Crown Prince. As soon as Roumania has recovered from her severe ordeal in the war, and has replenished her rolling stock, the close political relations that exist between her and Great Britain will find expression in the more frequent intercourse between the two peoples.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### ITALY AND YUGOSLAVIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of September 9 you published a letter from Mr. Harold W. E. Goad, who writes of the "heated imagination" of myself and my countrymen with regard to the Italians' arrogation of Fiume and Dalmatia. Will you allow me a final word on this subject?

Mr. Goad recommends me to consult the valuable little book by Mr. Archibald Hurd, entitled "Italian Sea Power in the Great War," in which the author writes, on page 56: "It is not conceivable that restored Serbia will ever forget the debt she owes to Italy."

But, on the other hand, in the same book, the author writes about the Serbs on pages 58, 59, 63, 64: "After a most gallant action had been fought at the passes of Katchanik and Babuna in the north and south respectively—rearguard actions worthy to be ranked with any recorded in history—nothing remained of Serbia to defend, and little of one of the most intrepid armies that the world has ever known, but the hungry, fever-stricken, and war-worn, but undaunted columns that were retreating through the inhospitable Albanian mountains.

"Many of these people were already so weak with hunger or disease that they fell beside the way, often to die; others were cut off and massacred by roving bands of Albanian bandits. . . . . Living skeletons, as the result of sleeplessness and starvation, many of them were already the victims of typhus, dysentery, or cholera. All had the same dazed and glassy look in their sunken eyes. . . . Rich and poor were alike in the hopeless misery into which they had sunk. . . . It was such a scene as no tragedian from Homer, Æschylus, and Euripides to Dante, Shakespeare, or Milton had ever succeeded in painting, even with the sombre or lurid colours of the imagination of genius, and one that the shores of the Mediterranean, strewn as they had been from time immemorial by the disasters of armies and the wreckage of nations, could scarcely have looked upon since time began."

After all this starvation of the Serbians, could any soul or any civilised nation, especially any Ally, not help us in that moment? Besides, it was the duty of the Allies to help us and enable us to renew fighting against the common enemy. In my letter of August 26 I mentioned that we remember well the generous help of Italy and the other Allies, and I repeat it again, because Mr. Goad, perhaps, did not notice this the first time.

The Italian Fleet transferred about 200,000 Serbians and saved their lives, but in return for this work of mercy they now keep under their yoke 400,000 groaning Yugoslavs, who are oppressively governed by D'Annunzio's military forces.

Although the Serbian Army liberated these 400,000 Yugoslavs from the Austrian yoke, yet after a short time of liberation D'Annunzio has occupied those parts by violence, and keeps them at present under his yoke.

Serbia, exhausted and war-worn during the great war, not yet recovered from her wounds, must now undergo a new operation, not from the hands of the enemy, but from an ally of yesterday, who tries to cut off the main vein of the worn-out heart of Serbia, and to lock the main door of the newly-created and united kingdom. What Dantzig at present is to Poland, so Fiume is to Yugoslavia. We remember the help the Italians extended to us, but we can never forget their injustice.

Mr. Goad mentioned that I took the opportunity of repeating once more "a mass of calumny against the Italians in Fiume and Dalmatia, which is totally without foundation save in the heated imagination" of myself and my countrymen.

If this is without foundation, let Mr. Goad justify this in facts. And if the majority of inhabitants are satisfied with D'Annunzio's rule, let them have self-determination, or at least let there be a plebiscite, but only on condition that the Italians do not interfere during the plebiscite. So will be justified all the Italians' claims.—I am, etc.,

D. GLISHITCH.

September 11, Birmingham.

## DISTURBANCES IN CILICIA.

The correspondent in Alexandria who sent us some extracts from a letter upon Cilicia which were published in our issue of August 12, sends us some further information, written on August 15. His Armenian correspondent says:—

On August 2 the Armenian forces east of Adana and between the two Cilician rivers Sihun and Jihun formed a provisional Mitchaket Armenian Government. Two days later all the Christians of Adana formed an Inter-Christian Extraordinary Council, and handed to Colonel Bremond a memorandum in which they declared the independence of Cilicia, with France as mandatory. This document met with the approval of Colonel Bremond, who promised to send it to his Government. In the meantime the Inter-Christian Extraordinary Council carried out its decision to capture the Government buildings on the morning of August 6. When this was made known to Colonel Bremond he immediately dispatched a company of his Algerians and forced the Armenians out of the buildings at the point of the bayonet. You should note that he who ordered this inhuman act is the same Bremond who had approved of the above document and showed great sincerity towards those who had compiled it, adding that the document in question was "called to open a new era in the Cilician contemporary annals." From that day on the French artillery does not partake in any combat which takes place at the very doors of Adana. Each and every town of Cilicia is isolated from the outside world. The policy followed by the French in the other towns of Cilicia is not different in any respect from that followed in Adana itself. Wherever the Armenians are able to stand by themselves becomes a centre of French intrigue; for instance, the Amanus Armenians had declared independence, but this being a "danger" to the existence of the French in Cilicia they were ordered to beat a retreat on military pretexts. The whole population is now wandering in the fields between Amanus and Adana, suffering hunger and thirst, and the continuous heat of the summer is causing considerable hardship. Another victim of the French Imperialist policy is the town of Hajin, under the siege of the Kemalists. Several times hundreds of daring young Armenians volunteered to go to the aid of their compatriots in Hajin, but they were never permitted to do so. In one case, when a company of volunteers had started without informing the French, they were overtaken on the road and returned to Adana under the escort of Mohammedan French soldiers. . . .

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# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

## Our Persian Policy.

The *Gazette de Lausanne* of September 7 contains an article entitled "La Grande-Bretagne et la Perse," which betrays a lively satisfaction at the predicament in which, the writer considers, our Persian policy has landed us. It begins with a reference to Mr. Lloyd George's attitude towards the Bolshevists at the time of their victories, an attitude which it attributes to the very difficult situation confronting us in the Orient, where Moslem sentiment has been deeply affected. The uneasiness of British opinion, as expressed in our Press, is caused not only by events in Mesopotamia, but also by developments in Persia:—

Under pressure from business men, and principally of great financiers who aim at gaining control of the enormous supplies of petroleum in Mesopotamia and in Persia, Great Britain has followed in the latter country a most dangerous policy, which to-day threatens to turn against her. Great Britain has to-day in North-West Persia a small force, now cut off from Baghdad, the fate of which, judging from the Press, seriously alarms students of the Oriental question.

The Moscow Government (the writer goes on to say) has denied any responsibility for the attacks on Persia made by Bolshevist detachments, but we know the value of Soviet denials, and the Russian Government is aware of the feeling of the Persian people towards Great Britain. It follows its policy there, as in other directions, and it believes that its revolutionary propaganda will lead to results in Asia sooner than in Europe.

Mr. Lloyd George thought to achieve a master-stroke in signing with the Persian Government, or, rather, in forcing it to sign, less than a year after the Armistice, an agreement which amounted in effect to a British protectorate over all the Persian Empire. By a loan of fifty millions, at a price of 7 per cent., Great Britain secured to herself by the Agreement of August 9, 1919, everything interesting and remunerative in the Shah's dominion. The Persians have not protested because they no longer have any *mejliss* and because they have been deprived of all power of control; but their irritation is great, and shows itself already, according to travellers, in an extraordinary xenophobia. The present Shah, accused of having sold his country, is extremely unpopular. A spark on this pile of touchwood and there may be the worst of complications. The military operations in neighbouring Mesopotamia have not yet secured the pacification of the country. In Persia, the military campaign of which that country is the scene is followed with close interest; in Moscow it attracts no less attention. British policy in Persia may, then, serve her a very bad turn.

The article concludes with a couple of quotations, from the *Revue hebdomadaire* and *The Times*. It remains to be seen whether the prophets of evil will be justified.

## The Eastern Empire.

The *Spectator* of August 28 charges the Government with having no definite policy towards our Oriental Empire.

While we throw away India and Egypt with the one hand, we are steadily taking on greater and greater commitments in Mesopotamia with the other—commitments which are enormously costly, which raise a great deal of ill-feeling against us and which cannot possibly give us quick returns. Moreover, they are commitments which must, under the terms of our mandate and of the prevailing demands of public opinion, lead to the ultimate destruction of the building we are rearing. The native Government to whom we look forward to resigning our work is not likely, unless East becomes West, to worry about keeping it in repairs. Roads, railways, irrigation, canals, dams, and flood-gates are fanciful shapes of a plastic earth which weary the Oriental mind. They are gross material things unworthy of the children of Allah. To put the matter in a nutshell, whatever is right or wrong, it can only be a proof of imperial senile *dementia* to build up a new Oriental Empire in Mesopotamia while we are busily and conscientiously destroying the old one in India and Egypt. This is a form of the white man's burden which honestly is quite too much for us. The objections which we have just raised come out very clearly in the new Egyptian policy. Apparently all that we are now proposing to retain in the region in which Asia joins Northern Africa is the stretch of desert through which the Suez Canal runs. On one side is to be the Jewish Republic which Sir Herbert Samuel and his friends are now eagerly preparing as a national home for the Jews of Poland and South Russia, and in which no doubt many a misunderstood Commissary from Moscow will ultimately find his physical and spiritual domicile. There some day Lenin and Trotsky will lie down with Rothschild and Mond, and Reading or Montagu will put his hand upon the cockatrice' den. And a little child, perhaps from Lympne, shall lead them. On the other side of the Canal Zone there will be an absolutely independent Egypt, but whether under a Sultan or a Moslem or Hebrew Soviet does not at present appear. At any rate, this disposition of the Canal will be thoroughly in the fashion. It will become a "Corridor." No doubt, in view of what is to happen to India, it is difficult to see why we should trouble about a corridor which will soon lead nowhere, or at any rate nowhere that will have any great interest for the British people.

Its conclusion is undiluted pessimism:—

We are not going to assert that because we can make the people of Egypt so much more comfortable than they can make themselves, therefore we ought to insist upon ruling them. Neither do we say that it is better for them to be comfortable than free, though we are inclined to think that, though this is entirely untrue of European nations, it is, in fact, true of the fatalistic Oriental. If it is the real wish of the Egyptian peasant to be like Grattan's Irishman—able to glory in the fact that if he is in rags he is at any rate not in tutelage—then no doubt we must say, "Have it your way." Though we end our reign, do not let us pretend that we are engaging in a generous piece of self-sacrifice in order to bestow great spiritual and material blessings upon the natives of Egypt We are not doing anything of the kind. Materially the benefit will be all on our side. Cobden and the men of his school were perfectly right when they said that the Oriental Empire was a huge material burden upon this country. Their mistake was that they did not realise that, though the Empire is materially a burden, it has raised us spiritually, and therefore prevented us having that relapsing fever which comes to nations which live too much at ease—the relapsing fever which in the last resort destroyed Tyre, Sidon, and Carthage, and but for their daily dreadful battle with the sea might have destroyed the sturdy, pursy burghers of the Netherlands. However, we need not as yet worry ourselves about the likelihood of getting too much ease, comfort, and economy out of the new system of Empire, or rather non-Empire. As far as we can see, we are to retain our Oriental Empire wherever it means responsibility and expense, and to abandon it only when it is a paying and going concern. A cynic might sum up the results of all we have written and suggested by the reflection that, at any rate, the men who have insisted upon the great revolution imminent in Egypt and in preparation in India will get their punishment and will rue the day that they forced us to give up our trusteeship. Unfortunately, we cannot share in this piece of grim humour. It will be a poor consolation to think that the fellaheen in Egypt and the ryot in India will once more sink back into the slavish savagery from which we had so largely redeemed them, and become almost as suffering and as hopeless as the overburdened camel and the all-enduring mule and donkey, who at this moment are suffering such pain and misery at the hands of the Faithful. Mahomet may have been punctiliously kind and courteous to his cat, but his followers all the world over are in sore need of a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Let us pray that they may not soon be in need of a society for the prevention of cruelty to men and women and children who are not officials, soldiers, usurers, or members of their own families.

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# BRITISH DEAD IN TURKEY.

It has been suggested that a memorial should be established in Constantinople to all those who lost their lives within the Turkish Empire during the war. After the Crimean War a large sum was subscribed for the erection in Constantinople of a church, which was called Christ Church, and was dedicated to those who fell in that war; but while this sum was sufficient to build the church it was not sufficient to endow it, and funds are now so urgently needed that the church may have to be closed. It is, therefore, proposed that Christ Church should be endowed as a memorial for all time to British dead, and that, in addition, a worthy monument should be erected in it. A committee has been formed at Constantinople, with branches in London, Australia, and India, under the presidency of the British High Commissioner, Admiral Sir John de Robeck, to appeal for funds. Subscriptions of any amount may be sent to either of the joint hon. treasurers, Lady Lawrence, Sudbury Hill, Harrow-on-the-Hill; or Admiral Sir Edmond Slade, 35, Surrey Street, Strand, London, W.C.2.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"THE EASTERN QUESTION AND ITS SOLUTION." By Morris Jastrow, jun. (Philadelphia and London. J. B. Lippincott Company. $1.50.)

II.—"IN A BENGAL BACKWATER." By John Hamilton. (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co. Rs. 4 8.)

III.—"BARTHOLOMEW'S POLITICAL MAP OF THE NEW EUROPE, 1920." (Edinburgh: John Bartholomew and Son, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.).

## I.—AN AMERICAN VIEW OF THE EASTERN QUESTION.

"The war is not over, nor will it be until the Eastern Question has been disposed of." With these pregnant words Dr. Morris Jastrow, professor in the University of Pennsylvania, begins an illuminating study of the main source of international conflicts. It entered on an acute stage early in the nineteenth century owing to the decay of the Turkish Empire, which had embraced the entire Near East in the great days of Selim and Suleiman. The "Sick Man" theory then took shape, and every Great Power embarked on a struggle for his inheritance. Thus the Eastern Question was a source of never-ending friction; and after embroiling Europe in these disastrous wars, it has ended by setting the civilised world aflame. In vain did the old diplomacy strive to deal with it by means of secret treaties and conferences. It was hypnotised by the sophism of a "balance of power," and became an agency for giving vent to the self-regarding instincts. For the morality of men in association is in inverse ratio to the numbers engaged. Every nation seeks its individual advantage, and is ready to draw the sword in order to advance it. "If I had done for myself," exclaimed the great Cavour, "all that I have done for my country, what a scoundrel I should be!" So every conference leaves behind it the seeds of future warfare; and when the fount and origin of evil be removed, it will assuredly make an end of our boasted civilisation.

The last internecine struggle has convinced men of the failure of diplomacy in the past. It is admitted on all sides that the Near and Middle East must be placed under tutelage until it shall have recovered from the dire effect of Turkish misgovernment; and that the task must be supervised by a League of Nations. But the form which that tutelage should take is still undecided. The Peace Conference favoured "mandates," giving a specified Power exclusive authority to guide the destinies of a specified region. Dr. Jastrow points out the evil inherent in this system. While the old diplomacy and the game of grab continue in force there is nothing to prevent a Mandatory Power from converting a trust into a protectorate, and finally adding it to its own dominions. Moreover, the mandatory principle involves the maintenance of a standing army in the protected region—a fact which deters America from entering the League of Nations. Dr. Jastrow prefers Internationalism as a solution. He urges the formation of mixed commissions for governing the erstwhile provinces of Turkey, comprised of foreign experts aided by natives of the protected regions. He instances the success of the Danubian Commission, instituted in 1856, as justifying a wider application of International control. Writing as an American, he might well have adduced the precedent of Washington City, which offers a model of municipal administration under Commissioners nominated by the President of the United States. Dr. Jastrow's book ought to be translated into the chief languages of Europe, and placed in the hands of statesmen who, in the teeth of enormous difficulties, are striving to set the Eastern Question at rest for ever. F. H. S.

## II.—A STUDY OF HINDU HOME LIFE IN BENGAL.

This is a simple, unpretentious account of Beatrice Weston's attempt to make friends with the Bengali women whose homes are in the clearing in the jungle where her husband's factory is situated on the banks of the Ganges. Her chief effort, in which she finally succeeds, is directed towards gaining the friendship of Binodini, the wife of Surenda, the Babu doctor attached to the factory. The tale opens with a description of Beatrice, who has just returned to her husband after five years spent in England looking after their children, gazing out at the ugly factory buildings on the river bank and feeling lonely and restless.

The idea of trying to understand and help her Bengali neighbours is given to her by a letter from her friend Alice Lancaster, who has lived in this very bungalow years before. There are several of these long, pious letters from Mrs. Lancaster scattered through the book, and extraordinarily irritating they are; however, they leave us thankful that Beatrice is not like her friend, but quite human and ordinary. The moral of the book is that much can be done by perseverance, patience, and sincere sympathy to bring East and West nearer together. The wrong methods of going to work are shown in the conversation of Miss Brown, who comes out to India filled with half-digested ideas of reform, and in the activities of the well-meaning but quite unpractical Padre, whom she eventually marries. Hammond, the principal of a large educational institute, and his wife are shown as entertaining a feeling for the Indians which is far removed from sympathy. We leave Beatrice cheered at having gained the friendship and confidence of the native doctor's family, and at having persuaded several of the other women to accompany her for a little air and recreation to a purdah garden cut out of the jungle. We are, however, confused by the fact that her friendship and not altogether wise attempts at interference have twice nearly brought ruin on the Bengali household, and that what has really helped them and brought them prosperity is the timely reappearance from Bombay of a wealthy brother of Surenda's, who relieves him of the heavy burden of having to support their mother and father and the widows and families of two other brothers, and thus enables Surenda to pursue his medical and literary studies in peace.

The author gives a delicately sympathetic picture of the Hindu wife in Binodini, and the straightforward simplicity of the little book is attractive.

## III.—THE NEW EUROPE.

This map, while being useful in many ways, seems to have been composed with rather less lucidity and accuracy than are usual with Messrs. Bartholomew's publications. It has been drawn up according to the Treaties of Paris, but, as everyone knows, the treaties are by no means definite on all points; so that while some of the frontiers here described are certain, others are only probable, and others only possible. It has not been finally decided, for instance, that Fiume is to go to Italy, or that Montenegro has been legally incorporated into Yugoslavia. Again, we do not see the grounds upon which Albania is allotted to Italy. That Egypt is here printed in British red is perhaps a quite excusable guess; but to mark the northern boundary of Armenia as extending from Batoum to the west of Samsoun is surely unpardonable. However, the difficulties in producing such a map as this must have been immense, and if they have not all been overcome, it is at least obvious to the student where the errors lie. We should have been pleased to see more detail, especially in the Near Eastern part of this map: the Dalmatian coast is an example of such not unimportant omissions. A revised edition of the map is needed, and, we hope, will be forthcoming.

## BOOK RECEIVED.

"Human Psychology." By Howard C. Warren. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd. 12s. net.)

PERSIAN SELF-TAUGHT
By SHEYKH HASAN.
In Roman Characters, with English Phonetic Pronunciation.
Containing the Persian Alphabet, Transliteration and Pronunciation; Outline of Grammar with Persian Characters; Classified Vocabularies and Conversations; Travel Talk; Trade and Commerce; Persian Handwriting; Money, with English and American Values, Weights and Measures; Illustration of the Persian Coinage.
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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

## CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

**Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish Dates.**

| Gregorian (New Style). | Julian (Old Style). | — | Moslem. | Jewish. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1920. September | 1920. September | | 1339. Moharram | 5681. Tishri |
| 16 | 3 | Thursday | 3 | 4 |
| 17 | 4 | Friday | 4 | 5 |
| 18 | 5 | Saturday | 5 | 6 |
| 19 | 6 | Sunday | 6 | 7 |
| 20 | 7 | Monday | 7 | 8 |
| 21 | 8 | Tuesday | 8 | 9 |
| 22 | 9 | Wednesday | 9 | 10 |

Earl Curzon of Kedleston returned to London on Sunday evening.

Earl Winterton will arrive in London from Rhodesia on October 10.

The Sultan of Zanzibar is making a State visit to the island of Pemba.

Prince Paul of Serbia is visiting the Earl of Strathmore at Glamis Castle.

Viscount Milner has returned to London from Sturry Court, Canterbury.

Sir Henry and Lady Bax-Ironside left London for Ireland at the end of last week.

M. Loutsi, Secretary to the Greek Legation, has returned to London from Paris.

The Maharajah of Jhalapur spent the week-end on a visit to Bishop Welldon, Dean of Durham.

M. Nano, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, returned to London on September 8 from Berne.

Lord and Lady Lamington will remain at Lamington House, Lanarkshire, until November.

General Paraskevopoulos, the Greek Commander-in-Chief, left Smyrna for Athens on September 7.

Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall is proceeding to India to take up editorial duties in connection with the *Bombay Chronicle*.

M. D. Ghambashidze, the Chargé d'Affaires of the Georgian Legation, arrived in London on September 8 from Georgia.

Princess Nicholas of Greece has been recalled from Territet owing to the critical condition of the Grand Duchess Vladimir.

Lady Lawrence, wife of Lord Lawrence, returned on Wednesday to Harrow-on-the-Hill from The Cottage, Dunster, Somerset.

Prince Karam and Prince Mahijit Singh and Prince Amarjit Singh of Kapurthala have arrived at the Hotel du Palais, Biarritz.

M. E. Gueguetchkori, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia, arrived in London on September 9 from Paris on a special mission.

Colonel Arion, formerly Roumanian Military Attaché to the Legation in London, has been sent by the Roumanian Government to Japan on a special mission.

M. Pavlé Karovitch, First Secretary, will be in charge of the Serbian Legation during the absence of M. Gavrilovitch, the Serbian Minister, who left London on September 9.

In celebration of the name-day of the King of the Hellenes a Te Deum was sung at the Greek Church at noon on Sunday. The service was taken by the Archimandrite, Dr. Pagonis, and those present included the Greek Minister.

The Greek Minister has left for Paris to attend the forthcoming meeting of the Council of the League of Nations there. During his absence M. Polychroniadis, First Secretary of the Legation, will act as Chargé d'Affaires.

Lieutenant-General Sir William Birdwood, who commanded the Australian and New Zealand Forces at Gallipoli, returned to London last Friday, after a stay of several months' duration in Australia, where he was on a visit to his daughter.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (September 4):—

Exequatur has been given to Mr. Alfred R. Thompson, the American Consul at Zagreb.

The Naval Attaché, Commander Diggle, R.N., has arrived in Belgrade.

Major Neate has arrived in Belgrade on his way to rejoin the Military Mission in Sofia.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The Bulgarian Government has agreed to the nomination of M. Langa Rachcanu as the representative of Roumania in Sofia.

M. Pavloff, Consul-General, who has held the post of Chargé d'Affaires of Bulgaria in Albania, has been nominated as Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

Mr. Aubrey M. Clark, Acting Agent, Bengal-Nagpur Railway, at present on leave in this country, has been offered and has accepted the post of Member of the Indian Railway Board. Mr. Clark leaves England to take up his appointment at once.

The Governor-General of India has appointed Mr. Alexander Frederick Whyte as the first President of the Legislative Assembly shortly to be constituted in India under the Government of India Act, 1919.

## OBITUARY.

Colonel Charles Evan Maberly, D.S.O., died on September 7 at 98, Piccadilly. He entered the Royal Artillery in 1874, and served in the Nile Campaign, 1884-5, and in South Africa, 1899-1900. He was for a time on the staff of Lord Kitchener, and was then invalided home. Colonel Maberly was unmarried.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

The British School in the Rue Sakis Agatch, Pera, was opened in March, 1919, to provide English education for boys and girls until the two English High Schools could be reopened. It had over 200 pupils, and a balance-sheet made up to July 31, 1920, shows a total deficit of 700 Ltq. over the period of seventeen months, which the British Government is being asked to accept as an item of expenditure under the British Relief Fund.

The High School for Boys was reopened in October, 1919, and the High School for Girls will be reopened this month, and it is expected that the majority of the pupils of the British School will be entered at one or other of the High Schools. There remain, however, a large number of British subjects, especially Maltese, who are unable to pay the higher fees necessarily charged by the two High Schools. H.M. High Commissioner has applied to H.M. Government for a grant in aid of a primary school in Constantinople to provide English education at low fees, and his application is now before the Ministry of Education and Treasury.

In order to carry on the work until some decision can be taken in London, a committee has been formed, and has decided to issue this appeal for signature to a Guarantee Fund to cover any deficit resulting from the continuation of the school for a further period of twelve months from September, 1920. Any such deficit will be divided among the underwriters of the guarantee in proportion to the sum guaranteed by each.

Names of committee: Mary Dunn, R. Frew, H. H. Guest (treasurer), A. Mayor Metcalfe, J. Morrison, J. A. Sykes, A. T. Waugh (chairman).

A headmaster will be brought out from England. The school fees for British subjects have been fixed at Ltq. 2 per month. Foreign subjects will be charged at a higher rate. It is desired to raise the Guarantee Fund to £1,500, and the committee appeals to the British community and to British business houses for signatures, which should be sent to the chairman at the British High Commission, Pera.

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## FAREWELL TO LORD SINHA.

On September 8, at the Savoy Hotel, Lord Sinha was entertained at a farewell banquet on his retirement from the Under-Secretaryship for India and his departure from England to take up the duties of Governor of Bihar and Orissa. Among those present were: Prince Fateh Singh of Limri, Prince Chenanjit Singh of Kapurthala, Sir M. M. Bhownaggree, Lord Meston, Sir J. D. Rees, M.P., the Chief of Aundh, Lord Carmichael, Sir B. Mitter (Advocate-General of Bengal), Sir M. Abbas Ali Baig, Sir N. Visvesvaraya, Sir M. B. Chaubal, Sir K. G. Gupta, Sir Dawood Khan (late Persian Minister in India), the Persian Chargé d'Affaires (Ghaffer Khan), Sir M. C. Seton, Sir F. W. Duke, General Sir E. G. Barrow, General H. B. Cox, Sir Charles S. Bayley, Sir Havelock Charles, the Hon. S. Aftad Ahmed, Mr. R. Mareau, and Mr. M. H. Ispahani.

Mr. E. S. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, who presided, expressed to Lord Sinha, on behalf of the Prime Minister and Government, their thanks for services rendered and good wishes for services to be fulfilled.

Lord Sinha, in his reply, said the political changes in India had been so rapid of recent years that it was difficult to appraise the sum total. It was because of these changes that a tendency was manifested in some quarters to depreciate the value of individual reforms. But we must make up our minds that, as in the past, so in the future, it was by steady successive steps, each perhaps a small one in itself, that the goal, now accepted by the Parliament of the United Kingdom, was likely to be reached. One aspect of his appointment was that, unlike his election to the Viceroy's Executive Council, there was hardly a murmur of dissent.

Lord Sinha left for India on September 9.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

Yugoslavia and Austria have just concluded a commercial treaty.

At a fire in Bombay on September 17 3,700 bales of cotton were destroyed.

Last week the German Imperial Chancellor received Erik Bernstein, of the Georgian National Assembly.

It is understood that the 5th Dragoon Guards will leave Colchester for Mesopotamia early in October.

Lord Chelmsford, the Viceroy of India, has issued an appeal on behalf of the Westminster Abbey Fund.

A Bill constituting a Moslem University at Aligarth was passed at a meeting of the Indian Legislative Council on September 16.

On September 15 the Indian Legislative Assembly carried the Government Bill for prevention of corrupt practices at elections.

An India Office communiqué states that the Civil Commissioner, Baghdad, has telegraphed that Captain Lloyd has been released.

It is announced that M. Pashitch, the ex-Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, has resigned his seat in the Chamber, although no reason is known for his step.

It is probable that a conference will take place shortly between representatives of England, France, and Spain to make fresh suggestions upon the control of Tangier.

A letter from Enver Pasha was read at the Congress of Eastern Peoples at Baku. In this he declares that Turkey is struggling against world Imperialism, and in this struggle Turkey's only ally is Soviet Russia.

The *Times* Constantinople correspondent says that there are indications of an impending change in the Ministry. In this event it is thought that Tewfik Pasha will probably be selected Grand Vizier by the Sultan.

According to news received in London recently Armenia is suffering from a lack of agricultural implements and beasts of burden. Men and women have harnessed themselves to the plough, and do the work of oxen.

One Opposition leader, M. Mavromichalis, and others, together with several members of ex-King Constantine's entourage at Lucerne, have been sent to trial as the result of inquiries into the recent attack on M. Venizelos.

At the next sessions of both the International Danube Commission and the International Danube Conference Hungary will be represented by M. Miklos, Secretary of State, and Dr. Elemer Jarmay, Counsellor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A committee, consisting of the *Mufti*, the Rabbi, the Greek and Armenian Metropolitans, and representatives of the Turkish community, have arrived at Athens from Adrianople to submit to M. Venizelos greetings of gratitude for their freedom.

A communiqué issued from the India Office on September 11 reports that the Secretary of State for India has received a telegram from the Viceroy, stating that, according to reports received from the Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province, the situation in the Black Mountain has been all quiet since September 3. All lashkars have now dispersed. The political situation in the Hazara district is well in hand.


## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

# WHERE TO STAY.

**For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—**

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(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."

**which would indicate that two rooms were required at Matlock on the 20th of the month.**

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(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), ALEXANDRIA.
American Bar and Restaurant,
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# THE NEAR EAST.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1920.


## THE FUTURE OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

Little attention has so far been given in this country to the announcement of a measure to constitute an Indian Territorial Force supplementary to the existing Regular Army, but the decision is of sufficient importance to justify careful examination; for, if we are not mistaken, it marks the close of an epoch in the long development of Indian warfare. The Army as it stands to-day is not an independent creation of British rule, but rather the result of the progressive adaptation of indigenous institutions to varying needs, and if the project for a second line be realised it will represent perhaps the most definitely foreign idea which has so far been introduced. To describe that idea as foreign is not to condemn it as unsuitable to the conditions; some such change is in our opinion necessary, and while judgment on the details of organisation must be suspended until the opinions of experts have been made public the reasons for action can be appreciated by everyone who takes an intelligent interest in Indian affairs. In India, as elsewhere, the nature and strength of the military forces are conditioned partly by the work to be done and partly by considerations of finance. The work to be done is reduced to comparatively small dimensions by the favourable geographical conditions, the long sea-frontier, and the mountain barrier on the north, leaving only the potential danger on the north-east and the ever-present danger on the north-west: but in addition to external anxieties provision has to be made for the maintenance of internal tranquillity, since the country has not yet progressed to the point where the police force alone would be sufficient for this purpose. The problem is, then, to watch the frontiers and keep the peace as effectively as possible for the money which can be made available, and the poverty of the people, taken with the natural reluctance of the Government to increase taxation, gives to the question of finance an importance which can scarcely be realised in England, where the tradition of large public expenditure seems destined to survive the conditions in which it originated. In India the effect has been seen in the rigid limitation of the numbers ordinarily recruited, and, as a necessary consequence, in the confinement of recruiting to the best available material, so that, apart from the temporary expansion of the last few years, the Army has consisted of a small professional force of men, naturally qualified and highly trained for the work they are likely to have to do: long service has been the rule, and the reserve of trained men has been correspondingly small. During the later years of the war the results of this system were vigorously criticised, and the Indian Army has undoubtedly suffered for the time in popular reputation, but much of this criticism was beside the point; the Army, organised for certain definite needs, was called on to undertake tasks which its organisation did not contemplate, and if it was almost worn out in attempting those tasks, the blame does not rest with the system. India, the poorest member of the Empire, has not attempted and cannot afford to maintain permanently a large Imperial force, under cover of which her richer partners may have time to improvise in emergencies; the strength of the Army must be regulated in the future, as in the past, mainly by local needs, and if forces for Imperial purposes are to be maintained it must be as part of an Imperial system in which the burden is adjusted to the variations of capacity.

The need for constituting a second line is not therefore based mainly on Imperial considerations. The true reasons for the change are: first, that the old system appears to be wearing out; and, secondly, that India is beginning to ask for something different. It must be borne in mind that the spirit of the Indian Army, magnificent as it is, is yet different in essence from that which animated, let us say, the English Territorials in 1914. The ordinary Indian fighting man has always looked on the Army primarily as a career, tending like most careers in India to be hereditary, giving the youth an immediate livelihood, and assuring him a maintenance when his son has taken his place. That view still prevails, but the career is less attractive than it was. There is less actual fighting, and there is ever-increasing drudgery in time of peace: new arts and crafts must be mastered year by year, and the old ideal of frequent short campaigns, separated by longer periods of comparative leisure, is becoming less and less easy of realisation. Other careers, too, are presenting increased attractions for some of the most valuable classes: the Jat has of late been coining money in his fields, and the Sikh in his workshop; the advance in prosperity does not, to say the least, make for increased recruiting, and those who are able to take a long view feel that it would be dangerous to rely indefinitely on a few classes, some of them living outside Indian limits, for the defence of the whole country. The probabilities are that, as time goes on, the net must be cast more widely, and greater reliance be placed on the general population. The force of these considerations is increased by the second reason we have mentioned, that some sections of the general population are begining to claim an opportunity of military service. At present the claim is put forward chiefly on behalf of the educated classes: it is not very definite, and not very practical; command rather than obedience appears to be desired, and in the absence of actual experience it is impossible to say whether the opportunity, if it be given, will be put to real use. Englishmen, however, cannot deny that national defence is at once the duty and the privilege of self-governing citizens, and seeing that India is now starting on the road to self-government the opportunity of service cannot logically be refused. The new sentiment, indeed, is, in our judgment, to be respected, and so far as possible fostered.

The measures announced by the Indian Government appear to us to be well adapted to meet the situation we have described. For the present the old Army will stand as before, but behind it there will be, if recruits come forward, a second line of territorial regiments, sufficiently trained on the old militia system to be available for service after a short period of intensive training given on the occurrence of an emergency, and this second line will be constituted with due reference to the man-power of India taken as a whole. It will thus give the opportunity of service, and, through service, of command, to those who now ask for it, as well as to the vastly greater numbers who have not yet spoken; and at the same time it will serve as a practical test of the possibility of widening the area on which reliance is placed for the maintenance of the first-line regiments. The scheme is in no sense a final solution of the problem; it is an experiment which may lead to a solution, and, as the official announcement says, its success will depend on the response made by the Indian people. If the new regiments fill with material which will stand the training, then the experiment will give results of the utmost value, and nothing but progressive adjustment of the system will be required to keep India furnished with the Army which she needs. If, on the other hand, the scheme should fail, whether through lack of recruits, or through reluctance to undergo the necessarily strict discipline, then further experiments will be required, but we hope that, in the conditions which now prevail, this necessity will not arise, and that enough young Indians will come forward to enable the authorities to make the scheme a practical and permanent success.

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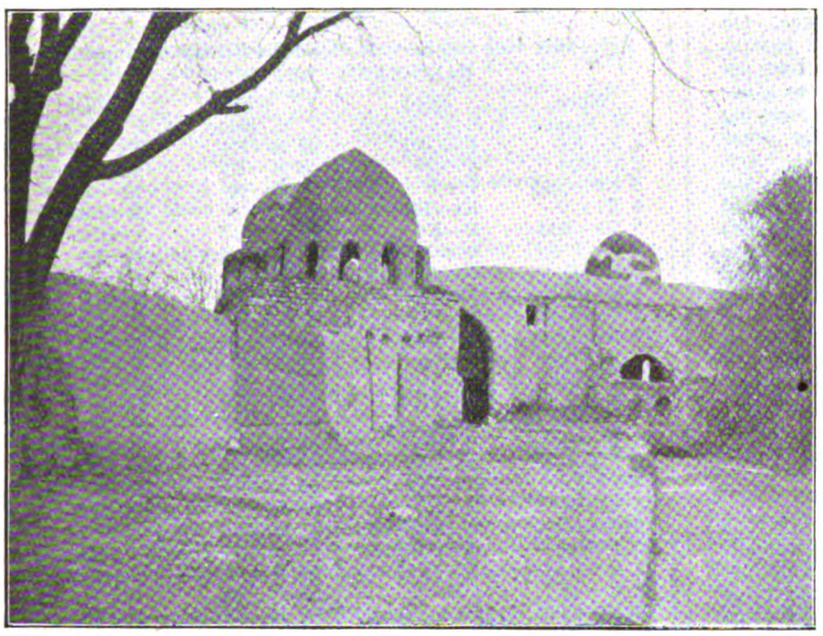
# SOME PICTURES OF THE E.E.F.

By Martin S. Briggs.
(*Photographs by the Author.*)

## DAMASCUS.

Damascus as it appeared to the writer just three months after it was evacuated by the Turks on October 1, 1918, was a centre for the troops of his Shereefian Majesty the King of the Hejaz, as well as for the more familiar soldiers of the E.E.F., who were encamped a few miles outside the city. The Arab troops were garbed in uniforms of many patterns, but where they chiefly shone was in their ingenious choice of headgear. There seemed to be no restriction on the design of the flowing and tasselled



**DAMASCUS: VIEW NEAR BAB TOUMA.**

scarves that hung over their shoulders from beneath the Arab *kufftan*, and combined with a grey-green *picklehaube* the effect was ludicrous. They were cheerful fellows, and after night fell one heard occasional rifle shots exchanged to liven the monotony of darkness. The main bazaars were deep in mud, for the corrugated-iron arched roofs had been removed, presumably by the Turkish military authorities in search of material for revetment. It was something of a shock to realise that the main thoroughfares of this ancient city had ever been roofed with so incongruous a material as corrugated-iron. A relic of the German occupation was a plan of Damascus in the lounge of the Hotel Victoria, with the chief *Schenswürdigkeiten* marked thereon; another was a new piano in the same room, which arrived from Leipzig just in time to greet the "New Crusaders."

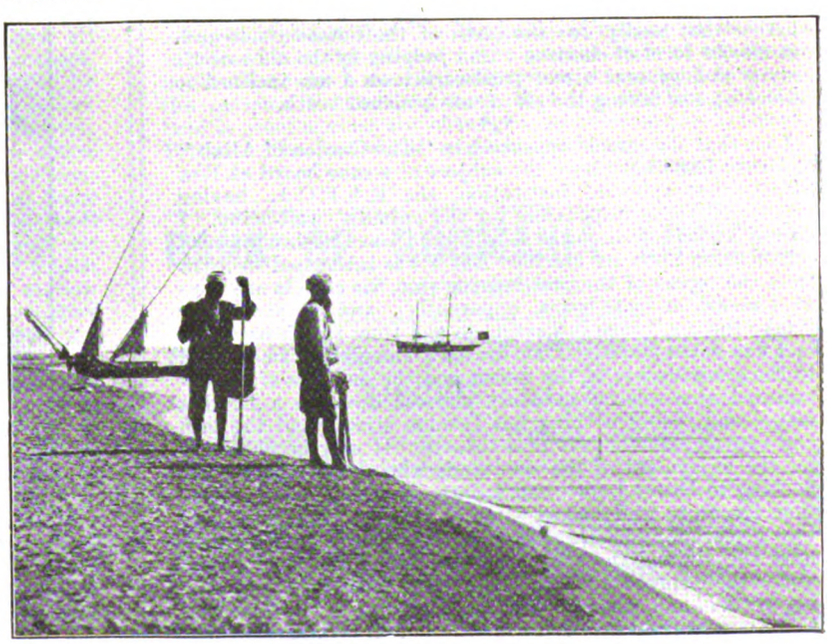
The city had settled down quite amenably to the new order of things, and was quieter then than a year later.

The photograph represents a group of characteristic domes over mediæval tombs, the burial-places of forgotten sheikhs, perhaps, and in the foreground is one of the numerous tributaries of the Barada that to Mohammed's followers thirteen hundred years ago made the green gardens round Damascus appear the earthly picture of Paradise itself.

## RAS EL-BAHR.

At the eastern mouth of the Nile a few miles north of the picturesque Arab town of Damietta, there springs into being in early summer each year a curious camp-village which takes its name from the neighbouring lighthouse and hamlet adjoining. It was little known to the "E.E.F." during the years of the war, for Damietta was a place of no military significance, and those who were curious enough to wish to visit it, and at the same time free enough to do so, were few and far between. Damietta may be reached by a long railway journey from Cairo, but for people with time to spare there is an even slower, but far more attractive, means of approach, by the leisurely paddle-boat that crawls across Lake Menzala, the great lagoon that extends from a point near Damietta to Port Said. Here one may loll through a summer day in splendid isolation on the upper deck, watching the clouds and the seabirds, and their cousins the white-sailed fishing boats, thinking, perhaps, of similar trips from Venice to Chioggia or Fusina, and listening to the ceaseless chatter of the crowd at the foot of the companion-ladder. Between the Arab streets of Damietta, where hardly a European lives,* and the sandy *plage* of Ras el-Bahr, is all the difference in the world. Damietta is, perhaps, the most typically Arab town in Egypt, whereas Ras el-Bahr is essentially cosmopolitan. But the Englishman is seldom seen there. He may favour the Ramleh quarter of Alexandria when his annual spell of summer leave arrives, or he may join the elect throng who gather at Brulos Beach, which must surely be one of the most exclusively British seaside resorts on earth. Yet as a rule he fights shy of Ras el-Bahr. It is hardly Bohemian, and yet perhaps that word best describes it. There is a dash of the East about it that prevents one drawing parallels with anything in the Latin Quarter. If Mrs. Grundy took ship from Damietta to this favoured spot she would assuredly return as soon as she had lunched at one of the flimsy "hotels." For here everyone is so gay and so effervescent that it is impossible to believe that they can be respectable. The boat from Damietta brings a motley throng of representatives of all the races of Europe and the Levant each day at noon, while others arrive in speedy motor-boats or discreet dahabiyehs. Except for the latter, and they are mainly rich Egyptians, the visitors to Ras el-Bahr, live in hotels (so-called) or huts, planted in rows on the spit of sand between the mouth of the Nile and the sea. These flimsy structures are made of palm-leaf matting (a universal building material in Egypt) supported on the minimum of wooden framework. When winter comes and the Mediterranean gets angry, the roofs and the walls and the floors are rolled up into bundles and sent up the Nile to Damietta. The hotels are also of matting, and only different in degree. Towards the Nile they stretch in a long line, widely spaced in case of fire. The front in each case is occupied by a restaurant, where one lives very much *en plein air*. Silk pyjamas may appropriately be worn at any meal; in fact, this costume perhaps best accords with the Bohemian atmosphere of the place. Behind the restaurant extends a long row of cubicles or bedrooms, raised on posts some few feet above the sand, and opening off a verandah. These "rooms" are only separated by matting, but privacy is the last thing that is expected or desired at Ras el-Bahr. The English craze for games is not encouraged, but everybody

* For a description of Damietta see the Author's "Through Egypt in War-time." (Fisher, Unwin, 1919.)



**RAS EL-BAHR, NEAR DAMIETTA.**
(The Mouth of the Nile.)

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bathes, and even as early as 7 a.m. one finds crowds already in the water For the rest, one eats and drinks and smokes and chats and plays cards. The native musicians are not very talented, and the amateurs who occasionally perform on hotel pianos vary in their ability. Ras el-Bahr is, in fact, a perfect *milieu* for *dolce far niente*, simply because there is, in the English sense, nothing to do there.

## THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

—Omar Khayyam.

A friend who lately returned from a visit to Yugoslavia tells me a story which, he assures me, is typical of the spirit now ruling among the peasants of the Balkans. On his way home he was a little exercised in his mind regarding the advantages of rising early and securing the first use of the washing basin that served himself and three other travellers, or of enjoying a little longer in his sleeping berth. The particular traveller who occupied the lower berth in his cabin settled the matter by securing "first go," though—my friend remarked—he failed to make the most of his opportunity. The two others evidently regarded washing as an entirely unnecessary bit of ritual, and left the basin free. Later, my friend discovered that they were a Serbian peasant and his wife; and, managing to strike up a conversation with them, learned that they were *en route* to America. "And how shall you go?" he asked. "Oh, we are going on to . . . " (the French port of embarkation) "by this train." "Very nice, but isn't it a little expensive?" "Yes, yes, it costs money, certainly, but think how comfortable! My husband and I have never slept in such a comfortable bed before. It is worth the price." Thus does even the simple Balkan peasant open out before the rising sun of Democracy.

***

Whenever I hear a "funny story" with, let us say, a suspicion of chestnut flavour about it, I find myself wondering how and when it first came into the world. And just now I am inclined to think that I have actually traced one of the breed to its birthplace, so to say. A little while ago an old sailor who was holding forth about some of his youthful experiences began talking about concerts he had attended; and very soon came to a description of one given at Gibraltar. It took place, he said, in a wine shop, or "pub," called the "Glass Barrel," which was then kept by a certain "Jimmy Sutherland," who was a musician as well as a host; and one of the artistes sang a very long song in which he assured the audience again and again that he had "dreamed a dream." One member of the audience, a sailor, who was anxious to reach a fiddle item of the programme before he had to return to his ship, got tired of the dream. "Arrah, now, come out of it," he cried, "or you'll be dreaming there all night." The singer stopped abruptly. "Come out of it?" he retorted. "Can you put me out?" "Yes!" yelled the bored sailor. "Then come out and see," answered the vocalist. Then things got lively. But I am not concerned with the sequel. I want to know whether that really *was* the birth of the Come-outside-and-put-me-out form of chestnut; and judging by the old sailor's gravity and general air of trustworthiness I am inclined to believe he was telling the plain, unvarnished truth.

***

I see that the camels appearing in "The Garden of Allah" at Drury Lane have been the subject of a case heard at Bow Street, that splendid institution, the R.S.P.C.A., having prosecuted those responsible for the animals' well-being. I do not know how the case went, and I have no intention of commenting upon its merits. But I was interested to learn from the report of the first hearing that the camels are kept at a mews, in loose-boxes, apparently; and if they ever "take the air," save in passing to and from the theatre, the fact was not reported. Poor brutes! Imagine a camel, used to the spaciousness of the desert and the delights of its unpolluted atmosphere, suddenly planked down in a London mews, and seeing nothing but London streets and the lath and canvas make-believe of a theatre. It may be necessary for the enjoyment of the thousands who, I understand, are flocking to Drury Lane; and I dare say the camels in question are quite well looked after in reality. But I suppose they *do* care for something besides their food; and they must miss the air and the space and the feel of the sand giving under their spreading feet. They must miss, too, the foraging for *arid* and other tit-bits (!). Poor beasts; in their case there must surely be excuse for the bored, cynical look that is common to their species.

Of course, the camel is a queer character, and when he is bad he *is* horrid. I have been told more than once by camel men that if they have a "bad lot" in their crowd they will never let him see where they lie down for the night when in camp; for they fear that if he knew that he would attack them, and possibly kill them. But, on the other hand, I was told by an Indian colonel that in a little "show" in which he took part, and in which camels, mules, and horses were engaged, the camels were easily first in the affections of his men. Personally I don't think I could ever work up any love for the humped ones: I could almost as soon worship "a not too French French bean." But I can heartily sympathise with what I imagine their feelings must be when they get booked for a long run at a London theatre. In such circumstances, I should myself become cynical and morose enough to attract the attention of any R.S.P.C.A. inspector.

Corsair.

## CHESS.

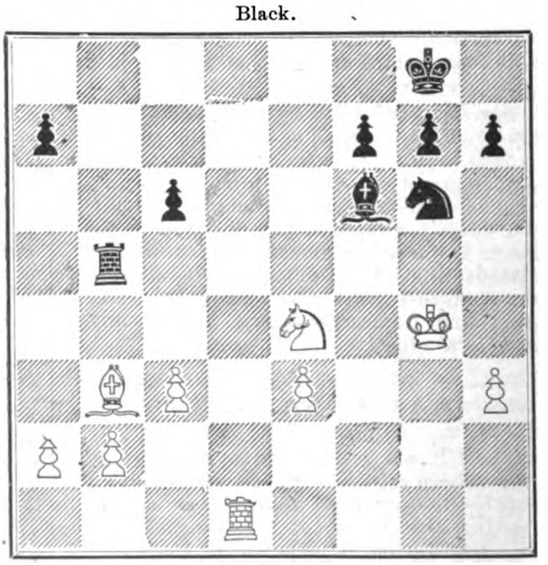
I give this week another game from the British Championship.

CARO-KANN DEFENCE.

| White. J. H. Blake. | Black. A. J. Mackenzie. | White. J. H. Blake. | Black. A. J. Mackenzie. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 P—K4 | P—QB3 | 37 R—R4 | Kt—K8 (ch) |
| 2 P—Q4 | P—Q4 | 38 K—Kt | Kt—B6 (ch) |
| 3 Kt—QB3 | P x P | 39 K—R | Kt—K8 |
| 4 Kt x P | Kt—B3 | 40 B—Q | R—B8 (ch) |
| 5 Kt—Kt3 | P—K4 | 41 K—R2 | P—Kt3 |
| 6 P x P (1) | Q x Q (ch) | 42 B—K2 | R—B4 |
| 7 K x Q | Kt—Kt5 | 43 R—B4 | Kt—B7 |
| 8 K—K | Kt x KP | 44 R x P | Kt x P |
| 9 B—KB4 | Kt—Kt3 | 45 P—Kt4 | R—B5 |
| 10 B—K3 | B—K2 | 46 B—Q3 | P—B4 |
| 11 Kt—B3 | O—O | 47 Kt—B5 | R—B7 (ch) |
| 12 B—QB4 | Kt—Q2 | 48 K—R | K—R2 |
| 13 R—Q | Kt—Kt3 | 49 R—K6 | B—Kt4 |
| 14 B—Kt3 (2 | B—KKt5 | 50 Kt—Q7 | B—B5 |
| 15 P—KR3 | B x Kt | 51 Kt—K5 | R—R7 (ch) |
| 16 P x B | B—B3 | 52 K—Kt | R—Kt7 (ch) |
| 17 P—B3 | Kt—K4 | 53 K—R | R—R7 (ch) |
| 18 Kt—K4 | B—R5 | 54 K—Kt | R—Kt7 (ch) |
| 19 K—K2 | Kt(Kt3)—B5 | 55 K—R | R—Q7 |
| 20 P—B4 | Kt x B | 56 R—K7 (ch) | K—R3 |
| 21 P x Kt | Kt—Kt3 | 57 Kt—B7 (ch) | K—Kt2 |
| 22 R—Q7 | QR—K | 58 R x Kt | B x R |
| 23 Kt—Q6 | Kt x P (ch) | 59 B—B4 | B—B5 |
| 24 K—B3 | R—K2 | 60 P—QR4 | R—Q2 |
| 25 R x P | R x R | 61 P—R5 (4) | R x Kt |
| 26 Kt x R | Kt—Kt3 | 62 B x R | K x B. |
| 27 R—Q | Kt—K4 (ch) | 63 P—R6 | B—Kt |
| 28 K—K4 | B—B3 | 64 P - B4 | K—K3 |
| 29 K—B5 (3) | R—Kt | 65 P—R4 | K—Q3 |
| 30 Kt—B5 | R—Kt4 | 66 K—Kt2 | K—B3 |
| 31 Kt—K4 | Kt—Kt3 (ch) | 67 K—B3 | K—Kt3 |
| 32 K—Kt4 | P—R4 (ch) | 68 P—Kt5 | K—B4 |
| 33 K—Kt3 | B—R5 (ch) | 69 K—K3 | B—R2 |
| 34 K—Kt2 | R—KB4 | 70 K—Q3 | K—Kt5 |
| 35 R—Q7 | Kt—K4 | 71 Resigns | |
| 36 R x RP | Kt—Q6 | | |

Position after White's 32nd move, K—Kt4.

Black.



White.

(1) B—K3 should have been played. After the text move Black recovers his pawn by Kt—Kt5, and then has a good game.
(2) The B should have gone to K2.
(3) It was too early to advance the K like this.
(4) There was no escape for the Kt.

Caro-Kann.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

In all probability most people would consider the present time very inauspicious for attempting to open up fresh business in Mesopotamia, but a few days ago I met a business man who held the contrary opinion, and as he spoke with many years' experience of the country and the Near East behind him, his opinion is worth some consideration. His argument was to the effect that although both Kurds and Arabs are making trouble just now, there is a very good chance that the unsettled conditions will not last long, and that the person who is ready to "nip in" as soon as things become more normal will stand to reap a good profit. I am not quite sure that I agree that the present trouble is bound to be over very soon—although I hope it will be, of course—but I am a firm believer in the potentialities as a market for British goods of the land whose name afforded so much satisfaction to Dean Stanley's old lady.

***

My faith was strengthened by reading a letter received in London a short time ago from a native merchant of Mosul. By the kindness of the recipient I am allowed to give a few extracts:—"Mosul is just beginning to fall on its feet after many years of neglect. Many improvements have been made during the past year or so, but there is a great deal more to be done. . . . The mountains around [the] Zab and the valleys of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers are at present supplying great quantities of wool, galls, skins, etc., but there is no doubt that when the irrigation of the country has been completed further up the output will be increased many times over, and an excellent opening [will be provided] for any enterprising firm that desires to obtain these materials." This may be only elementary, but it is worth the attention of "enterprising firms."

***

The writer goes on to say:—"With the growth of the export business there will be a great demand for manufactured goods from outside, and it is my desire to obtain agencies for any reliable firm or firms wanting to open up business here. . . . As soon as the Peace Treaty is signed with Turkey, Mosul will be the business centre for Mardin, Diarbekir, and Kurdistan, and for goods intended to be sent to the interior of Persia by Rowandiz; and when the railway is completed between Mosul and Nisibin, and the road to Aleppo is opened, there is no knowing to what extent will be the importance of Mosul." I like the spirit of that letter, and if I were a business man I should feel inclined to get in touch with the writer; though it might be only with an eye to the future. As it is, I can only offer to put him in touch with any reader in this country who thinks that he might be able to "do business."

***

As the raising of money has been one of the most pressing needs of the various Balkan Governments, they have all been tempted to sacrifice the future to present advantages. The value of any financial measure was apt to be gauged by its usefulness as an immediate source of revenue rather than as a permanent factor in the economic welfare of the country. No little consternation has thus been caused in circles where the State's urgency for money was not a compelling consideration. As a result of the criticism evoked both at home and among foreigners, a tendency has now manifested itself to model the financial policy of each country on sounder lines. The attempt to kill the goose that lays the golden egg is to be abandoned. Taxes on exports are being materially reduced in Yugoslavia, Roumania, and Bulgaria; a more reasonable attitude regarding the export of oil products has been adopted by the Roumanian Government; the Bulgarian Consortium has begun to see the need for regulating the price of its cereals by the level obtaining in the rest of the world. All this is a welcome sign, and justifies those who have not lost sight of the interests of the country as a whole in the face of each Government's natural desire to strengthen its own position.

***

Attention, I notice, is being called in German technical papers to the opening for pharmaceutical preparations and chemicals in Turkey. During the war, it is pointed out, there was a steady demand for these things which was never really met, and with the Armistice the withdrawal of the Germans robbed Constantinople of its chief source of supply. A considerable portion of what stocks there were in the city is supposed to have found its way to Asia Minor and South Russia, Mustapha Kemal having probably stipulated for medical stores being included in the military supplies that he has been able to draw from Constantinople. Be that as it may, that city remains the distributing centre for the Black Sea littoral and Central Asia, and it will be worth while to investigate this particular demand for drugs and chemicals (especially acids and dyes), as trade in other commodities is rather at a standstill at the present moment.

***

The appointment of an Administrator of Bulgarian property under the terms of the Treaty of Peace (Bulgaria) Order has now been made, and I am sorry to see that apparently for the settlement of pre-war enemy debts Bulgaria is to remain bracketed with Austria, and will be placed under one and the same Administrator. One result of this is almost bound to be considerable delay in the settlement of claims outstanding between British and Bulgarian subjects, for the Austrian section of the joint administration is sure to bulk much more largely than the Bulgarian, and there may be a tendency to hold up what ranks as the less important part of the work. In this connection it will be well for Bulgarians to realise that all moneys that they had in Great Britain before the outbreak of the war are impounded under the terms of the Treaty, and cannot be drawn upon for the payment of post-Armistice obligations.

***

The conclusion of a commercial treaty between Roumania and Austria is a reminder that sentiment cannot altogether override the claims of geography and expediency. By the treaty, which paves the way for a series of bartering transactions, Roumania stands to receive from Austria agricultural machinery, linen goods, boots and shoes, and she will give in exchange oil and oil products, cereals, and minerals from Transylvania. In the case of all the goods for which Roumania looks to Austria, she would undoubtedly prefer to have British goods, if they were forthcoming in sufficient quantities and under suitable terms. But the congestion of the British market, the hesitation of British manufacturers, and the rate of exchange are all adverse factors. In dealing with Austria the Roumanians are more favourably situated in regard to exchange; but it is the possibility of barter that is the determining factor.

***

Whatever changes in the political status of Egypt the future may have in store, it is evident that the country has reached a high mark of economic prosperity. Foreign trade has been rapidly expanding. In the first half of this year the imports amounted to £E47,770,586, as compared with £E19,488,180 in the corresponding period of 1919, while exports showed an increase of 181 per cent., from £E22,952,870 to £E64,623,998. Of this trade the United Kingdom can claim 41 per cent. of the imports and nearly 38 per cent. of the exports. Naturally there is a strong desire to see that neither the material prosperity of the country nor Great Britain's special share in its trade is affected by the proffered grant of self-government, and I am glad to learn that the consensus of opinion is that all will be well in this respect. The present state of affairs in itself constitutes a danger to Egypt, as it may tend to make the extreme Nationalists think that the well-being of the land is proof against any change in the relationship to Great Britain. The rest of the world knows better.

COMMENTATOR.


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


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# Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, September 3.

**Currency Measures.**

In accordance with the proposals made by M. Take Jonescu, the Cabinet have decided to exchange the Austro-Hungarian kronen, stamped by the Roumanian Government, in circulation in Greater Roumania, into lei, at the rate of 50 bani to the krone. Five per cent. of the total value will be deducted for expenses where the owner has in his possession 100,000 kronen or over; this will bring the actual rate of exchange to 47.50 bani to the krone. The withdrawal of the kronen from circulation has already begun on September 1, and owners are getting 60 per cent. in new Roumanian national banknotes, and the remaining 40 per cent. they will get in promissory notes payable in three months.

The total amount of kronen declared has reached the figure of eight milliards. The delay in withdrawing these kronen from circulation has caused the Government a great loss, for at the time they were first stamped only two to three milliards were found; but the Government, in order to put a stop to the illegal practice of smuggling kronen into the country, has decided to exchange them at the value mentioned, although the majority of these kronen have been fraudulently stamped.

The rate of exchange of 50 bani to the krone has come as a pleasant surprise to the inhabitants of Transylvania and Bukovina, but more so to the speculators, who, only a few days ago, were able to buy kronen as low as at 20-25 bani.

**Commercial.**

The Cabinet has authorised the Ministry of Industry and Commerce to export a certain quantity of wheat flour, rye flour, and bran. The export tax is 50 bani per kilo for the first three, and 10 bani per kilo for bran. Best quality wheat flour produced up to August, 1920, will also be available for export.

**Import and Export of Oil.**

The import and export of oil and its products are only allowed with the consent of the Council of Ministers. The export of oil is free after the home consumption has been satisfied. On the exported products the Government will levy a duty of 20 per cent. on the prices prevailing abroad, which will be fixed every six months. This tax can be reduced by a decision of the Cabinet in case it should hinder the export too much. The Government has the right to buy from any exporter 20 per cent. of the quantity of oil to be exported, payable in lei at the general market price abroad at the exchange rate of the day.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, September 4.

**Matches.**

Matches, which are a Government monopoly, have yielded 4,615,092.60 drachmae in 1919 as against 1,151,528.74 drs. in 1918.

The amounts realised by the Government from the sale of matches from 1914 to 1917 were as follows:—1914, 2,328,730.15 drs.; 1915, 2,262,265.00 drs.; 1916, 2,510,256.15 drs.; 1917, 1,860,394.87 drs.; the average for the years 1914-1918 being 2,022,623.18 drs. The monoply price of matches was originally 5 lepta per box, but since September, 1913, this has been increased to 14 lepta per box.

The returns for 1919 show an increase of 3,463,563.86 drs. on the amount realised during the previous year, and an increase of 2,592,469.42 drs. on the five years' average (1914-1918). In 1919 38,404,800 boxes of matches were imported by the Société de Régie, as against 13,298,704 boxes imported in 1918. The consumption in 1919 was 32,964,935 boxes, that of 1918 being only 9,636,968 boxes. The matches imported in 1919 were of Swedish and Japanese make.

In order to meet with the continuously growing demands of consumption, the Government held, at the beginning of 1920, an adjudication for 6,000 cases (43,200,000 boxes) of matches. This important contract was secured by the "Svenska Tandisticks Actiebolaget" of Stockholm.

The total yearly consumption of matches per inhabitant was 690 in 1919, as against 201 in 1918. This enormous difference is due to the scarcity of this article in 1918 and the difficulties of communication by sea.

**The Export of Olive Oil.**

In view of the anticipated abundance of this year's production of olive oil, the producers in the islands of Corfu, Mitylene, and Crete have renewed their efforts to obtain permission from the Government to export this commodity abroad, but once again the Ministry of Foodstuffs has refused to grant any such permission. On the other hand, the Government has now sanctioned the export of olive oil to Thrace and Asia Minor.

The Ministry of Foodstuffs has decided to establish two stores in Athens for the purpose of selling olive oil to the public at a low price.

**Customs Receipts.**

The receipts of the Piræus Customs during the second ten days of August (o.s.) amounted to 2,042,113.20 drs. in paper and 113,242.50 drs. in gold. These figures show an increase of 796,293.90 paper drs. and 28,329.10 drs. in gold on the receipts of the corresponding period last year.

## CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, August 10.

**The Carob Season.**

The condition of the trees is most promising. The crop is likely to exceed that of last year by about 35 to 40 per cent. in quantity, and the quality of the beans should be excellent. The days fixed for gathering are August 23 for lower villages, and August 30 for the higher in the Limassol district, which grows by far the largest proportion.

The wheat harvest is reported to have yielded close on 3,000,000 bushels, and that of barley 3,500,000. Other cereals, including oats and vetches, are of good quality.

Shipments of terra umbra have been made from Larnaca. The French company, Les Affréteurs Réunis, now call at Cyprus ports, and have recently taken cargoes of carobs for Barcelona, and of asbestos for Belgium.

The Servizi Maritimi is now also calling at Cyprus ports. One itinerary proceeds via Egypt, Syria, Larnaca, Adalia, Rhodes, Smyrna, Constantinople, Salonika, Piræus, Patras, Corfu and Brindisi, to Venice. Another goes via Greece, Larnaca, Mersina, Alexandretta, Tripoli, Beyrout, Haifa, Port Said, Alexandria, Syracuse, Catania, Naples, and Genoa.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ending August 10 amounted to £E.13,806, making the total from the commencement of the year (April 1) £E.157,024. The figures for the corresponding periods of 1919 were £E.9,918 and £E.76,878.


**BANQUE D'EXPORTATION PRIV. DU ROYAUME DE SERBIE.**

(Royal priv. Serbian Bank for Exportation.)

**BELGRADE, SERBIA.**

**Capital, Paid-up, 5,000,000 Dinars**

**Reserve - - 1,200,000 Dinars**

The Bank transacts all Banking Operations, undertakes all manner of financial, commercial and industrial enterprises and effects Money-Transfers to and from Foreign Countries.
*The Commercial Department* of the Bank deals mainly in the Export of Native Products on its own account and on commission basis.

***Cable Address Exportbank, Belgrade.***

**CENTRAL BANK OF GREECE**

**Head Office: 12, Aristeides Street, ATHENS.**

***Paid-up Capital - - - 3,500,000 Drs.***

*Administrative Council:* LEONIDAS SKENDER (*Chairman*), GEORGE EMBIRICOS (*Vice-Chairman*), K. SALLIARIS, A. DAMBASIS, Ph. LOUKISAS, M. EVLAMBIOS (*Director of the National Bank of Greece*).
*General Manager:* GEORGE MOUSTAKAS. *Manager:* G. A. KARYSTINAKIS.

**EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED**


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# THE FORESTAL INDUSTRY OF GEORGIA.

**By A. Gugushvili.**

Georgia is a very mountainous country. About two-thirds of it consists of mountainous regions, and on the topographical position of the ground depends, to a very great extent, the economic life of the population. From a silvicultural point of view Georgia has not yet been sufficiently exploited, but the Government of the young Republic is striving to make the natural riches of the country the basis of a solid organisation for its industry.

The forests come first among the natural riches of Georgia. There are altogether more than six million acres of forest, and they cover approximately 39 per cent. of the territory. This percentage places our country,* as regards forestry, in the fourth position among European Powers, after Norway, Sweden, and Russia. During the Russian rule in our country the organisation of the forest resources covered only a limited number of parcels, in all about 7 per cent. of the grand total of the forests. In 1915, 22,320,000 c. ft. were cut down. The needs of the local population can be supplied by the yield from an area of 360,000 acres, and more than 5,817,000 acres remain for exploitation. The forests of Georgia command attention not only on account of their actual and relative extension, but also on account of their variety, their quality, and the value of the essences they contain. There are over 300 kinds of trees and more than 100 varieties of bushwood, which are peculiar to this country and are not to be found in the forests of the North. Many varieties are noted for the quality of their wood.

For this reason the forests are regarded as one of the principal sources of national wealth and as the most important item in the revenue of the State. Up to the present time by far the larger part of these forests represented dead capital, from which neither the State nor private owners derived any income whatever, owing to the exceedingly bad and bureaucratic administration of the forests. Under the Russian *régime* only the interests of the central parts of the State were cared for, and the outlying territories of the Empire were allowed to exploit only such natural wealth as could not be found in other parts of Russia. At present all the Georgian forests are nationalised, and the Government, together with the bodies of local self-government, take all measures necessary for the rational exploitation of the forests.

The forests of Georgia may be divided into three main regions: Western Georgia, the Valley of Mtkvari (river known under the Russian name of Koura), and Kakheti.

(1) Western Georgia, comprising the district of Sukhun and the Province of Koutais. The characteristic feature of this region is the immense variety of species which grow here In the mountain region predominate the birch, the white fir, the fir, and the pine; in the middle region the beech; and in the lower, the oak and hornbeam. Here also grow such valuable species as the samchite (Caucasian palm), the laurel, the Spanish chestnut, the horse-chestnut, the red rhododendron, the red laurel, and many others.

(2) The Valley of Mtkvari. In the region of its source (Abastouman, Akhaltsikhe, Borjom) is found a splendid growth of conifers, pine and fir predominating.

(3) Kakheti. In the mountain forests beech and oak hold the first place; in the lower region is a great variety of valuable kinds, such as maple, lime, chestnut, and walnut.

That most in evidence is the beech. It covers the whole middle region of the mountain forests from 2,500 to 6,000 ft. in altitude. The wood furnishes excellent material for carpentry, lathe-work, cooperage and carriage-building, and also for cross-beams. The oak, too, which abounds in Georgia, is of fine quality. Up to the present it has been used almost exclusively for building material, the bark being used for tanning purposes.

Among conifers, pine and fir take first place on account of their special qualities for building material. Turpentine and resin are obtained by making incisions in the tree. According to official data, there are about 1,000,000 acres of white fir. These forests are situated mostly in the western parts of Georgia along the border of the Black Sea. In these immense virgin forests the sound of the axe has never been heard. Roughly estimating the reserve minimum of timber of the fir forests (if cut at the average age of 120 years) as 7,000 c. ft. per acre, the white fir resources of Georgia represent in round figures 7,600,000,000 c. ft. of timber—an enormous figure indeed, the more so if compared with the amount of building timber still needed to cover all the requirements of Transcaucasia, which have never exceeded 70,600,000 c ft. The white fir reserves of the forests of Georgia, therefore, exceed by a hundred times the actual demand of Transcaucasia. If the area is cut over once in every 200 years it raises the annual production of timber to 35,000,000 c. ft., which is half of the annual supply needed by Transcaucasia for building purposes of every kind. So far, these white fir forests have never been exploited except on a very small scale; reserves have accumulated, and it may be said without exaggeration that their export would be sufficient to supply the demands of several countries of Europe, and at the same time for the creation of various industries in the country itself. For example, this wood is excellent material for the manufacture of paper on account of its long fibre, which is also very valuable for the manufacture of packing-cases.

The Black Sea coast-line, especially the Rion Delta, has an abundance of alder, almost untouched up to the present—an article of export which would interest the manufacturer of chests and veneered wood. The samchite, or Caucasian palm tree, offers a most valuable material for lathes and carving purposes, and especially for wood engraving, as its wood is as hard as bone.

The exploitation of the Georgian forests has so far been confined to cutting merely for mechanical work or fuel. The waste, however, could be utilised by extracting through a process of dry utilisation such useful products as acetic acid, wood-vinegar, wood-alcohol (methylated spirit), and creosote. There are also some species (*rus catinus*, oak, horse-chestnut) which furnish the substance used for tanning; others (alder, *rus catinus*, mountain ash, etc.) which furnish colouring material for textures or leather. Many possess medicinal qualities, as the buckthorn, the laurel, the lime, the juniper, etc. The abundance of cheap labour in this country favours the enterprise of paper manufacture on a large scale, which industry is at present passing through an acute crisis.

A regular and systematic forest service has been organised in the district of Borjom, where up-to-date lumber-mills have been established, and where a new branch has been added of late to the forest industries—the tapping of pine in order to extract turpentine and resin.

The districts of Gagry and Bsyb rank first among those of the coast-line, but exploitation of the rich and valuable forests in these parts can begin only after access (made difficult at present by the mountainous character of this region) has been gained through the construction of roads for transport and lumber-slides, as well as the improvement of the waterways for rafting.

In the Gagry district a lumber company has recently been formed to carry out a series of improvements along this line. This district comprises 40,000 acres; the lower parts contain, roughly estimated, a reserve of 2,400 c. ft. per acre, chiefly fuel wood; and its upper region 22,000 c. ft. of timber for building and industrial purposes.

The Bsyb district, an area of 350,000 acres, has abundance of samchite, but is also difficult of access. The Bsyb River and its tributaries could be used for rafting, but not until the necessary improvements have been carried out.

Not less valuable than these are the forests of Svanethi, in the basin of the Ingour River, which is navigable for rafts. The district of Svanethi, with an area of 175,000 acres, could furnish annually more than 3,000,000 c. ft. of wood.

The exploitation of the forests in the province of Koutais should begin with those of Baghdati, an area of about 175,000 acres. These forests are not yet accessible, and in order to render their exploitation possible, the building of a railroad and of quite a number of transport roads and railways will be necessary.

Besides these forests, which are to be found principally among mountains and in valleys affording little chance of access, there are also in Georgia lowland forests covering great areas specially adapted for agriculture. In view of the great expanse of forests and the need for arable land, the cutting down of these forests will be imperative. These forests, among other natural riches of Georgia, which are for the most part unexploited, are being gradually worked by the young Republic, which intends to use all its resources in order to assure the prosperity of the Georgian people.

From an industrial point of view the Georgian Government intends to give every facility and all possible co-operation to associated capital and private initiative in order to give the country a modern industrial equipment. Sufficiently large and liberal concessions will be granted to commercial and industrial concerns. These concessions of rights and appanages are based on the principle of participation by the State in the profits of the enterprise. The exploitation of mines, forests, water, and railways in Georgia, as well as the works of irrigation and drainage of hundreds of thousands of acres of proverbially fertile land, open a large field to the enterprise of foreign capital, and for the economic development of this country.

* M. Gugushvili is, of course, speaking of his own country, Georgia.

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# BANCA NAȚIUNEI

**Capital and Reserve Fund: 85,000,000 LEI.**

**BUCHAREST: Calea Victoriei 98 (Piața Palatului Regal).**

Chairman:—N. D. GHIKA. Deputy-Chairman:—MIHAIL D. STURDZA. General Manager:—ION G. STOIAN.

**EVERY KIND OF BANKING AND FINANCIAL BUSINESS TRANSACTED.**

*The following Companies have been established by the BANCA NATIUNEI:—*

**S.T.A.R. Societatea de Tractiune Automobila din Romania.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei**
**Gospodariile Taranesti.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei**
**S.R.C. Societatea Rom. de Combustibil.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei**
**Industria Forestiera din Transilvania.—Capital, 12,000,000 Lei**
**Industria Chimica Romana.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei**
**Tipografia Gutemberg.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei**
**Casele Populare.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei**
**Cruce Societate pentru comertul si industria de vestminte si odoare bisericesti.—Capital, 1,000,000 Lei**
**Minele de Aur din Romania.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei**
**S.A.R D.A. Societate Anonima Romana de Aprovizionare—Capital, 2,000,000 Lei**

# BANQUE MARMOROSCH, BLANK & CO.

(Joint Stock Company).

**HEAD OFFICE: BUCHAREST (Roumania).**

**Capital: 125,000,000 Lei. Reserves: 140,000,000 Lei.**

BUCHAREST, CONSTANTINOPLE, PARIS, NEW YORK
AND
Branches in all the Principal Towns of Great Roumania.

# ROUMANIA.

**AREA** (after Peace Treaties of 1919) **122,282 sq. miles.**

In 1914 the cultivated area was (according to an estimate of Dr. Colesco) 34,475,750 acres; of which 13,074,922 were ploughed lands, 468,670 were vineyards and orchards, 1,436,960 were meadows, 2,948,472 were pastures, and 5,705,750 were forests.

**POPULATION. About 17,400,000.**

**IMPORTS (1915). £8,533,234.**

United Kingdom, £848,997; Austria-Hungary, £3,718,182; Belgium, £43,230; Germany, £3,575,159; France, £660,287; Turkey, £558,238; Italy, £762,023.

**EXPORTS (1915). £21,742,379.**

United Kingdom, £2,238; Austria-Hungary, £13,576,255; Belgium, £2,343; Germany, £7,044,803; Turkey, £443,325; Italy, £37,838.

[NOTE.—In 1914 the Imports from the U.K. amounted to £2,231,773, and the Exports to it to £1,433,535.]

# BANQUE DE CREDIT ROUMAIN

(Joint Stock Company)

FULLY PAID-UP CAPITAL:
**70,000,000 LEI.**

**BUCHAREST. BRAILA.**
**GALATZ. CONSTANZA.**

The BANK opens current accounts, collects and discounts bills, &c., on Roumania and other countries. Collects dividends, makes advances on shares and other securities, and upon merchandise, and carries on all usual banking transactions. Receives cereals on consignment and undertakes their sale.

# BANCA ROMANEASCA.

*Established 1911.*

**Authorised Capital, 160,000,000 Lei. Capital Paid Up, 100,000,000 Lei. Reserve Fund, 38,936,306 Lei.**

**Head Office in BUCAREST, 5, Strada Smardan.**

**Branches in BAZARGIC, BRAILA, CONSTANTZA, CZERNOWITZ (Bucovina), GALATZ, KISHINEFF (Bessarabia), SILISTRIA, TULCEA, TEMESVAR.**

**Council of Administration:**—*President*, G. N. BAGDAT, former President of the High Court of Justice and Cour de Cassation. *Vice-President*, G. I. STOICESCO, former Vice-President of the Senate, Professor of the University.
**Board of Directors and Members:**—C. G. COCIASU, Barrister, former Vice-President of the Senate; V. BRATIANU, former Manager of the Banque Nationale de Roumanie, former Minister; D. D. BRAGADIRU, Merchant and Manufacturer; Al. F. BADESCU, Engineer, General Manager of the Société de Tramways de Bucarest; G. CORBESCO, Barrister; I. G. DUCA, former Minister; I. I. STANCULEANU, Barrister, former Member of Parliament; Al. N. STEFANESCU, former Manager of the Banque Nationale de Roumanie.
**Auditors:**—D. MATAK, Engineer, Manufacturer; H. FULGA, retired, former Bank Manager; V. V. STEFAN, former General Manager of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce; Em. DAN, former General Manager in the Ministry.
**General Manager:**—N. P. STEFANESCO, Engineer, Inspector-General, former General Manager of the Navigation Fluviale du Danube.
**Manager:**—I. SAVESCO. **Sub-Managers:**—N. BANULESCO, C. T. TEODORESCO, Ion C. PILIDI, S. HENZEL, D. CONSTANTINESCO.

Banking transactions of every description. Deposits repayable on demand and with notice. Cheques and letters of credit issued on all countries. Stock Exchange orders executed in Roumania and abroad. Advances on securities, discounts and collections. Bonds, shares and objects of value received for safe keeping. Applications received for all issues without charge.

**Telegraphic Address: ROMANEASCA, BUCAREST.**

***LONDON AGENTS:*** **BARCLAYS BANK, LIMITED. COMPTOIR NATIONAL D'ESCOMPTE DE PARIS. BANQUE BELGE POUR L'ETRANGER.**


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# BULGARIAN TRADE REGULATIONS.*

## MEASURES TO PREVENT SPECULATION

The following is an abbreviated translation of the chief clauses in an Order issued by the Direction de Prévoyance of Bulgaria, under date of May 22, 1920, and published in the Bulgarian *Official Gazette* of June 10 :—

### Purpose of Order.

Article 1.—In order to suppress speculation in articles of everyday use, and also in imports from abroad, some restrictions are necessary, and these restrictions are decreed by this Order.

### I.—Commerce.

PERCENTAGE OF PROFITS.

Article 2.—For all goods, except those specially provided for in the present Order, the following percentage profits are fixed :—

*First hand.*—The importer, calculating the invoice price, one per cent. personal on its value, plus all other original and documentary expenses franco his warehouse, reckoned according to the rate of the Bulgarian National Bank, and not that of the Centrale des Devises, at the date of certifying, if it is on credit, and if it is paid in earnest money and bill of lading, the rate of the day of payment, has the right to a profit on the net value up to 8 per cent. wholesale and 20 per cent. retail.

*Second hand.*—In retail up to 20 per cent.

Remark.—It is permissible for the second hand (middleman) to sell to a third party not in the same building at a profit of 6 per cent., and the re-seller may sell at a profit up to 12 per cent.

Article 5.—Chain commerce is absolutely forbidden. No goods may pass through more hands than those specified before reaching the consumer, namely :—*First hand*, producer, importer, and manufacturer; *second hand*, or re-seller who sells directly to the consumer.

Article 6.—No goods may pass twice through the hands of the same merchant, *i.e.*, goods that have been once sold may not be re-bought.

Article 7.—Only merchants with registered firms, or those who pay taxes for commerce, have the right of dealing.

Article 8.—No banking institution, except the Co-operative Societies, may buy up or buy back any sort of foodstuffs or any products whose export is prohibited. They may, however, be importers of goods whose import and export are permitted.

Article 11.—No wholesale merchant can refuse to sell goods which he has at his disposal to the retailer or to the consumer if he sells retail; and no retailer can refuse to sell to the consumer.

Article 12.—If the merchant, manufacturer or handicraft have new goods whose fixed price is higher than that of the old goods of the same kind, in no case can they sell the old goods at the price of the new ones, and, *vice versa*, when the new price is lower than the old one they may not sell at the old higher price.

CERTIFYING INVOICES.

Article 15.—Every merchant and Co-operative Society buying wholesale, even if the goods are of local produce, must possess an invoice, duly certified by the Chamber of Commerce, or by the Municipality if there is no Chamber of Commerce. This invoice, as well as all papers establishing the cost of the goods, must always be at the disposal of the agents of the Direction de Prévoyance.

Article 16.—Every wholesaler, producer, manufacturer, merchant or Co-operative Society is bound to issue invoices to the buyer.

Article 17.—The Chambers of Commerce and the Municipalities are obliged to examine most minutely the invoices, etc., presented to them, having the right to modify them if they prove incorrect. All sales certified by them will appear on the invoices, and they will certify invoices only for sales actually accomplished.

### II.—The Labelling of Goods and Price Lists.

Article 20.—All wholesale merchants, manufacturers, and Co-operative Societies are obliged to expose in a conspicuous place in their premises a clearly-marked price-list of their goods. No goods whether fixed price or otherwise can be sold without being supplied with a label of its price. The label must be distinct, not ambiguous, and not easily soiled. Goods exposed in windows must also have labels showing the prices.

Article 21.—All goods in a shop or store-house must be entered in the price-list. Those that are not so inscribed will be regarded as concealed for the purpose of being sold at a higher price.

Article 22.—Anyone who affixes labels or marks a price-list with prices higher than the fixed prices or profits will be deemed to have sold at these exposed prices, and will be prosecuted according to Articles 24 or 21 of the Law of Prévoyance.

### III.—Different Sorts of Goods.

IMPORT AND EXPORT.

Article 23.—The import and export of all goods mentioned in the attached list is free without special permission from the Direction de Prévoyance. Eventual changes in the list will come into force one month after publication.

Article 24.—Every importer of goods must produce an original invoice from the producer or from the manufacturer, duly certified by a Bulgarian consulate, a chamber of commerce (local), stock exchange, or, if none of these exists in the place where the goods are bought, by the municipality. In this certificate it must be explicitly stated by the seller that the prices are genuine.

Article 25.—An invoice from a foreign exporter, who has bought the goods directly from the producer and has sold them to a Bulgarian merchant in the country where the goods have been produced, will be accepted, but the certification of this invoice must distinctly contain a certified copy of the manufacturer's original invoice.

Article 26.—The invoice, signed by the importer with the clause, "I declare that the present invoice, as well as the prices shown in it, are genuine," must be deposited, together with a copy, in the chamber of commerce into whose district the goods are imported, or, if the custom-house is in a town where there is no chamber, with the Controlling Delegate (of the Direction de Prévoyance) or with the municipality. The copy of the invoice duly visèd by the chamber, delegate, or municipality, will be returned to the merchant.

Article 27.—If there is any ground for suspicion in regard to an invoice for imported goods as to the accuracy of the prices, the certifiers of the invoice may reduce them, and where dissatisfaction is felt over this action a committee composed of one control-delegate and two members of the chamber of commerce or two business men (as experts) shall examine and pronounce as to the genuineness of the price, and if they find it exaggerated they shall reduce it.

Any resulting disagreement will be adjudicated upon by the Direction de Prévoyance.

*Reference to these Regulations was made in "Notes and News" last week. By a new Order, published on July 8, large export houses are allowed to import goods into Bulgaria on production of their own invoices, without the obligation of having such invoices accompanied by a legalised copy of the original manufacturer's invoice. (See Article 25 above.)

## IRRIGATION IN BULGARIA.

Our Sofia Correspondent referred some time ago to various hydraulic works under contemplation by the Bulgarian Government. The British Commercial Commissioner at Sofia now sends the following details regarding the proposed measures :—

A water power and irrigation scheme and a Bill concerning water syndicates are at present before the Bulgarian Chamber, and investigations have been made as to the utilisation of the waters of the Rivers Topolnitza, Kritchim, Louda Yana, Strema, Eli Dere, Tchai, Toundja, Vinkos, and Sutlika. The results of these investigations show that the water resources of Bulgaria will make it possible—

(1) To exploit water energy amounting to more than 1,000.000 h.p. According to calculations, railways and industries will consume only 130,000-150,000 h.p., and the whole of the remaining energy will therefore be available for agricultural production and lighting.

(2) To irrigate by the canal system a total of about 4,600,000 decars.

(3) To irrigate, independently, the Danube plains, which suffer from drought in the summer, and to irrigate the plain of Deli-Ormana by means of electrically-driven pumps.

(4) To supply water for inhabited places which cannot obtain supplies from neighbouring wells, by means of ground springs or streams which are raised to reservoirs by pumps and then distributed for the use of towns and villages.

The undertakings which will have to be taken in hand under the State programme will include :—

(1) The construction of about seventeen barrage reservoirs.

(2) Canal systems in the plains of Thrace, Stara Zagora Yambol, and Sliven in Southern Bulgaria, and in Northern Bulgaria on the lower courses of the Rivers Isker, Vid, Ocem Rositza, Yantra, etc., as well as in the plains of Kustendil, Radomir, Doupnitza, and Nevropol.

(3) The building of electric power stations at the barrage reservoirs.

The execution of these water enterprises, according to the Bill for Water Syndicates, can be undertaken either by the State or by syndicates by means of loans, the repayment of which will be effected by instalments paid by the water syndicates.

A Supreme Water Council has been established at the Ministry of Agriculture and State Property to provide for the execution of the general State water programme and to solve all questions concerning water economy.

## NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Our advertisement pages are evidence of the growth of the business relations between Great Britain and the Near East, and we welcome the attention now being given to the Near Eastern trade by shippers and carriers. On the back cover will be found the advertisement of Messrs. Pitt and Scott, Ltd., whose world ramifications include many agencies in the capitals and ports of the Near and Middle East. Business is often expedited by mentioning with orders the name of the firm through whom it is desired that the goods should be shipped.

The success with which the attention given to the Near Eastern market by certain manufacturers of cigarette machinery is meeting has not been lost on the rest of the trade. On page VIII. Messrs. Alexander and Alexander set forth the advantages claimed for the British Empire Cigarette Machine, which has been supplied to some of the largest cigarette manufacturers and to various Government Régies.

The *Cyprus Gazette* for July 23, 1920, contains an Order (No. 802 of 1920), dated July 23, prohibiting the importation into Cyprus of shaving brushes manufactured in or exported from Japan, whether such brushes are exported direct to Cyprus or otherwise.

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# "STANDARD" TOBACCO MACHINERY

Designed and constructed by the Pioneers of Tobacco Factory Mechanical Equipment, "STANDARD" Machines have been developed to a unique degree of perfection, and consequently represent the most efficient and satisfactory methods of preparation and manufacture of Tobacco for all purposes—

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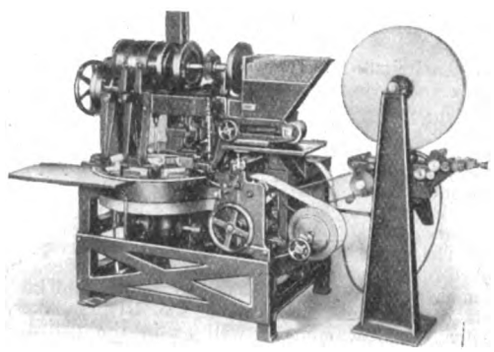
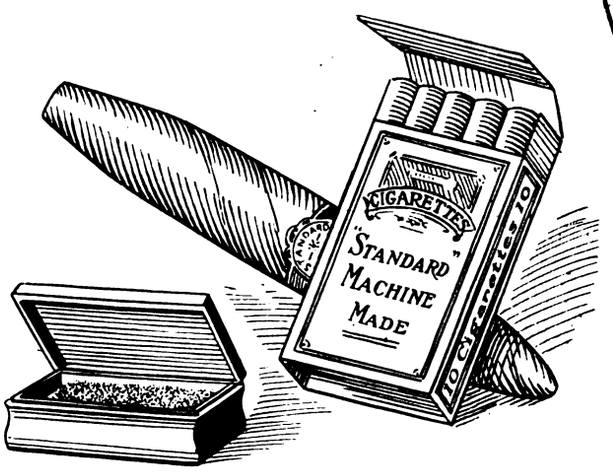


**"STANDARD" Cigarette Packing Machine.**
Counts the Cigarettes, wraps them in Paper or Foil or a combination of both, places them in a cardboard slide, cut and folded by the machine, and inserts the whole in previously made cardboard "shells."

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# ENGINEERING.

## The Machine-Tool Exhibition.

The opening of the Machine-Tool Exhibition has been by far the most interesting of recent events in the engineering world. It was awaited with interest by all in the industry as affording the first opportunity of seeing, as a whole, not only the general improvements in design, construction, and materials which have taken place as a natural development since the last exhibition in 1912, but the extraordinary development brought about by the war itself.

The exhibition is organised and conducted solely by the Machine-Tool Trades Association, who have adopted the very wise policy of avoiding continual minor exhibitions and of bringing together really comprehensive and complete displays of machine-tools and accessories at reasonable intervals. A period of eight years between exhibitions may at first blush strike one as being far too long, but it will be apparent on reflection that, leaving other considerations out of the question, it would have been unwise, to say the least, to hold an exhibition during the war at which a single technical observer might have ascertained exactly what we were doing, and have taken his knowledge to quarters where it would have been welcomed with open hands.

Speaking generally, the lessons of the war have had a far-reaching influence on industry throughout the world, but in no direction have these lessons produced greater results than in the machine-tool trade.

As Sir Alfred Herbert says, at the outbreak of the war the first cry was for fighting men, but it was quickly realised that the soldier was of little value to his country unless adequately supplied with the innumerable variety of articles comprised under the general term of munitions, and when an attempt was made to provide shells, big guns, rifles, machine guns, mechanical transport, aeroplanes, and other essential war material, it was quickly discovered that the main difficulty in the supply of these requirements was the fact that the machine-tools required for their production did not exist. As a consequence, the Government took steps of the most energetic character to obtain the tools which were indispensable, and without which no adequate progress could be made.

In order to meet the urgent demands of the situation, great developments were made in the machine-tool trade of this country, and, in addition, the resources of America and of other countries were requisitioned in order to supplement our own supplies. Many new firms were attracted to the industry, and the establishments of many of the older concerns whose names had become household words were enlarged, modernised, and improved in a remarkable way. The demand for the production of war material on an immense scale resulted in many valuable lessons being learned both by the designers and makers of the tools, and the men whom they employed. The great influx of comparatively unskilled labour, together with the rapid speeding up of the work done, necessitated a greater regard being paid to questions of personal safety. It was also necessary to improve the quality of the material used in construction both of the machines themselves and of the actual cutting and other tools used in them, and these features in themselves represent a really remarkable development.

The necessity of mass production and of repetition work was emphasised, and progress in this direction in particular was far greater than could have been expected in half a century of peaceful development. Repetition work, as a matter of fact, was introduced into hundreds of factories in which it had been regarded previously as impossible, and as these factories gradually changed over from war work to peaceful trade, the repetition idea has in many instances persisted, and continues to be employed on commercial lines.

The need for a higher degree of accuracy and workmanship, for greater care in the selection and treatment of materials, has resulted in a great development of technique. The tendency to specialisation has been encouraged and increased, not only in the manufacture of machine-tools themselves, but also in the method of their employment.

The continually advancing costs of labour have made it imperative to employ machine-tools of the most efficient type on a constantly increasing scale, and to pay greater and still greater attention to obtaining from them the last ounce of output. Old machinery, which had been cherished by its owners for a generation, has been scrapped in a drastic manner, and its place has been taken by modern plant, to the great benefit of the whole engineering industry.

Sir Alfred has now placed on record an opinion which was held by a number of engineers. He reminds us that the pessimists predicted that the immense output of machine-tools during the war, and the assemblage throughout the country of enormous engineering plants, would result in a great excess of machine-tools and a consequent slump in the machine-tool trade, but these predictions so far have been entirely without justification.

It was, of course, inevitable that many of the machine-tools laid down for the production of war material should depreciate very rapidly by reason of the extreme strain brought to bear upon them, not only by the continuous working, which in some instances amounted to twenty-four hours a day for weeks and even months, but also by the unskilled handling to which they were subjected in numbers of cases. In addition to all this rapid depreciation, which necessitated a continuous supply of new tools to take the places of those which were out, the engineering world at the time of the Armistice was confronted with an accumulated demand for peace-time requirements, which it had been impossible to supply or even to think of supplying during the war.

These causes, together with the general custom of working shorter hours which now obtains, have combined not only to absorb at comparatively high prices such surplus plants as were put on the market by the Government through the Disposals Board and by private concerns, but also to create such a demand for new tools as has kept the trade relatively well supplied with orders. It may be mentioned, further, that one of the lessons of the war which was most quickly learned by British engineers was that it is not the wisest policy to buy machine-tools to last, but, on the other hand, to purchase those which will produce at so much quicker a rate, and so earn so much higher a revenue as will more than compensate for the cost of renewal in a shorter time.

The present exhibition consequently offers a unique opportunity of observing the results which have been attained during the unprecedented period which has elapsed since the last exhibition, which, by the way, was held in the same building, and it is safe to say that no visitor will go away either disappointed or unimpressed by the gigantic strides that have been made during the past few years. In addition to the products of British manufacturers, very large collections of the latest achievements of machine-tool makers in the United States and other engineering countries have been brought together and are attractively displayed. Incidentally, however, it may be mentioned that the association has declined to permit the exhibiting of any machine-tool or accessory turned out of German or Austrian works. Altogether the number of visitors is well over 200, and the whole of the available space in the great building is occupied, even the annexe and the gallery being crowded with exhibits. There is no question but that the collection of machine-tools now on view excels both in magnitude and interest any previous achievements.

## Machine-Tool Progress.

Before dealing with the principal exhibits in greater or less detail, or enumerating the many specific improvements which are manifest, it may be said that the first and most dominant note that strikes the visitor to the exhibition is speed—speed not only in actual working, but in work-lifting and setting and in work removal.

At one time the comparatively slow working of our British-made machine-tools was more or less a tacit reproach to our designers. it was felt that whilst British machines would undoubtedly do their work and would probably outlast the Pyramids, they were slow in operation, and could not be driven at high speed in order to secure the maximum of production in the least possible space of time. It was felt that in this respect American and German lathes were superior; they were not so substantially built, but they could be "forced," and could be relied upon, under hard driving, to maintain the quality of their products until the machine itself failed through over-driving.

## Petrol Prices.

For years past the Automobile Association has tried to secure the intervention of the Government on the motor fuel question, which under present conditions constitutes a menace to the welfare of the community. At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the A.A., a resolution was adopted protesting against the continued rise in the price of petrol and the neglect of the Government to take any steps either to control the existing supplies or to encourage alternative sources for the production of motor fuel. Following on this resolution, the Automobile Association is taking further steps to impress upon the Government the necessity for action for the protection of the public, and the chairman, Sir William Joynson-Hicks, M.P., is urging the Prime Minister to fix a definite date to receive a petition recently signed by upwards of a million and a-quarter persons.

---

American firms have entered into an agreement for the introduction of agricultural machinery into Yugoslavia. Three experimental stations, each under an American expert, have been established in order to instruct farmers in its use.

A contract for forty all-steel sleeping cars for the International Sleeping-Car Company's services has been secured by the Leeds Forge Company, Ltd., in competition with all the leading British and Continental rolling-stock builders. The question of delivery was a determining factor in the award of the contract.

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# INDIA'S COAL RESOURCES.—IV.*

## By JOHN KIRSOPP, M.I.M.E., F.G.S.

The Salpura basin contains a number of isolated fields, the best known being those of Mohpani, Shahpur, (Betul), and Pench (Chhindwara). The probable area of the Mohpani field covers 50 square miles, and contains an estimated reserve of 158 million metric tons. The Shahpur field of coal-bearing beds covers an area of about 26 square miles, but there is no reliable information respecting the thickness, number, or quality of the seams.

The Chhindwara group of fields cover an area of about 100 square miles in the valleys of the Tawa, Pench, and Kanhan rivers. A considerable amount of exploitation work has been carried out in the Pench Valley. The position with regard to this group of fields may be summed up as follows:—

In the Pench Valley district three groups of seams are proved to exist: (a) three seams having a thickness of fourteen feet each, proved over an area of 650 acres, and containing an actual reserve of 14,470,000 metric tons; (b) two seams with a thickness of 13 feet 6 inches each, extending over an area of 436 acres, with an actual reserve of 9,400,000 metric tons; and (c) three seams varying from eleven feet to twenty-four feet in thickness, covering a probable area of 2,870 acres, and containing a reserve of 64,664,000 million metric tons.

In the Pench River district there are: (a) a seam eight feet thick, covering an area of 506 acres, with an actual reserve of 6,170,000 tons; and (b) one to two seams having a thickness of eight feet to twenty-three feet, extending over a probable area of 1,402 acres, and containing a reserve of 31,500,000 metric tons.

The Central Pench district contains: (a) two seams with a thickness of thirteen feet, over a proved area of 736 acres, containing an actual reserve of sixteen million metric tons; and (b) two seams of a thickness of ten feet, covering a probable area of 1,012 acres, and with a probable reserve of 16,700,000 metric tons.

The Pench Consolidated Company's property contains seams of from six feet to nine feet in thickness, covering a probable area of 1,981 acres, with a reserve of about 24,200,000 metric tons.

In the Jalachapa district two seams occur with a thickness aggregating thirteen feet, over a proved area of 820 acres, having an actual reserve of 16,240,000 metric tons.

The Godavari Basin (or belts of coal measures) covers a very large area, including various fields in the districts of Chanda and in Berar, and others again in the Nizam's Dominions. The present knowledge as to the extent of, and the reserve contained in, these fields is rather imperfect, although considerable.

The proved extent of, and reserve contained in, one seam traversing this area in the various districts may be enumerated as follows:—

(a) Warora:—With a thickness of thirty feet of coal seam, extending over a probable area of three square miles, and reserve of 60,000,000 metric tons.

(b) Wun:—Fifteen feet thick; probable area eighty square miles, and with a reserve of 2,130 million metric tons.

(c) Wun-Papur:—Fifteen feet thickness, over an actual area of seven square miles, and containing a reserve of fifty-three million metric tons.

(d) Junara-Chicholi:—Thirty feet thick, over an actual area of five square miles, and with a reserve of seventy-six million metric tons.

(e) Ghugus:—Thirty feet thick, over a probable area of three square miles, and with a reserve of forty-five million metric tons.

(f) Ballarpur:—Twenty feet thick, over an actual reserve of two square miles, and with a reserve of thirty-one million metric tons.

(g) Paoni and Sasti:—Forty feet thick, over an actual area of one and a-half square miles, and with a reserve of thirty-million metric tons.

(h) Singareni:—Three feet 6 inches to seven feet 6 inches thick, over an actual area of four square miles, and with a reserve of 12,200,000 metric tons, and one seam six feet thick, with a probable reserve of ten million tons.

(i) Madavaram:—Five feet 6 inches thickness, over a probable area of ten square miles, and with a reserve of twenty-five million metric tons.

(j) Lingalla:—Four feet 6 inches thickness, over a probable area of five square miles, and with a reserve of eight million tons.

The coalfields of Kurasia and Koreagarh lie entirely within the limits of the Korea State, as also the eastern end of the Sanhal or Lohagpur field, the main portion of which is situated in Rewah State. The Sanhal field has an area of about 330 square miles, and in various localities contains at least two seams of importance.

The Kurasia coalfield is the second largest of the Korean coalfields, covering an area of about 48 square miles, being some ten miles long from west to east and six broad from north to south. In the Kurasia area six coal horizons have been noted, No. 4 horizon being the most important, with two to five seams ranging in thickness from 1 ft. to 3½ ft. Horizon No. 3 (with 11½ ft. coal at one locality, Bijaura Jharia) and horizon No. 2 (with 8 ft. coal at one locality, Gorghela Nala) are also worth investigation. In the Chirwiri area of this field the finest series of coal seams in the State is exposed in the Kaoria Nala, where seven seams, aggregating a thickness of 36 ft., were measured; composition: moisture, 7.7 per cent.; volatile matter, 29.1 per cent.; fixed carbon, 51.2 per cent.; ash, 12.0 per cent. This series of seams (horizon No. 4) appears to thin out in all directions, but there is probably about two square miles over which the coal is at least 10 ft. thick.

The Sanhal coals appear generally to be much inferior to the Kurasia coals, which are lower in ash and higher in fixed carbon and volatile matter, seams 3 and 4 comparing very closely in composition to that of the lower seams of the Raniganj series, but being about 2 per cent. better in ash.

Jhagrakhand coal area comprises the south-eastern corner of the Johagpur coalfield, projecting into Korea State over an area of about 22 square miles on the western side of the Hasdo river. It is a narrow strip eleven miles long from north to south and one to three miles broad, the area being crossed by the Jhagrakhand, Kulharia, and Neori streams, in all of which coal has been found. Three exposures also occur in the Kulharia Nala, in two of which the coal is only 2 ft. thick and of no value, whilst in the third it is 5 ft. thick.

*(To be concluded.)*

* The previous articles of this series appeared on July 1, August 19, and September 2.

# TRADE MARK REGISTRATION IN TURKEY.

The Federation of British Industries has received the following information in regard to the registration of trade marks and patents in Turkey:—

It is pointed out that whereas in Great Britain goods are classified and trade marks registered for the various classes to which the goods to be protected belong, in Turkey there is no classification, and a trade mark can be made to cover all the manufactures of a firm. Protection is good for fifteen years, and may be renewed indefinitely at the end of every successive fifteen years, though it should be noted that the formalities are not simply those of renewal but take the form of re-registration. Trade marks registered in Turkey may be transferred from individuals to firms or from one firm to another. Three documents are at present necessary to complete a new registration—a power of attorney signed by the applicant, an attestation by a notary public, and legislation by a Dutch, or after the ratification of the peace treaty, by a Turkish Consul.

American firms, it is stated on the same authority, are taking full advantage of the Ottoman Trade Mark Law, a considerable number of trade marks having been recently registered, especially for motor cars and accessories. Americans are also devoting a good deal of attention to the protection in Turkey of their inventions.


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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## SUDAN PRODUCE.

Some further extracts from the C.E.B. report for June are given below:—

**Sesame.**

Kordofan Province.—31 ardebs were sold in El-Obeid market at an average price of 425 P.T. per ardeb of 330 rottles (148 kilos).

Kassala Province.—The average price of sesame in Gedaref was 400 P.T. per ardeb of 300 rottles (135 kilos), and Mafaza 396 P.T. per ardeb.

Nuba Mountains Province.—A certain amount of sesame is still being moved north, but as the Arabs have left the southern district for Dilling and El-Obeid, there is little movement.

Sennar Province.—14 tons of sesame were exported by rail in May and 51 tons in June.

**Tobacco.**

Darfur Province.—During May 502 kantars of tobacco were sold in Fasher Market.

**Livestock Hides and Skins.**

Darfur Province.—During May 25 bulls, 73 sheep, and 3 donkeys were imported into El Fasher.

Berber Province.—During June 1,624 sheep and 28 cattle were exported.

Kassala Province.—202 cattle were exported from Kassala to the interior of the Sudan.

Red Sea Province.—31 cattle and 1 sheep only were exported during June.

**Wells.**

Halfa Province.—A new well has been made near the Civil Hospital and Mudiria Buildings, and contains a plentiful supply of water.

Mongalla Province.—In May new 18 miles from Loge to Ruba was opened in Amadi district, as recommended by Bimb. Spence last October.

**Cattle Plague.**

Mild outbreaks occurred during June in Wad Hamid district of Berber Province, and in the Rufaa and Kamlin districts of Blue Nile Province. It is also reported to be existing in the Dar Eliab and Mongalla districts of Mongalla Province. Kordofan and White Nile Province were reported to be clear of this disease for the month.

**Contagious Pleuro-Pneumonia.**

The outbreak in the Rumbee district of the Bahr el Chazel Province is being dealt with, and innoculations are being carried out.

## NEAR EAST PRODUCE.

Dried Fruit.—Quotations continue firm, and in spite of the high prices it would seem that country buyers generally are catering for their season's requirements. There has been a heavy demand for all spot currants during the week, and evaporated fruits have also found ready buyers. The volume of business recorded for currants has been fairly good. Prices are steady. The sultana position is very strong, and spot stocks are almost exhausted. Valencia raisins have sold very freely to arrive, and prices are rising steadily. The supply this season is expected to be well below the average, and values can hardly fail to increase. Figs: Market quotations are steady. Plums are receiving a good deal of attention, and spot sales are heavier than usual.

Coffee.—Spot prices ruled steady. Costa Rica offered in sale this week has been of inferior quality. East Indians are rather neglected, probably because of the unsatisfactory quality of recent imports.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been firm. Calcutta to London, afloat, £40 per ton; Sept.-Oct., £39 10s.; Bombay to London, Sept.-Oct., £40 10s.; La Plata to Hull, afloat, £36; Sept.-Oct. and Oct.-Nov., £35 10s. Rapeseed quiet. Real bold Ferozepore, Sept.-Oct., Antwerp, £33 5s. Yellow Cawnpore, Sept.-Oct., £32 10s.; brown Cawnpore, Sept.-Oct., Antwerp, £31 15s. Cottonseed quiet. Bombay to Hull, spot, £14 10s.; Sept.-Oct., £14 10s.; Oct.-Nov., £14 10s. Egyptian to London, f.a.q., Aug.-Sept., £18 10s.; Sept., £20; Sept.-Oct., new, £20. Sakellarides to London, Aug.-Sept., £18 10s., and to Hull, Aug.-Sept., £17 10s. Linseed oil very firm. Spot, £80 15s.; Sept.-Dec., £78 5s. Rape oil quiet. Crude, £74 per ton, net, naked, ex-mill. Refined, £90 per ton. Cotton oil quiet. Egyptian crude, £73 per ton, net, ex-mill; deodorised, in barrels, £91, and Bombay crude, £62 per ton. Turpentine quiet and unchanged.

Oilcake.—The market has been characterised by considerable activity. Sales have included linseed cake at 22s. to 23s., cottonseed at 10s. to 13s. 6d., coconut at 14s. to 15s., ground nut at 15s. 9d. to 16s.

## OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ending August 28:—"The sales this week on our market amount to four cases New Yerli qualities at piastres 1,000 per oke, which is equivalent to 18s. 6d. per lb. c.i.f. or $3, c.i.f. New York. No opium, old or new crop, came down from the Karahissar or other high plateau districts owing to those regions being still in the hands of the rebels, who for many months have stopped all communications. The exchange to-day is piastres 418 per pound sterling for cheque on London and $0.86 for one Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are 177 cases, against 360 at the same date last year."

## CHINA HORSE BEANS.

His Majesty's Commercial Agent for Egypt has transmitted to the Department of Overseas Trade copy of a circular giving particulars regarding the sale of China horse beans by the Egyptian Government.

These beans are being sold through the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., in the following markets, Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said, Ismailia, Suez, Damietta; and deliveries were due to begin at the end of August. They will be disposed of in sacks of 84 kilos (gross) and in quantities of not less than one sack and not more than ten sacks. Quantities exceeding ten sacks can be obtained on application to the Alexandria or Cairo Cereals Bureau.

The prices, on a cash with order basis, are as follows:—

(a) For quantities of ten sacks or less: Lower Egypt (including Cairo) 240 P.T. (Piastres Tariff) per sack of 84 kilos (gross) = 442½ P.T. per ardeb. Upper Egypt.—242 P.T. per sack = 445 P.T. per ardeb.

(b) For quantities exceeding ten sacks (ordered from Alexandria or Cairo Cereals Bureau: 440 P.T. per ardeb, ex store.

All above prices include sacks.

NOTE.—1 kilo = 2.20 lb., 1 ardeb = 155 kilos., 97.5 P.T. = £1.

## COTTON GROWING IN MESOPOTAMIA.

In view of the present scarcity in the supply of cotton, the attempts now being made to establish cotton-growing on a large scale in Mesopotamia are of particular interest, in spite of any temporary interference caused by the military situation. Cotton has been grown in Mesopotamia from very ancient times, and is still cultivated in small quantities by the Arabs in conjunction with food crops along the banks of both the Tigris and Euphrates. The fibre is used locally for spinning and as a stuffing material for pillows and mattresses. The country possesses a soil and climate favourable to the production of large yields of excellent cotton, and in course of time it should add materially to the world's supply.

Since 1917 experiments have been conducted by an expert from the Indian Agricultural Service with a view to discovering the most suitable kinds to grow, and the results of the work done in this connection and the prospects of establishing a cotton-growing industry are fully dealt with in the current number of the *Bulletin* of the Imperial Institute. So far, American types of cotton seem to be the most suitable for cultivation in Mesopotamia. The members of a deputation of the British Cotton-Growing Association, which visited the country towards the end of last year, were very favourably impressed with its possibilities for cotton production.

The acreage which will eventually be planted with cotton in Mesopotamia will depend on the quantity of labour available and the area on which a perennial supply of water can be guaranteed. It seems likely that a total of 150,000 to 200,000 acres could be cultivated annually by the existing population if the necessary facilities, in regard to agricultural machinery, transport, etc., were provided. At a low estimate, this area should produce from 15 to 20 million pounds of cotton yearly.

## ENQUIRY BUREAU.

*Readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.*

*Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."*

*ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.*

*No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.*

### Agents Wanted Abroad.

*ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, 'The Near East,' 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2," when they will be re-directed to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.*

101. A correspondent in Lagos, Nigeria, wishes to get into touch with manufacturers of Arab red fez caps.

102. A stamp collector wishes to purchase in large quantities used Austrian stamps prior to the 1882 issue. Stamp dealers in the liberated provinces of Austria are asked to send bulk packages of such stamps to the care of the Editor of THE NEAR EAST, with the price in kronen of each stamp or price per dozen, per 100, etc., of each kind. All stamps required will be paid for at the price indicated and the rest returned. Newspaper stamps are not required, but rare postmarks should be included.

103. An Athens firm invites publishers of periodicals dealing with yarns (reports on local markets and world output) and cottons to send specimen copies with a view to its becoming a permanent subscriber.

104. A Greek firm is establishing an electric light station in Macedonia, and wishes to get into touch with firms dealing in the necessary machinery.

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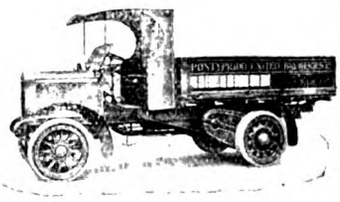

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***All the principal classes of Insurance business transacted.***

# LESHER, WHITMAN & Co.

**Inc.**

(Established 1852)

**881, BROADWAY, NEW YORK, U.S.A.**

Manufacturers for Export of

# MINERVA FABRICS

INCLUDING

**Suitings, Dress Goods and Linings in different qualities, widths and patterns suitable for all markets.**

# NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

**(Affiliated to the British Trade Corporation).**

***ESTABLISHED 1909 BY IMPERIAL FIRMAN.***

**CAPITAL - - - - £1,000,000 Sterling.**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

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**Head Office: CONSTANTINOPLE (Union Han, Galata).**

**Telegrams: "BRITBANK, CONSTANTINOPLE."**

**London Office: 50, CORNHILL, E.C.** Telegrams: "NATBANK, LONDON."

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**Transit Warehouse: STAMBOUL.** **Bonded Warehouse: TUTUN GUMRUK, STAMBOUL.**

The Bank has Agents in all the principal Cities of Europe, America, and the Far East, and has Correspondents throughout the World.

Every description of Banking business, in all its Financial and Commercial branches, undertaken.

Business Houses trading with Turkey can insure Foreign Exchange with the Bank. Banks, Commercial Houses and others having interests in Turkey are invited to apply for terms.

Manufacturers and Merchants may address their enquiries to the Head Office for Trade Lists of Importers and Exporters.


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## EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

The *Journal Officiel* of Egypt publishes the general conditions under which tenders are now received for Government contracts. These are as follows:—

1. Tenders must be submitted on the form supplied by the Administration and in double-sealed envelopes, with the object of the tender indicated thereon.

2. The tenderer must be a person residing in Egypt, or must have a representative in Egypt, and will give in his offer an address at which notices may be served upon him. All notices shall be deemed to be validly served which are left at such address or are sent there by registered post, and every letter sent by registered post shall be deemed to have arrived in due course of post unless the contrary is shown.

3. The price of tenders should be written, without erasures, in figures and in words.

4. Every tender submitted in the name of an incorporated company must be accompanied by authenticated copies of the documents defining the constitution of the company. Every tender submitted in the name of a private firm or partnership must be accompanied by such extracts, duly authenticated, from the partnership deed as shall suffice to show what persons are authorised to enter into contracts on behalf of the firm or partnership, and what persons are responsible for the due execution of such contracts, and can give valid receipts on behalf of the firm or partnership.

However, firms established in Egypt and having constant dealings with the Government may deposit with the Ministry of Finance authenticated copies of the above-mentioned documents. In submitting tenders, these firms should then simply state that the documents in question have been so deposited and that no subsequent changes in the constitution of the company, partnership, or firm have taken place.

5. Contractors must produce railway certificates in support of their invoices for transport expenses incurred on account of goods forwarded by them to Government departments. Such certificates will be delivered by the Railway Administration if applied for at the moment of despatching the goods, and in order to obtain the same, forwarding agents should mention on the waybill the name of the department concerned.

Claims for freight on goods shipped to Egypt must be supported by a copy of the bill of lading or other voucher showing the amount of the freight.

6. Each tender must be accompanied by a provisional deposit of 2 per cent. of the total value of the offer in money. Post Office orders or cheques on local banks will be accepted, but no cheques on banks abroad.

The provisional deposit may be replaced by a letter of guarantee from an approved bank in Egypt to the effect that the bank will hold at the disposal of the Government a sum equivalent to 10 per cent. of the total value of the contract in the event of the tenderer obtaining the same.

Letters of guarantee from banks abroad may also be accepted, but in that case the Administration may require the endorsement of such letters of guarantee by an approved bank in Egypt.

7. Within ten days after the acceptance of the tender a sum equal to 10 per cent. of the total value of the contract will be deposited by the successful tenderer as security for the due execution thereof. This deposit must be either in cash (on which no interest will be allowed) or in Egyptian Government or other approved securities, calculated at market value with a margin of 5 per cent. Cash may be paid to the contracting department or to the Ministry of Finance. Securities will be deposited with the Ministry of Finance in Cairo, or with the National Bank of Egypt in Alexandria or in London, for the account of the Government. The coupons maturing on these securities may be detached by the contractor. The deposit will be retained until the contract has been duly carried out to the satisfaction of the Government.

In the case of unsuccessful tenderers, their provisional deposit, if made in cash, will be returned to them; letters of guarantee will be returned to the bank which issued them, simultaneous notice being sent to the tenderers that this has been done.

Contractors may effect a permanent deposit in cash or securities with the Ministry of Finance in Cairo, on which certificates for provisional deposits may be granted to accompany their tenders, and also certificates for final deposit of 10 per cent. on value of contract accepted.

Should the successful tenderer not make the deposit as required by this article, the acceptance of his tender will be withdrawn, and any deposit he may have made under Article 6 will be forfeited.

8. The Government is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender, and may divide the order.

9. Unless all the foregoing conditions are complied with by the tenderer, the tender will not be considered.

10. Tenderers are permitted to attend when tenders are being opened or be represented by an accredited delegate and hear the prices read out of the various tenders as opened.

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Striking increases in imports at the Port of Tangier of goods from the United States (90 per cent.), Belgium (80 per cent.), and Holland (100 per cent.), were noticeable in the second quarter of this year, as compared with the first three months. In the meanwhile British trade remained stationary.

Recent statistics show that exports from Turkey for the second half of 1919 were more than double the figures for the first six months, and imports advanced in the same proportion.

A tax varying from 10 to 22 per cent., payable in kind or foreign currency, is charged by the local Government on all goods exported from the Crimea.

## LANCASHIRE COTTON

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

The market has continued very quiet. Nothing has occurred to stimulate buyers to place orders on a freer scale, and the conditions, as a whole, may be described as depressing, there being considerable apprehension as to the outcome of the coal crisis. There is still time for a compromise to be arranged, but the strike notices are now running out. If a stoppage of production does take place, it will not be long before spinning mills and weaving sheds are bound to close down. Advices relating to the Egyptian cotton crop do not show very much change, but the prospects are not quite so healthy as a week or two ago. Less satisfactory reports are being received with regard to the American growth, but any upward movement in values is checked by the unsatisfactory industrial situation. Egyptian yarns continue to be purchased sparingly. Although spinners are doing very badly, there is not much probability of organised short time in this section. It is likely, however, that spinners engaged on American cotton will decide to work shorter hours. Rather more inquiry continues to be met with in piece goods for Egypt, but transactions have been few and far between. There has been no buying for the outlets of the Levant. Operations for India have been restricted to retail lines, chiefly in bleaching and printing qualities. Rather discouraging news has come to hand from China. There has been no life in the demand for South America. Home trade buyers have operated with considerable caution. Owing to the slack demand, some manufacturers of cloth are being compelled to stop looms, and unemployment in weaving districts is increasing. A dull feeling has prevailed in American yarns, and prices have favoured buyers. Trade in shipping counts has been within a small compass.

## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

### Forthcoming Sailings.

The Johnston Line s.s. Pomaron, for Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on September 22.

The Johnston Line s.s. Cranmore, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila, will sail from Liverpool on October 2.

The Ellerman Line s.s. Maronian, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonica, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina, will close for cargo at Liverpool on September 18.

The Papayanni Line (Ellerman Lines, Ltd.) s.s. Belgravian, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonica, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina, will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 2.

The Bibby Line s.s. Derbyshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo in Liverpool on September 22.

The Anchor Line s.s. Scindia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on October 16.

The Harrison Line s.s. Discoverer, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Liverpool on September 21.

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According to a Lloyd's telegram the British steamer Luise Horn, which left Aden on August 15 for Beira, has not yet arrived there.

ANCHOR LINE
FAST PASSENGER SERVICE.
LIVERPOOL to BOMBAY.
KARACHI (via Bombay) calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.
LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
FITTED WITH ELECTRIC FANS.
MARCONI WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.
PASSENGER SAILING DATES—
SCINDIA ABOUT OCT. 16.
MASSILIA ABOUT OCT. 30.
ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LTD.,
16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.

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## CYPRUS' SWAN SONG?

By a Customs, Excise, and Revenue Law, 1920, Cyprus gives preference to goods consigned from and grown, produced or manufactured in the British Empire. The preferential rates are two-thirds of the full rate in the case of clocks, watches, and parts thereof, musical instruments and parts thereof, cinematograph films, beer, ale, porter, and other liquors, sparkling wine, cotton yarns, thread and piece goods, woollen yarns, thread and manufactures; haberdashery and millinery, dyes, china and earthenware, furniture, soap, and matches; 60 per cent. of the full rates for wines other than sparkling wines; 95 per cent. of the full rates for spirits, liqueurs, and cordials, and five-sixths of the full rate for all other classes of goods. Information with regard to the actual rates of duty on specific articles, together with particulars of the general regulations under the above-named Law, may be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1.

## SMYRNA FRUIT CROPS.

The Department of Overseas Trade learns that the prospects of the fruit crops for the coming season are very favourable. The quality of the crops is expected to be good, and the quantities are estimated as follows:—Figs, 1,700 tons; red raisins, 1,500-1,700 tons; black raisins, 6,000 tons; sultanas, 27,000-30,000 tons; olives, 36,000-40,000 tons. The export of olives is at present prohibited, but the prohibition will probably be raised once the result of the coming harvest is assured.

The question of the rate of exchange is likely to have an important effect on the export trade this autumn. Last year the £T dropped from about 400 to 328 per pound sterling between August and October. This year many firms are covering the exchange already, and it is generally expected that the drop will not be so heavy. At the same time, the uncertainty is causing buyers to be inclined to await developments.

The Greek Government Gazette of June 26 last contained a Law (No. 2284), dated June 23 (old style), which authorises the Ministry of Finance to exempt from import duty machinery and implements which have been imported since January 1, 1915 (old style), for the purpose of raising ships, belonging to Greek subjects, which have been sunk in Greek waters. The Law further provides that any import duties paid since January 1, 1915 (old style), in respect of such machinery are to be returned to the importers.

According to a Swiss journal, the American experts sent by the Yugoslav Government to examine the chrome ore deposits in the mountainous districts of Yugoslavia have reported that the deposits are of the utmost importance and extensive enough to meet the requirements of the whole world.

The estimated traffic receipts of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin for the week ending August 28 were £11,326, or £29 17s. 8d. per mile.

Arrangements have been made by the Greek Minister of National Economy and the Hellenic-Swiss Barter Trade Office for an exhibition of Swiss industrial products to be held at Athens next month. The Greek Government is materially assisting the enterprise by allowing articles for exhibition to be admitted duty free and by granting freight rebates when ships in the Government service are employed. In the latter case a reduction will be allowed of 35 per cent. for shipments via Marseilles and 45 per cent. for shipments via Brindisi.


# IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

**Capital - £10,000,000**
**Paid-up - £5,000,000**

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## London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.

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Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.
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**Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.**

**PALESTINE.**
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**CYPRUS.**
**Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.**

**SYRIA.**
**Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa.**
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**SALONICA. TUNIS. AFRICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.**
**(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)**

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

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

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.
Letters of credit granted.


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## TENDERS INVITED.

**Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—**

### Egypt.

*(The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.)*

Motor Launch.—The Inspector-General of Irrigation, Upper Egypt, invites tenders for the supply of a motor launch for 4th Circle of Irrigation. September 18. (L.)

Sewage Main.—The Chief Engineer, Main Drainage Dept., Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and laying of a 12-in. cast-iron sealed sewage main. September 21. (L.)

Air Compressing Plant.—The Chief Engineer, Main Drainage Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of an air compressing plant at Mansûra, consisting of two crude oil engines, driving two single-stage air compressors, complete with auxiliary machinery, water cooling plant, a travelling crane, machine tools, air mains, electric wiring, etc. October 1.

Pumping Machinery.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of pumping machinery for a pumping station at Tawila, in the Province of Gharbicha. October 15 (L.)

Envelopes and File Covers.—H.M. Commercial Agent for Egypt has forwarded copies of the schedule and conditions of contract in connection with calls for tenders by the Central Stores Department, Ministry of Finance, Egypt, for the supply of envelopes and file covers. Tenders on the proper forms will be received up to noon on September 30. A provisional deposit equal to 2 per cent., or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent. of the value of the offer must accompany each tender. The tenderer must be a person residing in Cairo or must have a representative in that city, and must give an address in Egypt at which notices may be served upon him.

The above-mentioned copy of the schedule and conditions may be consulted at the Enquiry Office, Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.

### India.

A firm of paint manufacturers is establishing a new factory at Bombay, for which a complete plant will be required. The firm also requires locks, decorative corners, hasps, handles, etc., for steel travelling trunks and kindred goods of various sizes and designs. Firms interested should write enclosing catalogues and full particulars, prices, possible dates of delivery, etc., to the company, whose name and address can be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade.

### Algeria.

H.M. Consul-General at Algiers reports that a local trader desires to receive quotations from United Kingdom firms for the supply of iron or soft steel hoops for barrel-making. It is understood that the applicant is prepared to pay cash for the material. Firms in a position to offer supplies of the material in question can obtain the name of the inquirer, specifications, etc., from the Department of Overseas Trade.

### Roumania.

Market Sought for Raw Leaf Tobacco.—The Director-General of the Roumanian State Monopoly announces that there are about 3,000,000 kilos of raw leaf tobacco available for export from Roumania, including tobacco suitable for cigars, cigarettes, and pipe. Prices and samples are available upon application to the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.

An organisation in Cluj (Roumania) requires quotations, c.i.f. Galatz, for complete outfits in men's and women's working clothing, boots, underwear, and men's hats for some 50,000 workers. No further particulars are available at present, but the fact is emphasised that the matter is very urgent, as other offers are shortly to be considered.

United Kingdom firms interested will be furnished with the name of the inquirers on application to the Department of Overseas Trade, but it is suggested that, pending the receipt of further particulars, offers should be addressed direct to H.B.M. Consul, Cluj, Transylvania, Roumania.

## ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

The market has suffered further relapses during the past week, and nearly all the prices with which this report is concerned have dropped.

Among Government securities, Egyptian Unified have dropped further to 65 and the 3½ per cent. stock to 54, both ¾ points down on the week. In Greek loans, Rentes, which rose ½ point last week, are back again, as far as buyers are concerned, to 44, while Funding Loan is at 53 instead of 55. The 1902 Loan, on the other hand, is back again at 47, and the 5 per cent. 1914 Loan remains at 54.

In Bank shares, National of Egypt are at 18⅛: Agriculturals are 3-32nds easier at 4 9-32. Bank of Athens are back at 4, but Imperial Ottomans have had a further fall of ¼ point to 9.

Among Land descriptions, Aboukir are easier at 1 11-16; Delta Lands are 1s. further down to 13s. 6d., and New Egyptians 1s. 9d. to 1 11-16.

Under Miscellaneous Salt and Soda have dropped ⅛, but Morum's Oriental Stores remain at 18s.

In Oil shares, Anglo-Egyptians have advanced 5-16ths to 2 15-16.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97 7/16 |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 32·75-33·25 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 96-98 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/10⅜-1/10½ |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 160-165 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/10⅜-1/10½ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 425 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅔ | 3·48-3·51 |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 52·70-53·10 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 195-205 |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 29 |

It is stated in the *Progrès* of August 22 that the agricultural situation in Transylvania is excellent. Cereals have been collected in good condition.

Four leading French contracting firms have tendered for the rebuilding of Salonika, on which the Greek Government contemplates an expenditure of £20,000,000, spread over five years.

At a meeting of the Court of Directors of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, held on September 8, it was decided to declare an interim dividend for the half-year ended June 30 last at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax.

The Greek Chamber has voted the Budget for the financial year 1920-21, ordinary and special revenue totalling 1,169,111 511 drachmæ. Bills have been introduced establishing credits of 20,000,000 drachmæ for the resettlement of the population in Eastern Thrace, and 10,000,000 drachmæ for the repatriation of poor refugees from Asia Minor and the Dodecanese, and to assist Greeks compelled to flee from the Caucasus.

The *Palestine Daily Mail* (published in Jerusalem) gives particulars of possible trade openings in the Holy Land, which since the arrival of Sir Herbert Samuel as High Commissioner seems to have entered upon an era of peaceful development. One of the most interesting of the new projects is the establishment of a perfumery industry on a large scale. Palestine possesses an extensive flora, rich in natural scents, and perfumery could be manufactured with very little difficulty. We may anticipate that before long "Eau de Sharon" will be exported from Jerusalem.


# BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

Telegrams: "TRABANQUE, LONDON."

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.)
13 AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telephones: LONDON WALL, 2947-2948

**CAPITAL.**

**Authorised, £10,000,000.** | **Subscribed and Paid up, £2,000,000.**

*Governor*, THE LORD FARINGDON. *Deputy Governor*, SIR HENRY BABINGTON SMITH, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.S.I.

*Manager*, A. G. M. DICKSON.

*London Manager*, P. C. WEST. *Secretary*, G. DE B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation is prepared to assist in the development of the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and offers exceptional financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their export and import trade.

It has Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world, and transacts Banking business of every description.

It invites enquiries, and will endeavour, where necessary, to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

*Branches :* **BATOUM. BELGRADE. DANZIG.**

*Affiliated Companies:* **THE NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY,** Constantinople and Branches

**THE TRADE INDEMNITY CO., LTD.** *(Established for the Assistance of British Trade by the Insurance of Accounts)*


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## GENERAL BANK OF GREECE.

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

**Head Office - ATHENS.**

BANKING OPERATIONS:
Every description of Banking business transacted.

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

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

## POPULAR BANK OF GREECE.

**Head Office, ATHENS. Branch, PIRÆUS.**

Correspondents throughout Greece.

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

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

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

*General Manager:* D. LOVERDO.

## TRADE WITH THE NEAR EAST

WITH its offices in all the principal towns in **Greece**, in **Egypt**, **Cyprus**, **Crete**, **Constantinople**, and in **Smyrna**, **the Bank extends exceptional Facilities for Export and Import Trade between Great Britain and the Near East generally**, and invites enquiries and correspondence relating thereto.

HEAD OFFICE: ATHENS

## BANK OF ATHENS

LONDON 22, Fenchurch Street E.C.3. MANCHESTER 57, Mosley Street

## COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE, LIMITED.

**CAPITAL PAID-UP - Drs. 15,000,000.**
**RESERVE FUNDS Drs. 5,250,205.45.**

**Head Office: ATHENS.**

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

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

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

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

## GREECE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**COINAGE.**—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 33 Drachmæ to £1.

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

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

## BANK OF NATIONAL ECONOMY (of Greece)

Head Office: ATHENS.

*Branches:*

PIRÆUS, SYRA. PATRAS.

**Capital Paid Up - Drs. 10,000,000.**

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

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

## THE HELLENIC COMPANY OF MARITIME ENTERPRISES

(PALIOS LINE.)

**Head Office - PIRÆUS.**

A. P. PALIOS, Founder. M. P. PALIOS, General Manager.

**REGULAR MAIL, PASSENGER, and FREIGHT SERVICES from PIRÆUS to MEDITERRANEAN PORTS, GREECE, SEA OF MARMORA, BLACK SEA, SEA OF AZOF, ASIA MINOR, SYRIA, and EGYPT.**

26 PASSENGER and CARGO STEAMERS.

85 AGENCIES in Greece, Sea of Marmora, Black Sea, Sea of Azof, Asia Minor, Egypt, Mediterranean and principal Ports of the World.

Coaling Yards and Repair Shops.

GENERAL AGENTS for the High Commission of Sea Transports; for all Passenger Steamers requisitioned by the Greek Government.

*Cable Address—Navigation Palios.*

*Codes used—Scott's (1905) 10th Edition; A.B.C. (1901) 5th Edition.*

## MARITIME BANK of GREECE

**AUTHORISED CAPITAL FULLY PAID DR.10,000,000.**

Founder—A. P. PALIOS.

**Head Office: PIRÆUS, GREECE.**

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 490.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Simultaneously with the announcement that direct negotiations are about to take place between Italy and Yugoslavia for a settlement of the Adriatic problem comes the news that d'Annunzio has extended the boundaries of the "independent State of Quarnero" by the occupation of the Croatian islands of Arbe, Cherso, and Veglia. As everybody, except the Italian Government, has ceased to take d'Annunzio seriously, the incident may be regarded as concerning Signor Giolitti's Cabinet only. The islands in question belong either to Italy or to the Yugoslavs; in either case their occupation ought to be considered as an affront to Rome. While it is possible to find some excuse for inaction on the part of a Government confronted with the *fait accompli* of Fiume in d'Annunzio's hands, there can be none for a Government that allows him to extend his jurisdiction at will. It would have been thought that an effort would be made to confine d'Annunzio's activities to Fiume; but once again Italian regulars made common cause with the poet's legionaries. The *laissez-faire* policy of the Italian Government is not of good augury for the coming conference; for unless Italy can show that there is some authority in the country superior to d'Annunzio's whims, negotiations would seem to be valueless. In time, however, the Italian Government, it will be hoped, will be able to become master in its own house, and a settlement of the Adriatic question will thus be rendered possible.

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The parliamentary session in Roumania, as our Bucharest Correspondent reminded us last week, has closed after a stormy existence; but not before the Government was able to pass some necessary measures. As a matter of fact, the storms of the session have gone some way to clearing the air, as in some instances they were violent enough to satisfy the more moderate people on each side that they could not be allowed to continue. It will be a matter for surprise, therefore, if the recess does not bring about certain modifications in the political position which will conduce to greater harmony in the administration of the country. In spite of the prestige enjoyed by the Prime Minister, General Averescu, the task of steering the Government through the session would seem to have devolved largely upon M. Take Jonescu, whose more vigorous personality and parliamentary experience proved a useful asset. If the Ministry could include representatives of the official Transylvanian party, which is too important to be omitted from a Coalition, the immediate future of Roumania would give no cause for the least anxiety. A recent utterance of the Prime Minister leaves a loophole for such co-operation, but is not enthusiastic on the subject.

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According to Constantinople reports, Enver Pasha has arrived at Baku, either for the purpose of attending that "Oriental Congress" to which we referred last week, or else to take command of a Bolshevist force which is to march on India—in order, presumably, to free it from the British "tyranny" which so distresses the tender-hearted philanthropists at Moscow. Another report, of earlier date, and of Bolshevist origin, informed us that this army of liberation was composed of Red forces in the Caucasus, Persia, Afghanistan, and Turkestan, but omitted to give particulars of its strength and equipment It may well be that Enver's reputation stands higher in the countries mentioned than it does in Western Europe; but it is unlikely that it will suffice to attract any great force for such an adventure as that indicated; and for the present, law-abiding India may sleep quiet o' nights as far as this motley army is concerned. More disturbing is the announcement that Kiazim Karabekir has been coquetting with the Bolshevists at least to the extent of conferring with Halil Pasha. Kiazim, who carries a good deal of weight on the Turco-Persian border, has been something of an enigma of late, but it has been hoped that he would finally throw in his lot with the anti-Nationalists; and if the hope is disappointed it will be a blow for the forces of law and order.

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A distinct improvement in the situation in Mesopotamia may be recorded, though numerous hostile demonstrations on a small scale continue to be reported from widely scattered points. The work of constructing blockhouses goes forward steadily, and in the Baghdad-Hit area and the Bakuba area the sheikhs are surrendering and giving guarantees for their good behaviour in the future. Mr. Strachan, who was taken prisoner at the same time as Captain Lloyd and Mrs. Buchanan, is reported to have reached the military camp at Shahroban on September 13 with all the Indian civil officials who were also made prisoners at the end of August. In a word, it looks as if the authorities were beginning to get control of the country again, thanks, no doubt, to the arrival of fresh troops in considerable numbers. That being so, we may expect the Arabs, and to some extent the Kurds also, to turn to ways of peace for a time. But how long a time remains to be seen.

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In Egypt, where the Committee of the Egyptian Delegation arrived on September 8, it begins to look as if the Extremists are likely to find themselves left in the cold ere long, for opinion regarding the proposed Agreement is reported to be favourable upon the whole, and it is even announced that pro-British feeling is making itself apparent in many directions. Opposition there still is, of course, for in Egypt, as elsewhere, there will always be people with axes of their own to grind; and certain Princes have sought to gain applause by the display of a little cheap patriotism. But the men who count, the lawyers and merchants, several ex-Ministers and prominent Nationalists, and even some of the students, have declared themselves in favour of the proposed Agreement; while an unofficial meeting of the Legislative Assembly has almost unanimously voted for its acceptance. The danger now would seem to be that most Egyptians expect the new order of things to come about far sooner than can be the case even under the most favourable conditions. The first step to be taken, it is understood, must be the abolition of the Capitulations, and as that depends to a certain extent on the will of a very considerable number of natives it is obvious that it may take a long time yet, although the ground, we believe, has been already cleared to a large extent.

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A curious incident, and one calculated to cause gnashing of teeth among the Democrats the world over, is reported, by a Teheran correspondent of *The Times*, to have taken place at Tabriz. The latter city has been for some time past regarded as a stronghold of democracy of the most pronounced variety, and recently when Mukhbar es-Sultaneh, appointed Governor of Tabriz, arrived to take up his stewardship, the Democrats refused to recognise him. They were led in their opposition by a certain Sheikh Mohammed Khiabani, who is described as having been virtual dictator of the town since the early spring; and they and their Sheikh have evidently advanced sufficiently far along the path of Democracy to believe that their will must prevail over that of people who differed from them in opinion. The Governor, however, who appears to bear some resemblance to governors of the old days, when party politics and Young Persians were unknown in the Land of the Rising Sun, regarded democracy less seriously, not to say less reverently. Taking up his quarters in the Cossack Barracks outside the city, he sent the Cossacks themselves into Tabriz to give the Democrats a lesson. This they did, killing fifty of the party of progress, including Sheikh Mohammed Khiabani, wounding 100 more, capturing a number of guns and some ammunition belonging to the Democrats, and, finally taking possession of the town. The fact that the Cossack casualties numbered only two seems to indicate that ancient methods still pay better than the modern in some parts of the Orient, though they have fallen into disfavour in the West.

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A message from Constantinople to *The Times* states that certain members of the American Relief Commission to the Near East have been arrested on a charge of corrupt practices in connection with the relief activities. In a letter from a British officer in Georgia, quoted in the *Morning Post*, reference is made to a "scandal" connected with the American Relief Mission for Armenia. "Cases full of their supposed relief materials," the writer states, "have been opened by us and found to contain agricultural implements and machinery of all kinds intended for sale." If these reports are correct, the United States public will have reason to be glad that there is a chance of a stop at last being put to a state of affairs which was bringing discredit on a whole nation, and a particularly liberal one. Throughout the Near East the activities of the American Red Cross and various American relief funds have been brought into wide disrepute owing to the undisguised manner in which philanthropy was so often subordinated to the commercial spirit. There is no reason to suppose that these magnificent enterprises were not originally intended to be purely philanthropic, and if they were turned to other purposes it is a duty that the promoters owe to the charitable donors of the funds that those guilty of malpractices should be brought to book.

The autumn session of the Indian Legislative Council closed last week, and the Council itself is now a thing of the past, its functions being transferred to the Legislative Assembly to be elected in a few weeks' time under the provisions of the new constitution. This last session has not been wasted, for some useful measures have been passed, and perhaps some of the discussions may prove to have been even more valuable. Apart from the legislation regarding the army on which we commented last week, the outstanding achievements of the session are the Acts which bring into existence an Imperial bank and a Moslem university, two institutions which, in their different ways, are indispensable to the new India. The bank, which is to be formed by amalgamating the three Presidency banks, will provide that strong central direction of which the finances of the country stand so greatly in need, and will at the same time ensure a progressive extension of banking facilities, the scarcity of which has proved a heavy handicap to commerce as well as industry.

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The passing of the Moslem University Act closes a long chapter in the volume of Indian education, but only to open another which is likely to be longer and sure to be of greater interest. The new institution will be Moslem in fact as well as name. Its constitution affords reasonably good guarantees that the standard of secular instruction will not be allowed to deteriorate, but the real difficulties will lie in the field of Islamic studies, which it is bound to foster. The controversy between the spirit and the letter—an old controversy in the days of Saul of Tarsus—is very much alive in Islam to-day; the new institution will scarcely be able to avoid taking a definite side, and on the side it takes will depend very largely the whole future of Moslem India. On that question any attempt at prophecy would be futile, but it is permissible to express the hope that the period of controversy, which we think inevitable, will in the long run prove fruitful, and that the result may be at the least a working arrangement with those other types of culture with which Islam is now brought into contact.

---

It is not altogether easy to follow the cabled messages regarding the Indian National Congress, which has been discussing in special session the project known as non-co-operation, or, more familiarly, the boycott of every form of Government activity. The difficulty is that the tone of the messages is somewhat alarmist, while the facts they disclose are reassuring. The tradition of the Congress is open unanimity based on compromise arranged in the Subjects Committee, which deliberates in secret, but tradition has been violated in this case, for we have been allowed to know that the Subjects Committee, though controlled by the Extremists, was almost equally divided, the majority for non-co-operation being only thirteen in a body of nearly 300 members, while in full Congress the project was approved by a majority of two to one in a vote from which half the delegates abstained. Two-thirds of one half is arithmetically one-third of the whole, and if that be the measure of active support for the policy of boycott, it looks rather as if the Congress has shared in the recent marked advance in political aptitude.

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The apprehensions expressed in the messages conveying these figures arise probably from the consideration that *amour propre*, a failing from which saints suffer even more than sinners, may rouse the promoters of the boycott to fresh efforts, and that, having failed to stampede the educated classes, they may concentrate on exciting the passions of the mob. That consideration cannot be dismissed as altogether fanciful, for the promoters have hitherto shown no glimmering of a sense of responsibility, while they learned by experience last year that tow will blaze up if you set it alight. It is possible therefore that we are nearing the stage indicated in Lord Chelmsford's recent speech, when his Government "will be bound to use all the resources at its disposal" to protect the interests of the community at large, but it is still permissible to hope that the result will justify the policy he then announced, reliance on India's common sense and expectation that the movement would fail by reason of its intrinsic inanity.

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# THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

**The Coal Question.**

The coal crisis is still with us; and like the 1920 weather, the prospect is generally depressing, with an occasional glimpse of sun. The parties were negotiating last week, and the fact that the negotiations were not broken off was accepted as hopeful. Mr. Lloyd George, returned from his holiday in Switzerland, apparently refreshed and invigorated, watched the negotiations from Downing Street, but he has not directly intervened; Sir Robert Horne, for the Government and Mr. Smillie for the miners, being the protagonists.

It became evident early in the week that Mr. Smillie was shifting his ground. In a long letter to *The Times* he denied that nationalisation of the mines was an issue, and by admitting that nationalisation was a political question tacitly allowed that direct action does not apply to political questions. He did not define his position on direct action precisely, but he made it sufficiently clear that tactics had been changed, and the objection shifted, probably in deference to the opinions privately expressed at the Portsmouth Trade Union Congress by other Labour leaders.

Such was the first step. The second, which followed logically, was the division of the programme. The miners claimed an increase of wages for themselves and a reduction of the price of coal to the consumer. It was pointed out that the rise would be a real rise, whereas the reduction would be illusory, since it would merely mean cheaper coal and higher taxation—a doubtful advantage. The Government further took up the attitude that whereas wages was an industrial question, price was a political question; here they were obviously on impregnable ground, and Mr. Smillie—having found salvation on the Direct v. Political Action problem, consented to divide the two demands. The question of the price of coal was to be referred to a committee of inquiry—in other words, to be shelved for some time; that of the miners' wages was to be discussed at once. Since the two demands had been declared only a few days before to be one and indivisible, the position was now obviously more hopeful. The Government had scored the first trick by limiting the issue; moreover, the miners could no longer claim that their policy was partly altruistic. They wanted more money, like the rest of us, and the public could go hang.

So vanished the idealist reformer; but the practical man of business in Mr. Smillie now kept up a stiff upper lip. Production per man has been falling in the mines, although wages are up; and Sir Robert Horne demanded that any increase of wages should be dependant on increase of output. Mr. Smillie "hopes" for an increase of output, but he will not consider it until more wages are agreed upon. To the ordinary onlooker this seems distinctly like getting the goods without paying for them, and most of us would like to increase our incomes by the same easy means; but there the matter hangs at present. It would seem to be difficult to call a strike on this ground alone, but Mr. Smillie may feel that he has been "let down" by his fellow trade unionists, and out-manœuvred by the Government, and determine to "hack his way through" at the last moment by a policy of force.

It is doubtful, however, whether the policy would succeed. The miners were not very popular before; and they are less popular still at the moment. Not many people believed in the sincerity of their demand for a reduction in the price of coal; it can hardly be that more people believe in it now that they have in effect abandoned it.

Meanwhile the trouble in the electrical engineering trades has been settled, the men on strike abandoning their claim that foremen must necessarily be trade unionists. So London will not be plunged into darkness after all.

**The "Daily Herald."**

The relations of the *Daily Herald* to the Bolsheviks have been further elucidated during the week. It will be sufficient to set out the facts of a rather ugly business. When the intercepted wireless messages between Chicherin and Litvinoff showed that the *Herald* had been asking for a subsidy from the Bolshevists, Mr. Lansbury, the head of that paper, denied that a single rouble had been received, and accused the British Government of being "a notorious liar." Shortly afterwards, it announced, to the stupefaction of its readers, that one of its directors, Mr. Francis Meynell, had been negotiating with the Bolshevists for a subsidy *without the knowledge of the other directors*—a sufficiently startling proposition—and apparently with success, the Bolshevists offering £75,000. The *Herald* also announced that the subsidy would leave the paper independent and free to express its own opinions—another startling proposition, more especially in view of the Bolshevist attitude to the freedom of the Press—and asked the advice of its readers as to the acceptance. An outspoken letter from Mr. J. H. Thomas, strongly protesting against the subsidy, followed, and eventually it was refused; Mr. Meynell, the director concerned, resigned.

But the *Herald* had not revealed the full facts, for it was discovered through other sources that the subsidy in the form of jewels, had been brought to London already, sold, and changed into notes—Mr. Meynell stating to the brokers that he was acting for some "American friends"—and the notes had been traced to Mr. Meynell and the son of Mr. Lansbury, the father's assurance that he knew nothing of these transactions notwithstanding. Reticence must be cultivated in the Lansbury family circle to a quite remarkable degree.

It was further shown that a selection of the facts as to the subsidy was only published in the *Herald* after Mr. Lansbury, junior, who possesses the golden gift of silence in the home, had been interviewed by the police; but Mr. Lansbury, senior, still professes his ignorance until informed, and apparently considers this a complete answer to the whole matter, since no further reference has been made to it in the *Herald*.

These revelations have very seriously damaged, if they have not utterly ruined, the reputation of the paper. It cannot now take the money, and it can hardly get on without it, since it is run at a heavy loss; while Mr. Lansbury's continued connection with it will prevent its recovery of prestige. Obviously the best course would be for the Lansbury régime to cease altogether, and for a new Labour man, whom the public can trust, like Mr. Clynes, to be appointed to "clear up the mess and say no more about it," and to give orders that the paper is to be run as a daily Labour journal on recognised Trade Unionist and official Labour policy. Only by a clean cut with the past can it hope for any future.

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The disclosures will probably do some damage to the Labour party itself. But the reaction against them is unjust. It has never been the official organ of the party and its policy has frequently been at variance with theirs; it has been frankly revolutionary, whereas they are constitutionalists. However, a little frank speaking on their part will soon undo the harm done to Parliamentary Labour by the *Herald's* downfall.

**The Last Match.**

The last cricket match of the season—Champion County v. Rest of England—ended in a downpour of rain and a drawn game at the Oval. It was chiefly remarkable for the hitting of the Rest against the not very strong Middlesex bowling, the tremendous score of 603 for five wickets being registered, of which Hobbs made 215. He is said to have hit rather fitfully and carelessly, but it was more or less a holiday match, and one does not expect the same serious caution as in a county contest. Middlesex responded with 318 and, on a difficult wicket, 192 for 4.

The England team are now on their way to Australia, and at this last moment some doubts have been expressed as to their competence. Nobody could impugn their batting ability, but nine great batsmen cannot always win a match. Their bowling, except for E. R. Wilson, is said to be ordinary, and the pessimists declare that on the hard Australian wickets it will be less than ordinary; the fielding is supposed to be their weakest point. This is perhaps the most serious part of the indictment.

**Exit "Black Maria."**

One of the familiar sights of the London streets will soon have vanished. The old-fashioned horse-drawn "Black Maria," a vehicle resembling nothing else on earth, that lolloped along with a gait of its own, is being superseded, and its place is to be taken by a closed motor-conveyance with accommodation for twelve prisoners. I am assured that the new type is carried out with all modern improvements, and that it will now be possible to go to prison in comfort—more pleasantly, in fact, than the ordinary man goes to his daily work by bus or tube, since there is no strap-hanging, and overcrowding is not allowed. The sole disadvantage of this admirable service seems to be that one's destination is arbitrarily chosen, and one is not allowed to alight on the way.

**The Week's Books.**

The most interesting book of the day is Mr. H. Belloc's "Europe and the Faith" (Constable). "The Faith," says the author, "is Europe, and Europe is the Faith"—and the Faith is naturally Roman Catholicism. The Reformation was the greatest disaster that ever came upon Europe, and the worst part of the disaster was that England turned Protestant; if Europe is to be saved England must revert to the old Faith. As England shows no sign of doing so, I take it that the fate of Europe is sealed. Protestantism, in Mr. Belloc's view, merely leads to Atheism; I am not quite sure what is the consequence of the Greek Orthodox schism—probably Bolshevism. It is a brilliantly written and provocative book.

Students of ethics will be interested in "Moral Values," by Professor Everett (Heinemann), which covers the large field of conduct, or, rather, what has been written about conduct, in useful fashion.

Mr. W. H. Mallock has published what appears to be his *ave atque vale* in "Memoirs of Life and Literature" (Chapman and Hall). It is extremely well done; but after reading it one cannot but regret that the brilliant author of "The New Republic" should have devoted himself so largely in his later years to economics and such heavy subjects. It is like putting a racehorse in a brewer's dray. It is a great pity that Mr. Mallock did not rely on wit, of which he has so large a share, rather than argument. After all, anybody can argue.

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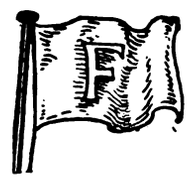

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, September 11.

**Future Legislation.**

General Averescu and the Cabinet are availing themselves of the Parliamentary recess to form several committees to study and prepare the various Bills which will come before Parliament in the autumn. The most important of these measures are:—The Land Bill: To deal with the question of dividing the large estates amongst the peasants; the Franchise Bill—this measure although maintaining universal suffrage, will be introduced to give the minority of the voters, comprising the upper and middle classes, a better control over the majority, who are the peasants, in the matter of electing representatives for Parliament; Fiscal Reform (the question has again cropped up of introducing the progressive system of income tax); the unification of administration of the new provinces. Several other reform measures will also be brought up.

**By-Elections.**

Recent by-elections point to the fact that General Averescu's party is still strong and popular, despite rumours to the contrary. Up to now this party has obtained eight seats out of ten. It is interesting to note that the late Premier, M. Marghiloman, who was in power during the time of the German occupation, has again failed at the recent by-elections.

**The Government and the Opposition.**

In view of the different rumours of collaboration with the Opposition, General Averescu took the opportunity, at one of the Parliamentary Committee meetings, of making a statement of policy. He first explained that the entry of M. Take Jonescu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, into the Cabinet was not on account of the supposed weakness of that body, but rather in fulfilment of an arrangement made between himself and M. Take Jonescu, which dates back to the time when the Government was at Jassy. He invited M. Take Jonescu into the Cabinet to keep his promise to him, and he felt sure that it was in the interests of the country to acquire a statesman of his qualifications.

With regard to the rumours of collaboration with the parties in Opposition, he admitted that it had been his intention to form a coalition when he first assumed office. The impossible attitude taken up by his political opponents during the last session demonstrated the impracticability of this arrangement, as they had not only questioned the right of his Cabinet to govern, but even went so far as to accuse it of dishonest dealings.

Regarding the reconstruction of the Cabinet, it was a matter which concerned his party alone, and would be carried out when necessity demanded.

General Averescu, in conclusion, declared that he had every confidence that they could carry on the Government successfully, relying on their own ability, and without appealing for outside help.

M. Matei Cantacuzino, ex-Minister of Justice, has given to a Press representative his reasons for his recent resignation. He said that when he first joined the Cabinet he imagined that General Averescu would favour closer collaboration with the Democratic party, and that the present Government would also move more to the left. He had since found out, however, that they were moving further towards Conservatism. He was also opposed to the attitude and actions of one or two of his colleagues.

**Disposal of Enemy Shipping.**

A large number of vessels belonging to Germany, Austria, and Bulgaria, which were lying in the Danube at the time when Roumania first entered the war, in 1916, have been seized and remain the property of Roumania. When Roumania recommenced hostilities, in 1918, in conjunction with the French Army, a further number of these craft were taken. They have now been distributed between Roumania and France in the following proportions:—Roumania: 13 tugboats, of a total of 6,290 h.p.; 50 barges and 2 tankboats, of a total tonnage of 29,620, as well as a small number of pontoons. France: 11 tugboats, of a total of 4,070 h.p.; 55 barges and 2 tankboats, of a total tonnage of 32,710, together with a small number of pontoons. This distribution has been done rather hurriedly, and there may possibly be lawsuits against the State by the owners of the vessels, who are not all late enemy subjects.

**Roumanian Socialists in Russia.**

The Roumanian delegates of the Socialist Party, who left a fortnight ago to take part in the Socialist Congress at Moscow, have sent word from Vilna that Germany will not allow them to pass into Russia. They will, therefore, be obliged to turn back from Germany and try another way of entering Russia. If again unsuccessful, they will return to Roumania and renounce the trip.

**The Royal Family.**

The King has gone into Transylvania on an eight days' hunting expedition, and will pass most of his time at the Castle of the former Emperor of Austria, which is situated in the picturesque district of Tg-Muresului. In accordance with the King's request, this Castle will be repaired and transformed into a summer residence of the Royal Family.

Prince Nicolas is expected to leave Bucharest on the 12th, to resume his studies in England. He will meet in Paris Prince Carol and Princess Ileana, who are on their way back to Roumania.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, September 12.

**The Prince Regent.**

The most interesting event of the week has been the romantic dash of the Prince Regent to Paris. It was suddenly announced a little over a week ago that his Royal Highness, travelling incognito, under the title Count of Avala, had left unexpectedly for Paris, accompanied only by his secretary; that he would be there only three days, and that he had gone in reply to a telegram from his sister, Princess Helena. It was very generally supposed that this flying visit had a political object, and was connected with Marshal Joffre's recent visit to Belgrade on his way home from Bucharest, and, therefore, that it was in connection with France's endeavour to form a central European anti-Bolshevist *bloc*. But on Friday the *Politika* came out with the information that in well-informed circles it was understood that the Prince had taken the opportunity, when in Paris, of visiting Princess Marie, second daughter of the King and Queen of Roumania, and that before long the people of Yugoslavia may expect to hear an announcement which will please everybody—for everybody loves a Royal romance, especially when their own sovereign is concerned, and he has shared the sufferings of his troops in the days of disaster.

The news of the serious strikes in Italy caused some anxiety, as it was feared that the stoppage of railway communications would hold up the Prince, but it has been announced that the Italian authorities made use of the military to combine the two Simplon-Orient expresses which were detained, and to pass them on with the Prince to the frontier. He arrived safely at Zagreb, and came on yesterday to Belgrade by a special train, arriving at three in the afternoon, when he at once motored down to the racecourse in time for the first meeting held here for six years.

This was quite a festive occasion, and was admirably organised by the Danube Racing Club. The course is a very pretty one, the weather was fine, there were plenty of good entries, some very good horses, and very sporting events. There were half a dozen races, and each one gave a really good finish. The most popular of all was the last, the Officers' Hurdle Race of 2,400 metres, with

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six fences. There were ten entries, all ridden by officers, often by owners. They started off at a tremendous pace, and a really good race was won by Captain Milosh Vidakovich on his own Bashlik, a six-year-old thoroughbred bay.

**Political.**

Politically the week has been a quiet one. Many Ministers are away on inspection in Bosnia and Montenegro, while the Croatian Ministers are in their own province, probably on account of the disturbances on that side of the river.

Dr. Stanojlo Vukchevitch has been elected Speaker. In his declaration he painted a sombre picture of foreign affairs, referring to the numerous enemies which surround the country, and especially to the threatening situation in the Adriatic. In his peroration he reminded the House how their ancestors had ejected the Turks a century ago, their fathers had recovered Nish, and the present generation, after unheard of sacrifices, had almost completed the work of liberation and union. But just as the separation of Alsace from France in 1870 had left a festering sore, so the placing of so much purely Yugoslav population under alien flags had left the seeds of future wars, and it will be the lot of the next generation to complete the good work.

The only other political event of any significance is the resignation of M. Pashitch from the Skupshtina. No reason has been given for his retirement, neither is it known whether it means a permanent withdrawal from the political arena. Some attribute it to his differences with M. Stoyan Protitch and his objection to that politician's draft Constitution, while others think that M. Pashitch intends to devote himself now to his numerous mining interests.

**The Bulgarian Representative Arrives.**

Diplomatic relations have been resumed with Bulgaria, whose Minister, M. Teodoroff, has arrived in Belgrade and presented his credentials. M. Teodoroff is said to be an intimate associate of M. Stambolisky, and to have been so hostile to the policy of Bulgaria during the war that he took advantage of a chance visit to Switzerland on the outbreak of hostilities to cross into France and join the Foreign Legion, in which he fought as a volunteer against Germany. If this is so, he should be a successful Bulgarian envoy to Serbia, and it is to be hoped that he will pave the way to a marked improvement in relations between the two countries.

**Wireless Communications.**

The old French military wireless station at Banitsa, on the outskirts of Belgrade, is insufficient for the needs of the country, and inefficient. It is only a 20-hectowatt plant, and can reach the Eiffel Tower only under favourable atmospheric conditions. It is now proposed to erect a 100-hectowatt station and duplicate to ensure the best possible connection with Western Europe, and so with America. The new station will be on the Topchider Hill. Meanwhile the military authorities have handed over the old station to the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, and it will shortly be available for public use.

**Disturbances in Croatia.**

Serious rioting has occurred during the week in Croatia, where the authorities have been registering and branding cattle for military purposes. The simple peasants have not understood this, and lent a willing ear to the whisperings of anti-Slav agents, who have suggested that the Government is going to take their animals away from them. The agitation has been successful, and rioting has become very serious in some places, so that the gendarmerie have had to apply for the assistance of the troops. There has been a certain amount of bloodshed, and in one place near Sisak, the rioters succeeded in destroying ten or fifteen yards of the railway track, on the main line, so that for a time communication between Zagreb and the capital was interrupted. It is stated that it has been proved that Hungarian chauvinists knew all about this and took an active part in propagating the trouble, in conjunction with the renegade Croats of the thoroughly Hapsburgised Frankost party, three in number, who seem at present to be at Fiume, to the great content of d'Annunzio.

**Brevities.**

General Wrangel has asked the Yugoslav Government whether the country can receive another 10,000 Russian refugees, who are at present in great distress on the island of Lemnos.

There is a strike of typographers in Zagreb, so newspapers are not appearing.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, September 4.

**The Premier's Return.**

Quite unexpectedly, on Monday morning (August 30) the public were informed by the newspapers that M. Venizelos would arrive in Athens at six o'clock in the evening. The Premier was not expected back until the middle of the week, and the authorities had to make hasty preparations for his reception.

Immediately on the arrival of the Averoff at New Phaleron the Council of Ministers, the Bishop of Athens, the chief of the British Naval Mission in Greece, Admiral Kelly, and other officials, went aboard the cruiser to welcome the returning Prime Minister. M. Venizelos was accompanied by his two sons, who had journeyed to Paris a fortnight ago to see their father after the attempt on his life. The Municipal Council of Athens, together with thousands of people, had assembled outside the Premier's residence in University Avenue, and there was a veritable explosion of "Zito!" when the Presidential cortège arrived. Hats were thrown into the air, and cries of "Long live the Liberator of Hellenism!" rang out from one end to the other of the avenue. A few minutes later M. Venizelos appeared on the balcony of his house, but the crowd, who were clamouring for a speech, were doomed to disappointment. The Premier was too tired to speak, and after acknowledging the greeting by waves of the hand re-entered the house.

At seven o'clock King Alexander, accompanied by his aide-de-camp (General Contaratos), visited M. Venizelos and congratulated him on his miraculous escape in Paris. His Majesty remained with the Premier for about a quarter of an hour.

**A Council of Ministers.**

A Council of Ministers was held at 5 p.m. on August 31, under the presidency of M. Venizelos. The Premier having supplied all necessary information with regard to the actual position of national affairs, the Council discussed the question of the convocation of the Parliament, and it was decided that this should resume its sittings next Tuesday.

The life of the Chamber will be of a very short duration, and only Bills of extreme urgency will be passed. Among these is the provision for participation in the

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elections of soldiers serving at the front. The General Elections are to be held early in November, but a definite date has yet to be fixed. One would say almost with certainty that Thrace will participate, but nothing definite has been decided with regard to the Dodecanese. The Council also decided that the ratification of the Peace Treaty with Turkey will not take place until after the elections and the convocation of the new Parliament.

Martial law will be withdrawn within the next fortnight, and the Press Censorship will probably be abolished at the same time.

**Italy and Castellorizo.**

The inhabitants of the Island of Castellorizo at a meeting held on August 20 protested against the injustice committted by the Powers in deciding to place a purely Greek population under Italian domination. The following note was telegraphed by the demonstrators to the Greek Government, the legations of the Allied Powers in Athens, and to the League of Nations:

1. The inhabitants of Castellorizo proclaim once again the complete and definite union of the island with Mother Greece in accordance with the wishes of the entire population.

2. The inhabitants view with horror and disgust the Italian occupation, which is against the principle of nationalities laid down as a basis by the Peace Conference.

This vote is signed by all the male inhabitants of age on the Island, numbering 560.

On the day following the meeting an Italian auxiliary warship anchored in the harbour of Castellorizo. The inhabitants, thinking that the Italian occupation was about to commence, closed their shops as a sign of protest and went to their homes, after hoisting the Greek and French flags in the main square of the town.

**General News.**

A telegram from Antwerp states that the Greek water polo team obtained fifth place in the final amongst fourteen other competing nations. This has been the first time that a Greek water polo team has taken part in an international competition.

The Government has decided to sell by auction a number of old ships of the Greek Navy. These include three cruisers, two destroyers, and two submarines. The auction will take place on September 30 (O.S.).

A Greek chamber of commerce numbering over 350 members has been created in Galatz. A Greek commercial club and a commercial college will also be established in that town.

A Bill will be introduced in the Chamber next week dealing with indemnities to be paid to the persons whose property was damaged or lost during the scenes in Athens on August 13.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, September 9.

**The Agrarians in Council.**

The Supreme Council of the Agrarian League has been in session since September 1, all the Cabinet Ministers being present, with some hundred delegates from the provinces. M. Stambolisky, the Prime Minister, made a very full statement regarding the policy of the Government both at home and abroad, laying great stress on the determination of his Cabinet to maintain strict neutrality in any conflicts in which Bulgaria's neighbours may be involved. The rumours concerning mobilisation which have been assiduously spread by the opponents of the present Government he categorically denied, declaring that instead of any further mobilisation the Government has decided to dismiss the infantry of the 43rd class of recruits on the 15th instant. This declaration was received with applause from all present, and the gathering approved the pacific policy of the Government.

**A Public Works' Scheme.**

The Ministry of Public Works is elaborating a project for the supply to all the towns and villages in the country of electric light and electric power for industrial purposes. The project will very shortly be submitted to the Chamber for consideration and approval.

Last Sunday the Prime Minister, accompanied by M. Janisson, the correspondent of the *Temps*, made a tour in Northern Bulgaria, visiting the towns of Pleven, Lom, Viddin, and Kula, where, to very large audiences, he described the present state of Bulgaria and the pacific policy of the Government, in which lies, he said, the only hope of the country's salvation in present circumstances. He was everywhere received most cordially and enthusiastically, and was cheered by the people without distinction of party. At the end of this week M. Stambolisky intends to make a similar tour in Southern Bulgaria.

**The Commission of Reparations.**

A part of the Inter-Allied Commission for the control of the execution of the Peace Treaty has already arrived. The Bulgarian Government has appointed as the country's representatives to appear before the Commission: Dr. Raiko Daskaloff, Minister of Commerce, Labour and Industry, High Commissioner; General Michael Savoff, who was Generalissimo of the Bulgarian Army in the war with Turkey, 1912-13, First Delegate; and M. Nicholas Stoyanoff, Director of the Public Debt at the Ministry of Finance, Second Delegate. As soon as the financial delegates arrive the Commission will begin its work.

**New British Minister.**

The British Government has notified the Bulgarian Government that it has appointed Sir Arthur Robert Peel as Minister Plenipotentiary for Great Britain in Bulgaria. The new Minister is expected to arrive here about the middle of next month, when the present High Commissioner, Sir Herbert Dering, will be able to go on to Bucharest, to take up his new duties there.

## TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, August 23.

**Peace.**

The Peace Treaty has been signed, and consular and diplomatic relations are to be resumed between the Allies and Turkey, but in reality the situation is precisely the same as it was before. The Nationalists continue to rule the roost in Anatolia, except in the occupied territories—that is to say, in the territories occupied by French, Greek, and British troops—and the Council of Ministers is still discussing ways and means of crushing the rebels or bringing them to reason. Every day some new commission is formed for the purpose of studying the Anatolian problem. The Government is said to be raising two divisions for the purpose of sending a military expedition to Anatolia, but it is becoming more and more evident every day that, unless the British or the French take the matter in hand, either the expedition will never get beyond the paper

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stage or it will end in a farce like the famous Anzavur expedition. Not only is the Government hampered for want of money and material, but the men are not forthcoming. The Peace Treaty is universally condemned by all Turks, and it was signed only to avoid worse conditions. It is therefore unlikely that there will be many volunteers to enforce the conditions. That is how the matter stands, and the Government seems to be no more able to deal with the situation now than three or four months ago.

There is some talk of the Sultan himself proceeding to Anatolia at the head of an expeditionary force, but it is exceedingly doubtful whether even this desperate course would make any important difference, for the Sultan is regarded as a prisoner by the Anatolians, and therefore unable to act freely. At the same time a small section of Turkish opinion is alive to the dangers of the situation, for there was considerable comment in the anti-Nationalist Press with regard to a remark made by M. Venizelos in a recent speech to the effect that the additional territories occupied by the Greek troops would be held as a guarantee for the integral execution of the Treaty, and that Greece might have to open a new account with Turkey.

**Italy and Turkey.**

The announcement of the intention of the Consulta to nominate Marquis Garroni as Ambassador and Envoy to the Sublime Porte created something of a sensation. It would now appear that the Italian Government may think that the action was somewhat too hasty; for it is reported that Marquis Garroni will be accredited only as Minister. On the whole, no one who is acquainted with the policy pursued by the Consulta for the last eighteen months would be surprised that Italy should be the first of the Allied and Associated Powers to send a representative to the Sublime Porte.

The Marquis Garroni was Ambassador in Constantinople until the entry of Italy into the war, and such was his intimacy with the Austrian Ambassador, the Marquis di Pallavicini, that he was regarded as a fervent partisan of the Central Powers.

**Anatolia.**

With the exception of the signal defeat sustained by the National Forces at the hands of the French at Aintab, there has been no military activity in Anatolia recently, save for skirmishes between odds and ends of Nationalist bands and Greek outposts. There appear, however, to have been some not unimportant political developments. In the first place, it is stated in Nationalist circles that a Nationalist delegation in Moscow has concluded an alliance with the Soviet Government, and that soviet principles are to be introduced into the administration of Anatolia. This is somewhat hard to believe at first; but in their anxiety to obtain material assistance the Nationalists would probably promise anything and trust to Allah to get them out of the mess later on.

The progress of Bolshevist propaganda in Anatolia has been remarked upon in former letters, and there can be no doubt that there is to-day a strong party in favour of some brand of Islamic Bolshevism. Every traveller returning from Anatolia gives the same account of the state of affairs, and if only the Russians could send an army to Asia Minor there would certainly be some surprising developments. In view of the remarkable recovery of the Poles, however, and of the progress of General Wrangel's army, this is not probable for some time—if at all. At the same time it would be a mistake to suppose that the Bolshevists will be brought to abandon their Eastern campaign by defeats on the Western front.

One curious piece of information has recently leaked out with regard to the Bolshevist campaign in Anatolia. According to this report, Halidé Edib Hanem, the famous Turkish feminist and exponent of pan-Turianism, has been vigorously opposing Bolshevism in Anatolia, and the majority of the old pan-Turanian party are supporting her. Apparently the story of the massacres committed by the Bolshevists in the Elizabetpol Province of Azerbaijan has made some impression in Anatolia, after all.

# CYPRUS.

(Undated.)

**The Deputation.**

Communications from London bring little fresh information. The reply of the Under-Secretary of State to a question by Mr. Thorne in the House of Commons that no political change in the administration of the island is contemplated, and the appointment of a High Commissioner, do not strengthen any hope of abandonment in a near future. The Press trusts that in coming decisions regarding interests still unsettled "those of Cyprus will not be forgotten." The local Greek papers publish accounts of an interview of three of the London delegates with members of the Labour Party at the House of Commons. Many questions were put by the latter regarding island affairs, and full information was given. Mr. Clynes, in reply, stated that the matter of the Cypriot claims had not been under the consideration of his party, but that the deputation might rely on their sympathy, since the claims, as presented, seemed in accordance with the principles of the Labour Party. The latest rumour now under comment is to the effect that when Greece is in full possession of the Dodecanese Britain will exchange Cyprus for one or two of the islands nearest to the Dardanelles.

**War Against Locusts: A Cypriot Discovery.**

It may be remembered that mention was made last year of a discovery by Mr. Z. G. Solomides, entomologist, of the Agricultural Department, of a solution which, used as a spray, destroyed swarms of locusts, while being perfectly innocuous to other animal life. Mr. Solomides, having taken three months' leave, proceeded this summer to France in order to carry out further studies in connection with his discovery. Going to Montpellier, he conducted trials before French experts. Locusts which were turned into a field and sprayed were rapidly destroyed, and a flock of sheep, driven into graze immediately after, suffered no ill effects. The demonstration was highly commended and pronounced a complete success. Mr. Solomides was heartily congratulated, and large sums were, it is said, offered for the discovery by capitalists, but were not accepted. It is hoped that a drastic remedy has thus been found for a pest which is a scourge in so many countries, including Cyprus, and that the discoverer will be adequately rewarded.

**An Education Law.**

A new law has taken shape as the outcome of much discussion by legislators, School Boards, and the Press. Although the poverty of the island and other causes have been a drag on the wheel, there has been good progress under British rule, and the present measure, though far from meeting all requirements, marks a decided further advance and will satisfy some pressing claims. The status of village schoolmasters, with slender salaries—often partly paid in corn, wine, and oil—will be greatly improved, although no provision is yet made for pensions. Schoolmasters will be appointed by the High Commissioners on the advice of the Central Education Board. The school year will begin on October 1. As regards the financial provisions, there will be a small addition to the property tax (*Verghi Kimat*), and the taxes on sheep, goats, and pigs will be doubled. The bill is to be introduced this summer.

**General News.**

Commander H. C. Luke, Commissioner of Famagusta, who has been on special duty in the Caucasus and elsewhere, has been for a short visit to the island, has seen the High Commissioner at Troodos, and has returned to Constantinople. He will, it is said, shortly publish a book on "Cyprus Under Turkish Rule."

Game is plentiful, though hares have decreased largely in numbers, owing to relaxed regulations under the Game Laws, affecting the close season—due to complaints as to excessive damage done to produce by hares. For sportsmen the favours granted have been unwelcome. The number of gun licences now taken out is remarkable. They are issued in thousands, as against hundreds not many years ago.

About 200 officers and men are returning to South Russia. Many of the Russian and also Armenian orphans are to be sent to Alexandria, where they will be placed in an institution under Red Cross auspices and taught various trades.

Athens papers still call for Cypriot volunteers. The Fraternity of the Kykkou Monastery lately decided to award £200 to the first officer or soldier who should enter Adrianople and plant the Greek flag within the city walls.

Many summer visitors have continued to arrive. As many as 350 came by one steamer recently.

Mr. Grimshaw, president of the District Courts of Limasol and Papho, is going on four months' leave to Englan

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

## THE RULERSHIP OF MESOPOTAMIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I beg to support the suggestion in the article of September 9 that the Shereef Ali Haidar has exceptional qualifications for an Emirate in Mesopotamia.

His lineage is longer and clearer than that of the present descendants of our King Alfred. His heritage contains a sacred connection with the Prophet of Arabia and with Ali, which mean more to Moslems than apostolic succession to Western Churchmen. His family are the heirs of twenty Shereefs, while his more fortunate cousins in the Hejaz have only three. Such traditions, growing steadily through a thousand years, cannot be lightly ignored; and, rightly used, they can introduce stability and contentment for the present and the future.

But the Shereef Haidar has qualities which should appeal to the West. He and his sons are well informed on European history and philosophy. I have discussed with them the philosophy of Hegel, the principles of science and education, the theories of Bolshevism and the value of religion, and their sane views would have been welcomed in any British University. Having been trained with a careful English education in addition to their own high culture, this family would be well fitted to mediate between East and West, for the good of both.

From the study of Semitic history and from an accidental acquaintanceship with the Shereef Ali Haidar and his family, I feel constrained to say thus much in support of the plea in your article on "The Rulership of Mesopotamia."—I am, etc.,

D. M. KAY
(Professor of Semitic Languages).

St. Andrews, Sept. 14, 1920.

## THE DEATH OF M. JEAN DRAGOUMIS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of September 2 your Athens correspondent, writing of my brother's murder, states that "the exact manner in which he met his death has not yet been ascertained." Practically all the circumstances, however, of the death are now known, and I should be glad if you could publish the following particulars:—

Early in the afternoon of July 31 Dragoumis was returning from Kifissia to Athens in a motor-car. At Ambélohipi, a suburb of Athens, near the quarters of the Special Corps of Guards (created two years ago), his motor-car was stopped by a squad. On giving his name he was taken out and illtreated, as well as his chauffeur, and conducted to the quarters. Ghyparis, who, from the state of well-digger was made commander of this corps, ordered a squad to take him to the commander of the Athens garrison in the town. On receiving these orders, the squad walked away with their prisoner, and what followed next is detailed in the following written report of a Russian officer, which was officially transmitted to the Greek Foreign Office. He states:—"On July 31, the day on which the attempt on M. Venizelos' life became known in Athens, I witnessed by chance the following:—

"About 4 p.m. I was awaiting the arrival of the tram with three or four other persons at the beginning of the Avenue Kifissia and the Jean Pappadiamandopoulos Street, near Pillar No. 907. My attention was drawn to a group of soldiers who were escorting a well-built civilian, having a very dignified appearance. To his right and left two soldiers were walking along, and another ten were closely following him, all armed with rifles. This squad, when approaching Pillar No. 905, turned to the left, stopped just near the pavement, leaving the prisoner on the pavement itself, at a distance of about four steps. The soldiers halted and fired about ten shots. No word of command was heard; the prisoner fell, shot dead, without uttering a word or a cry. A motor-car came near, the soldiers jumped in and went away.

"Later on I passed by this very spot again. There was no trace whatever of the drama which had taken place."

Some Greek workmen who also witnessed this tragedy corroborate the above facts and give more ample details, such as:—That a sergeant-major arrived in haste to pass the order to the squad to halt and execute there; that the escort, after shooting, and before entering the car, pierced J. Dragoumis' body with their bayonets and struck him with the butt end of their rifles: that J. Dragoumis, when ordered to stand for execution, said to the escort in a calm and steady voice: "You will repent this deed later on."

To his family, who, staying in Kifissia, were not aware of his death, the commander of the Athens garrison sent in the night a soldier to inform them of the burial. "If you wish," said he, "to be present at his burial you must be at the Athens cemetery to-morrow morning before 7 o'clock, otherwise after that hour we will bury him without waiting for you." This is the way his old parents and his sisters learnt the news. About midnight J. Dragoumis' sisters went by motor-car, escorted by officers and men of the Special Corps, to the Athens cemetery, where, at the entrance, a squad of the same corps was posted. These ladies were conducted to the keeper's lodge on the left


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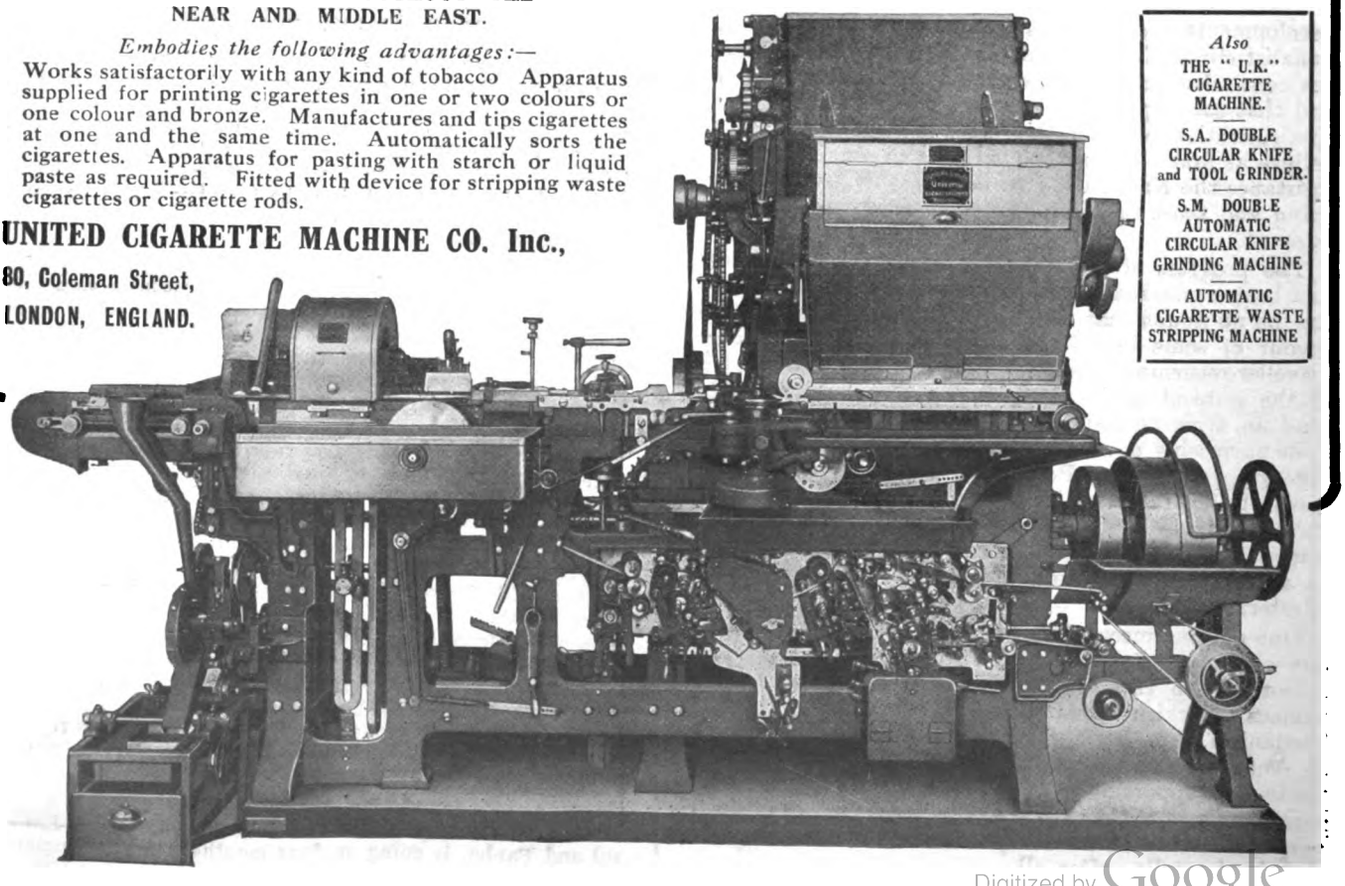

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of the entrance; somebody lighted a candle, and they saw placed transversely on the floor a bier of four common planks covered by a dirty, torn, and blood-stained sheet; the floor and the stone entrance steps were also covered with blood. J. Dragoumis' sisters removed the sheet and his body appeared, quite naked, with gaping wounds from bayonets and bullets; the face was untouched and kept a lofty expression. The ladies went back to Kifissia in order to accompany their parents to the burial, which was over at 7 o'clock in the morning, the escort being all the time present.

The post-mortem examination made a few days later ascertained that J. Dragoumis' body was pierced by three or four bullets, had seven bayonet wounds, and the left thigh-bone fractured by a rifle butt-end.

I am, etc., P. DRAGOUMIS.

## THE OCCUPATION OF THRACE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I was much surprised at the tone of the letter by "A British Reader of THE NEAR EAST," published on page 264 of your issue of August 19, and I would like to refute the statements contained in the third paragraph of the letter in question.

"British Reader" states that: "The Greeks maintained a hostile attitude towards the Entente for three years of the war, and that they never changed that attitude until French and British troops, after considerable loss of life, succeeded in deposing their King." Had "British Reader" the slightest knowledge of what he is writing about, he would have known that far from this being the case, it was the Entente which, from motives of mistaken diplomacy, kept ex-King Constantine on his throne by every means in its power.

1. The Entente refused to recognise Venizelos' Government until the very last moment.

2. It established a "neutral zone" on the frontier of Thessaly, guarded by French troops to prevent the movement spreading to the rest of Greece.

3. It allowed the Italians to occupy Venizelist Epirus.

4. It even gave guarantees to ex-King Constantine promising to defend him from the spread of the Venizelist movement; and when the island of Cythera threw in its lot with the latter, the Entente forced it to return to the Royalist side.

It speaks well for the Philententism of the Greek people that Venizelos was able to triumph eventually, in spite of such difficulties and discouragements.

As for the fable that "a plot existed for the passage of the whole Greek army of the Struma to the side of the enemy, which was only frustrated by General Franchet d'Espéry's rapid advance," I will simply state that the "rapid advance" in question would never have taken place had it not been for the co-operation of the Greek army on the *Struma*, Doiran and Vardar fronts; also that the *whole plan* depended on the operations of the Greek army on the Struma, which diverted and held up a great portion of the enemy forces. If it be remembered, in addition, that the commander of the Greek Struma army was General Paraskevopoulos, one of Venizelos' staunchest supporters, and who, in recognition of his services to the Allied cause, was made a K.C.B., besides receiving the highest orders of every other Allied country. I think that the untrustworthiness of "British Reader's" statement is sufficiently demonstrated.

In concluding, I would condole with "British Reader" on his extreme gullibility, or congratulate him on the fertility of his imagination (to use no harsher term). I wish to deplore at the same time the strange mentality of certain persons who are ever ready to insult their Allies, even those who are still fighting a common enemy (I presume that "British Reader" has heard of the operations of British troops at Ismid in Asia Minor), so as to belaud the enemy in question, provided naturally that the latter causes them no immediate anxiety or discomfort.

I am, etc.,

A FORMER VOLUNTEER IN VENIZELOS' ARMY.

The Secretary of State for India announces that revised rates of pay have been approved for Indian departmental officers and warrant and non-commissioned officers of the India Unattached List during furlough in or out of India and deputation out of India. The general effect of the revision, which has effect from July 1, 1919, is to give, during furlough, the rates admissible to corresponding classes of the British Service under the Royal Warrants of September 13, 1919; and, during deputation, the full pay rates laid down in these warrants, and, in addition, for one year, an Indian allowance ranging from £20 to £60 per annum. Details will be published shortly in an Army instruction (India).

## PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

### The Development of Palestine.

The *Zionist Review* for September contains an interesting and thoughful article by P. Horrowitz on the "Industrial Development of Palestine." The author tackles his subject squarely:—

Is it possible to establish in Palestine industries whose products can compete with those of the great manufacturing centres? For, to produce for home consumption alone would mean the limitation, if not the strangulation, of the industry at its birth. The maxim of modern day manufacture is large scale production, and therefore the ability to compete in foreign markets is a prime consideration.

Industries which must of necessity establish themselves in Palestine, such as building, road construction, tailoring, boot-making, etc., are but touched on in passing. The writer declares:—

If we really desire to see Palestine capable of supporting large numbers of Jewish industrial workers, we must turn our attention to those large-scale industries that serve to enrich other countries, and for these the new Jewish Homeland would possess certain advantages and certain serious defects. On the one hand, it will have incalculable assets in the capacity, efficiency, inventiveness, and adaptiveness of the Jewish worker; in the large capital which would be rendered available by the Jewish capitalist both within and without the country; in the favourable geographical position of Palestine as the bridge uniting three continents; in some of the natural resources of the country, such as water power and its slight mineral wealth, for example: building stone, phosphates, salt, sulphur and mineral oil. On the other hand, it will have to overcome serious difficulties in the lack of coal and iron, which form the basis of industry in most countries; in its distance at the end of the Mediterranean from the chief producing centres of Europe; in its lack of an efficient transport system to co-ordinate the various industries that may be established. Of these the lack of coal and iron immediately rules out the establishment of any great iron or steel industry, or any manufacture where these products form the principal items in the cost of the manufacture, but it does not necessarily rule out the manufacture of such articles where the cost of the labour bears a relatively high ratio to the cost of the raw materials used. In other words, large engineering works for the production of high-grade articles, such as small machinery, scientific instruments, electrical and motor accessories, watch and clockmaking on a large scale, etc., are not only possible, but would prove valuable assets in giving employment to large bodies of Jewish workers who have shown great skill in these manufactures in America and Europe, and to even larger bodies of Jews who have been debarred by circumstances from employing their natural talents in these directions.

The same reasoning applies to a certain extent to the chemical industries. Usually it is true that for these large quantities of coal are required, but, apart from the fact that certain small deposits of coal are to be found in the neighbourhood (sufficient probably for these purposes), the principal factor in the success of chemical industries lies rather in scientific knowledge and organising ability than in suitable location. When one comes to appreciate the large number of Jews who have been scientifically trained, and the exceptional results they have obtained, one cannot help looking forward with confidence to the early application of Jewish science and Jewish chemical knowledge to the task of creating in Palestine a continuously increasing chemical industry. Here we are assisted by one of the great natural resources of Palestine—the Dead Sea, with its high concentration of salts. Around that area, providing transport facilities to the coast are afforded, it would prove both possible and highly profitable to establish large-scale chemical industries for the manufacture of caustic soda, soda ash, glue, soap, tanning material, potash and potassium salts, artificial manures, bromine, sulphuric, nitric, and hydrochloric acids, and possibly even the jewel of the German chemical industry—viz., synthetic dyestuffs. One caveat must here be entered—such industries to pay must be established on a large scale and will require large capital. On the other hand, the prospects are so alluring that it can hardly be doubted that the necessary capital will be gradually forthcoming when the possibilities are realised, and, once established, they would prove of immense value for the revenue and prosperity of the country.

Other industries are touched on, and the author remarks that the whole question of industrial development depends on the co-operation of capital, labour, and experience.

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### "The Way to Trieste."

Under the above title the *Morning Post* publishes (September 16) an article by its Belgrade correspondent on the grim struggle between Slav and Teuton. It has, the writer thinks, more to do with us and with the future of Europe than we realise:—

For sooner or later—there is not a doubt of it in the minds of people here—in five years or in ten, Austria will unite with Germany. That, people say, is beyond all question: whether the Powers like it or not, union will come, with the inevitability of the processes of nature against which man struggles in vain. Now the Karawanken heights are the last and most formidable obstacle opposing Germanism on its march to the Adriatic; between these and Trieste lie only the level plains about Ljubljana and the rolling uplands of South-West Carniola—from time immemorial the route of conquering barbarism. Only this little plebiscite area, with its stubborn mountain barrier and its no less stubborn Slav population, stands in the way. If that is lost, if the plebiscite goes against Jugo-Slavia, then, as soon as Germany and Austria become one State, the Pan-German *Drang nach Triest* will be resumed in all its intensity.

The article describes how the struggle went in the past—with all the advantages on the side of the German, and how the Slav element gradually dwindled as the others expanded. But the war has changed things, and

To-day the Slovenes have a last chance. And the valley is full of hurryings and scurryings, of people holding meetings, of choirs singing patriotic songs, and athletes playing patriotic football matches—for they play football here in midsummer. Propaganda is in full swing on both sides. The Jugo-Slavs rely mostly on cultural means—on concerts of national music, on appeals to national sentiment—the Germans, I am told, on gold and secret threats; but, there, I am pro-Serb, and believe the worst of the other party. Jugo-Slav hopes are high, but their expectations of sweeping the whole area were somewhat damped a month or so ago by the abolition of the demarcation line that had previously prevented all communication between the two zones. Until that line was abolished Tzelovetz, which had remained provisionally in Austrian hands, sat and starved, while the rest of the plebiscite district, with the overflowing granaries of Jugo-Slavia to draw upon, fed on the fat of the land. It was an object lesson more potent than any propaganda. Now, however, since the arrival of the Allied Missions, free intercourse has very properly been restored. Zone B has filled its larders from the accumulated stocks of Zone A, and Tzelovetz is no longer, for the moment, the scene of a tragic struggle between the claims of patriotism and those of the stomach.

The writer will not risk a prophecy, but he concludes with the statement that, according to the lowest estimate he has heard, "65 per cent. of the voters are Slovene at heart."

### Great Britain and Egypt.

Copies of the *Egyptian Gazette* received by the latest mail contain numerous comments on the Anglo-Egyptian negotiations translated from the native Press. One of these, from the *Ahaly*, contains the following passage:—

Before discussing the agreement we attract attention to a delicate point, which is this: The Egyptian Delegation now consists of two parties—those who refuse to sign the project on the understanding that it falls short of the nation's requirements and contradicts the principles for which the Delegation has been set up to serve and verify, Saad Pasha Zaghloul being at the head of that division; and those who are content with the privileges allowed by the generosity of Lord Milner and see that they are the best terms that can be secured by Egypt under the present circumstances. The latter party, failing to persuade the President to accept their opinion, have succeeded in convincing him to accept the principle of the consultation of the nation, though they know that the means of doing so is not quite available. We cannot help expressing our regret that His Excellency has not followed a constitutional method in consulting his colleagues on a question like this, which requires decisive opinion on his part.

Most of the extracts given by no means show any enthusiasm for the (reported) terms of the agreement. The following from the *Nizam* is rather more moderate in tone than most. It is (says the *Egyptian Gazette*) from an article commenting upon Rushdy Pasha's remark published by the *Akhbar* that "we were not in London in a position to dictate our will as the Allies did at Spa with Germany":—

This remark gives an idea of a call to the people to observe the political conditions when discussing the project, and to regard the position of Egypt before England when we sit to exchange thoughts on the affair and judge it. It is not our intention at present to enlarge this point and discuss it, for we prefer to await the arrival of the Delegates; but we find it fitting to tranquillise the mind of Rushdy Pasha in regard to the point he fears. The Egyptians are aware that they do not stand before England in a position of hostility or antagonism, but they stand in the position of one possessed of a right who believes that he finds supporters in England itself. . . . If the Egyptians cannot dictate their will to the British Government, they can understand that the British Government has a power derived from the principles of right and justice and the straightforwardness of the British public opinion, which will persuade it to conciliate Egyptians and give them satisfaction, and which can dictate to it what Rushdy Pasha thinks to be beyond the bounds of our ability. . . .

## MUSICAL NOTES.

The only musical event in London at the present time is the series of Promenade concerts at the Queen's Hall, which began on August 14 and end on October 23. Since these concerts may be taken as really representative of the English people's desires, it may be instructive to state from the programme of the series which composers are the most popular. First of all comes Wagner, to whom one evening a week is wholly devoted. Then Beethoven, Bach, and Mozart; then the Russian school, of whom Tchaikowsky is down to be played most; and, finally, individual composers like Brahms, Saint-Saëns, Strauss, Berlioz, Dvorak, and Elgar. It is the usual sort of list, good on the whole, but still deadly in its adherence to Tchaikowsky and Saint-Saëns, whom nobody now would dream of putting into even the second class of composers. But it is rather in the new music which the Promenades introduce that their interest lies; and this is where Near Eastern composers, who ought to have had a chance here, seem to have lost it.

In the whole list there is but one Near Eastern composer—Enesco, whose two Roumanian rhapsodies in A and in D are to be given. Surely this is not as good as it might have been. How is it that the Slavs of the Balkans are unrepresented, when their blood-brothers, the Russians, Poles, and Czechs, are already popular, and are becoming more so with the English? And what also of the Greeks and Roumanians? Little blame can be attached to Sir Henry Wood, who conducts these Promenade concerts, and who presumably draws up the programmes; for the evidence goes to show that he is quite ready to play what the public want, and they are more than catholic, they are omnivorous (provided enough sugar be put with their food!). It may be that the music publishers at Belgrade, Zagreb, Athens, Bucharest, Sofia, and so on are insufficiently enterprising, or that they do not send enough of their publications to England; but, whatever the explanation, the facts are lamentable. I am certain that there would be a market in this country for publications of Balkan music; for, real music-lovers apart, there are hundreds of musicians who are ready to grasp at any novelty—people who are already tiring of the craze for Russian, French, Spanish, and Italian music.

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The New Queen's Hall orchestra is playing, in the old classics at least, quite well this year; it is better than it was last year, the principal violin now being Mr. Charles Woodhouse, but it is not yet up to pre-war standard. Sir Henry Wood has his own way of interpreting the classics, and although he has one or two little pranks and devices with which he never dispenses, it is, on the whole, a most agreeable and satisfying way. In newer music he is not so good as other conductors we have, but he is essentially a popular conductor, and it is doubtful whether anyone else could have done for the English public what he has done.

There are still features in the Promenades which make it impossible for one with any musical sense to remain until the end of the concert: I mean chiefly, of course, the presence of concert artists and the things which they are bidden to do. Some vapid air from some bygone opera is often inserted into the first half of the programme; and in the second half inevitably comes that sign of bondage to commercial interests, the singing of new ballad songs. Many sincere yet vain tears have been shed by the sensitive over the inclusion of these ballads, but it really seems that there are some stones upon which constant dropping has no effect. The most puzzling thing of all is how real artists can bring themselves to sing this ridiculous stuff; the other evening, for instance, I heard Mr. Cecil Fanning, the excellent American baritone, who proved to us last season his beautiful artistry, wade through some most terrible slush, and never missing withal a single trick of the genuine Promenade singer! There are, I know, some singers who survive this dreadful triumph of entry into the Promenade scheme; but for the majority it is as with the painter who enters the Academy: the end comes swift.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"WOMEN WORKERS OF THE ORIENT." By Margaret E. Burton. Revised E. I. M. Boyd. (United Council for Missionary Education 2s. 6d. net.)

II.—"SAINT SOPHIA AND CONSTANTINOPLE." By Dr. Michael D. Volonakis. (London: The Hesperia Press. 3s.)

III.—"INDIA AT THE CROSSWAYS." The Rede Lecture for 1920. By Lord Meston. (Cambridge: Univ. Press. 3s. 6d. net.)

## I.—PIONEER WOMEN.

This small and unpretentious book of less than 200 pages is, in its way, a masterpiece. It is a careful and sympathetic study of that most vital problem, the extent and scope of women's labour, mental and physical, in the East; and it is written with a conviction and sincerity that make instant appeal. The first part of the book deals with the manual labour of women in the slowly awakening lands of the East, and the statistics given are simply appalling. Women are more than the equal of the men both in labour and in productive power; but, owing to physical disabilities and the added burden of children and household, their share is wrought at infinitely greater cost. We find them making roads in India, and bridges in Japan; toiling long hours under the burning sun, "bent double over the little rice plants" in China; as porters, gallantly struggling with loads far beyond a woman's strength; as boatwomen, and colliers. For a full day's work in the ricefields a woman "receives 1½d., or possibly 2d."; for coaling a steamer (often until late at night), "about 30 or 40 sen"—a sen being now worth a little more than a farthing. Even more distressing is the account of the women in factories in Japan, and it is strange to find that Japan, so modern and enlightened in many ways, is grievously backward in her factory system. Child-labour ("cheaper than machinery"), long hours, under-pay, a system of enclosure (ostensibly for the protection of the girls, but which really exposes them to danger without the help that comes from public knowledge and public opinion)—these things mar the fair name of Japan. "The average daily wage of women in silk-mills in 1911-12 was 31 sen; in shirt-making factories 26 sen . . . only one-third of the women employed were earning as much as £1 a month for eleven or more hours' work a day," in a seven-day week. "The working time for 'females and minors'" (from September, 1918) was to be "reduced from fourteen to twelve hours" (p. 64). Seventy per cent. of the women working in factories are compelled to live in dormitories in which day and night shifts succeed each other, "on bedding still warm from the girls who have just gone on duty" (p. 66). "The average space allotted per person is two square yards" (p. 65). No wonder that "of 4.6 girls taken ill, one dies" (p. 67), and that the percentage of insanity in Japan is higher than in any other nation (p. 173). Japan's high place in commerce is dearly bought at such a price; and the reckoning—inevitable, however slow in coming—will be terrible.

In glowing contrast to these horrible conditions of life is the movement of social reform which is beginning to flush the Eastern sky with light. Nowhere are women more keenly alive to the disabilities of tradition and environment, or more eagerly determined to snap their fetters. Curiously enough, in this movement towards light, liberty, Moslem women lead the van—in India, Persia, and Turkey. The protection of the veil is still held by some to be necessary, but all are agreed that eventually it must go, and all are set on the abolition of polygamy with its inevitable lowering of moral and physical standards—for men as well as women. In India and China there is a mighty move forward; with infinite labour, patience, and courage women are sacrificing everything to prepare the way for future generations. In every case progress and reform are being urged from within by the women themselves. We read of women's colleges, of women doctors, nurses, teachers, poets, orators, and leaders; and the work done is not only aflame with faith and hope, but is in itself excellent. In this struggle towards light the West is helping. Christian missions help because Christianity, however faultily expressed, is light and hope. It is the one religion which gives women their rightful place in life, and the teaching of Christ "the first true Gentleman that e'er wore earth about Him," and His example are absolutely definite. We entirely agree with the author where she lays stress on the great service that cultivated Christian women of the West (other than missionaries) can render their Eastern sisters simply through friendship, sympathy, and an open house; all who have experience of the East will endorse her very sane and practical opinion on this point.

The book covers too wide a field to be dealt with as fully as it deserves. It is a notable little book, one well worth reading and keeping; and though it reveals much that hurts and saddens one, yet above and beyond the sadness Hope shines like stars in a dark night.

E. M. E. B.

## II.—SAINT SOPHIA.

Within the limits of fifty pages, Dr. Volonakis has endeavoured to sketch the history of Constantinople and of Hagia Sophia; and he has added a few remarks on the destiny both of the city and of the Church. It was impossible in so small a space to admit facts irrelevant to, or perhaps hostile to, his thesis, which is the maintenance of the link between the Byzantine Empire and Orthodox Christianity; and he certainly never forgets that it is for English readers that he is writing his essay. But at least what he sets down cannot be gainsaid; his authorities are plentiful and sound; and he writes with a wholly admirable and attached enthusiasm. It is a quite useful pamphlet, and will surely commend itself to that increasing number of English readers whose interest in the Orthodox Church is vitally affecting their own position as Christians.

There is a foreword by Professor Gilbert Murray, who commits himself with unacademic enterprise to the statement that "the hideous feuds and cruelties and revenges for which the history of the Balkan States is notorious sprang from the root of hatred for the Turk, and have on the whole mitigated and diminished in proportion as the various subject nations have shaken off the influence and memories of the Turk."

## III.—INDIA AT THE CROSSWAYS.

Anyone who desires to obtain in short compass and convenient form a statement of the fundamental elements of the present position in India should read and ponder Lord Meston's lecture, which, in style as well as substance, was worthy of the occasion on which it was delivered. It brings out very clearly the revolutionary nature of the undertaking on which the Empire is engaged. Lord Meston brushes aside the fantastic theories of self-government in the old India, and shows that autocracy is in the very marrow of the people; he then explains how British rule has acted as a solvent of the old ideas, and he states the problems which result in the social, religious, and political fields. Some of these problems we can hope to solve, others can be tackled only by the people themselves; but they will need all the help and counsel they can get, and the lecturer concluded with an eloquent appeal to Cambridge to send India the very best men she can, to recognise the inherent difficulties of the country's position, and to allow for them with sympathetic tolerance. That is the attitude which Young England should adopt towards Young India, and we are glad that it has been presented with Lord Meston's great authority.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Austrian Red Book: Official Files Pertaining to Pre-War History. Part II., July 24 to July 28, 1914; Part III., July 29 to August 27, 1914." (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 3s. 6d. each.)

"The Adept of Galilee: A Story and an Argument." By the author of 'The Initiate." (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd. 9s. net.)

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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

## CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

**Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish Dates.**

| Gregorian (New Style). | Julian (Old Style). | — | Moslem. | Jewish. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1920. September | 1920. September | | 1339. Moharram | 5681. Tishri |
| 23 | 10 | Thursday ..... | 10 | 11 |
| 25 | 11 | Friday ..... | 11 | 12 |
| 25 | 12 | Saturday..... | 12 | 13 |
| 25 | 13 | Sunday ..... | 13 | 14 |
| 27 | 14 | Monday ..... | 14 | 15 |
| 28 | 15 | Tuesday ..... | 15 | 16 |
| 29 | 16 | Wednesday ..... | 16 | 17 |

Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell has left Overstone Park for St. Rode, Bournemouth.

Mr. H Charles Woods left London last week for a tour through the Balkan States.

Prince Nicholas of Roumania arrived in Paris on his way to London on September 15.

General Sir John Maxwell is lying seriously ill with pneumonia at 103, Lancaster Gate.

The Duke of Westminster will remain at Kylestrone, Isle of Skye, till the end of the month.

It is announced that General Ironside is to take up a divisional command in Mesopotamia.

Dr. Osusky, the Czecho-Slovak Minister to Paris, left London on September 16 for the Continent.

M. Také Jonescu, Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, is expected to arrive in London this week.

Lord and Lady Lamington are in residence at Lamington, Lanarkshire, where they will stay until November.

Mehmed Bey Konitza, Albanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, left London on September 16 for Paris on his way to Tirana.

The report that Lord Milner contemplated resigning his position as Secretary of State for the Colonies very shortly is quite erroneous.

Colonel Stokes, the High Commissioner for Transcaucasia, left London on September 16 for Georgia. He is accompanied by Mr. Rooker.

M. Guequetchkori, Vice-President of the Georgian Government and Minister for Foreign Affairs, visited Lord Hardinge at the Foreign Office last Thursday.

Our Belgrade Correspondent, writing on September 12, reports:—Dr. J. Cvijitch ('Tsviyitch), Rector of the Belgrade University, the eminent ethnologist and geographer, who has been lying dangerously ill, is now improving, and the doctors pronounce him out of danger.

The engagement is announced of Major Guy Willoughby Anderson, 1/26th Punjabis, son of the late Colonel W. R. Le Geyt Anderson, C.B., and Mrs. Anderson, of Ryelands, near Stroud, Gloucestershire, and Edith, eldest daughter of Colonel and Mrs. O'C. Raye, The Leas, Folkestone.

Sir William Marris, the Governor-designate of Assam, is to take short leave in this country during the ensuing winter before taking charge. Sir Nicholas Beatson Bell, the present Chief Commissioner, has been appointed Governor of Assam for the period which will intervene between the introduction of the new form of government in the province and the assumption of the office by Sir William Marris on his return from leave.

General Baratoff, who gained such distinction as Commander of the Russian forces in Persia, and who co-operated with our army in Mesopotamia, arrived in England last week. He has, says the *Morning Post*, been the victim of a Bolshevist outrage, for when he was driving in a motor-car in Georgia agents of the Soviet threw bombs at him. He was so injured in the leg that it had to be amputated. He has come to England to have an artificial limb fitted.

General Birdwood will leave for India about the middle of next month, to take over the Northern Command. He is to be entertained at a farewell luncheon at the Connaught Rooms on September 30, by the Australian and New Zealand Luncheon Club.

Dr. Vojtech Mastny, the newly-appointed Czecho-Slovakian Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James, is expected in London at the end of this month from Prague.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Major S. H. Capper succeeds Lieut.-Colonel Symes at the Press Bureau, Cairo, on the latter's appointment as Governor of Haifa.

The Government of India has decided that the time has come for the appointment of a High Commissioner for India in London, and Sir William Meyer, G.C.I.E., has been nominated as the first holder of the appointment.

The post of Rear-Admiral at Bombay has just been created, and Rear-Admiral H. L. Mawbey, C.B., has been appointed its first holder. Admiral Mawbey has also been appointed Director of the Royal Indian Marine. Captain Neville Wilson, C.M.G., who has held the latter position since the beginning of 1919, now becomes Principal Naval Transport Officer for the East Indies.

Our Sofia Correspondent writes (September 9):—

The Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has appointed M. Pavloff, Consul-General, former Chargé d'Affaires in Albania and at one time a deputy in the Turkish Parliament, as Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

M. Koulicheff, of the Press Bureau, has been appointed Secretary at the Bulgarian Legation in the Turkish capital.

M. Sander de Kiss has arrived in Sofia as representative of Hungary, and has taken up his quarters in the building of the former Austro-Hungarian Legation, 2, Ulitza Shipka.

### INDIAN COUNCIL OF STATE.

A Reuter's message from Simla, dated September 17, announces that the Viceroy has appointed Mr. A. P. Muddiman, C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Legislation Department, first President of the new Council of State.

Mr. Muddiman has had a very considerable share in drafting the new Indian Constitution and the rules under which it is to work, both in India and at home. He is a deservedly popular officer, who combines tact and patience with firmness.

The appointment of Mr. Alexander F. Whyte as the first President of the Legislative Assembly to be constituted in India under the Government of India Act, 1919, was, it will be remembered, announced in our columns last week. We are now able to congratulate India upon the appointment of two excellent Presidents for her new Parliament.

## OBITUARY.

Lieutenant-General John McKie Stewart, Indian Army, died on Sunday last at Carruchan, Dumfries, in his eightieth year. He joined the Army in 1858, and retired after thirty-six years' service. He fought in the Cossyah and Jyntiah Hills Campaign in 1862-3, and four years later saw service with the Abyssinian Expedition, for which he received the medal.

### GENERAL BABTIE, V.C.

Lieutenant-General Sir William Babtie, V.C., died on September 12 at Knocke, Belgium, aged sixty-one. He entered the Army Medical Service in 1881 and retired in 1918, with the honorary rank of lieutenant-general. In the South African War he did very fine work, and it was for his gallantry at Colenso, in December, 1899, that he was given the V.C. According to the official record: "The wounded of the 14th and 66th Batteries Royal Field Artillery were lying in an advanced donga close in the rear of the guns, without any medical officer to attend them; and when a message was sent back asking for assistance, Major W. Babtie, R.A.M.C., rode up under a heavy rifle fire, his pony being hit three times. When he arrived at the donga, where the wounded were lying in sheltered corners, he attended to them all, going from place to place exposed to the heavy rifle fire which greeted anyone who showed himself. Later in the day Major Babtie went out with Captain Congreve to bring in Lieutenant Roberts, who was lying wounded on the veldt. This also was under heavy fire." In the late war he served as Principal Director of Medical Services in the Mediterranean, Salonika, and Egypt, and as Director and Inspector of Medical Services at the War Office.

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## PRISONERS AT BAKU

A message received in official circles in London last week stated that the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs had informed the British Embassy in Rome that, according to a telegram received from Tiflis, Signor Kirol had assured the Italian Consul in that town that the seventy British citizens who were arrested at the outbreak of the revolution at the end of April were transferred on August 15 from their prisons to private houses and the Polish Club at Baku.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

On September 14 the Serbian Parliament ratified the Treaty of Peace with Bulgaria by 136 votes to 10.

A large building scheme is to be carried out to make Belgrade a great modern capital, and 10,000 houses are to be erected.

Every assistance is being given by the Commander to the Y.M.C.A. work among the troops now in action in Mesopotamia.

Sir Percy Cox arrived in Bombay on September 13 on his way to Mesopotamia. He spent a few days with the Governor at Poona.

Major Mary Booth will attend the annual meeting at Prague of the Czech Salvation Army, which has completed a most successful first year's work.

The *Echo de Bulgarie* announces that the League of Friends of English in Sofia has arranged a course of English lessons which will begin on October 1.

The forthcoming visit of M. Stambolisky, the Bulgarian Premier, to Prague to arrange for the inclusion of Bulgaria in the "Little Entente" is announced in the Bohemian Press.

Accompanied by M. Vesnitch, the Prime Minister, and three other Ministers, the Prince-Regent of Yugoslavia left Belgrade on September 17 to pay an official visit to Serajevo.

An Imperial *Irade* ratifies the convention concluded between a French company and the Ottoman Government for the creation of an aerial postal service between Paris and Constantinople.

Three delegates have been selected by the Government of India to visit British Guiana and make inquiries in connection with the scheme for obtaining Indian settlers for that colony.

During the month of July last 255 ships conveying 31,097 passengers arrived at Port Said from the Mediterranean, and 197 ships with 2,194 passengers passed through the Canal from north to south.

Sir Jagadis Chandra Bose, the famous Indian scientist, and Emeritus Professor of the Presidency College at Calcutta, has arrived at Stockholm, where he will lecture before the leading Swedish scientists.

Greek troops have occupied all the villages situated within a radius of twelve miles to the east of Ushak, sixty-five miles inland from Smyrna, and the Turkish Nationalists have blown up bridges on the railway between Ismid and Eskishehr.

A message from Beyrout reports that General Gouraud made his entry into Aleppo on September 13. All the local authorities, the Moslem religious leaders, and the various Christian communities, are said to have demonstrated their recognition of French rule.

A *communiqué* issued from the India Office on September 15 states :—The Civil Commissioner, Baghdad, telegraphs on September 13 (received September 15) : "Strachan with all Indian civil officials came into military camp at Shahraban September 13. All well."

A communiqué issued by the India Office states: In his capacity as High Commissioner Sir Percy Cox will be the chief British representative in Mesopotamia, and will be responsible for the civil administration of the country until he shall be able to give effect to the fixed policy of His Majesty's Government of setting up an Arab State in Mesopotamia. This will be his primary task, to be accomplished as soon as conditions permit.

Sir Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, has sent us a copy of an official communiqué which he has received. It states :—Montenegrin men and women who refuse to testify their loyalty to the King of Serbia, and to admit the justice of the seizure and annexation of their country, are daily arrested and forced into Serbian prisons, notably at Podgoritza, Cettigne, Nikchitch and Kolachine. General Vechovitch, formerly Montenegrin War Minister, who led the guerilla warfare against Austria, has been arrested and taken before a tribunal at Belgrade, accused of high treason. Martial law has been proclaimed throughout the country, and all those who decline to recognise the Serbian authority are condemned to death. The stores of the American Mission have been burnt, and reports from other Red Cross missions confirm the carnage and misery which reign supreme throughout this unfortunate country. It is reported in Montenegro that the British Government has addressed a serious remonstrance to the Serbian authorities.

## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.


# WHERE TO STAY.

**For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—**

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**(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."**

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# THE NEAR EAST.

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*Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON."*

*Telephone No.: 618 London Wall.*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1920.


## TURKEY AFTER THE TREATY.

The Allies required from eighteen months to two years to decide the terms of the Turkish Treaty, and there is some danger that it will take them a still longer time to enforce those terms, unless they can concentrate attention upon the problem. For the present the situation remains as it was before the Treaty was signed. The Nationalists are in power in Asia Minor; the Constantinople Government makes a great show of dealing with them, but, as our Correspondent points out, it is powerless to carry any decision into effect because it lacks men, money, and material. Time may, perhaps, prove to be on the side of the Allies, although it would be rash to count too much upon this factor. Mustapha Kemal has lost both prestige and power as a result of his encounters with Greek troops; he may still be a long way from throwing up the sponge, but with his hold on the peasants of Anatolia diminishing, the Nationalists' capacity for resistance must continue to wane, unless reinforcements are forthcoming from another quarter. Strenuous efforts, it is known, are being made to bring Bolshevist armies upon the scene; but it is doubtful whether help from Soviet Russia at this stage can have any military value. On the other hand, Bolshevist propaganda is not a negligible quantity, and although the success of attempts to graft it upon the Moslem frame of mind has yet to be established, the prospect of its unimpeded advance across Asia Minor must arouse misgivings. In the general situation there is thus just sufficient excuse to be found for marking time to make a policy of inactivity appeal to the Allied Governments. If Mustapha Kemal compasses his own downfall, the Entente will have been saved considerable trouble and expense; as the chances of his acquiring any accession of military strength are remote, the business of a campaign against him, if eventually it has to be undertaken, is not likely to be more formidable six or twelve months hence than it is now. It ought not to be necessary to insist upon the fallacy of this line of argument. The Turkish situation has been materially aggravated by the delay in the settlement, and it can only become worse if a policy of drift is persisted in by the Allies.

Apart from the position in Anatolia, the failure of the Entente Governments to take the Turkish problem in hand at once must lead to three grave evils: it will give free scope to the old rivalries between the Great Powers, it will make a *modus vivendi* between Turkey and Greece more difficult than ever of attainment, and it will destroy what limited ability for self-government the Allies hope to find among the Turks to enable the Peace Treaty to be carried out. Already the three Allied Governments—Great Britain, France, and Italy—are convincing the Turks that the solidarity among them created by the war is not proof against the disintegrating tendencies of peace. It is unnecessary to labour the point, as the fact is well known, and if this state of affairs exists in the early days of peace, it is likely to become worse when Constantinople settles down once more to the ordinary inter-play of international relations. Again, the hesitation or indifference of the Great Powers gives Greece her opportunity. So far she has performed her task with signal success, and it may seem invidious to suggest that she is not capable of increasing still further the sphere of her responsibilities. But those who believe in the destiny of Greece in the Near East must be the first to hope that her resources will not be overtaxed before she has time to develop them. It is one thing to prick the Mustapha Kemal bubble on the field of battle; it is another to convince large sections of the Turkish people that they are going to be well off if they submit to Greek jurisdiction. In course of time there is no reason why Greeks and Turks should not modify their present opinion of one another—much ground has already been covered in this direction in Smyrna—but the process will not be accelerated so long as administrative power, owing to the dearth of trained men, has to be entrusted to inexperienced officials who cannot be relied upon to subordinate ingrained personal feelings to the wise policy dictated by the Government. Finally, as the Turks are to be left to govern themselves, it is to the interest of the Allies that no time should be lost in giving effect to the provisions of a Treaty which is supposed to have paved the way for the better administration of Turkey. With the exception of Russia's fate, there can be no experience more demoralising for a country than that which Turkey is undergoing to-day, and the longer existing anomalies continue, the more difficult it will be to accustom the people and their rulers hereafter to ordered government.

After safeguarding Allied interests by instituting financial control, the Treaty leaves Turkey, within certain limitations, free to govern, or misgovern, herself. It would be little short of a crime, however, on the part of the Allies if they left the Turks, in common parlance, "to stew in their own juice" at this juncture. The delays of the Supreme Council are largely responsible for the chaos in Turkey, and the financial control contemplated by the Treaty becomes useless unless it goes hand in hand with decent Government. It seems essential, therefore, that the three interested Powers—Great Britain, France, and Italy—should come to some more practical agreement among themselves regarding the immediate future of Turkey than that provided by the Treaty. The first step will be to decide upon a common policy towards Mustapha Kemal; he must either be eliminated once and for all or brought officially within the picture of the new Turkey. If the Italians have actually been in such close relations with the Anatolian leader as is generally supposed, they will be able to contribute useful knowledge to enable the Allies to arrive at an understanding regarding him. Much will depend on Mustapha Kemal's own attitude; but it is not unlikely that he would welcome an opportunity now to reconsider his position, if he could be made to realise that the Allies are once and for all acting together, and are bent upon bringing about a final solution of the Turkish question. Although we are strongly opposed to all forms of international control, on the ground that it inevitably leads to friction, and consequently to bad administration, we recognise that, as things are, there is no escape from it in the case of Turkey. It is, therefore, desirable that the three Powers should come to an early agreement among themselves with a view to making a conscientious effort on Turkey's behalf and in their own interests. The present policy of drift is driving the three Powers apart, instead of keeping them together. Even financial control will be a farce unless their representatives pull together, and they will not do that unless a more definite attempt is made to unify the policies of the three Governments. We should like to see a joint Commission, of which the three members would be of Cabinet rank, appointed to draw up a detailed arrangement for assisting Turkey to rehabilitate herself in the family of nations. She has material to work upon if the present opportunity is not lost; but unless the three Powers act promptly her last state may well prove worse than the first.

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# THE AGRARIAN QUESTION IN BOSNIA.

(From Our Belgrade Correspondent.)

Agrarian reform is the burning question in Yugoslav politics, but it is acutest of all in Bosnia. Here we have the survivors of the old feudal Serbian aristocracy who turned Turk in a body, in order to preserve their privileges, centuries ago. Though they may have been in their time fanatical oppressors of the Christian *rayahs*, they have never forgotten that they are Serbs, though usually referred to as "Turks," which in the Balkans generally means Mohammedans, with no reference to Ottoman race. The present generation have the national feeling well developed, though some have been more or less Hapsburgised, as the notorious Hrasnitsa.

The Democrat-Socialist *bloc* regard them simply as big landowners, and are openly out to spoil them; but the Radicals, who look to them for political support as the Conservative Party of the country, wish to let them down as gently as possible. They hold, with truth, that there is a great gulf between the *begs* of Bosnia, who are good Serbs, and the enemy-landowners of Southern Hungary, who were Magyars or Germans. An interesting article recently appeared in the *Samouprava*, the Radical organ, on this question of the *begluks* of Bosnia. The writer begins by stating that there are very few really large landowners in Bosnia; he says that in the whole of Bosnia and Herzegovina there are not ten who own more than one thousand hectares—about 2,500 acres—nor much more than a score who own over 500 hectares, while there are plenty with the title of *aga* or *beg* who have only from two to three hundred hectares.

It appears that there are three kinds of tenure—*kmetluk*, which is purely feudal; *begluk*, which is partly feudal; and private ownership on modern lines, by purchase or otherwise. *Kmetluk* was abolished by decree of February 25, 1919, by which the *kmets* were released completely from the obligations which tied them to the *begs*, their overlords. This question is settled for good, and neither party raises any point on it.

But the question of *begluks* is more complex, and their origins are various. If a *kmet* died without an heir, his *kmetluk* reverted to the *beg;* sometimes *kmets* sold their rights of *kmetluk* to a *beg*, and so the land in question would be merged in the *begluk;* again, if for three years a *kmet* failed to work his land properly, or to pay the *hak*, or dues, to the *beg*, the latter had the right of escheat, and the *kmetluk* was merged. Finally, a large number, perhaps the greater part, of the *begluks* were grants from the Sultan in reward for military services. In most cases, however, the origins of the *begluks* are lost in the past, and many may be of great antiquity. It has been stated that some of the old families have their title-deeds going back to the days of the Crusades.

It is generally agreed that a reform is necessary, and the *begs* themselves admit it, especially in cases of forfeiture of land for non-payment of *hak;* but they look upon their ancient rights as sound title-deeds, and their *begluks* as their own absolute property. As a matter of fact, the majority of Bosniak Mussulmen own a *begluk* of some sort, even if it is only a little strip of land; so that on the whole their position is similar to that of the peasants of Serbia. The majority of the Mohammedans are town dwellers, devoted to agriculture or crafts; they can scarcely eke out even a precarious living by their crafts alone, and so depend very largely upon their little properties in the country, just as in Serbia before the war, the smaller shopkeepers and artisans depended, perhaps, more on their little estates than upon their business or the exercise of their craft.

## MOSLEM TALES FROM JERUSALEM.

**By Estelle Blyth.**

### Ibrahim Pasha and the Sleepers of El Azhar.*

Ibrahim Pasha was searching Egypt from end to end for soldiers. Every strong man that he could find was pressed into his service to fight for the cause that the Pasha had so closely at heart, and yet he complained that they were too few. At this time there came one who told him of some five hundred men, young and strong, who owned no master.

"Where are they?" cried the Pasha, starting up. "Show me them, and I will give you gold—good English gold!"

"They are at El Azhar," answered his informant. "But," he added, "they are all mad, my lord."

"What is this? Do mad men, then, go to El Azhar? What do you mean?" asked the Pasha, frowning. "Play me no tricks, if you would see the sons of your sons!"

"Oh, my lord, they are lazy men," explained the other in haste, for the frown of Ibrahim Pasha was blacker than a thundercloud and his anger worse than the lightning; it was not wise to play with him at any time. "They lie there day and night without moving. They do not even feed themselves, for their food is put beside them and other men come daily to put it into their mouths. For even hunger cannot make them move."

So spake the man. Ibrahim Pasha made answer grimly: "Then must I find a cure for their sickness!"

With this purpose in his mind he went straightway to El Azhar. He found the great building crowded with men lying in lazy, huddled attitudes upon the ground; some few were being fed by kind hands; others, less fortunate, gazed with hungry eyes at the food waiting beside them, which they were too lazy to put into their mouths.

Ibrahim Pasha spoke to those who were nearest to him.

"How is it," he asked, "that you lie like this, sleeping away your lives—at most but as a sigh in Time—when the land of Egypt cries for every man, and even every boy, to rise and fight for her?"

"Thy servants are but fools," they answered, "and this is our life's work—to sleep. What is man's life at the best that he should weary himself with work when he can sleep? Let us be at ease while we may."

"Be it my work, then," cried the Pasha, in fierce anger. "to find you work!"

He ordered large fires to be lighted just without the walls of El Azhar, and he himself saw to the heating therein of many bars of iron, both large and small. Taking a bar in his hand, he sought out one of the sleepers, by whose side lay an untouched plate of food, now all covered with a greedy crowd of flies.

"Open your mouth," said Ibrahim Pasha to the sleeper, "for I have brought you food."

"Now may you be blessed and rewarded for your goodness to the poor! May flowers grow for ever round your feet in Paradise!" murmured the man, opening his mouth but not his eyes. Ibrahim Pasha thrust the red-hot iron into his mouth.

By the Pasha's command his "food" was given to others of the sleepers of El Azhar, whose piteous cries caused their companions more quickly to bestir themselves lest their turn should follow.

The ranks of Ibrahim Pasha's army were increased by five hundred strong men, with whose activity and alertness even he could find no fault.

* These tales were told to the writer by a Moslem in Jerusalem. Previous tales in the series appeared in the Near East, Nos. 451, 453, 470 and 484. This story is said to be true.

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DIGESTIVE

-AND

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## THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

Glancing through the *Egyptian Gazette* the other day, I came across a paragraph headed: "Masquerading as Secret Policeman." It referred to the arrest by the Cairo City Police of a certain Hassan Youshy for masquerading as a member of the Secret Police, and went on to say: "His latest trick was to instruct a policeman to arrest a lady who happened to be passing him in the street, on the grounds that her appearance was subversive of immorality." If by her mere appearance the lady in question could assist in the destruction of vice, she must indeed put the late Mrs. Ormiston Chant and Carrie Nation quite in the shade—must, in fact, be positively angelic; and one wonders how Hassan can have been suicidal enough to order her arrest, and how the policeman can have been foolish enough to obey the order. I am not surprised to learn, from the *Egyptian Gazette's* report, that she was found to be "a respectable member of a good family." It takes that kind of person to subvert immorality merely by her appearance.

***

The lady was, of course, released immediately, and Hassan was proved to have been telling tarradiddles about himself; and was also found to have cocaine and other drugs in his possession. After his "bad break," that does not surprise me! And, by the way, I notice that the next paragraph but one reports the arrest by a *mulazim awal* of the Cairo Secret Police (a genuine one this time, it appears) of "a native named Ibrahim Fahmy, who was selling cocaine to the public in cafés and other public places." There's enterprise for you! Was Hassan Youshy, I wonder, a customer of Ibrahim Fahmy? The *E.G.* affords no light on the subject.

***

I do not wish to be regarded as prophet of evil—or as a prophet of any other kind, for that matter!—but I am free to confess that I find myself in close agreement with a correspondent in Turkey who takes a gloomy view of the situation in the East. After referring to the state of affairs in Turkey, India and Egypt, he goes on to say: "The sleeping dog has been awakened. Let us hope that his bark will prove worse than his bite; but I fear he will never go to sleep again. The worst of it is that if we had given him a bone he would have been quite friendly. To-day, however, everyone's hand seems to be against us." That may be perilously near to a mixing of metaphors, but it is profoundly true, in my opinion; and I may add that the writer is very well placed to observe the current of events, and well qualified to make the most of his position.

***

He goes on: "Look where we will, we see encouragement given to revolutionaries and agitators of all kinds so long as they are the enemies of the British Empire. San Francisco, Lausanne, Rome, Paris, Berlin, Munich, Moscow, Damascus, Tashkend, Tokio, all shelter more or less vicious associations linked together by a common hatred of the only nation in the world that lives and lets live, of the only flag beneath which a man may eat, drink and say what he likes, so long as it does not result in "committing a nuisance." It is a great pity that India and Egypt could not have had a taste of the toe of a Prussian jack-boot. But when France has forgotten the million or so of British whose bodies fertilise her crops, and when Italy has forgotten the mad panic of the Piave when only Lord Cavan's cool head stood between the Huns and Rome, I doubt whether the *effendis* and the *babus* would behave any better!" It was not meant for publication, but if it is read by some of the people who are always ready to praise up other countries at the expense of their own, it will do no harm.

***

A little while ago I was very much surprised to see in a greengrocer's shop in the City some *badinján* exposed for sale; and had I been sure that I could have got it properly cooked at home, I should certainly have bought one. For, *properly cooked*, it is a delicious vegetable. For the benefit of those who do not know it, I may explain that it is shaped rather like a vegetable marrow, but is much smaller, and of a purplish-red colour; and in the East it is greatly esteemed as a delicacy. There are many ways of cooking it, but I think the best is the "Imam baldi" style, if I remember aright. "Imam baldi" may be translated as "the priest fainted," and the name is said to have been given to the dish because a certain priest was overcome by emotion when it was first set before him by its "creator," his wife. The attack of unconsciousness was produced by the extraordinary attractiveness of the dish, of course, and the holy man, I suspect, took care to recover in time to enjoy it before its "beauty" passed away.

CORSAIR

## ENQUIRY BUREAU.

*Readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.*

*Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."*

*ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.*

*No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.*

### Agents Wanted Abroad.

*ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, 'The Near East,' 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2," when they will be redirected to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.*

101. A correspondent in Lagos, Nigeria, wishes to get into touch with manufacturers of Arab red fez caps.

102. A stamp collector wishes to purchase in large quantities used Austrian stamps prior to the 1882 issue. Stamp dealers in the liberated provinces of Austria are asked to send bulk packages of such stamps to the care of the Editor of THE NEAR EAST, with the price in kronen of each stamp or price per dozen, per 100, etc., of each kind. All stamps required will be paid for at the price indicated and the rest returned. Newspaper stamps are not required, but rare postmarks should be included.

103. An Athens firm invites publishers of periodicals dealing with yarns (reports on local markets and world output) and cottons to send specimen copies with a view to its becoming a permanent subscriber.

104. A Greek firm is establishing an electric light station in Macedonia, and wishes to get into touch with firms dealing in the necessary machinery.

105. Engineering and general contractor in Mosul, Mesopotamia, wishes to get into touch with manufacturers in Great Britain.


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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

It is announced that at the Congress of the International Postal Union, to be held in Madrid next month, the French postal authorities are to advocate the raising of the postage on letters for abroad from 25 centimes to 50 centimes, presumably in Great Britain from 2½d. to 5d. I hope that this proposal will be defeated, as there can be no doubt that it is unsound on economic grounds. The doubling of the postal rate must prove a handicap to international trade just at a time when every possible encouragement ought to be given to it. No one will pretend that the enhanced cost of letters for abroad will kill any particular trade; but it would be a retrograde movement at a critical moment, which will penalise the very people whom each country wishes to encourage at the present time—its exporters. It is to be hoped that, instead of wasting its time over this proposal, the Postal Congress will inquire into and remedy the unfair penalisation of the British mail to the Near East by the action of the French postal or railway authorities.

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With a view to bringing the coming British Industries Fair to the notice of foreign buyers, the Department of Overseas Trade has prepared an attractive booklet, printed in seven languages, explaining the value of the exhibition, and some of the outstanding features of the three cities in which the fair will be held. The booklet is illustrated throughout with excellent views of the sights that make an unfailing appeal to the visitor, and also of the last fair at the Crystal Palace and elsewhere, and should accomplish a most useful work in bringing the purpose of the fair into greater prominence abroad.

***

The report on Turkey by Captain Courthope-Munroe, which has just been issued, is a perfect mine of invaluable information for British firms interested in, or who intend to enter, the Turkish market. Of special interest to the commercial community are his remarks regarding the business methods that should be pursued, and these are summarised in another column. It may be trusted that his advice will be noted and followed, for even in a market so favourable to British trade enterprise as Turkey we cannot afford in the future to meet our rivals on other than equal terms.

***

Few details are given as to the position of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway in the report which has just been issued, it being stated that the profits of the past half-year are unascertainable. The extent of the line now being operated amounts to 170 miles, and the area worked is the most fertile served by the system, so that the company should be able to profit by the development of more favourable conditions in the region.

***

I learn that the Algerian harvest has proved in general worse than the information on which I based my reference to it a few weeks ago suggested would be the case. Practically without exception the cereal crops have given a poor yield, owing to the prolonged drought. In some districts the yield of wheat was as poor as two quintals per acre, and it is now estimated that Algeria, normally an exporting country, will have to import 600,000 quintals of wheat and an equal amount of barley.

***

The rapid development of the Dunlop Rubber Company, which was reviewed at length by the chairman, Mr. Ormrod, at the recent extra-ordinary general meeting, convened for the increase of the company's capital by £12,500,000 for the purpose of bringing the company's capital into accord with the assets, is largely the result of the enterprise which this company has consistently adopted with regard to overseas markets. Throughout the Near East as elsewhere Dunlop's products are well to the fore, and the success of the company's forceful policy, which has its latest illustration in the issue of a substantial bonus to shareholders, ought to prove an incentive to firms of a more conservative temperament to attempt to take a fuller advantage of this period of almost limitless scope for trade endeavour in the great markets of the Near and Middle East and elsewhere.

***

Hesitation never accomplished anything, and now, if ever, is the time for British traders to establish themselves firmly in these markets before other countries have been able to anticipate us. But—and this is the all-important consideration—if the markets are to be entered it must be with absolute thoroughness. In the report on Turkey, to which reference is made above, it is mentioned that substantial Turkish merchants do not hesitate to say that they are unaware of the industrial products of the United Kingdom. This complaint is not restricted to Turkey in the Near and Middle East, and it is solely the fault of British merchants that it should be uttered at all. If they do not use the recognised mediums of publicity, but prefer to wait in their factories and offices for business from these regions, is it a matter for surprise that it does not come?

***

I have frequently had occasion in these columns to emphasise the scope for the extension of British trade with Morocco. The existing openings for commercial enterprise are dealt with at length in a report by Mr. E. H. Mulock and Mr. L. N. Barker, who were commissioned by the Department of Overseas Trade to visit Morocco and to investigate the possibilities and conditions of trade between that country and the United Kingdom. They point out that among the commodities for which there is a demand are gas engines from 6 to 200 h.p with producers adapted to burn refuse, Diesel and semi-Diesel engines, petrol or paraffin-driven farm pumps, telegraphic instruments and constructional material, light motor-cars, Portland cement, sewing machines, and motor-buses. This list, which by no means covers the requirements detailed, should serve to convince those who still believe that the Moroccan market is somewhat restricted that there is a very real opening there for enterprise.

***

Various recommendations are made for the extension of British trade with Morocco, notably that a more frequent and regular service of British trading steamers should be provided. Shortcomings in this respect provided one of the principal reasons for the decline of British trade with this country before the war. While there was a fortnightly service of Royal Mail Steam Packet boats the Germans were promoting their interests in Morocco by frequent services of cargo boats. The most interesting of the other recommendations are the publication of a monthly advertising journal in four languages for gratuitous circulation, and the establishment at Casablanca of central showrooms and stores for ironmongery, agricultural machinery, pumps, gas engines, and other goods. The journal would, no doubt, be extremely valuable, but I am of the opinion that in present circumstances at any rate the suggestion cannot be regarded as very practical. The second is a much more serviceable proposition, and it is to be hoped that steps will be taken to carry it into effect since the influence of the showrooms on the sale of British goods would in all probability be very pronounced.

COMMENTATOR.


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# Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

## ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, September 11.

### A Roumanian Invention.

A young Roumanian engineer, M. G. S. Poppoiu, belonging to the Roumanian Air Service, after many experiments has invented and patented an aeroplane whose special feature is safety. It is a small type machine, carrying one to two persons only, and is known as the "Tutpoy."

### Withdrawal of Roubles.

Now that the crowns have been withdrawn, the roubles existing in Bessarabia will have to be exchanged. Only Romanoff and Lwov roubles will be accepted. Every owner of roubles will have the opportunity of declaring them between September 15 and 20, and the roubles will be exchanged into Roumanian national banknotes or cheques from September 28 to October 10. The owners will receive 60 per cent. at once and 40 per cent. in three months. The exchange will only take place in Bessarabia and Roumania proper. In conjunction with the withdrawal of roubles, the Government has decided to close the frontiers for fifteen days, beginning from September 9. All frontier ports and towns will be closed, excepting Temishvar and Constanza, where passengers and goods are allowed to enter the country, but special permits are required for this purpose. On the other hand the exit from Roumania of both goods and passengers is free. Boats actually arriving on September 9 will be allowed to discharge where they are, while vessels with merchandise for Braila or Galatz will be able to discharge only with the authority of the Minister of the Interior, in which case they will be strictly examined by the Custom House officials

The reason for the closing of the frontiers is to prevent the illicit smuggling of great stocks of roubles into the country. This has already been the case with the Austro-Hungarian crowns, resulting in a great financial loss to the State, and the authorities do not wish to embarrass further the already overburdened financial situation. The total amount of crowns and roubles which people were trying to smuggle into Roumania, and have been confiscated by the custom house officials, has reached the figure of 40 million lei.

Rumours had arrived from Bessarabia that smuggling into Ukrainia had assumed enormous proportions, as large quantities of salt, petroleum and textile goods have been passed over the frontier for which roubles have been received in exchange for the specific purpose of converting them advantageously into lei.

The withdrawal of the Austro-Hungarian crowns has already shown its effects in many ways. In Transylvania and Bukovina the prices of commodities valued at 25-30 bani to the crown have risen 100 per cent. and more owing to the fact that before the withdrawal of the crowns goods are now valued at 50 bani. This is the rate at which the crowns were changed into lei and merchants are now selling their goods at that value.

Another result of the exchange of crowns into lei is an inflation of paper currency. People who have had their money locked up in crowns are now speculating on the Stock Exchange with the result that there has been a great boom, especially in oil shares, stocks rising from 2-300 points. Trade has also greatly improved since merchants in Transylvania and Bukovina have increased their capital in lei as a result of the Government's rate of exchange.

### Agricultural Situation.

The last rains have been favourable to the rapeseed sowing and for the autumn ploughing. In Transylvania and Moldavia, and some districts of Muntenia, a great scarcity of wheat seed is felt, and measures have been taken to provide these districts with seeds from the territory along the Danube Valley, especially from Oltenia. Owing to the difficulties of transport, delays have been unavoidable.

In all probability the autumn sowing of wheat will occupy a surface twice as large as the sowings of last year, so that hopes are entertained that next year wheat will be exported.

### Austro-Roumanian Economic Convention.

With regard to the Economic Convention recently concluded between Austria and Roumania, the following are the articles for which the Government of the two countries have given permission for import and export:—(1) Roumania will be able to export to Austria 12,500 wagons of maize, 15,000 wagons of barley, 2,000 pigs, 20,000,000 eggs, 48,000 tons of petrol and 72,000 tons of lamp oil. (2) Austria will export iron and various articles of metal, vehicles, electro-technical articles, textiles and hides, paper, various chemical products, and articles of wood.

The Convention provides for the repairing of 500 Roumanian locomotives at Wabalowsky Works, Vienna. Payments for the merchandise in connection with this Convention will be made in lei, or crowns, at the rate of 6.40 crowns to the lei.

## BULGARIA.

Sofia, September 9.

### Reduced Duties on British Goods.

In view of the coming into force of the Bulgarian Peace Treaty in consequence of its ratification by England, France, Italy, Belgium, and Siam the Bulgarian Ministry of Finance has sent the following circular to all Customs houses in the country:—The Peace Treaty is ratified between Bulgaria on the one hand and England, France, Italy, Belgium, and Siam on the other by a protocol signed in Paris by the representatives of the above-mentioned States and the Bulgarian delegate, M. Hadji Misheff, on August 9, 1920. From that date Article 101 of the Treaty came into force on behalf of the States which ratified it. Therefore the goods imported into Bulgaria of the above States will be taxed according to the conventional tariff in conformity with the Treaties concluded before July 28, 1914, and the taxes will be collected at the rate of 700 levas per 100 francs.

For goods to be taxed at the reduced rates importers are required to send with the bills of lading certificates of origin issued by the Customs houses or chambers of commerce of the respective States or by Bulgarian consulates.

### New State Bank.

With a view to meeting the housing crisis the Ministry of the Interior is arranging for the establishment of a new State bank, with a capital of 300,000,000 levas, which will finance the construction of dwellings.

### Export of Cereals.

Since August 15 the exportation of the cereals purchased by Czecho-Slovakia has been in progress. The purchase money—42,000,000 French francs—is to be allocated for the payment of the Bulgarian public debt in France.

### Public Debt Service.

The Director of the Bulgarian Public Debt at the Ministry of Finance, M. Nichole Stoyanoff, on his return from his mission to Paris has issued the following report:—The French holders of Bulgarian State Bonds have consented to be paid in French francs, and the committee representing them has stated that it will advise the members not to claim interest on amounts unpaid during the war. On the other hand, the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas has agreed to pay 3 per cent. instead of 2 per cent., as arranged in the contract for the loan, on the sums deposited in the bank by the Bulgarian Government for the payment of the coupons.

Furthermore, the French Government has agreed that the payment of Bulgarian coupons should be effected, as in the past, through the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, and not through the Department for Compensation as arranged in the Peace Treaty. Consent has also been given to the quotation of the lev on the Paris Stock Exchange from the day of the ratification of the peace. A very favourable impression has been produced here by these measures.

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## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, September 12.

### Sugar from Maize.

Extensive experiments are being made by the Tyupria sugar factory with regard to the manufacture of sugar from maize. It has been started in America and at Marseilles with marked success. Experts from Czecho-Slovakia and Marseilles report that maize from the Timok province yields 14 per cent. of sugar. Improvement is still required in the production of higher proportions of crystallisable sugar and less molasses from the maize. First-class alcohol can also be obtained from the same plant. As the country is specially rich in many excellent varieties of maize, great hopes are entertained of a rapid and profitable development of this new branch of industry in the country.

### Forged Notes in Circulation.

A large number of forged notes are in circulation, especially of the 20-dinar denomination; these are so numerous that 20-dinar notes are now generally refused in the shops. A few 1,000-dinar notes have also been recognised as forged, and this is very disquieting. An official of the National Bank states that the forged 1,000-dinar notes can be easily detected, as the violet ink in the forged ones is of one uniform shade, while in the genuine notes there are two distinct tints. The paper of the forged notes is very smooth and of finer quality than that of the good notes, which is coarser and uneven.

### Damage by Hail.

Considerable damage has been done by hailstorms in some parts of the country, where even barns have been smashed in and the corn spoilt. Certain portions of the counties of Pirot, Smederevo, Nish, and in places in the Voivodina have suffered so much that the Government has given a special credit of half a million dinars for the repair of buildings, purchase of seed, and other necessary relief.

## BRITISH CONSULAR REPORTS.

### IV.—TURKEY.

Conditions last year were almost uniformly unfavourable for commercial enterprises in Turkey, but a considerable amount of trade was none the less done by British firms—quite enough, in the circumstances, to prepare the ground for more substantial developments in the future. One of the most hopeful features was the number of firms new to the Near East who showed a disposition to interest themselves in the Turkish market, thus showing that the scope presented by the Near Eastern markets is now being grasped in a way that it never was before the war.

The position with regard to the Turkish market is ably reviewed by Captain C. H. Courthope-Munroe in his report on the trade and economic conditions of Turkey for 1919. In a general way he says that there is no question of Continental nations being able to oust Great Britain from a very large share in the trade of Turkey. The reputation of British commerce stands high, and although England does not adopt her competitors' methods she can more than hold her own. It is emphasised, however, that efforts must be made to meet organised foreign competition. In this connection it is to be noted that the heads of important enterprises in Turkey say that they know very little of the industries of the United Kingdom.

On methods of trading Captain Courthope-Munroe has much to say that is of interest. He points out that the British manufacturer places himself at a disadvantage by quoting f.o.b. a United Kingdom port. The advantage to all communities of c.i.f. over f.o.b. prices is clear, especially in a country like Turkey, where there is the keenest competition among native dealers and the margin of profit is narrow. What the local consumer wants to know is the cost of goods delivered at his shop.

Germany and Austria owed much of their success in the Turkish market to their long-credit methods. "Speaking generally," says Captain Courthope-Munroe, "where British firms used to insist on cash with order, or banker's confirmed credits, or cash on delivery or against documents in Turkey, either net or with 2½ per cent. discount, or where, in exceptional and isolated cases, the British terms were 30, 60, or 90 days net, the Germans and Austrians would readily allow three to six and even up to nine months' credit, and very often renew at due date for another six months. In the question of credit, firms should be entirely guided by their local representative.

"German firms especially were greatly assisted by the large information offices, which were in a position to present detailed reports on the standing of every possible purchaser of their goods, thereby checking their representative's report and avoiding dealings with all dubious customers.

"The usual credit demanded by the Turkish buyer is four months from the invoice date of the consignment, and he is always prepared to sign acceptances for the value of the goods. The Turkish consumer prefers this method to taking advantage of the discount offered for cash, since he is enabled thereby to place a portion of the goods before paying for same. Longer credits than this to purchasers should be, however, deprecated as unsound finance, and as responsible for many mushroom growths. They engender over-buying and then under-selling in competition with genuine trade, in order to unload stocks which cannot be disposed of in due course of business. Credit facilities, within reasonable bounds, are a powerful temptation even to firms of standing, though buyers are quite aware that they pay, therefore, a higher price for their goods; but it must be added that this is a necessity to the bulk of the Near Eastern traders, in view of the high rate of interest ruling in these countries. For the time being, since the Armistice, credit is a thing of the past, and no country, owing to the unstable rate of exchange and general chaotic conditions prevailing, can afford at present to give it."

## FRANCE AND THE BULGARIAN TREATY.

The French Government has officially informed the Bulgarian Government that it will not take advantage of the right accorded to it by the Treaty of Neuilly in paragraph "E" of Article 176 to create special machinery for regulating the payment of Bulgarian debts to French nationals.

By this Act France renounces the right of liquidating the assets and property of Bulgarian nationals in France or her colonies. In our issue of last week, under "Notes and News," reference was made to the appointment of an administrator of Bulgarian property under the terms of the Treaty of Peace (Bulgaria) Order, and regret was expressed at the prospect of delay in the settlement of claims outstanding between British and Bulgarian subjects. From the action of the French Government referred to above, and from the information sent this week by our Sofia correspondent, it is evident that the French are bent upon making everything as easy as possible for the Bulgarians as far as the financial terms of the Treaty are concerned. There is no reason why the British Government should lag behind in this respect, as the interests of the two countries are identical in a common desire to see everything done to promote economic development in the Balkans.


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## TURKISH FRUIT CROPS.

### Good Fig Outlook.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows under date September 1:—Our previous report of August 20 can now be supplemented with fuller information about the opening of the fruit markets and prospects for the season.

Sultanas.—Arrivals to date, 10,500 bags, against 7,200 bags in 1919; sales to date 9,000 bags, against 2,800 bags. Arrivals of sultanas commenced reaching market on August 10. Quantities being small, the fruit was bought up in small lots for sampling purposes at prices ranging from 100s. to 115s. f.o.b. With increasing arrivals, buyers displayed greater anxiety to secure supplies, and with the small stock available prices were daily pushed up, reflecting an advance of over 15s. during the succeeding fortnight. These early and forced purchases are to be credited to shippers who had undertaken forward sales to Belgium and Holland for shipment August and September 1/15, operations which shippers frankly admit have involved them in considerable loss.

In the interval, however, reports reaching from all districts are of an unfavourable nature. Owing to transport and labour difficulties, farmers are everywhere experiencing unexpected difficulty in gathering and laying out their grapes on the drying sheds. The moving of the fruit to the railway stations is being delayed, and, with the high wages prevailing, farmers cannot afford the expense of properly removing stalks and dead berries, or sorting out the fruit into different grades. The consequence is that arrivals are showing very mixed quality, even the finest grades containing a proportion of stalks, dark and dead berries, etc., which tells heavily on both the appearance and value of the fruit. Round the larger towns farmers are also finding it more to their advantage to sell their grapes to distillers, and hundreds of tons of fresh fruit, instead of being dried into raisins, are being daily disposed of for wine and alcohol-making.

Weather has been variable, and the recent rains and hailstorms have not only stained a fair quantity of raisins, but also caused considerable loss of fruit in the principal districts. There is a tendency to reduce estimates of the yield, some forecasts being as low as tons 15/16,000. In any case, under existing conditions, it is probable that supplies during September will show a very heavy reduction on the comparative figures of last year, and shipments to all markets will be proportionately reduced. Advices from the U.K. are discouraging, both London and Liverpool dealers showing no inclination to pay ruling prices. On the other hand, Continental buyers are operating, and also a good demand is being experienced both from New York and Canada. As we stated in our previous report, shipments to London and Liverpool are likely to be on a moderate scale this month. Shippers are not inclined to risk large consignments at present cost on unresponsive markets. There is margin for decline on the prices prevailing to-day, but we doubt whether values this month are likely to recede to the level of present London and Liverpool biddings. Carabournou sultanas are in short supply, the yield in that district being estimated at a maximum of 150 tons. No supplies have yet come forward.

Figs.—In contrast to sultanas, every circumstance seems to favour the orchards in the Meander Valley. Little or no rain has fallen in the fig districts, and the damp weather prevailing is calculated in every way to develop the mass of fruit on the trees. The whole district, with the exception of some small outlying tracts, is this season under occupation of the Greek authorities. The Ottoman Railway Company, under progressive British management, has spared no effort to cope with the transport of the fruit to our market, and the manager of the line has assured us that the railway is in a position to transport without delay any extent of supplies which will daily reach the stations. As the orchards extend only a few miles alongside the length of the railway, the question of transport from the orchards to the stations does not offer unsurmountable difficulties. The drying and gathering of the figs is a much simpler process than that of sultanas, and there appears to be a sufficiency of labour for present wants.

Every credit is due to the Greek authorities, who have encouraged the return of thousands of Turkish peasants, restored to them possession of their abandoned farms, and provided food supplies to keep them going. Estimates of the production stand at about 18/20,000 tons. Arrivals are now coming forward daily in increasing volume. Owing to the wholesale destruction of villages and farms throughout the Meander Valley, farmers have nowhere to store their produce, and are under the necessity of sending their figs to market as soon as the fruit is dry. Large and steady supplies can therefore be reckoned with, and the eventual problem of disposing of the crop on consuming markets is likely to become an acute question before long. As we have reported previously, the United States has placed very few orders this season, and buyers continue very reserved. The Continent is a very small consumer, Germany and Austria abstaining from all imports. Under the circumstances there will be a heavy proportion of the production available for the British market, and it is certain that prices will have to be lowered to an attractive level to stimulate consumption.

Statistically viewed, the production of this season is considerably in excess of the maximum consumptive wants of importing countries. Stocks which remained over in this country last year were liquidated with difficulty at 8s. and 10s. per cwt., finding an outlet in the distillery trade. The outlook, if not encouraging from the farmers' point of view, is favourable for the foreign consumer. A moderate level of prices this season will again bring the fruit into favour and help to stimulate its consumption. Prices opened this season at the equivalent in the raw state of 70s. per cwt. into packers' store, a price absolutely unjustified by the weight of the yield, but somewhat precipitately paid by one or two packing houses. But this price could not be maintained, and the market broke 10s. a few days later, and at present remains weak.

General Remarks.—All we write above reflects as closely as we can gauge the present situation and outlook. Our clients must bear in mind that there is still a state of war prevailing in these parts, with continual frontier fighting, and the imminency of further military operations in the north-eastern section of the province. Military necessities rank first, and the requisitioning of transport and mobilisation of men may continue for some time. The Greek Military and Civil Administration is sparing no effort to facilitate the task of farmers and merchants, and to place as few impediments as possible in the way of trade operations, but until order is thoroughly restored, the unforeseen has always to be reckoned with. The yield of sultanas is proving below estimates, and supplies will certainly be retarded. Figs, on the other hand, promise to be in plentiful supply. Exchanges have been steady, and it is probable that rates will not break to the extent of last season. Weather recently has been very unsettled, and the possibility of damage to the fruit crops has still to be reckoned with.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

This week's Indian cable states:—During the week ending September 14 rainfall generally light to scanty. Prospects of standing crops still favourable on the whole, but more rain needed urgently all over the Punjab, in greater part of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and parts of other Provinces. Crops withering in parts of Punjab, Rajputana, Bombay, Hyderabad, and Mysore. During week ending September 11 rainfall more satisfactory generally, except in Punjab and Rajputana. Bombay cotton market steady. Fine M.G. Oomra September Rs. 271. Piece-goods market no improvement, but some good retail enquiry visible and general circumstances slightly more hopeful. Calcutta jute market firm, with business done in old crop and nothing doing in new crop. Hessians very quiet with declining prices; heavy goods firm with fair enquiry. No change in Bank Rates.

Important deposits of coal, copper, and iron are reported to have been discovered near the village of Nebrojan, in Croatia.

The prohibition of import of sulphate of copper into Greece was removed on September 10.


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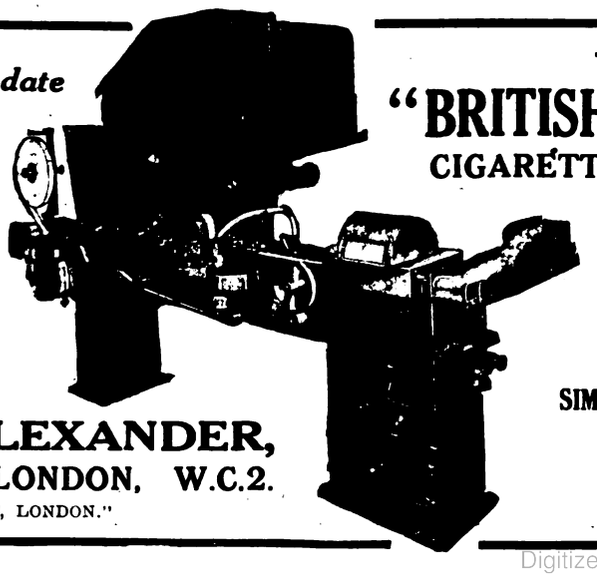

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# ENGINEERING.

## THE MACHINE-TOOL EXHIBITION.

### Some Notable Exhibits.

In my notes last week on the Machine-Tool Exhibition I pointed out that at one time the comparatively slow working of our British-made machine tools was more or less a tacit reproach to our designers, and that as far as speed was concerned it was felt that American and German lathes were superior.

Now it is evident that the conditions are changed, and that the British tools shown are every bit as efficient as regards both quantity and quality of production as the finest tools turned out of Cincinnati, Toledo, or New Haven firms.

A further point which will strike the visitor is the immense development of the unit drive for even comparatively small machines. Practically every tool on view of any size is driven by its own electric motor either direct or belt-coupled. In connection with this point there is a good deal to be learned by the visitor as to modern methods and speeds.

For all-round general engineering purposes the lathe, which was probably in some form or other the first tool used by man, is rightly considered as being pre-eminent, but between the variety of lathes shown at Olympia, and those used even by our fathers there is a great difference. This is naturally most marked in connection with what may be termed the refinements of the machine rather than in design. A few years ago the all-geared type was practically unknown; to-day the majority of special purpose and big power lathes are made in this way. Saddles, tool-holders, chucks, and moving mechanism have been improved almost beyond knowledge, and in addition there are a number of lathes, such as Charles Taylor (Birmingham), Ltd., are showing, which have been designed for carrying out work of a type which, before their introduction, was machined as far as possible and then finished by hand. An instance of this may be given in the shape of this firm's patent plugging lathe, which has been specially designed for the rapid production of plugs for steam, gas, and water-cocks, up to 4 inches long on the taper part. The makers guarantee that this lathe will produce more perfect plugs with greater rapidity than any other lathe on the market by semi-skilled labour. This may seem a big claim to make, but a study of the machine at work certainly seems to justify the contention. This firm also show a cock-boring machine which has recently been re-designed, and is said to be far more rapid and convenient than any other machine obtainable for producing the taper-holes in the cock bodies. This machine is suitable for producing work up to 2 inches diameter at the large end and up to 3½ inches long on the taper part. This firm also show capstan lathes, one of which is specially designed for machining castings and forgings, and is well adapted for brass work, and the other is suitable for the rapid and accurate production of small parts in brass and steel from round and section rods. They also show a spinning lathe suitably designed to withstand the great stress to which it is subjected in spinning operations.

Richard Lloyd and Co., Ltd., another well-known Birmingham firm, show their 6½ inches by 6 ft. Galtona straight V-bed lathes, with hollow spindle, screw-cutting, sliding, and surfacing shafts on front complete with travelling steady, etc., and a complete set of change gears and reversing counter-shaft. They also show a similarly sized gap-bed screw-cutting lathe with cabinet leg and tray, three-speed change gear-box, and complete equipment. A patent relieving lathe, shown by Smith and Coventry, Ltd., of Manchester, came in for a good deal of attention, and I understand that this machine has been sold in considerable numbers since its introduction in 1916, and has proved its value on all classes of relieving work. Compared with other designs, its chief features are its liberal proportions, the extreme directness of its driving connections from the lathe spindle to the relieving cam, the absence of all tumbler or bevel gear-reversing mechanism and all over-hung studs or spindles in such parts of the machine. This machine also has additional conveniences for timing the reciprocation to suit the gashes in the work, and gives a particularly wide range of change-gear possibilities.

One of the specialist firms in lathe production is John Lang and Sons, Ltd., of Johnstone, near Glasgow, and at this stand are shown the latest developments in various lathes, including surfacing and screw-cutting lathes, surfacing and boring lathes, axle lathes, automatic screw-cutting lathes, and cutting-off lathes designed and made at the works of this firm and also at the works of Messrs. Dean, Smith, and Grace, Ltd., of Keighley. Considerable interest was taken in the lathes shown in operation, and of these special attention was attracted by the 30-inch swing surfacing and boring lathe with patent variable speed and headstock driven by a constant speed electric motor. This headstock is fitted with Lang's patent automatic speed-changing mechanism whereby the revolutions of the spindle automatically increase as the tool travels towards the centre. By this means a surface can be finished in one-half the time taken on an ordinary stepped cone lathe. Further features which attracted attention in this lathe were the patent covered bed, which prevents cuttings from falling on the working surfaces of the lathe bed, the four-speed gear-box, and the large hexagon turret for carrying six tool-holders. Great interest was also taken in the new 8¼-inch centre manufacturing sliding, surfacing and screw-cutting lathe made by the Keighley firm mentioned. This lathe is said to be one of the best examples of the manufacturing type of lathe at present made in this country. It is filled with all geared friction headstock, self-acting sliding, surfacing and screw-cutting motions, with quick movement to saddle in all directions, automatic steps to longitudinal and transverse speeds, micrometer adjustment to saddle, and swivel slide screws, and pump and pan arrangement for the supply of water to the tool when cutting. This lathe was driven at the exhibition by a constant speed electric motor, but would be supplied with an ordinary single pulley drive headstock.

To those engineers who have to deal with the screw-cutting of parts in large quantities the new 6¼-inch centre Lang automatic screw-cutting lathe was certain to be of great interest. This lathe is specially designed for cutting square and V-threads, which are beyond the range of screws cut with a die, and a good deal of actual screw-cutting was being carried out on this machine in remarkably quick time. Also in operation at this stand was a cutting-off lathe for dealing with bars up to 4 inches in diameter, in which two tools were in operation, one cutting at the back and the other at the front.

Another special purpose lathe was shown by Messrs. Tangye's, Ltd., of Birmingham. This was an axle-turning lathe, 12 inches high in centres, and taking work up to 9 feet in length. On a tool of this type both ends of a railway carriage or wagon axle can be machined simultaneously. Four changes of speed are provided by the gear-box and the headstock is driven through double gearing providing two speeds so that a total of eight speeds can be obtained. The saddles have hand movement along the bed by a pilot wheel, and the cross slides have hand-screw feed and carry square turrets. The saddles may be operated independently or simultaneously by automatic feed provided with automatic stops. Both tailstocks are adjustable along the bed, and the

(*Continued on page 451.*)

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You need the most efficient modern methods of production to effectively compete with your brands—"STANDARD" Machines meet that need. With the ever rising cost of labour, the utmost use of automatic machinery of proved worth becomes increasingly imperative. The retention of old-fashioned methods or inefficient equipment is disastrous. Write us and let us tell you what "STANDARD" Machines will do for your production.

**The "STANDARD" Cigarette Machine**

is the incomparable embodiment o every practical device for the utmost perfection in Cigarette Production without unduly sacrificing the essential features of simplicity, accessibility, and ease of operation. It possesses the advantage of having been developed under actual working conditions, and rugged strength characterises every detail of its design and construction—so necessary for absolute reliability.

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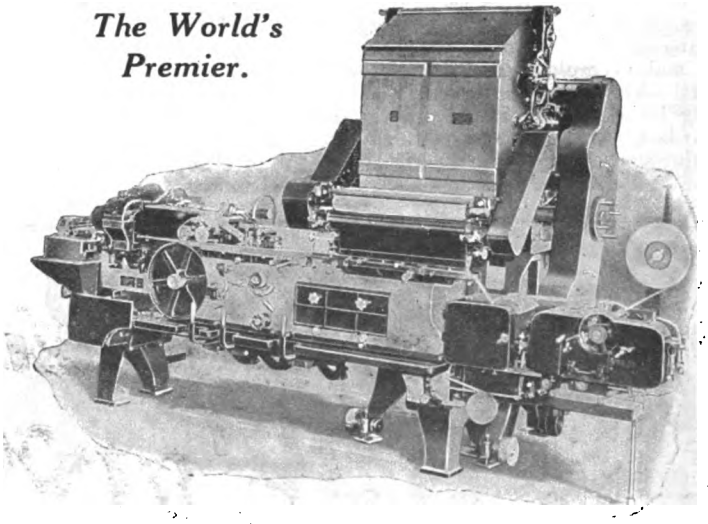

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right-hand tailstock has an adjustable barrel, and the left-hand tailstock swivels so that axles can be easily withdrawn from the fast headstock. It is worthy of note that diameter stops and several new improvements in detail have been embodied.

Any reference to modern lathes would be incomplete without a brief description of the 8½-inch tool-room lathe and 8½-inch general purpose lathe of Messrs. Smith, Barker, and Willson, Ltd., of Halifax. The former is a distinct departure from general lathe practice, and has been designed to meet the present-day demand for a precision tool with the degree of accuracy and convenience required in a modern tool-room. Its outstanding feature is the method of supporting the carriage which moves on a hard steel guide strip situated on the front of the bed almost directly under the tool point so that the pressure of the tool is taken up without any tendency to "spring" or vibration. This guide strip is made of special hard alloy steel and, together with the leading screw, which is also situated under the front flat of the bed, is protected from falling chips and dirt.

These lathes are intended to be run in gangs of ten or more, and can be driven in an open shop in any situation as there are no overhead countershafts or fittings of any description. Power is transmitted by means of a silent worm drive, through a friction clutch, to the driving gears which, by sliding on a castellated shaft in the leg, give four changes of speed, the final drive being by belt to a pulley in the headstock. Two rates of back-gearing are provided which may be instantly changed by means of friction clutches, so that altogether twelve spindle speeds can be obtained. Reverse and knock-off motions are provided, the former being operated from the saddle. Other fitments include a taper-turning attachment and draw-in collet chucks.

The 8½-inch general purpose lathe, to which reference has been made, is a typical English lathe with backshaft and flat top bed of very rigid design. This tool is capable of taking very heavy cuts without strain, can be supplied with straight or gap bed, and is a reliable heavy duty machine turning out accurate work at high speed. It is equipped with a square steel turret, which allows tools for four different operations to be carried at the same time.

Amongst the exhibits of London firms, the stand of Messrs. Bryant, Simons, and Co., of St. John Street, was the object of considerable interest on the part of lathe users, as upon it were shown several examples of high-precision screw-correcting lathes, external and internal, for producing plug and ring screw gauges, taps, and dies, and similar screw threads of great accuracy. In this type of tool the chief feature is the lead screw with adjustable corrector-bar for increasing or decreasing the pitch. This permits of allowance being made for shrinkage or expansion in the production of hardened screw gauges, taps, etc. I noted at my first visit that the accuracy of pitch is guaranteed by a certificate of examination issued by the National Physical Laboratory.

The Warwick 6-inch centre-sliding, surfacing, and screw-cutting lathe shown by Messrs. Brown, and Ward, Ltd., of Birmingham, should be of special interest to buyers with probable trade overseas in precision tools. This lathe is specially designed for tool-room work, and is in great demand in garages and general engineering shops. The fact of its having a gap-bed makes it specially valuable for all general as well as tool work. It is fitted with a front shaft for surfacing, and is arranged so that bars of one inch cross-sectional area can pass through the spindle. The bed has raised V-slides, and travelling and fixed steadies are included in the shipment. The change-wheels are suitable for cutting all sizes of Whitworth threads, and a special wheel is supplied, by the aid of which all metric threads can be cut.

## IRON AND STEEL WORKS IN ROUMANIA.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, together with the Privileged Austro-Hungarian State Railway Company, have constituted a Roumanian Company under the style of "Uzinele de fier si domenile din Resita Societate Anonima" (Iron and Steel Works and Domains of Reshitza Joint Stock Company) with the object of acquiring and working the iron and steel works, mines, and other industrial establishments, domains, and forests belonging to the Privileged Austro-Hungarian State Railway Company, which are situated in the County of Caras-Severin (Banat). Further objects of the company include the creation of new companies and the erection of new works for the development of the metallurgical industry and the eventual incorporation of all domains, mines, and works of the neighbouring Transylvanian County of Huniedoara, at Iniloara (Vajda-Hunyad) and Cujir (Kudzsir), formerly the property of the Hungarian and now belonging to the Roumanian State. Among other activities of the company may be mentioned the establishment of works for the manufacture of material required in the petrol industry, under the guidance of the Department of Commerce and Industry. The capital is 125,000,000 lei.

The Privileged Austro-Hungarian State Railway Company are transferring to the new company the whole of their movable and immovable property, situated in the County of Caras-Severin, and receive in consideration thereof 148,400 shares (74,200,000). The remaining 1,600 shares of the first issue are also to be subscribed and fully paid in cash, with a premium of 100 per cent. to be paid into the reserve fund.

The constitution of the company is referred to in the local Press as a great national achievement, with important consequences for the future industrial and economic development of the country. It is anticipated that it will help to diminish Roumania's dependence on other countries for railway material, etc., besides being a sound industrial undertaking and a good investment for Roumanian capital.

## MARINE MOTORS IN CONSTANTINOPLE

The prospects of a large market in Constantinople and vicinity for marine motors, says the American Consul-General in that city, are very good, although the present demand is somewhat limited. Hardly any new engines are here, all of those in use having been left behind by the German or British armies. At the present time price is the greatest factor in the marine-motor market, but for the permanent holding of the market finish is indispensable. There is little demand, he adds, now for motor boats. The four-stroke engine and electric ignition are preferred. Benzine, gasoline, and all raw oils are equally available in Constantinople.

## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

### Forthcoming Sailings.

The Prince Line s.s. Algerian Prince, for Tunis, Malta, and Alexandria (taking cargo for Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Lattakia, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus ports), will close for cargo at Manchester on October 2.

The Moss Line s.s. Sitra, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria (taking cargo at through rates, via Alexandria, to Beyrout, Jaffa, Mersina, Alexandretta, Haifa, Cyprus, Port Said, and Tripoli), will close for cargo on September 25.

The Moss Line s.s. Karnak, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constanza, will close for cargo at Liverpool on September 25.

The Johnson Line s.s. Pensacola, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constanza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 2.

The Cunard s.s. Brescia, closing for cargo at Liverpool on October 9, will call at Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constanza, and Sulina.

The Bibby Line s.s. Warwickshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon will leave Liverpool on October 7.

The Anchor Line s.s. Scindia, for Bombay, will leave Liverpool on October 16.


**BANQUE D'EXPORTATION PRIV. DU ROYAUME DE SERBIE.**

(Royal priv. Serbian Bank for Exportation.)

**BELGRADE, SERBIA.**

**Capital, Paid-up, 5,000,000 Dinars**

**Reserve - - 1,200,000 Dinars**

The Bank transacts all Banking Operations, undertakes all manner of financial, commercial and industrial enterprises and effects Money-Transfers to and from Foreign Countries.
*The Commercial Department* of the Bank deals mainly in the Export of Native Products on its own account and on commission basis.

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**FAST PASSENGER SERVICE.**

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LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
FITTED WITH ELECTRIC FANS.
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PASSENGER SAILING DATES—
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**Industria Forestiera din Transilvania.—Capital, 12,000,000 Lei**
**Industria Chimica Romana.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei**
**Tipografia Gutemberg.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei**
**Casele Populare.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei**
**Crucea Societate pentru comertul si industria de vestminte si odoare bisericesti.—Capital, 1,000,000 Lei**
**Minele de Aur din Romania.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei**
**S.A.R.D.A. Societate Anonima Romana de Aprovizionare—Capital, 2,000,000 Lei**

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(Joint Stock Company).

**HEAD OFFICE: BUCHAREST (Roumania).**

**Capital: 125,000,000 Lei. Reserves: 140,000,000 Lei.**

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AND
Branches in all the Principal Towns of Great Roumania.

# ROUMANIA.

**AREA** (after Peace Treaties of 1919) **122,282 sq. miles.**

In 1914 the cultivated area was (according to an estimate of Dr. Colesco) 34,475,750 acres; of which 13,074,922 were ploughed lands, 468,670 were vineyards and orchards, 1,436,960 were meadows, 2,948,472 were pastures, and 5,705,750 were forests.

**POPULATION. About 17,400,000.**

**IMPORTS (1915). £8,533,234.**

United Kingdom, £848,997; Austria-Hungary, £3,718,182; Belgium, £43,230; Germany, £3,575,159; France, £660,287; Turkey, £558,238; Italy, £762,023.

**EXPORTS (1915). £21,742,379.**

United Kingdom, £2,238; Austria-Hungary, £13,576,255; Belgium, £2,343; Germany, £7,044,803; Turkey, £443,325; Italy, £37,838.

[NOTE.—In 1914 the Imports from the U.K. amounted to £2,231,773, and the Exports to it to £1,433,535.]

# BANQUE DE CREDIT ROUMAIN

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FULLY PAID-UP CAPITAL:
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**BUCHAREST. BRAILA.**
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**Authorised Capital, 160,000,000 Lei. Capital Paid Up, 100,000,000 Lei. Reserve Fund, 38,936,306 Lei.**

**Head Office in BUCAREST, 5, Strada Smardan.**

**Branches in BAZARGIC, BRAILA, CONSTANTZA, CZERNOWITZ (Bucovina), GALATZ, KISHINEFF (Bessarabia), SILISTRIA, TULCEA, TEMESVAR.**

**Council of Administration:**—*President*, G. N. BAGDAT, former President of the High Court of Justice and Cour de Cassation. *Vice-President*, G. I. STOICESCO, former Vice-President of the Senate, Professor of the University.
**Board of Directors and Members:**—C. G. COCIASU, Barrister, former Vice-President of the Senate; V. BRATIANU, former Manager of the Banque Nationale de Roumanie, former Minister; D. D. BRAGADIRU, Merchant and Manufacturer; Al. F. BADESCU, Engineer, General Manager of the Société de Tramways de Bucarest; G. CORBESCO, Barrister; I. G. DUCA, former Minister; I. I. STANCULEANU, Barrister, former Member of Parliament; Al. N. STEFANESCU, former Manager of the Banque Nationale de Roumanie.
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**General Manager:**—N. P. STEFANESCO, Engineer, Inspector-General, former General Manager of the Navigation Fluviale du Danube.
**Manager:**—I. SAVESCO. **Sub-Managers:**—N. BANULESCO, C. T. TEODORESCO, Ion C. PILIDI, S. HENZEL, D. CONSTANTINESCO.

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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—The animated state of the market has continued. Currants and sultanas have been in increasing demand, and prices have advanced. The position as regards supplies of sultanas is most unfavourable, and the news that there has been a considerable reduction in the crop estimate has given a marked upward tendency to forward prices. Figs have come to business well, and rates have been maintained. In view, however, of the prospect of greatly increased supplies from the Smyrna region, it is to be anticipated that prices will soon find a much lower level.

Sugar.—The position remains much the same. Home refined has continued in good request at the controlled rates. West Indian crystallised has been done in the free market at from 95s. to 100s.

Coffee.—Business has been transacted at somewhat lower levels. Costa Rica has been done at from 106s. to 155s., Indian at 100s. to 135s., and Mocha round about 160s. The futures market has been weak.

Oilseeds.—Generally speaking, a firm tone has characterised the market. Indian linseed has come to business at 41s. per cwt., an advance of 1s., while La Plata is a similar amount up at 37s. Rapeseed closes firm, with Toria at 36s. 3d., real bold Ferozepore at 35s. 3d., 2s. up, and yellow Cawnpore at 33s., an advance of 1s. 3d. Cottonseed is about the same, Indian being 14s. 3d. and Egyptian 19s.

Oilcakes.—Prices have firmed up. Linseed cake has come to business up to 24s., while cottonseed cake has been done round about 14s. Other transactions have included palm kernel cake at 12s., Arachis cake at 14s. 6d., and coconut cake at 14s.

Seed-oils.—Linseed oil is harder at 82s. Rape oil is unchanged at 74s. for crude and 90s. for refined. Egyptian cotton oil is steady at 73s. for crude and 91s. for refined. Turpentine is firm at 146s. for spot, while for October-December 148s. 6d. is quoted, and for January-April 152s. 6d.

## EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in August:—

Cotton.—The spell of intense heat that occurred this month appears to have had a somewhat harmful effect on the crop, especially in parts of Upper Egypt. The abundance of water on the arrival of the flood induced some cultivators to overwater, which resulted in the usual boll shedding. Pink boll-worm attacks are reported from all parts of the country. The intensity of the attack appears to be much the same as at the corresponding period last year. The first picking is taking place in Upper Egypt, and will probably become general about the middle of September.

Millet (Sefi).—The weather was favourable, and water supply sufficient. Harvesting is going on in Upper Egypt. Smut is now reported from all provinces, but this and the stem-borer, noticed nearly everywhere, do not seem to have caused much harm to the crop, which is reported to be in a good condition. A satisfactory yield is expected.

Rice (Sefi).—The weather has been favourable and water supply sufficient. The crop is free from pests and in a good state of growth. Flowering is general and late-sown crop is coming into ears. An average yield is expected.

Sugar Cane.—The weather was, on the whole, favourable, and water supply sufficient. The crop is growing very satisfactorily and is promising well.

Ground Nuts.—Both weather and water supply were satisfactory. The crop is healthy, and a good yield is expected.

The offices of the Bengal Iron Company have been transferred to Clutha House, 10, Princes Street, S.W.1.

The directors of the Barsi Light Railway Company recommend a final dividend of 3 per cent., together with a bonus of 4 per cent. (14s. per share in all), making 12 per cent. for the year to March 31.

## LANCASHIRE COTTON

### Revival of Demand Expected.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

The market continues rather nervous with regard to several matters which are pending in trade circles, and there is not sufficient confidence on the part of buyers for business of importance to be attempted. The feeling is growing, however, that a revival of demand is not very far off. There is still a possibility of a coal strike, but in well-informed circles it is held that some agreement will be reached by the Government and the miners. Merchants continue to be harassed by the financial stringency, and it is reported that the Indian banks have decided to restrict accommodation to a greater extent than ever. Less favourable reports have been received relating to the Egyptian crop. Prices, however, since a week ago have given way owing to lack of demand. There is not much change in the outlook for the American growth. Buying in Egyptian yarns continues very limited. Producers are still losing ground, and wretched figures are now and again taken by needy sellers. More encouraging advices have again been received from Egypt as to clearances in piece goods, and supplies that have been held back are now going forward more freely. A little more inquiry has been about, but fresh orders have been few and far between. Comparatively little has been done for the outlets of the Levant. There are indications of improved bids for India in cloth, and some producers of light bleaching descriptions have now rather more work to get on with, but definite relief has not been experienced. Demand for China remains very slow, and there are some complaints of delay in remittances from the other side. Only isolated lines have been mentioned for South America. The depression in the weaving branch of our industry remains acute, and in some towns unemployment is of a serious character. American yarns for home use have been purchased in odd lots. In export yarns a moderate inquiry has been met with for India and the Levant.

### The Egyptian Crop.

According to advices received during the last few days, the Egyptian cotton crop for the current season has met with a setback. It is reported that the plants have been damaged by the pink boll-worm and by hot winds, and leading authorities are inclined to reduce estimates of the yield. A month ago there seemed to be a possibility of an output of about 7,500,000 cantars, against 4,826,000 cantars last season. It is now stated that the production will not be more than about 6,500,000 cantars. The development in the situation has caused disappointment to Lancashire traders, as there is a tendency for the consumption of Egyptian cotton to increase.

## NEW COMPANIES.

### Anglo-Caucasian Oil.

The Anglo-Caucasian Oil Company has been registered as a private company with a capital of £750,000 in £1 shares, to acquire all or part of the share capital of the Novo-Grozny Tashkala Oil Company, and all or part of the share capital (consisting of 600,000 shares of 100 roubles each) in a Russian company called the Grozny-Volga Naphtha and Trading Company, Grovol, and to pay for the same wholly or partly in shares of this company. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—T. F. Scourfield, 76, De Vere Gardens, Ilford, solicitor's clerk; F. J. Lovesay, 38, Dafforne Road, S.W.17, solicitor's clerk. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors. The solicitors are Messrs. Norton Rose and Co., 57½, Old Broad Street, E.C.

Greek Gold Loan.—The Bank of England are prepared to receive the coupons due the 1st proximo on bonds of the Greek Guaranteed £2 10s. per Cent. Gold Loan of 1898. The necessary lists can be procured on application at the Dividend Pay Office.


**LIONDA & COMPANY, Ltd.** 3, Broad Street Buildings, Liverpool Street, LONDON, E.C.2.

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**Export Department:** Heavy and Light Chemicals, Colonial Spices, Metals, Dried and Salted Fish, Matches, etc. Paper of any description, and all kinds of British, Scandinavian, Dutch and American Produce.

**Hellenic, Sudanese and Egyptian Produce:** Are always Buyers of Currants, Figs, Olive Oil, Locust Beans, etc., Gum, Senna Leaves, Beeswax, Hides and Skins, Cotton Seed, Onions, etc., etc.

**Chartering and Insurance Department:** British and Neutral Steamers chartering effected on the Baltic. Insurance of any description effected through Lloyd's and Government.

**Shipping Department:** For the Sale and Purchase of Steamers.

**Tobacco Department:** Stocks of various grades held always in London and Liverpool. **Coal Exporters, &c.**

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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

STAMBOUL, September 4.

The market does not show any notable improvement. Purchases of manufactures for Roumania have not relieved the position to any appreciable extent.

The rise in the exchange on London has not so far improved the prices of manufactures. It has, on the other hand, increased the difficulties of traders.

There has been a sharp fall in colonial produce during the week, particularly sugar, which, following continual offerings from Marseilles, Geneva and America, in addition to arrivals amounting to 6,500 tons has fallen about £20 per ton for disposable. The fall would have been still more pronounced had not Roumania effected important purchases here. Quotations: Disposable, £99 per ton against £118; afloat, £100 per ton against £105; in Customs, £T52 per 100 kilos against £T60.

Coffee.—Prices are weak, owing to the low levels existing in the European markets. The large stocks here depress prices.

Rice.—The demand continues for Roumania and for local consumption. The last arrivals were sold at once at Ps. 30 per oke Saigon No. 1.

Petrol.—The market is quiet and prices are unchanged.

Sardines.—There has been a somewhat improved demand, and prices are sustained.

Flour (American). — As anticipated, 45,000 sacks arrived this week, but prices have not undergone any decline.

Cereals.—Arrivals from Thrace, where the harvest has been deficient, have completely ceased as the result of the Customs regulations imposed by the Greek authorities.

Constantinople has only received a very small part of the crops of Anatolia, and it is obvious that as long as the present state of affairs continues the capital will not be able to count on Anatolian produce.

Roumania having recently raised the prohibition on the export of barley, large arrivals have caused prices to fall from Ps. 10 to Ps. 6½ per oke. The tone hardened subsequently, and the quotation is now Ps. 7½ per oke.

Wheats are firm, and some consignments just arrived found buyers at Ps. 19 and even Ps. 20 per oke.

Exports.—Transactions are of little importance, and prices are weak. Buyers are holding back in view of the fall of prices in Europe.

Mohair.—Arrivals of the week, 280 bales; sales, 480 bales at Ps. 100 per oke for England.

Wool.—No arrivals; sales, 90 bales at Ps. 57 per oke.

Cotton.—No arrivals.

MERSINA.

The report for July states:—Railway communications with Tarsus and Adana, interrupted since June 19, not yet having been re-established, there have been no commercial transactions with the interior. The disastrous consequences of this state of things are now beginning to be felt.

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The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended September 4 amounted to £16,583.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended August 20 amounted to £E14,177, making the total for the year £E171,201. The corresponding figures for 1919 were £E9,963 and £E86,841.


# IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

**Capital - £10,000,000**
**Paid-up - £5,000,000**

## GENERAL COMMITTEE.

**LONDON.**

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
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**SYRIA.** Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.

**SALONICA. TUNIS. AFRICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.**

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The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

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

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.


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## TENDERS INVITED.

**Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—**

**Egypt.**

*(The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.)*

**Pumping Machinery.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of pumping machinery for a pumping station at Tawila, in the Province of Gharbicha. October 15 (L.)**

Paving Stones, etc.—The Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of paving stones and granite headstones. October 15. (L.)

**India.**

Steelwork for Bridges.—The Great Indian Peninsula Railway invites tenders for the supply of steelwork for bridges (Wadi-Bundar Viaduct). (Specification £1. Secretary, 48, Copthall Avenue.) October 15.

Diesel Engines, etc.—The Municipal Board of Agra invites tenders for the supply, delivery, and erection of (1) four Diesel engines and high-tension alternators, including foundations, switchgear, transformers, and sub-station equipment; and (2) Fifteen miles of high-tension underground cables, 28 miles of overhead low-tension three-phase mains, and street lighting equipment, complete with all accessories. (Specifications £2. Messrs. Handcock and Dykes, 11, Victoria Street.) October 22.

**Algeria.**

H.M. Consul-General at Algiers reports that a local trader desires to receive quotations from United Kingdom firms for the supply of iron or soft steel hoops for barrel-making. It is understood that the applicant is prepared to pay cash for the material. Firms in a position to offer supplies of the material in question can obtain the name of the inquirer, specifications, etc., from the Department of Overseas Trade.

## COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

**Smyrna-Aidin Railway.**

The council of administration report that the working of the railway during the half-year to June 30 last has been continued by the company's staff under the control of the Inter-Allied Military Commission, and that 170 miles are now working out of a total length of 379 miles. The traffic receipts are still, however, most adversely affected by the disturbed state of the country, and this has again interfered with the completion of the accounts. In the last report the council stated that negotiations had been continuously carried on respecting the general question of the future status of the company with the Foreign Office, the representatives of the Allied Powers and other bodies. These negotiations have, for the moment, been held up, as many of the questions at issue cannot effectively be dealt with till some opinion can be formed as to the approximate amount the company may be likely to receive by the award of the Reparation Commission. No sittings of the Reparation Commission have, so far, taken place, but the council will be fully prepared to put their case before the Reparation Commission as soon as the sittings of that body commence. With a view to clearing up outstanding questions relating to the claims and also to settle the accounts for the period since the railway was seized by the Turkish Government, a representative of Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co. is now at Smyrna. The general manager, in his report, states that the maintenance of the company's property has been carried on subject to great difficulty and delay in obtaining material, and should this continue it will be necessary to obtain supplies from other than British sources. American coal is already in use.

## OIL OUTPUT.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah production week ended September 12, nil (previous week, 1,131 tons). Hurgada, 7,597 tons, against 9,511 tons.

## ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

The downward tendency which we have noted for two or three weeks past has continued. Some increases have to be recorded, but quotations are generally lower.

Among Government stocks Egyptian Unified has lost 1½ points, standing to-night at 63½, while the Pref. has declined from 54 to 53. Greek 1902 has lost a point at 46, and there is the same decrease to record in the 1910 Loan at 40, and in the 1914 at 53. The 1881 Loan has, however, made a small increase, being quoted now 55¼, and City of Alexandria Bonds have gained half a point at 60.

Taking banks, we find that Agriculturals have declined 9-32 to 4, and National Banks ¾ to 17¾. Land Banks have gained ¼, and are again quoted at 5.

There are no increases to record among Railways. On the other hand, Egypt Delta Light has declined from 5¼ to 5¼, Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin from 9 to 8½, and Pyræus-Athens 3 per cent. from 37 to 35.

Land shares show three small increases. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment stands to-night at 3⅝, having gained ⅛. Egyptian Consol has appreciated 1½d. to 2s. 7½d., and Sudan Plantations have gained ¼ at 5. The decreases are Aboukir, which has fallen 1-16, at 1⅝; Béhéra, which has lost ⅜, at 14⅝; Béhéra Pref., which has depreciated 1s., at 65s.; Sidi Salem, which has declined 9d. to 33s.; and Union Foncière, which has gone off ¼ of a point at 4½.

In the Miscellaneous group, we find Associated Cotton Ginners have decreased ⅛ of a point at 1⅛, while Salt and Soda has fallen from 42s. 6d. to 39s. 9d. Khedivial Mail has gained 1-32 at 5 19-32.

Among Oils, Roumanian has lost 3d. at 21s. 6d.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97 7/16 |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 33·25-33·75 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 98-103 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/10⅛-1/10¼ |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 170-180 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/10⅛-1/10¼ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 416-436 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅔ | 3·53-3·55 |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 50·50-51·50 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 220-225 |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 29½ |

## SMYRNA OPIUM REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Bros., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended September 4 :—The sales this week on our market amount to five cases, at 17s. 6d. to 19s. as to quality. The exchange to-day is 430 piastres per pound sterling for cheque, and 0.84 dollars per one Turkish pound. The arrivals are 190 cases, against 685 at same date last year. We are pleased to say that the Greek regular troops have taken Ouschak, a very important opium centre, so we hope soon, when railway communications are opened, to see more important arrivals of the drug on our market.

The directors of the Alliance Bank of Simla have appointed Mr. L. A. Davis to be general manager of the bank. Mr. Davis has been deputy manager of the foreign department of Barclays Bank, and only recently relinquished the duties of financial adviser to the Overseas Trade Department. Mr. Melville Macfadyen, who, as managing director, has been carrying on the duties of general manager, will revert to his former position of resident director on the arrival of Mr. Davis in India. The latter will proceed to India to take up his new appointment towards the end of the year, accompanied by Mr. R. G. H. Boulton, the chairman of the bank.


# BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

Telegrams: "TRABANQUE, LONDON."

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.)
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**CAPITAL.**

**Authorised, £10,000,000. | Subscribed and Paid up, £2,000,000.**

*Governor*, THE LORD FARINGDON. *Deputy Governor*, SIR HENRY BABINGTON SMITH, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.S.I.

*Manager*, A. G. M. DICKSON.

*London Manager*, P. C. WEST. *Secretary*, G. DE B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation is prepared to assist in the development of the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and offers exceptional financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their export and import trade.

It has Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world, and transacts Banking business of every description.

It invites enquiries, and will endeavour, where necessary, to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

*Branches :* **BATOUM. BELGRADE. DANZIG.**

*Affiliated Companies:* **THE NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY,** Constantinople and Branches

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## GENERAL BANK OF GREECE.

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

**Head Office - ATHENS.**

BANKING OPERATIONS:
Every description of Banking business transacted.

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

COMMERCIAL AND SHIPPING DEPARTMENT:
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## POPULAR BANK OF GREECE.

**Head Office, ATHENS. Branch, PIRÆUS.**

Correspondents throughout Greece.

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

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

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

*General Manager:* D. LOVERDO.

## TRADE WITH THE NEAR EAST

WITH its offices in all the principal towns in **Greece, in Egypt, Cyprus, Crete, Constantinople,** and in **Smyrna, the Bank extends exceptional Facilities for Export and Import Trade between Great Britain and the Near East generally,** and invites enquiries and correspondence relating thereto.

HEAD OFFICE ATHENS.

## BANK OF ATHENS

LONDON 22, Fenchurch Street E.C.3. MANCHESTER 57, Mosley Street

## COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE, LIMITED.

**CAPITAL PAID-UP - Drs. 15,000,000.**
**RESERVE FUNDS Drs. 5,250,205.45.**

**Head Office: ATHENS.**

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

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

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

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

## GREECE.

Area 43,522 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,746,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 296,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

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

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

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

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

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

**COINAGE.**—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 33 Drachmæ to £1.

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

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

## BANK OF NATIONAL ECONOMY (of Greece)

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*Branches:*

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(PALIOS LINE.)

**Head Office - PIRÆUS.**

A. P. PALIOS, Founder. M. P. PALIOS, General Manager.

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85 AGENCIES in Greece, Sea of Marmora, Black Sea, Sea of Azof, Asia Minor, Egypt, Mediterranean and principal Ports of the World.

Coaling Yards and Repair Shops.

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*Cable Address—Navigation Palios.*

*Codes used—Scott's (1905) 10th Edition; A.B.C. (1901) 5th Edition.*

## MARITIME BANK of GREECE

**AUTHORISED CAPITAL FULLY PAID DR.10,000,000.**

Founder—A. P. PALIOS.

**Head Office: PIRÆUS, GREECE.**

Cable Address: "Maritime Bank."

Codes Used.

Scott's 1906—10th Edition. A.B.C. 1901—5th Edition. Palios 1919

*Branches and Agents in the Principal Cities of Greece and the Levant.*

*The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business, and by reason of its connections, throughout Greece and the Levant, is in a position to offer to the trade exceptional facilities.*

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AGENTS AND CORRESPONDENTS:—

For the U.K.—LONDON COUNTY & WESTMINSTER & PARR'S BANK, London.
BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO, London.

For the U.S.A.—NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK CITY, U.S.A.

# BANK OF ORIENT.

**Capital Paid Up - - - Drs. 25,000,000.**

**Head Office - ATHENS.**

Every kind of Banking Business Transacted.

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


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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 491.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Greek Chamber of Deputies has been dissolved, and the General Election has been proclaimed for November 7. This step has a special significance for the Hellenic world at this juncture. It disposes of the fears of the Opposition in Greece that the elections were to be indefinitely postponed, and consequently brings nearer the prospect of a better political understanding in the country. The Chamber that has just been dissolved was elected in 1915, dissolved by King Constantine in 1916, and recalled by M. Venizelos in 1917. Circumstances have compelled it to be prolonged beyond the period fixed by the Constitution, and the Opposition claimed to find in this measure a tendency on the part of the Government to rule solely in its own interests. With this obstacle removed, and with the elections conducted in a manner that gives no loophole for charges of unconstitutional practices, Greek political life should be cleared of much of the bitterness that has characterised it for the last two or three years. No one can belittle the signal services that M. Venizelos has rendered Greece in the sphere of foreign affairs, and the opportunity for ignoring these provided by an accumulation of domestic grievances has now been removed. Greece's responsibilities have increased with leaps and bounds in recent months, and it is greatly to be desired that she should be in a position to discharge them with a united front.

Unsatisfactory news from Montenegro remains the order of the day, and it is a matter for speculation how long the patience of the Entente Powers will endure. During the last twelve months three Relief Missions have been obliged to leave the country. The visit of Count de Salis gave rise to a report which the British Government considered it impolitic to publish in view of its relations with the Yugoslav Government. But a strongly worded appeal, it is understood, has since been made to the non-Serbian elements in the Belgrade Cabinet to bring the kingdom's policy in regard to Montenegro more into line with modern conceptions of justice, and further investigations into conditions in Montenegro are now being carried out. Unfortunately the Allied Governments have almost forfeited their right to intervene by tolerating the existing state of affairs so long. The Serbians have been encouraged to consider Montenegro as a district of Serbia, and consequently regard any protests on the part of Montenegrins who desire to exercise the rights of self-determination as open rebellion, to be dealt with in the way customary in the Balkans. Nobody inside Montenegro or out of it wishes to see Montenegro outside the Yugoslav State, but it is in the interests of Europe as a whole that a sense of injustice should not be left to rankle in a proud-spirited people to become a danger-spot for the future peace of the Balkan Peninsula.

The view expressed in these columns some time ago that if the Constantinople Government is to deal effectively with Mustapha Kemal and his Nationalists, it will have to receive substantial help from the Allies, finds confirmation in a recent message to *The Times* from its Constantinople correspondent. That writer reports that the Porte is understood to have requested Allied financial assistance in order to enable it, if necessary, to undertake the pacification of Anatolia; and he remarks that "it would seem to be an act of common justice and prudence on the part of the Allied Governments to give the legal Government of Turkey the necessary financial aid for this purpose." Turkey, he adds, has certain obligations to the Entente, which she must fulfil under heavy penalties, but she cannot fulfil them without the aid suggested. The inference is obvious, and unless the Allies agree to give the help that is asked for, it will be even more clear that the protestations of goodwill towards Turkey, of which they were so lavish a little while ago, were merely cant of the most nauseating kind. That it is almost as much to the interest of Europe as it is to that of the Sultan's Government that peace and order should be restored to Anatolia cannot be denied, and since, as *The Times* correspondent observes, Turkish troops, if properly paid and equipped, should be able to do the work, it would surely be advisable to provide for their payment and equipment, and set them to the task without further delay.

It may be urged—in certain quarters it almost certainly will be urged—that as Greek troops are already in Asia Minor, and have given an excellent account of themselves so far, they should be allowed, or requested, to extend their advance and see the undertaking through to the end. There are, however, many reasons against following such a course. Some of those reasons are indicated in the letter from our Constantinople Correspondent which we publish on another page, but the best of all is that mentioned above. Turkish troops can do the work, given the conditions mentioned, and it is clearly their job rather than anybody's else. Moreover, it is recognised now that it is not nearly such a formidable undertaking as was formerly supposed. Nationalism of the Kemalist pattern is crumbling badly, thanks

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largely to what the Greeks have already accomplished, and by judicious handling of the situation it should be possible to hasten the process of disintegration, to detach the very large number of waverers and moderates, and to leave only the extremists in the field. The fate of these diehards would then quickly be sealed, and Turkey would be left, without a fresh grievance and without such embittered feeling as would be caused by following the other course of action, to show whether she were really capable of making a fresh start.

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In this connection it is satisfactory to note that Turkey has been spared yet another change of Cabinet. At the beginning of last week it was reported that the Sheikh-ul-Islam, the President of the Council, and the Minister of Commerce, had resigned, being dissatisfied with the failure to take more active measures against the Nationalists; and it was feared that Damad Ferid Pasha, becoming thoroughly disheartened, would abandon the attempt to drive his difficult team. Happily this fear proved to be unfounded. Neither the Grand Vizier nor the President of the Council, Riza Tewfik Bey, has resigned, and though Mustapha Sabri Effendi, the Sheikh-ul-Islam, has left the Cabinet, his resignation is not necessarily a source of weakness at the present time. He had courage and energy, but he was extreme in his party views, and disinclined to show mercy to an opponent.

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The latest mail to arrive from Egypt brought the translation of Saad Zaghloul Pasha's letter to the Egyptian people on the subject of the negotiations with the Milner Commission. The document, as might be expected, puts the conduct of the writer and his associates in a most favourable light, and the conduct of all other parties in a light that is seldom favourable, and its tone is such that it is easy to understand why it has called forth rather severe criticism. Thus, the Peace Conference is blamed for its apathy and its failure to "recognise the quality" of the (Egyptian) Delegation, while it will seem to most people that the determination of the Egyptians to boycott the Milner Commission was due—at the best—to a foolish misunderstanding of its purpose, as now admitted by the writer. But the most interesting part of the letter is that in which Zaghloul Pasha states that the negotiations between the Commission and the Delegation—

"resulted in drawing up three projects—the first was made by the Milner Commission, and was absolutely rejected by the Delegation; the second was presented by the Delegation and was absolutely rejected by the Commission; and the third and the last was presented by the Milner Commission, but the President of that body declared . . . that it had to be accepted or rejected as a whole, for it contained the maximum of what might be agreed upon by England, with Egypt."

In view of the favourable turn taken by events of late, it would be invidious to comment further on this epistle, and we will content ourselves with expressing the hope that its writer will use his undoubtedly great influence with his countrymen to their lasting good.

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The situation in Mesopotamia continues to improve, although at Kufa and some other parts small forces are still invested, and fighting of a sporadic character is still reported—and likely to be so for some time. It is not without significance that the district west and south of Baghdad, that is to say the plain between Baghdad and the Euphrates, seems to be giving at least as much trouble as others more remote from the capital (if we may call it so). Khan Mahaweel, familiar to most travellers along the Baghdad-Hillah road, is mentioned as the centre of punitive operations being carried out by the 55th Brigade column; and the repairs to the Baghdad-Feluja railway line have now been completed: but that this district, which in Turkish days was regarded as "safe" should be giving so much trouble is strange indeed. Happily, the British women and children from the camp at Kerind, regarding whose safety there was some uneasiness, are now arriving safe and sound in Baghdad, whence, we may suppose, they will shortly be sent either to India or home. An attempt on the part of the Arabs to loot stores at Ahwaz carries the disturbance into Persian territory, but the incident is probably quite unimportant.

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Parts II. and III. of the English edition of the Austrian Red Book have now been published by Messrs. George Allen and Unwin, and bring the diplomatic story connected with the outbreak of war from July 24 to August 27, 1914. All the matter may seem ancient history now, but time can hardly rob these documents of their human interest in view of the events to which they formed the prelude. Part II. contains the full *dossier* of Austria-Hungary's case against Serbia. Of special interest are the messages that passed between Berlin and Vienna regarding Italy's attitude, as well as the candid views on the situation of the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador in Rome. On another page we are reminded of Sir Edward Grey's prophetic words to Count Mensdorff regarding the threatened world-war: "It is the greatest step towards Socialism that could possibly have been made. We shall have Labour Governments in every country after this."

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The appointment of Sir William Meyer as High Commissioner for India marks a beginning, but only a beginning, of the change we advocated two years ago, by which the business transactions of the Indian Government would be separated from the political and administrative control exercised by the authorities in this country. Sir William now takes charge of the supply of stores, the assistance offered to Indian students, and the supervision of the work of the Trade Commissioner, whose office will, of course, remain in the City, but all matters of staff and finance are left to be dealt with in Whitehall. Indian opinion would not be satisfied with this as a permanent arrangement, but ought to accept it as a very substantial instalment, while Sir William's record of tireless energy affords the best possible guarantee that new functions will be claimed as quickly as is consistent with the effective organisation of the departments now transferred.

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Lord Lytton's selection as Under-Secretary of State for India, in succession to Lord Sinha, has been favourably received, and we have no doubt that he will fill the vacancy with credit, but the chief interest in his appointment is that it carries us back to that old-world Simla, where he was born in the days of his father's meteoric viceroyalty. It was a Simla without politics, for the Congress had not yet come into existence, and a small group of brilliant men could quietly direct the administration of India, doing what they thought was best for the country, and paying but little heed to what the country thought. Simla is very different to-day. The Viceroy and his counsellors, whom Lord Lytton will now help to control, must sleep with their ears to the ground, and a casual question in the legislature may claim precedence of the most important administrative schemes. The Englishmen of fifty years ago would probably find the new Simla intolerable could they revisit it: Indians of to-day can scarcely realise that the old existed in their fathers' time.

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Judging by the Anglo-Indian journals recently received the everlasting passage question has entered on a new phase. A few weeks ago the complaint was that, owing to the expected influx of travellers for pleasure, there would be no accommodation next spring for merchants and officials coming home for health or business purposes: now we hear from all quarters that the recent increase in fares puts a journey out of the reach of all except the wealthiest members of these classes, and the agitation has already induced the Government of India to ask that "representations" should be made to the steamship companies concerned, a measure which may, or may not, be productive of results. The companies will doubtless reply, and with justice, that operating costs are rising; the malcontents will point to dividends and market quotations as evidence that the companies have been doing remarkably well, and the situation is analogous to that which produced the recent inquiries into "profiteering" in so many industries, a mass of

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rather vague counter-assertions requiring to be tested quantitatively by some impartial authority.

In our judgment, the case is one where the public can fairly claim to know the facts. In this country we submit to heavy increases in railway fares because we know that the railways are for the moment insolvent, and that such meagre dividends as they pay come out of the pockets of the taxpayers in general. The Anglo-Indian, who finds himself deprived of his trip to England, has no corresponding knowledge regarding the shipping companies beyond the certainty that they are not insolvent. Convince him that the increase recently imposed is reasonable—as it well may be, in view of increased costs—and he will make the best of the position; but, until the facts have been impartially examined, he will cherish his grievance. Of course, he is negligible as a political factor, but India as well as Anglo-India is concerned, and under the new conditions Indian opinion will have to be taken into account. Indians are coming to Europe in steadily increasing numbers, and if their interests are taken seriously by the new popular governments a very different situation may result from that to which we have been accustomed under the mild bureaucratic *régime*.

# THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

**The Coal Truce.**

At the last moment, in fact, the very day before the strike notices expired, a truce was concluded with Mr. Smillie. True, it is nominally for no more than a week, but a fight once postponed is likely to be put off for a long time, and we may now get through the week without a coal strike. A few hot-headed revolutionaries are disappointed of their prey—undoubtedly the bleating of the capitalistic lamb has excited the proletarian tiger—and a few root-and-branch employers may be sorry not "to give these workmen a lesson." But most people are frankly relieved.

Credit for the result must be given mainly to Sir Robert Horne, who was persuasive but firm and reasonable throughout the long discussions. From the moment Mr. Smillie gave up his claim that the miners were out to reduce the price of coal to the public—a claim very few people really believed—there was nothing for it but to admit that their real business was an advance of wages, and to demand an advance without investigation of the justice of the claim before an impartial tribunal, as the miners' leaders did, was to take up an obviously untenable position. They could not get out of the fact that output per man has fallen with increases of wages, and it is quite clear that wages can only advance if output goes up—in other words, even time-work must have some relation to payment by results.

In the end it became increasingly clear that Mr. Smillie had not the support of the public, about which he probably cares little, or of the other trade unions, about which he cares a great deal. The railwaymen certainly do not want a strike; the dockers, when told that a tribunal of enquiry into miners' wages would not be impartial, replied that the judicial tribunal into their own rates of pay earlier in the year was absolutely fair. Mr. Smillie, it was noticed, used his favourite argument of the poverty of the miner and the danger of his trade again, but it has lost its novelty. The miner is notoriously able to live on three or four days' work a week, and the conditions are certainly getting better as regards safety. They are certainly less hazardous than on the railways, where accidents are still far too frequent.

The upshot of the whole business will be that the miners will meet the coal owners; if they will give a guarantee as to output, which could easily be increased, wages will go up. Probably this will be used as an argument for a further small increase in the price of coal to the public—a curious result of a policy which was to reduce the price—and the consumer will pay. That is the debit side of the account; on the credit side is the fact that constitutional action and reason have triumphed over direct action and revolutionary methods—a result which will enhance the reputation of Mr. Thomas and the Labour Party in Parliament and reduce the prestige of Mr. Smillie and the extremists outside.

In other directions the result will have considerable weight. Psychologically, the time for strikes seems to be over for the present. Prices and wages will still rise in certain directions, although they will probably fall in others; but it is evident that more can be done by Capital and Labour meeting at a round table than by a fight. We may, consequently, settle down for some time. When trade activity is falling off in many directions it is not precisely the time to strike.

**Political Activity.**

With the coal truce the talk of a general election is dying down. It was rumoured that the Government would have gone to the country had the miners challenged the constitution, and there could have been no doubt as to the result. At the Ilford by-election, which has been fought during the past few days, Labour has been disillusioned as to the support available for direct action and strikes, and it is frankly admitted on that side that the Government has the best of it; the Independent Liberals, with an excellent candidate, have cut no ice, since they have no definite policy as a party and still rely on formulæ. The Government will meet Parliament next month higher in credit than when the House adjourned in August. On the whole, popular sentiment is against a general election, unless it is shown to be inevitable. It does not want to be bothered with politics yet awhile, and the result would not substantially change the position of parties. When every side recognises this, there is no real reason for a political fight.

**The Return of Pussyfoot.**

Mr. "Pussyfoot" Johnson is back again from a holiday in the United States, and the autumn campaign to convert us to Prohibition will soon be in full swing. Pussyfoot has determined to plough up the hardest part of the ground first—in other words, he is going to Scotland to assist the Local Veto campaign. The brewers and distillers profess to be nervous, and the Temperance societies to be hopeful, but the public is only mildly amused and indifferent. To turn Scotland from whisky strikes the ordinary Southron as a feat which will put the greatest of the deeds of Hercules into the shade.

**The Bamberger Case.**

It was a little difficult to understand the amount of public interest taken in the Bamberger trial, which culminated last week in the prisoner being found guilty and sentenced to nine months' imprisonment. Mrs. Bamberger was a good-looking woman, of a not very spiritual type of beauty, who committed perjury in the Divorce Court—not a very uncommon offence. Her case was not essentially different from hundreds of other sordid stories; her lies were neither probable nor effective. Why the King's Proctor should suddenly have decided to prosecute her for perjury, while overlooking innumerable other instances, was a mystery of which Mr. Hayes, the defending counsel, naturally made the most; but as a matter of fact a couple were sentenced at the Old Bailey not a month ago for perjury in the same court—a fact which would rather have destroyed the effect of the argument had Mr. Hayes used it, as he wisely did not. Perhaps the King's Proctor is suddenly waking up to the necessity of discovering the truth—a commodity which, like the Okapi, owes at least some of its value to its rarity.

But if prosecutions followed in every such case an additional judge would have to be appointed, and the Central Criminal Court would cease not day or night.

Some of the newspapers have used this wretched woman as a text on which to hang more or less edifying sermons on the decay of morality, the decline of religion, and similar jeremiads. One need not take these things too seriously, but the case may be cited in future as an

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argument for divorce law reform. Apart from that, it has little importance.

**L.C.C. and L.G.O.C.**

It is not only when thieves fall out that honest men come by their own. Neither the London County Council nor the General Omnibus Company are thieves—indeed, the general run of the tramway and omnibus fares is far lower than on the railways—but they are quarrelling violently at the moment. Some time ago the County Council decided to introduce a "twopence all the way" fare between 10 and 4, to encourage shopping traffic during the slack hours; and even at the busy times they will carry you all the way from Blackfriars to Lower Tooting—on the improbable supposition that anybody wants to go there—for fourpence. The L.G.O.C. protested against the midday reduction, and asked the L.C.C. to stop it as being unfair competition; the L.C.C. retorted that it paid, and carried on. Now the omnibus company has decided to follow suit, and see what happens, so we shall once again have competition and the joy of a traffic war.

It will be interesting to see which wins. The trams can carry more people, but, on the whole, they are slower than the omnibuses, except uphill; the trams, however, cannot vary their routes, and the omnibuses, by running beyond the tram termini, can get a load of passengers at the beginning of the journey where the trams often start half empty. But the battle is likely to be a long one, for the antagonists have formidable reserves of power—the omnibus company being part of the Underground Railway, which is about to raise passenger fares, while the L.C.C. has an enormous network of trams, and carries millions of folk to and fro. On one point at least the two rivals are agreed—that deficits shall be made good on short-distance fares, while the long-distance passenger from the Embankment to the wilds of Streatham or Hampstead shall be encouraged with low rates. The old halfpenny fares have everywhere been abolished.

**Theatres and Films.**

The theatre is busy this week with seven "first-nights," and bookings in advance are said to be reasonably good; this otherwise deplorable summer has in fact done the mummers a good turn, just at a time when the slump was making even low comedians cultivate a tragic demeanour in private. But the honours of the moment are with the cinema. An astonishing film has been "released"—I believe that is the correct technical term—dealing with the life of the soul after death. It is impeccably orthodox, with a touch of sentiment; the ghost displays the proper histrionic ability, and conveys his emotions to the audience without any of that tedious table-rapping or "medium" business to which Sir A. Conan Doyle's supra-mundane visitors have to resort. The film, in fact, beats the spiritualist at his own game, and provides the most convincing spook imaginable. The title of the film is "Earthbound," and it seems to me easily the best thing achieved as yet on the screen.

**Provincial Housing.**

The recent joint housing loan has been a pronounced failure largely owing to the uncertainty of the immediate industrial position. A five-million loan was announced by five provincial towns, but the underwriters were left with the following proportions of stock on their hands—Brighton 44 per cent., Bristol 66, Portsmouth 72, Plymouth 83, Swansea 91. This failure is bound to affect the prospects, and the prices of the next municipal loans; but it is only fair to remember that the earlier housing loans for Surrey, Kent, and Essex, issued in the spring of 1920, were over-subscribed. It was sheer bad luck that the provincial towns prospectus coincided so exactly with a slump in industry and the prospect of a mining strike.

But at least the houses are getting built. In travelling about England to-day, one notices a very general revival of building activity in towns and villages. As the population is still growing at the rate of five or six thousand a week steadily, builders can hardly have begun to catch up with the demand yet, but the difficult of obtaining materials has not yet been entirely overcome.

**Durham Coal.**

The County of Durham has been considerably disturbed by the statement of an authority on the subject that in twenty or thirty years the coal mines in the Durham area will be exhausted. For several years past there has been a gradual transference of mining operations from the south and centre of the county to the east, and "great tracts of land which were formerly hives of industry are now little better than wilderness." Mining has recently developed along the sea-coast, but when these are worked out the Durham coalfield will be practically exhausted.

**Distress in East London.**

There is a great deal of unemployment and consequent distress in the East-End and South-East of London just now, nor does there seem any chance of an early improvement in the position. The difficulty appears to be due mainly to the fact that the present high prices compel high wages, high wages in turn mean high manufacturing costs, which again means fewer purchasers and restrictions in business. The furniture trade is quoted as an example. The manufacturing cost is four times what it was before the war, and at that price the public simply cannot, or will not buy, with the result that the shops are ordering nothing, and the workers are unemployed. Four shillings an hour is not much use to the man who only gets two or three hours' work a week.

The slackness reacts on shipping in the Port of London, and the dockers are consequently on short time. As these poor people have no resources to fall back upon, and even the barest living costs twice as much as in 1914, Mr. Thomas's prediction of a "black winter" seems certain to be fulfilled in this district.

**The Welsh Church.**

The Archbishop of Wales has been discussing the financial prospects of the new independent Church of Wales. A million pounds fund was started to equip it for its work after disendowment; not quite £400,000 has been subscribed. Apparently the war millionaires of South Wales have not come forward, as was hoped; and the Archbishop suggested that the Nonconformists might subscribe something, as "conscience money"—not a very tactful observation. The five million fund, which the Church of England started for its own work, seems to be making even less satisfactory progress, although testators show no reluctance to leave legacies to missionary societies and benevolent institutions.

**The Week's Books.**

The most interesting book recently published is the "Letters of Mark Twain" (Chatto and Windus), which covers a period of many years in the great humorist's life. They date from his early days as a Mississippi pilot and newspaper reporter to his death in 1910, and they show him as a thoughtful as well as a witty man. The eighteenth century would have dilated on his "sensibility," as shown in these memoirs, and our own time is likely to treasure them as the last record of a very lovable man.

A word may be given to Carpentier's autobiography. "My Fighting Life" (Cassell) contains details of his great fights told, so far as can be seen from a casual glance through the book, with an attractive modesty that does not always distinguish the great boxer.

The second (and final) volume of Mr. H. G. Wells's "Outline of History" is now published by Cassells. It is a highly original and interesting, and even provocative work, which will find many readers from the brillians of its style; but I doubt if its judgments will be generally accepted as sound on either the Roman Empire or Napoleon, both belittled in these pages.

The publication of botanical works was practically suspended during the war, but they are now again making their appearance. Two of the best of these, whose character is sufficiently indicated by their title, are "The Outdoor Botanist" (Fisher Unwin), by A. R. Horwood; and "Water Plants" (Cambridge University Press), by Miss Agnes Arber.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## GREECE.

ATHENS, SEPTEMBER 11.

### The Convocation of the Chamber.

The sitting of the Chamber on September 7 proved a veritable apotheosis for M. Venizelos. Even the oldest members of the Parliament cannot remember such enthusiasm as that displayed on Tuesday, when the representatives of the nation welcomed the great patriot who by his persistent efforts and his indisputable genius created Greater Greece and liberated Hellenism from servitude. The Chamber was full to overflowing long before the sitting was opened. The British Minister, Earl Granville; the French Minister, M. de Billy; and the Ministers of the United States and Yugoslavia were occupying the box allotted to the Diplomatic Corps.

The sitting was opened at 5 o'clock by the President of the Chamber, M. Sofoulis, who expressed the immense joy felt by the Hellenic nation at the new glorious page added to its history. After offering his greetings and the nation's blessing to the Army and Navy, and expressing the Greek people's profound gratitude to the fallen, M. Sofoulis spoke of M. Venizelos and his contests to obtain the recognition of Greece's rights. Finally the President of the Chamber proposed a vote proclaiming M. Venizelos the benefactor and saviour of Greece, and that a column of honour be erected in the Chamber as a permanent token of its admiration and gratitude. This vote, signed by M. Sofoulis and many other deputies, was passed unanimously.

M. Venizelos, still looking rather pale, and with his left arm in a sling, rose amidst continuous cheering and applause, and after thanking the Chamber for the kind words addressed by its President, presented the three treaties: (1) The Treaty with Turkey; (2) the Treaty by which the Allied Great Powers transfer to Greece Western Thrace, which, by the Treaty of Neuilly, had been ceded to the former; and (3) The Treaty with Italy with regard to the Dodecanese Islands. He then stated that as the sittings of the Chamber would come to an end in ten days this would not give time for the ratification of the Treaties, but that in any case this was not a very urgent matter, as the clauses of the treaties referring to territories had already been applied. Immediately after the dissolution of the Chamber martial law and the censorship would be abolished. The general elections would be held during October (o.s.). He added that he had full confidence as to their issue. The Premier reputed the charges of certain of his opponents who accused him of tyranny, explaining that both martial law and the censorship were necessary pending the final settlement of the extremely important questions of the country still in abeyance. The discovery of plots organised by the Royalists proved how necessary these measures had been. M. Venizelos then spoke of his difference with ex-King Constantine, and added that it was the King who, by refusing to comply with the wishes of the people, violated its liberties and imposed his own misguided policy. He explained how the Provisional Government to Salonika, with its 60,000 Greek troops, who fought side by side with the Allies, had washed away all traces of shame and saved the nation from the catastrophe to which the ex-King's policy was leading it. Referring to the interior administration which he was accused by some of his adversaries of having neglected, M. Venizelos pointed out that in all the belligerent countries a certain amount of relaxation was unavoidably manifested during the war, and he was confident that now peace had been concluded, the administration of the country would once again revert to its former high standard. Concluding his speech, M. Venizelos gave his formal assurance that the elections would be carried out with absolute liberty; and he added that a provisionally constituted Government, for which the Royalists were clamouring, would only encourage and assist the latter to put into practice their subversive designs.

### The Report on the Plot.

The Press has at last published the official report in connection with the Royalist plot. According to this report, the organisation of the plot dates back a year and a-half, and is not in any way connected with other plots previously revealed. It was administered by a central committee calling itself the "Secret Government," the members of which were only known to a certain number of the adherents. The whole affair was so well organised that very few of the conspirators knew one another. These were divided into groups under the leadership of an ex-officer, who was the only one known to those initiated. It has been ascertained that one of these groups was under the orders of Peter Mavromichalis, a member of the Chamber. Justice has laid hands upon the majority of the members comprising this group, but has not, so far, been able to discover who the leaders and members of the other groups are. Nor has it been possible to ascertain the names of those comprising the Central Committee, as no member of the Mavromichalis group actually under arrest can himself give any information whatever. Mavromichalis, whose guilt has been clearly established, and who is undoubtedly in a position to supply very valuable information and throw light on many obscure points of the examination, refuses most emphatically to make any revelations which would assist the work of justice. It has now been established that the attempt to overthrow the Government was to have been carried out on the night of July 29 (o.s.). Mavromichalis's group, under the leadership of ex-Captain Tzivas, would have occupied the Ministry of War. All these plans, however, fell through, as a few hours before the appointed time for action, the conspirators were warned that the police had "smelt a rat," and were on the look out, and that consequently the *coup d'état* had been postponed for a more opportune date. Both the conspirators of the Mavromichalis group, and this deputy's secretary, M. Iconomacos, have made full avowals with regard to the organisation of their group and the objects aimed at.

Many of the Members of Parliament, journalists, and other persons arrested, have been released, nothing incriminating having been found against them.

### Miscellaneous News

The Greek Bishops of Thrace, accompanied by the Muftis of Adrianople, Gallipoli, Kirk-Kilissè and Rodosto, the Rabbi, and a representative of the Armenian Bishop of Adrianople, arrived in Athens for the purpose of paying the respects of the population of the newly acquired territories to M. Venizelos. The deputation was also received by the King, who awarded them the Order of the Saviour.

According to information received from Kirk-Kilissè the leading Bulgarian citizens of that town, accompanied by a Bulgarian priest, visited the Greek Governor of the region and declared that all the Bulgarian families of Kirk-Kilissè were desirous of reverting to the Greek Orthodox Church.

M. Venizelos has been staying indoors since Thursday last owing to a slight pain caused by his wound on the arm. The Premier's medical adviser, Professor Phokas, has directed him to remain quiet for a few days and refrain from doing any work.

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# YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, September 18.

**The "Little Entente."**

The Serbian press is attentively following the activities of M. Take Jonescu and devoting a good deal of space to the "Little Entente" which the Roumanian statesman is working so hard to build up. The defensive treaty between Yugoslavia and Czecho-Slovakia is a good foundation, and it will be remembered that the Czech Foreign Minister, Dr. Benes, went on to Bucharest on leaving Belgrade. If M. Take Jonescu succeeds in forming an alliance between Roumania, Greece, Yugoslavia, Czecho-Slovakia, and Poland, as the Serbian papers hope, it will be a fine piece of constructive statesmanship and a welcome change after the eternal bickerings of the past two years. Belgrade would welcome it as a guarantee of the much-needed peace and a bulwark against Hungarian chauvinism and aggression.

**The Trouble in Croatia.**

The disturbances in Croatia appear to have been more serious and extensive than was at first realised. Of the instigators, who were separatist agitators, several are under arrest; but these are only the agents of the Frankovists who are in exile, as Sachs, Dr. Franck, and Gagliardi, who are now reported to be in Fiume, and at the same time in touch with Budapest. The agents took advantage of the post-war frame of mind of the simple peasants, and when the authorities proceeded to stamp the cattle for purposes of registration, the people, unaccustomed to the process, were easily persuaded that their animals were going to be taken away from them. The agents drove round the villages to force the peasants to take up arms to resist, and when the men refused, their houses were burnt down. But directly the military appeared on the scene, the half-hearted rioters threw up their hands, and were easily persuaded to return to their homes, and convinced that their cattle would not be taken from them. The trouble would probably have been avoided if the authorities had educated the peasants previously and explained the object of the branding. A similar disturbance took place in Serbia forty years ago, but now the Serbian peasants know what it means and understand its significance. It is interesting to note that the rioters made no distinction of party, for they sacked the house of the Minister of Mines, a popular and respected member of the Narodny Club, totally destroying his property, burning all his papers, and doing damage to the extent of many hundreds of thousands of dinars. Last week a deputation of the peasants from the village in question waited on the Minister in Belgrade to express their regret, but it is not clear how they can make good any of the damage done.

**Foreign Minister's Statement.**

Dr. Ante Trumbitch, who recently returned to Belgrade from London and Paris, has made his statement on foreign affairs in the Skupshtina. He said that in spite of all the criticisms which had been levelled at the Peace Conference, the authorities there had made a real effort to give just decisions, after taking all factors into account, and the wonderful effort of Serbia in the war had not been forgotten. He reminded his hearers that the Treaty of Saint Germain had once and for all signed the death warrant of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and even if all their demands had not been satisfied in full, still they should be very thankful for the immense results attained. He then passed to the question of the distribution of the commercial fleet of the late monarchy. As the Kingdom of Serbia had previously no outlet on the sea, it would have not participated in the distribution, but the Supreme Council had nevertheless, upon his representations, allotted them thirty-six vessels of over 2,000 tons for Yugoslav commerce in the Mediterranean and Black Seas, and for transoceanic services, making a total of 165,000 tons. Moreover, Italy had undertaken to hand over seven vessels which were at present in her ports. Of the Austro-Hungarian war fleet, Yugoslavia gets eighty-two craft, with a total tonnage of 172,000 tons. Referring to the Adriatic Problem, Dr. Trumbitch pointed out how the position of Yugoslavia was complicated by the existence of the Treaty of London. They based their claims entirely upon the question of nationality, and were unable to accept the solution of a buffer state which was advocated by France, England, and America. He said that he was convinced that the Italian Government was anxious to settle this thorny problem by agreement, and expressed the hope that now, on the eve of direct negotiations with Italy, the country would remain united as one man in the support of the Government. He concluded by stating that the Government had taken proper steps in connection with the state of affairs at Fiume, and that the proclamation of a so-called Regency of the Quarnero they refused to recognise or to take seriously.

**Another Italo-Yugoslav Difference.**

An incident has occurred during the week which sheds light on the intensity of national feeling in Slovenia. The Allied Commission for the plebiscite in Korushka, under the terms of the Treaty, called upon the Yugoslavs to withdraw from the region known as "Zone A" all their troops and gendarmerie, lest they should exert undue influence upon the voting. The Slovenes object, on the grounds that the Italians have troops available in the neighbourhood with the object of maintaining order; the Italians, as representing the Great Powers, are theoretically disinterested, as the land is in dispute between Yugoslavia and Austria, but the Slovenes declare that the Italians are in the first place openly hostile to Yugoslavia, and in the second place directly interested in seeing the territory fall to Austria, for strategic reasons. The Provincial Government resigned, and it is said that the two Slovene members of the Cabinet, Dr. Koroshets and Dr. Kukovets, will withdraw from the Government in protest, on the grounds that the central government has not been sufficiently energetic in protecting national interests in this district. M. Vesnitch has replied that what had been done was in accordance with the terms of the peace treaty, and that the Belgrade Government had no choice in the matter. He therefore declined to accept the resignation of the Provincial Government.

**The Serbian National Church.**

An interesting event of great national importance was the formal declaration by the Prince Regent of the new Serbian Patriarchate at Karlovtse in Srem. This once more re-establishes the purely national character of the Serbian Orthodox Church. As long ago as the thirteenth century the second King of the United Serbian Empire, Stephen the First, was alarmed at the influence of Rome in the country, and in 1219 sent his brother Sava to Byzantium to persuade the Emperor Theodore and Patriarch Germanus to grant Serbia an archbishopric. Sava himself was crowned first Archbishop at Uzhitse. This step isolated Serbia from the Roman Catholic Europe, and made Italy and Hungary her inveterate enemies, and so deprived her of help in later centuries against Ottoman aggression. The archbishopric was removed to Pech (Ipek), and raised to the rank of patriarchate at the coronation of Stepan Dushan the Mighty on Easter Sunday, April 16, 1346, which was recognised by Byzantium in 1375. The patriarchate was renewed in 1557, but finally abolished in 1766. It is interesting to note that when it was restored in 1557 the step was due to the energy of the Bishop Macarius, whose brother Sokolovitch was actually Grand Vizier of Turkey. It was the Patriarch Arsen II. who led the famous migration to Hungary in 1690. Now once more the old Serbian church is autocephalous.

**General News.**

A message to the *Politika* announces that the French are evacuating the Bocche di Cattaro, and Serbian troops will occupy the town and zone on October 1. The Allies have the right of free access to these magnificent fjords, which may not be fortified until the Adriatic question is settled.

A State Committee has been sitting on the distribution of seats in the Constituent Assembly. The number of members will be 419, of whom two are from plebiscite areas, and therefore may be excluded. The distribution of seats will be as follows:—Serbia, 158; Croatia and Slavonia, with Medjumurje, 93; Montenegro, 10; the unoccupied part of Dalmatia, 11; Slovenia, 40; Bosnia and Hercegovina, 63; and the Voivodina, 44

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## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, September 16.

**Bulgarian Orange Book.**

The Bulgarian Foreign Ministry has issued an Orange Book containing diplomatic documents dating back to 1914. Among these the proposals of the Entente in case Bulgaria should remain neutral in the world war, and in case she should participate in it on the side of the Entente, are especially interesting. The first proposals were made by the British Minister Plenipotentiary on November 3, 1914, and suggested that in exchange for her neutrality she should receive up to the Enos-Midia line, and that an equitable correction of the Macedonian frontier should be made. On November 11 Russia also made proposals along similar lines. On June 14 the four Allied Powers promised Macedonia up to the river Vardar, and the Enos-Midia line. During this period several steps unfavourable to the Entente were taken by the Bulgarian Government, and an armed neutrality was declared.

On August 3, 1915, the four Allied Powers made a fresh offer, promising Kavalla to Bulgaria, with its hinterland; Greece to be compensated in Asia Minor. Almost immediately after this the Russian Minister, M. Savinsky, addressed a note to M. Radoslavoff, in which he said that the Allies would be able to induce Serbia to cede the undisputed zone of Macedonia. The documents about the negotiations with Turkey and the declaration of the Roumanian Government, that Roumania would participate in the war on the side on which Italy should join, are also interesting.

**French Minister Received.**

Last Friday the French Minister and Envoy Extraordinary, M. Georges Picot, was received in audience by King Boris, and presented his credentials. Besides the French Minister's suite, there were present M. Stambolisky, M. S. Dobrovitch, Colonel Christoff, aide-de-camp to King Boris, and M. Groneff, his Majesty's secretary.

His Excellency made a suitable oration, declaring that it would be his special endeavour to strengthen the friendly relations between France and Bulgaria, and saying that during his several months' residence in the country he had learned to appreciate the qualities of its people. King Boris expressed his thanks for this flattering opinion of the Bulgarians, and said that nothing would be lacking on the part of his Government to assist M. Picot in his noble work.

**Greece and Bulgaria.**

Last Monday the Greek Chargé d'Affaires received the representatives of the Bulgarian Press at the Greek Legation. He came here, he told them, as a sincere friend of the Bulgarian nation, inspired by the desire to work for a *rapprochement* between the two countries; and, attaching great importance to the influence of the Press in this direction, he appealed for their collaboration. He referred to the ratification of the Treaty of Neuilly and to his own appointment as the inauguration of normal relations; declared that henceforth the Greeks wished to live on the best terms with the Bulgarians; that Greece, as M. Venizelos had declared, had no ambitions in the North; and that it was now for the Bulgarians to show themselves friendly disposed, and for the individuals of both nations to play their part in bringing about better relations He concluded by saying that it was necessary first of all to work for the development of commercial and economic relations between Greece and Bulgaria.

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## TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, September 11.

**The Heir-Apparent.**

The extreme nervousness of the Turkish Government with regard to the intentions of the Heir-Apparent, Prince Abdul Mejid Effendi, gave rise to the Gilbertian incident of September 7, at which all Constantinople has been laughing ever since. Details of the affair have no doubt already appeared in the British Press, and there is no need to describe again how part of the Turkish "army" and "navy" were mobilised to prevent the restless Prince from escaping at the dead of night to Anatolia. It is true that upon this occasion it transpired that the Heir-Apparent had no intention of escaping, but the nervousness of the Turkish authorities is quite comprehensible. Abdul Mejid Effendi has never made any secret of his profound sympathies for the Nationalist movements, and it is notorious that the Nationalists have for some time past been making desperate endeavours to persuade one of the members of the Imperial family to join them. The presence of an Imperial prince at Angora would add enormously to the prestige of the rebel government, and at the same time provide it with a formidable means of offence, for it would be a simple matter to persuade the ignorant population of Anatolia that such a prince had been sent to Angora as the representative of the Khalif. In spite of the utmost efforts of Nationalist propagandists to make the people believe that the Khalif has become the helpless tool of the British, the prestige of the Sultan is still very considerable, not only in Anatolia, but throughout the Caucasus and Central Asia; and there can be no doubt that the Imperial decree and the "fetvas" promulgated in April last, together with the propaganda recently scattered in certain Anatolian districts by aeroplanes, have been a cause of serious embarrassment to the Nationalists.

Why the Prince has become so warm a supporter of the Nationalists is not difficult to understand, although he has never been an enemy of the Entente, and, indeed, immediately after the Armistice, gave proof of distinctly pro-Entente sympathies. The same may be said of the Turkish nation in general, but just as the sentiments of the nation underwent a complete revulsion after the occupation of Smyrna by the Greeks, so was it with the Heir-Apparent, and for precisely the same reasons. The nature of these reasons was explained at some length in an earlier letter,* and there is no necessity to dwell upon them again; but in view of present developments readers of THE NEAR EAST might find it interesting to turn back to the letter referred too.

**The Greeks in Anatolia.**

Prophecy is always dangerous on the part of the average human being, but the increasing complexity of the Anatolian situation is bearing out the previsions expressed in the above-mentioned letter, in which it was stated that the Greek footing in Asia Minor would be made a basis for further territorial acquisitions, and doubt was thrown upon the advantages of establishing Greek dominion over mixed populations. With the supposed necessity for a further Greek advance in Asia Minor has arisen a renewal of Greek propaganda for the establishment of a "Pontus Republic" which would comprise the greater part of the Black Sea provinces. A telegram from Athens, dated September 8, states that a delegation from "Pontus" under the presidency of a M. Joannidis has arrived in the Hellenic capital for the purpose of urging the Government to take immediate action with regard to the Pontus question. It cannot be denied that there is a "Pontus Question," but those who have had any considerable experience of Hellenic methods in Anatolia recently, and of Hellenic *komitajis* or provocative agents in Macedonia in the past, will easily realise that the question has been rendered much more acute by the Hellenes themselves. Hardly a day passes without some story of "massacres" of Greeks in Anatolia, but nothing more is heard of the bloody events at Smyrna

* Published in THE NEAR EAST of July 1.—ED.

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in May, 1919, nor is a single voice raised in protest against what is occurring in the silent retreats of the Anatolian hills at the present moment. The doings of the Turkish bands, composed of desperate peasants menaced on the one hand by the stupid and cruel tyranny of Mustapha Kemal, and on the other by the no less cruel "reprisals" of the Hellenes, are made known to every corner of the four continents; but not a word is heard of the action of the Greek irregulars, supported by Hellenic troops. Naturally, all accusations will be refuted, and proof will be forthcoming that the Greeks have behaved in Anatolia like lambs. Even Turks will be produced as witnesses, and will swear by Allah that it was even so. Yes, they will swear by Allah, for, by Allah! they will remember what happened to them and their women when the Greeks descended upon their village, and they will desire no repetition of that. Then, when the plebiscite is taken there will be an overwhelming Greek majority. It is the story of Macedonia over again, with this difference—that the Macedonian question was not taken up by the entire Islamic world.

The above remarks have been made neither in a pro-Turk nor in an anti-Greek spirit, but solely in view of British interests and prestige. The constant increase of unrest throughout the East is a source of serious prejudice to our material interests, and methods pursued by the Greeks in Anatolia, who are regarded as acting in our name, are damaging both our prestige and our good name. The fault lies with ourselves for taking the Greeks at their own estimate, a lamentable error on the part of our statesmen. For a hundred years we have supported Greece in almost all her undertakings, and every Englishman is convinced that Greece has a great future, but that does not warrant placing a minor in uncontrolled possession of a great estate that has for long been in the hands of the mortgage-holders.

**The Nationalists**

It would appear that Mustapha Kemal is now definitely committed to an entente with the Bolshevists, and if recent reports are to be believed, Soviet representatives have already arrived in Angora with large sums of money. In view of the utter impossibility of adequate assistance being sent to Anatolia from Russia, it can only be surmised that the objective pursued by the Bolshevists in Anatolia is political rather than military, but it is too early yet to speculate upon the precise nature of that objective. Of their ultimate objective the Bolshevists have never made a secret, for on innumerable occasions they have openly declared that they intend to destroy British power and influence in the Orient. It may be inferred, therefore, that their presence in Anatolia is intimately connected with that purpose, and it is in this connection that the presence of an Imperial prince in Anatolia would be a matter of such supreme importance. In any case, Bolshevist designs in the Middle and Near East are being persistently and steadily developed, in spite of all unfavourable occurrences elsewhere, and the boldest would hesitate to foretell what the results will be in the not very distant future.

For the rest, the constant advance of the Greek Army, want of money, and sporadic rebellions have thrown the Angora Administration into still greater disorder. The understanding with the Bolshevists has created considerable alarm among the more conservative elements of the Nationalists, who, unable to rid themselves of the ancient tradition, according to which Russia is the arch-enemy of the Turk, have formed a party strongly opposed to the policy of Mustapha Kemal. The famous Turkish feminist leader and writer, Halidé Edib Khanem is said to be playing a leading part in the new movement, which, however, does not appear to contemplate a reconciliation with the Sublime Porte, and is therefore unlikely to obtain much success.

**The Cabinet.**

Damad Ferid Pasha still remains in power, but it is becoming daily more apparent that there are serious differences among the members of his Cabinet, and a change is becoming inevitable. Whether this will involve the definite withdrawal of Damad Ferid Pasha is difficult to foresee; for the Grand Vizier undoubtedly exercises a great ascendancy over the Sultan. On the


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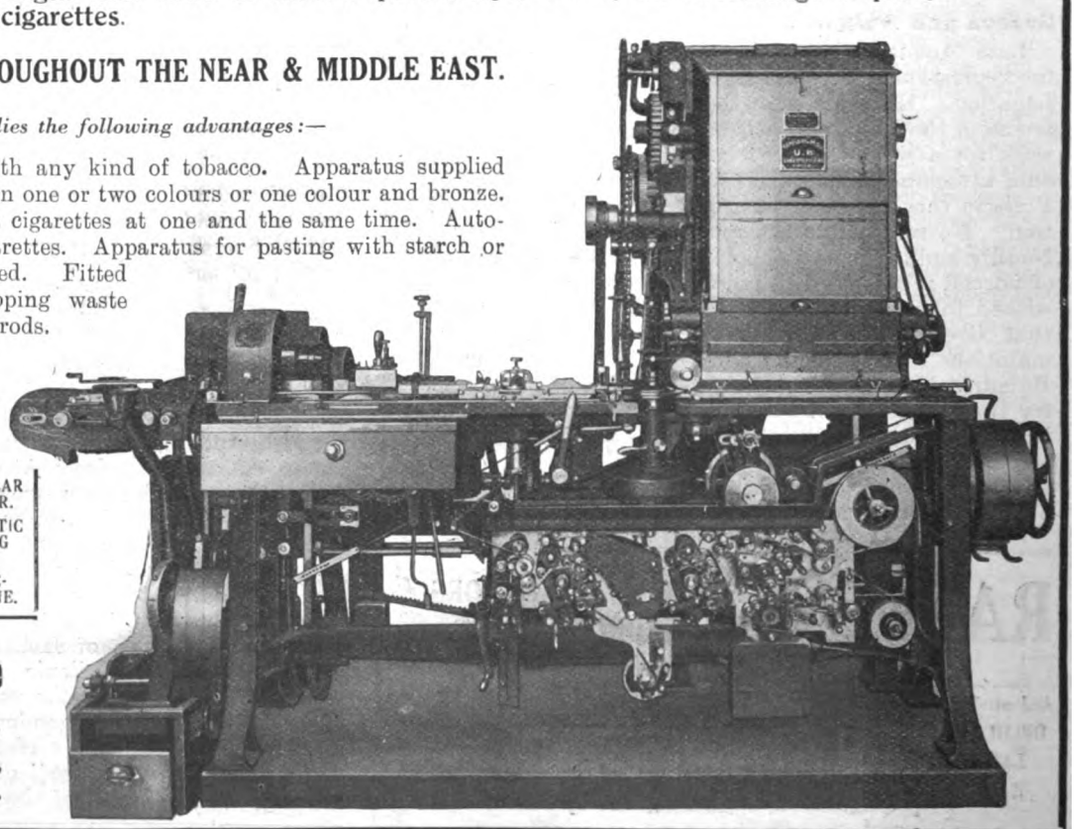

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other hand, the Grand Vizier's vindictive policy of persecuting his personal and political opponents by every means in his power has cost him the support of large numbers of his former partisans. Jemil Mollah, Reshid Mumtaz Pasha, and the late Minister of the Interior, Reshid Bey, are all mentioned as candidates for the Grand Vizierate. Reshid Mumtaz Pasha, who has spent many years in Europe, and only returned to Turkey to take up his present position, is believed to have acquired a mentality that would be of great advantage at the head of a Turkish administration at the present moment, and there seems to be a fair probability of his succeeding Damad Ferid Pasha, if and when the latter retires.

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, September 12.

### Arrival of the Four Delegates.

Since August 24, when *Al Mokattam* sprung the news on the country, the proposed agreement with Great Britain has not unnaturally been the sole topic of conversation; and during this last week the universal interest taken in the question has been rendered more intense by the arrival of the four members of the Egyptian Delegation, whose task it is to explain the details of the proposed agreement to their fellow-countrymen and ascertain whether they are in favour of a settlement on the lines in question.

Mohammed Mahmud Pasha, Ahmed Bey Lutfi Essayed, Aly Bey Maher and Abdel Latif Bey El Makabbati arrived on H.M.T. Meteor at Alexandria on the morning of the 7th inst. Long before the steamer had entered the inner harbour she was met by several launches, on which were accommodated the members of the local committee and a large number of students with their banners, who greeted the delegates with cries of "Long Live Egypt!" "Long Live Independence!" and, significantly when one remembers the state of affairs about three months ago, "Long Live England!"

The delegates had arranged to proceed straight up to Cairo, but they had to alter their programme at the last moment as the Local Committee had organised a reception for them in Alexandria. They were accorded a veritable ovation on landing and whenever they made their appearance, and were entertained first to tea at "Nuzha" Gardens, where in order to escape the attention of their admirers they hadt o seek police protection, and afterwards at a banquet at the Savoy Palace Hotel. Next day they were given a warm send-off when they left Alexandria by special train for Cairo, and on their way up they were enthusiastically cheered at every station at which the train stopped. Elaborate arrangements had been made to welcome them in Cairo, and invitations had been issued to thousands of people. Unfortunately, the crowd was so dense on the platform and in the station courtyard that it broke through the cordon and literally swept the delegates off their feet. It was with difficulty that they reached their cars and that the latter were able to make their way to the house of Saad Pasha Zaghloul, where the "four" held an official reception until late into the night.

Particular care was taken to make it clear that this reception was purely a personal welcome extended to the delegates on their return from their long stay in Europe, and that is was not to be taken as indicating approval of the terms of the proposed agreement. Nevertheless, there is little doubt that had the general public not approved in principle of the agreement, the main points of which had already been made known to them through the telegraphic and other agencies, the reception would not have been so spontaneous or so warm.

Since their arrival the four delegates have been mainly occupied with drawing up the procedure which is to be followed. They have officially issued the text of the outline with an explanation as to their own mission, and have held long meetings with all their Local Committees and with the Press, and on Thursday they will meet the members of the Legislative Assembly. After that they will hold meetings of the Bar and other professions, the students and the Government officials, and then will proceed to the provinces in order to ascertain the views of the agricultural element.

The time at their disposal is relatively short, for the understanding is that they are to telegraph their report to Zaghloul Pasha not later than the end of the month. It is therefore eminently desirable that no susceptibilities should be offended and no mistakes made such as would increase the difficulties of the situation, and so cause delay.

### Obstacles to the Agreement.

That there are difficulties no one can deny. There is, as was bound to be the case, opposition from those who are uncompromising in their demand for complete independence, from those who are personally antagonistic to Zaghloul and from those who are jealous of the fact that they have not played a prominent part in these negotiations; while there is naturally opposition from the element which does not want, and has reason to fear that it will suffer from, the removal of British control. All these elements, either because they want something more, or because by supporting it the particular result they desire will ensue from the rejection of the proposed agreement, join in the cry for "complete independence," which is thus tending to attain wholly fictitious proportions. The difficulties of the situation have been somewhat accentuated by the publication of a letter from Zaghloul Pasha, which, in an effort to explain the situation, has put the matter in a light which can but add force to the arguments of those who desire to oppose the proposed settlement.

The task of Mahmud Pasha and his colleagues would have been infinitely easier if Zaghloul Pasha in his letter, whilst putting the responsibility on the Egyptians themselves, had expressed his own personal view as to the acceptability or otherwise of the settlement. After all, his fellow-countrymen recognise that having been in close contact with European affairs and with the British Government for so many months, he is in possession of facts which must necessarily be unknown to the man in the street, and that he must have been enabled to gain impressions as to the possibilities of the situation which no one in this country could possibly form. Consequently, although he has always had to count with the opposition of those who are personally antagonistic to him and have their own axes to grind, a word of advice from him would not have been taken amiss—indeed, it was expected—and it would have gone a long way to strengthen what is believed to be the majority who while in favour of the agreement are somewhat unsettled in their mind as to whether it is really in the interests of the country or not.

At the last moment also a new factor has been introduced in the shape of a manifesto to the Egyptian nation signed by Prince Omar Toussoun and three of his relatives, in which they reiterate the principles enunciated in the now historic "Princes' Protest" made against the Milner Mission last January, and declare that they consider the Egyptians should not accept the proposed agreement, but should insist on the "complete independence" of Egypt and the Sudan untrammelled by any conditions or restrictions. This intervention of members of the Sultania Family in a matter which is essentially one for the Egyptians to decide for themselves is as inopportune as it is uncalled for, and those cognizant of the inner workings of Egyptian politics have not been slow to detect in this action the hand of a political personage who has everything to gain by discrediting the Egyptian Delegation, and so undermining Zaghloul Pasha's position.

Mahmud Pasha and his colleagues are therefore confronted with an exceedingly difficult task. On the manner in which they tackle it will, in a large measure, depend whether or not they will be able to report favourably at the end of the month. From what one can gather the bulk of the people are in agreement that the main lines are satisfactory, and only need skilful handling for the adverse influences at present at work to be completely counteracted.

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## AZERBAIJAN.

(From a Special Correspondent.)

During the past week the Admiralty has issued an official report regarding the treatment of the British prisoners in Baku. Our officers and men are, as the Admiralty knows very well, kept in captivity by the Bolshevists, and whether the term "Soviet Russia" or "Soviet Azerbaijan" is used, the main fact is that the Lenin-Trotsky gang are responsible, and it is from Moscow that all orders regarding Baku are issued. But most of the British newspapers still refer to the "Azerbaijan Government" and to the "Azerbaijan Republic," although neither the Azerbaijan Government nor the Azerbaijan Republic exists to-day.

Politically speaking, there is no Azerbaijan at present. There are simply the Baku and the Elisavetopol Provinces of the former Russia. A group of Russian Commissars sits in Baku and calls itself a government: the towns of Baku and Elisavetopol are garrisoned by Red troops; the "laws" come from Moscow—but the Azerbaijanians are no more Bolshevists to-day than they ever were. One might even go so far as to say that the people are intensely anti-Bolshevist, and what was formerly indifference has now changed to bitter hate.

After the British occupational troops left Azerbaijan in August of last year, the Mussulman Republic began to settle down and to put its house in order. On January 12 of this year, the Supreme Council, on the initiative of Lord Curzon, recognised the Azerbaijan Republic, *de facto*. Everything promised well for the future, and the recognition *de jure* was looked upon as certain in due time. But the Mussulmans were reckoning without their Christian neighbours.

The Volunteer Army under General Denikin had been forced to retreat before the advancing Reds; the Volunteer Fleet had sailed from Petrovsk to be interned at Enzeli; Astrakhan, which had been ice-bound during the winter months, opened up in April to let the Bolshevist ships set out to sea; and the Armenians, casting the shreds of peace treaties to the wind, set out once more to massacre the Mussulmans. Villages were set on fire, and most of the wretched peasants who failed to seek safety in flight were cruelly done to death. Protests were in vain, and finally the Azerbaijan troops were sent to save the Mussulmans in Karabagh, the mountainous part of the Elisavetopol Province, which the Armenians were devastating. So it came about that when the Bolshevist forces approached Baku on April 27, there was no army to overcome. The Azerbaijan soldiers were away among the mountains in the south. Azerbaijan, too, had no ships to check the entry of the Red fleet to Baku harbour. So Baku went over to the Bolshevists without a single shot being fired, most of the members of the Government fled, and another red page was opened in the history of the luckless oil town.

To-day the Bolshevists are in power in Baku and in the town of Elisavetopol. But they are not in power among the hills. It is only a matter of time before the Azerbaijanian will turn against his oppressors. Already there have been risings in many of the villages, and bands of Azerbaijanians have thrown the Red troops out. These risings are increasing, and I am certain that they are the prelude to a great revolt. The oil of Mohammedanism cannot be successfully mixed with watery Bolshevism. The day will come when the people of Azerbaijan will drive out the Russian invaders and come once more into their own. It may not be just yet—the country is suffering from a lack of arms and ammunition—but it will come.

Then the future of Azerbaijan should be a rosy one. The geographical situation of the country is most important. It is a link between Europe and Persia and between Europe and Trans-Caspia. The Julfa railway line will in course of time be completed, and this will not only open up the fertile valley of the Arax, but it will also connect Baku with the important Persian commercial centre of Tabriz. It will lead to the further opening up of the whole of the Middle East.

What is equally important is that without an independent Azerbaijan it will be almost impossible for the new Republic of Georgia to maintain its independence. Georgia cannot exist without Azerbaijan—and without Georgia and the Batoum outlet to the Black Sea Azerbaijan would be shut off from Europe and choked to death.

From the purely political point of view, Azerbaijan is of vast importance. Russia, as Russia, does not exist. Revolution and civil war will go on for many years to come in the unhappy land of Soviet rule. Finland, the Baltic States, and Poland are already barriers to prevent the spreading west of Bolshevism and all the horrors that the name implies. Azerbaijan and Georgia can be the carriers in the south. The disease has spread quite far enough. For the health of the world it is of vital importance that it should be checked before it has spread further.

For over a century the old, historical country of Azerbaijan suffered from the oppression of the Russian yoke. Russians and Azerbaijanians have nothing in common—religion, language, or mode of life. For a brief spell Azerbaijan came to life again, only to die once more beneath the Russian blows. But the people have tasted Freedom. A new republic will be born, and all the creative work that had begun will be commenced afresh.

The Bolshevists have taken away the liberty of the country. But they cannot take away the country's natural wealth. The oil wells are practically inexhaustible, the giant forests and the fertile plains and steppes remain, and there are as good fish in the Caspian Sea as ever came from it to the land.

## EDUCATION IN MESOPOTAMIA.

From a Correspondent.

Baghdad, August 8.

Mr. H. E. Bowman, C.B.E., Director of Education for Mesopotamia, and Mrs. Bowman are shortly leaving Baghdad for Cairo, where Mr. Bowman is returning to take up an appointment under the Egyptian Ministry of Education.

A great deal has been accomplished since Mr. Bowman's first arrival in this country in August, 1918, to extend and co-ordinate educational policy, which has, on the whole, met with approval from all classes. There are some, no doubt, who would like the machine to have gone faster, and who complain that the present administration has not provided enough in the way of secondary and higher education. But, on the other hand, there are many who realise the difficulties in the way of finance in these early days, difficulties made no easier by the recent trouble on the Euphrates, which will tend to reduce still further an already attenuated budget. Again, the lack of suitable buildings has been a very serious handicap. Many of the buildings originally erected for educational purposes have been in continuous occupation by the military or by other civil departments. Some of them are gradually being returned to their rightful owners, but many still remain in alien hands.

Last, but by no means least, is the dearth of competent teaching staff. Every ex-schoolmaster who has offered his services to the department has been given employment. The majority of these, however, were never really well educated, and the four or five years which they have recently spent as officers in the Turkish Army has not tended to improve their professional capacity. The Baghdad Training College, where upwards of 100 students from all parts of the country are under training, will continue to be the main source of recruitment, while the department will have to depend for some years to come on Egypt and Syria to provide a limited number of experts for secondary and higher education.

A plentiful supply of school books and materials is now to be found in the central store of the department in Baghdad, and in the branch stores in Mosul and Busreh; while the bookshop in Baghdad, of fiction and general literature, provides books for the general public in various languages, and has proved an even greater success than was anticipated.

The Turk was an adept in producing a showy structure, of which the façade was everything, and the interior little more than a hollow shell. The policy of the present Administration has been to lay a solid foundation of primary education throughout the country before embarking on more ambitious schemes. The time has now come when a more advanced system can be inaugurated, and it is unfortunate that this should coincide with a change in *personnel* at the head of the department. It is hoped, however, that this change will not mean a break in educational policy, which is rightly regarded here as one of the pillars of the administrative structure.

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

## ITALIANS AND YUGOSLAVS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I should not have troubled you with another letter had not Mr. Glishitch challenged me to "justify" a number of totally unreasonable charges that he brings against the Italian nation. He admits now that I did not exaggerate the work of the Italian fleet in saving the Serbian Army, as he said that I did in his first letter. He merely continues to point out the terrible state of the remnant rescued and its heroic endurance, which was never in dispute.

Then he proceeds to repeat some amazing legends that he and his countrymen apparently believe. He says that the Serbian Army released the 400,000 Yugoslavs of Istria and Friuli, who are now "groaning under the oppressive government of d'Annunzio's military forces." Is it necessary to point out that the Serbian Army merely played its part in the defeat of the Bulgarians in the Balkan side show, and that the sixty-three divisions of the Austrian Army were crushed at Vittorio Veneto by the Italians? The Italians, therefore, were the liberators of the Yugoslavs, who had groaned for centuries under Hapsburg tyranny, although the Croat divisions fought more fiercely against these "liberators" than either the Austrians or Hungarians did!

Actually in Macedonia the severest fighting in the final victory was done by the Allies, as is shown by the relative casualty lists. (Let Mr. Glishitch consult Mr. Collinson Owen's History of the Salonika Force.) The British had more than six times as many casualties as the Serbs in September, 1918, the French Armèe d'Orient about three times as many, and even the poor despised Italian Expeditionary Force in Macedonia suffered larger losses in the pursuit of the Bulgarians at the battles of Bucin, Baba Planina, Cer and Sop than the Serbian Armies suffered in the whole of their victorious advance from September 18 up to the Armistice. As a British staff officer observing these operations, I had a unique chance to know all about them. The main contribution of the Serbs to this Macedonian victory was (when the lines of the Bulgarians had been broken by the capture of the Sokol by the 148th French Infantry Regiment) the marvellous dash and endurance with which they turned the defeat into a rout by cutting the Bulgarian communications.

Nor are the Yugoslavs, released by the Italians, groaning under the oppression of d'Annunzio's military forces, for d'Annunzio's government is confined to the city of Fiume, where the population of 40,000 is mainly Italian by race or sympathy. The 400,000 he refers to lie within the strategic frontiers of Italy that are assigned to Italy by the Treaty of London and are now provisionally occupied by Italian troops under the terms of her armistice with Austria.

Mr. Glishitch, though a champion of these 400,000 Yugoslavs, says nothing of the two million subjects of alien race—Germans, Hungarians, Bulgarians, Albanians, and so forth—who are now "groaning" under the government of Yugoslavia. But "groaning" is Mr. Glishitch's word, not mine, and in view of the known liberalism of Italian rule and the faith that we all must desire to have in the liberalism of Serbian rule, would it not be best if we left all such invidious expressions out of the question?—I am, etc.,

HAROLD E. GOAD.

The British Italian League, 74, Grosvenor Street, London,
September 22.

## RHODES.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I beg to send you herewith a literal translation of the Memorandum which was sent by the Representatives of the Rhodian People to the Italian Parliament, and which may be of interest to your readers. I have received many complaints as regards Italian maladministration in Rhodes, which I do not intend to publish before investigating.—I am, etc.,

THEODORE D. MOSCONA,
(late Dodecanesian Delegate in Manchester).

32, Oxford Street, Manchester, September 24, 1920.

(Enclosure.)

MEMORANDUM.

The Hon. the President of the Italian Parliament, Rome.

Mr. President,—The undersigned representatives of the Hellenic population of Rhodes, forming three-quarters of the whole population of the island, and acting in their name and by their authority, protest against the recent Greco-Italian agreement concerning Rhodes, for the following important reasons:—

1. Because this arrangement is contrary to the points of the Wilsonian doctrine, which the Allied victorious Powers have acknowledged as the basis for the signing of peace, and accepted the cancellation of the pre-existing pacts, whether open or secret.

2. It is contrary to the doctrine of nationalities, which the Italian people cannot overlook without chiefly hurting their prestige and their grandeur, because not only have they supported and consolidated their unity upon this doctrine, but also claimed, under the cover of the said doctrine, the liberation of their Irredenti brothers. It is well known that in Rhodes exist 31,716 Hellenes, against 5,023 Turks, 3,293 Jews, and 255 other Europeans of various nationalities.

3. It is contrary to the promises given to the people of the island by the Onorevoli Admirals Viale and Presbitero and General Ameglio, when Rhodes was occupied by them in the name of the King of Italy, that under these pledges none of the occupied islands would be restored to Turkey, but handed over to Greece. These official promises stand as a pledge of honour for Italy, form, and must form, a question of honour for the Italian people before the civilised world and history.

4. It is contrary to the liberal spirit and the traditions of the gallant Italian people, who always fought for liberty.

5. It is contrary to the well-meaning interests of the Italian people itself, who, while deriving no profit from an island which has no harbours, not even raw materials and the means of being self-supporting, on the other hand will bear the burden of the administration and the security of the island.

6. It is contrary to the interests and the prosperity of the island as well, which, isolated as it will be in the Ægean Sea, and having no means of self-sufficiency, will suffer suffocation and economic marasmus. When we take into consideration the national feelings of the people, who will always aim at the union with the Greek state, which now surrounds the island on all parts, it will be easily understood that every commercial, manufacturing, or agricultural movement will be neglected and destroyed.

7. It is contrary to the good relations which should naturally exist between the two sister nations, the Italian and the Hellenic—relations which are sought after on both sides.

It cannot be forgotten how close were the relations of the two peoples before the occupation of the Dodecanese, and how loosened they have been since the occupation, and, more especially, during the very tyrannical administration of the islands, to become at present hostile (why should we hide the fact?), and to such an extent, as to render it impossible for a statesman of the magnitude of M. Venizelos to modify them, as the last meetings in Athens have proved. It is not a secret, either, that as long as Rhodes is kept by Italy, under whatsoever pretext or formality, a Greco-Italian friendship will be an unrealisable dream.

For all these important reasons we warmly beg and pray the representatives of the noble and chivalrous Italian nation not to consider the question of Rhodes from the narrow Imperialistic view, but from the point of view of the general interests, and the historic honour which impose, on one side, to leave the people of Rhodes to be governed by that State to which, ethnographically, the great majority of its people belongs, and, on the other hand, if Italian interests in the Near East require the possession of a harbour or a naval base, Rhodes most gladly offers herself to compensate her great protectress on this point, out of gratitude for the national re-establishment of her people.

(Signed)

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RHODIAN PEOPLE.

Rhodes, August 20, 1920 (o.s.)

## A TURKISH DISH

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I notice that "Corsair" states that a Turkish dish is called "Imam Baildi" (he will forgive my correction) because a priest was overcome with emotion at the sight of it, and fainted.

I know that is one theory as to the origin of the name, but does it carry conviction? No one could live in Turkey and hear the name without enquiring into the reason of the priest's "strong weakness."

The general idea seemed to be that the priest over-ate himself, and for a long time I accepted this explanation, and, indeed, I should have made use of it during the war for anti-Turk propaganda, but that once, when I mentioned this matter in Turkey, I met with such emphatic opposition that I felt bound to alter my opinion.

The true explanation, I was persuaded, is that the priest, after inventing the dish, advertised it for sale, and the crowd, to whom he had to ladle it out in consequence, was so great that he had not a moment's rest all day. He fainted from sheer hard work.

As the question involves the reputation of the Turks, it seems to me an important one. "Corsair's" theory makes the priest look both greedy and weak; my old idea is no more creditable to the Turks, but the third explanation not only clears them of all accusation of greed, but actually shows them to be a hard-working and discerning race.—I am, etc.,

H. C. DE J. DU VALLON.

86a, Lexham Gardens, W., September 23, 1920.

## THE DUKE'S VISIT TO INDIA.

A Reuter's message from Simla, dated September 22, says: It is announced with regard to the Duke of Connaught's forthcoming visit to India that his Royal Highness will arrive at Madras in the second week in January. At the end of January and beginning of February he will be in Calcutta. The Duke will, on behalf of his Majesty, inaugurate the Provincial Legislative Councils in Madras, Bombay, and Bengal, and also the Chamber of Princes, the Council of State, and the Imperial Legislative Assembly at Delhi. On these occasions he will deliver messages from the King-Emperor.

The programme includes a visit to Rawal Pindi, and the Duke will also pay private visits to the Central Provinces and Agra. His total stay in India will be seven weeks. The Delhi ceremonies are fixed for the second week in February. The Duke will sail from Bombay for home about the end of February.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"DEAD TOWNS AND LIVING MEN: BEING PAGES FROM AN ANTIQUARY'S NOTEBOOK." By C. Leonard Woolley. (Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. 12s. 6d. net.)

II.—"HELLENIC STUDIES." By Stanley Casson. (London: Elkin Mathews. 6s. net.)

## I.—MEN AND RUINS.

Before the war Mr. Woolley and Mr. T. E. Lawrence were following, with marked success, the profession of archæological excavators, and when war came they placed their services and their somewhat rare knowledge of certain parts of the Near East at the disposal of the Government. Thereafter Fortune did not share her favours equally between them; for while Mr. Lawrence had a series of adventures that anyone might envy him, and achieved fame and honour, Mr. Woolley had the bad luck to be taken prisoner by the Turks—through no fault of his own—and was thenceforth doomed to inactivity. That he would have made full use of similar opportunities to those enjoyed by his friend if they had come his way this book is sufficient proof; but since it seems that we owe it largely to his captivity, we, being human, cannot altogether regret that captivity. For the book is really excellent, full of interest of a varied character, and written with a quiet sense of humour and an absence of affectation that are noteworthy in this class of work. We get, naturally, a good deal about the excavations at various sites in which the author took part or of which he was in charge, but he is skilful in avoiding technicalities and "dry" details, and we are never tempted to "skip." In a word, he makes both the "dead towns" and the "living men" interesting, and it would be hard to say which is the more interesting. For that matter, it must be added that when he is writing of Aleppo, which, with all its shortcomings, is still very much alive, he is equally entertaining; indeed, some of the stories of Turkish "enterprise," official generally, in this fascinating city, which are told in the last chapter, are among the best things in the book. There is a tale of the installation of the telephone by all-native talent which is delicious, and another of the attempt of a former Vali to bring water to the town from the Kuwaik, which is equally good; but unfortunately they are too long to be given here. We can only say that both projects ended in failure which would have been tragic if it had not been so intensely funny.

Mr. Woolley does not wax enthusiastic over the Egyptian fellah as so many archæologists and travellers do:—

He is a hard worker, and with experience becomes very skilful when called upon for delicate work; he is shrewd enough to have a very fair idea of the value of his finds and of their relative date, but he has remarkably little real interest in his work and less in you; with him it is a question of wages and baksheesh, and no more.

And this passage will be of particular interest at the present time:—

The fact is that the Egyptian does not like the Englishman or the English Government; it is partly a religious question, for Mohammedanism is more intolerant in Egypt than almost anywhere else, and partly political. The fellah, who more than any other class has benefited by our rule, is aware that our presence is, on the whole, to his interest, but its tangible advantages must be kept very clearly before his eyes if they are to outbalance its defects, for his historical memory is short and the old régime too much a thing of the past to suffice as a standing contrast. I have known a peasant who had heard that some money he had sent home by post was overdue, complain bitterly that he could see no use in having a Government at all if a man could not send money about in safety; thirty years before he would not have dared to let the Government know that he had any money, but that change in the general condition of things never struck him.

There are in this passage several sentences that might be italicised for the benefit of the idealists of to-day! The author holds that the Sudanis "are much pleasanter fellows than the Egyptians to work with"; they are "a cheery, open set . . . and have a sense of loyalty and attachment" that are lacking in the Egyptian.

What we read of the centuries-long struggle between sand and tamarisk at Faras is a mute tragedy that would probably appeal to Mr. Thomas Hardy. Planted by "the husbandman of an earlier day, Meroitic or Christian," the tamarisk has had to fight desperately for life against the silent, drifting sand:—

The wind-borne sand caught in the thick spiny growth and formed mounds against the bushes, but these pushed their branches through the drift and still formed a barrier. More sand blew on, the mounds grew higher, and still the bushes struggled to keep their heads clear, until now they are trees sixty or a hundred feet high, the tips of whose branches only push out from the sides and tops of the dunes, while their trunks go down through the centre to the solid ground beneath. Many are dead now. . . .

And, one supposes, the others are doomed, the living to be vanquished by the lifeless—the blind, driven sand that some of us hate so much.

But it is, after all, the "living men" that will claim most attention from the average reader; and they are a very human, very entertaining lot, whether Kurds, or Arabs, or Sudanis, or—dare we add?—Turks. Of the Italians we say nothing here, only because Italy is hardly "Near Eastern." Best of all the crowd to whom Mr. Woolley introduces us is Haj Wahid, a gay Lothario with four murders in one night to his account, a *chef* of parts, and, above all, a beater of Germans and a man of great bravery. On one occasion, in the interests of his masters, he "held off" for several days a German engineer of the so-called Baghdad Railway and his men, who wished to encroach on the English excavators' concession. On another, being annoyed by a second German engineer in the same manner, he "promptly knocked the engineer down, and, seizing him then by the back of the neck, proceeded to rub his face in the mud." Strange to say, the matter was allowed to drop! What Mr. Woolley tells us of the building of the great line and the ways of certain of its sub-contractors is amazing. The book is certainly one to read.

## II.—SKETCHES OF GREECE.

Mr. Casson has well called his volume of seven essays "Hellenic Studies," for it is instinct with knowledge and love of both modern and ancient Greece. There is in his sketches a delightful fragrance that only a nice learning can produce; and it is, incidentally, a fragrance which the publisher has done his best to conserve.

These essays deal chiefly with the facts of the present Greece as illuminating the events of the past Greece. Thus in the first, "Hymettos," that grey mountain dominating Athens, the "barren hill that frames the Parthenon in violet and is the last thing that catches the light of the setting sun," the influence of the height is shown to have been great even from the time when the Pelasgians (the reputed ancestors of the modern Armenians) possessed it. And a convincing claim is made in an essay called "Sacred to Pan and the Nymphs" that Pan was a purely Hellenic god—an essay that ends with a remark which poets of all civilised countries would certainly challenge: "In nowhere else can Pan be found but in Greece, for he was never a wanderer." But the three most charming things in the book are "Kings of the Sail," "The Waters of Greece," and "L'Exaltation de la Fleur." We are shown how, to use Mr. Casson's quotation of R. M. Heath:—

The old thalassocrats and merchant kings
Filled the Ægean with their scurrying wings.

we are shown "the almost sacred value of water in Greece"; and we are shown that nature worship, of which modern men fondly imagine they have the monopoly, was freely indulged in by the ancient Greeks. (As a matter of fact, the old jibe that the Greeks sacrificed substance to form is not often made by the present generation of Englishmen, who have read such reverers of form as Hardy, Bridges, and Flecker.)

Mr. Casson is much concerned with destroying the old idea of a rigid "Classicism" as applied to the Greeks; and as if to exemplify the truth of his comments, he allows his matter, despite or because of his love for Greek literature, to be far superior to its expression. It is indeed much more in the substance than in the form of this book that the charm lies. But to all lovers of the nice, out-of-the-way points belonging to Hellenic culture, this volume will be very welcome; and it should be added that in addition to the excellent production of the book there are seven attractive illustrations among the text.

Messrs. Hutchinson and Co. will publish shortly "Ex-King Constantine and the War," by Major G. H. Melas, who was private secretary to the King until 1915, when he joined the Venezelist party. The book is said to contain some "amazingly candid revelations" of the ex-King's personal character.

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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**TO-DAY.**

September 30 (New Style).
September 17, 1920 (Old Style).
Moharram 17, 1339 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Tishri 18, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania has returned to Eton.

Prince Antoine Bibescu left Paris for Roumania last week.

General Sir William Manning, Governor of Ceylon, arrived at Colombo last week.

Earl and Countess Granville have arrived at Kensington Palace from Athens.

Lord Sinha, the new Governor of Bihar and Orissa, arrived at Bombay on Saturday.

H.E. the Greek Minister returned to London from Paris on Sunday.

His Highness Nasr-ul-Mulk, ex-Regent of Persia, left London last Friday for Paris, after a few days' visit.

Colonel Jurjevitch, of the Serbian Army, arrived in London last week on a special mission.

Mrs. Francis W. Goodbody has left London for Egypt, and will not be back till after Christmas.

The Prince Regent of Serbia returned to Belgrade on September 23, after paying his first official visit to Serajevo.

It was announced on Monday that General Sir John Maxwell was out of danger and progressing so satisfactorily that no further bulletins would be issued.

M. Constantine Collas, First Secretary (specially attached) to the Greek Legation, returned to London last week from Paris, where he had been attending the Conference of the League of Nations.

Sir Frederick Rowlatt, K.B.E., Governor of the National Bank of Egypt, left London last Saturday for Egypt. Lady Rowlatt and the Misses Rowlatt will return to Egypt in November.

The engagement is announced of Captain Leslie E. Randall, Indian Army, only son of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Randall, of South Norwood Park, and Ethel, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Laird, of Catford.

Lieutenant-Colonel Amery, M.P., Under-Secretary for the Colonies, after spending some time on the Continent, returned to London last Friday and resumed his official duties.

A marriage has been arranged and will take place very quietly on October 20 between Mr. A. A. L. Parsons, Indian Civil Service, and Katharine, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Parsons, Pelham House, Lindfield, Sussex.

The marriage of Lieutenant-Colonel George A. McWatters, 81st Pioneers, I.A., and E. M. Christina, younger daughter of the late Edward A. Harvey and Mrs. Harvey, of 26, Victoria Square, Clifton, Bristol, will take place in Bombay in November.

The King has granted unrestricted permission to Elise Isabelle Lady Watts to wear the Insignia of the Fifth Class of the Order of St. Sava conferred upon her by the King of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, in recognition of her services to the Serbian sick and wounded during the late war.

Mr. H. Charles Woods, who, as announced in these columns last week, has left London for an extended tour of the Near East, is proceeding to Athens and Constantinople, by way of Yugoslavia, and hopes to return to this country through Bulgaria and Roumania.

On Sunday M. Boeresco, Minister Plenipotentiary and Chargé d'Affaires of the Roumanian Legation, entertained to luncheon Commander Balmesco and the members of the Roumanian Naval Mission.

An engagement is announced between Captain E. C. Mockler, 1st K.G.O. Gurkha Rifles, son of Major-General Mockler, Rochford Grange, Guernsey, and Kathleen Coutart De Butts, daughter of the late Captain F. R. De Butts, R.A., and Mrs. Forster, St. Louis, Guernsey.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in October, between Mr. L. P. Kent, of Mysore, India, son of the late Rev. Charles Kent, of Dinham Hall, Ludlow, and Mrs. C. V. Clement Davies, only daughter of Captain and Mrs. Allaway, of Astro House, Llanbedr, Merionethshire.

Deputy Surgeon-General William Arnold Smith Wynne, M.D., Indian Army, of The Priory, St. Olaves, Suffolk, died on July 1, leaving estate of the gross value of £12,174.

The engagement is announced of Major Colin F. Marr, Indian Medical Service, son of the late Surgeon-Major G. Marr, Indian Medical Service, and of Mrs. Marr, 2, Rubislaw Terrace, Aberdeen, and Alethea Seymour Martin, eldest daughter of the late Rev. Harry Martin Petty, M.A., vicar of Milton Abbot, Devon, and of Mrs. Petty, St. Martin's Lodge, Farnham, Surrey.

Subscriptions to the Christ Church, Constantinople, War Memorial Fund—of which particulars have already appeared in our columns—may be sent to the President of the London Committee, Lady Lowther, 23, Belgrave Square, or to either of the Hon. Treasurers, Lady Laurence, C.B.E., or Admiral Sir E. J. W. Slade, K.C.I.E., 35, Surrey Street, Strand.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (September 18):—
H.R.H. the Crown Prince Regent Alexander, accompanied by his suite and several ministers, left Belgrade on a State visit to Serajevo on the 18th.
The Rev. R. Laffan, Reader in History at Queen's College, Cambridge, who was chaplain to the British transport units attached to the Royal Serbian Army in Macedonia, author of the well-known book on Serbia, "The Guardian of the Gate," who has recently been revisiting Belgrade, left on Friday for Budapest.

The Britain and India Association is arranging a conference on India, followed by a social evening, for Saturday, October 30, at the Mortimer Halls, Mortimer Street (near Oxford Circus). The conference will begin at 2.30 p.m., and will be addressed by several speakers. Questions and discussion will follow. During the evening a short Indian play, adapted from Tagore, will be given. Miss Ratan Devi, a well-known singer of folk songs, will sing some British and Indian folk songs. Those present will also have the opportunity of seeing some beautiful exhibits of Indian arts and crafts, loaned and arranged by Thakur J. Seesodia. Full particulars and programme may be obtained from the hon. sec., 7, Southampton Street, High Holborn, W.C.1.

The Central Asian Society has arranged the following programme of lectures for the coming session:—October 21: Capt. E. W. Sheppard, "Some Military Aspects of the Mesopotamian Problem." November 10: Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah, "Federation of the Central Asian States under the Kabul Government." November 18: Major F. M. Bailey, C.I.E., "Turkestan under the Bolsheviks." December 16, Major-General L. C. Dunsterville, C.B., "The Military Mission to N.W. Persia, 1918." January 20: Capt. P. D. Acland, "Communications in the East, their expansion by means of aircraft." The address of the Society is: 74, Grosvenor Street, W.1., and Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Yate is the Hon. Sec.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Colonel Douglas Capitaneano has been appointed Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation in London, in succession to Colonel Rosetti.

The Earl of Lytton has been appointed Under Secretary of State for India in succession to Lord Sinha, who lately resigned that office on being appointed Governor of Behar and Orissa.

M. Georges Madjaroff, who has been in residence at the Bulgarian Legation some months, charged with Bulgarian interests, has now been officially appointed Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires here. He is the son of M. Michel Madjaroff, who was Bulgarian Minister in London before the outbreak of the war.

The King, on the recommendation of the Secretary of State for War, has been pleased to approve the following appointments:—Major-General Sir Charles Harington, K.C.B., D.S.O., to be General Officer Commanding-in-Chief the Army of the Black Sea, with promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-General, in succession to Lieutenant-General Sir

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George Milne, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., D.S.O., who will shortly relinquish that appointment.

Lieutenant-General Sir Philip Chetwode, Bt., K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., to be Deputy Chief of the Imperial General Staff, in succession to Sir Charles Harington.

## OBITUARY.

It is announced that Mr. Francis Arthur Adam Cowley, C.I.E., Chief Engineer of Bengal, has died at Darjeeling, India, in his fifty-second year. He joined the India Public Works Department in 1890 as an assistant engineer, became superintending engineer in 1912, and chief engineer in October, 1917.

Major-General Henry W. Holland, C.B., died at Addiscombe on September 20. He was born in Bombay ninety-six years ago, joined the 13th Bombay Native Infantry in 1841, and retired in 1878. He saw service in the Abyssinian War of 1867-68, and was mentioned in dispatches, and from 1870 to 1877 he was Commissary-General of the Bombay Army.

The death has occurred at Helouan, Egypt, of Mr. George Wyman Bury, the explorer, at the age of 46. About 1895 he was travelling in Morocco, and from 1896 to 1901 he made journeys in the Aden hinterland and other parts of South Arabia, making archæological and natural history investigations, and penetrating into the Great Red Desert. He was political officer in the Aden Protectorate during the military operations of 1903-4, took part in a zoological expedition in Somaliland in the two following years, and then returned to the exploration of Southern Arabia. When the war broke out he joined the Intelligence Staff on the Egyptian front, and was later attached to the Red Sea Northern Patrol. He was one of the British officers who were associated with the revolt of the King of the Hejaz against Turkish rule. Mr. Bury was the author of "The Land of Uz," "Arabia Infelix," and "Pan-Islam."

## BULGARIANS IN BRITAIN.

We are asked to publish the following official communication—"The Bulgarian Legation in Great Britain (51, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7. Chancery of the Legation at 3, Queensberry Place, London, S.W.7) informs all Bulgarian subjects residing in Great Britain and her Dominions that, in accordance with a new Act of the Bulgarian Parliament, they all are obliged to register in the Legation. The Bulgarian Legation requests all whom this may concern to send their passports and communicate their present addresses. Those who fail to comply with the prescriptions of this law are liable to pecuniary penalties and cannot expect any aid from the Bulgarian authorities."

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Secretary of State for India announces that the competitive examination for the Indian Medical Service will not be held during 1921, but that arrangements for the appointment of candidates by selection in India and in England will be continued for that year. The question of resuming the examination in January, 1922, is under consideration, and an announcement will be made in January, 1921.

M. Clemenceau sailed from Marseilles for India on September 22.

Riza Pasha, a former Turkish Minister of War, died last week, aged eighty-six. He had lived in retirement at Nice for some years.

It is stated that the Egyptian Ports and Lights Administration has decided to build a new lighthouse in the Red Sea at an estimated cost of £E25,000.

The new Palestine stamps are now issued. They have the word "Palestine" printed on them in Arabic (at the top), English (in the centre), and Hebrew (at the bottom).

It is announced that the Greek Communist Party has joined the "Third International."

Fifty-four officers and 970 men of the Indian Army recently made the pilgrimage to Mecca, and were the guests of the King of the Hejaz for fifteen days. The British Government provided free return passages.

The Mayor of Valona (Albania) and a number of his fellow-citizens have issued an appeal on behalf of Aveni Rustem, the Albanian student who assassinated Essad Pasha in Paris on July 13 last.

All Bulgarian prisoners who were detained in Greece have been repatriated except 600, and these will be repatriated as soon as the Greek juveniles still detained in Bulgaria have been returned.


## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses. Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.



# WHERE TO STAY.

**For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—**

"EASTAPROX, LONDON. TWENTIETH MATLOCK TWO

(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."

**which would indicate that two rooms were required at Matlock on the 20th of the month.**

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**GRAND SPA HOTEL.**

**EXETER**
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(*facing beautiful Cathedral*).

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**67a, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.2.**
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**MANCHESTER**
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# THE NEAR EAST.

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*Telephone No.: 618 London Wall.*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1920.


## THE OFFER TO EGYPT.

Egypt is to be congratulated on the ease with which the Delegation charged with the task of winning approval for the proposed agreement with Great Britain have completed their work. The members returned to Egypt on September 8, and are now due to leave again on October 1. In this time they have sounded to their own satisfaction Egyptian opinion on the general principles which they themselves accepted in England as the basis for the future status of Egypt, and with such favourable results that the negotiations in London should be resumed with complete confidence on both sides. Particularly noticeable have been the overwhelming verdicts in favour of accepting Lord Milner's proposals secured from both the Legislative Assembly, in unofficial session, and the Egyptian Bar. These two bodies were the backbone of the former agitation, and their emphatic endorsement of the offer should prove of good augury for the smooth elaboration of the details of the ultimate agreement. With their support, and in view of the general attitude of the different elements of the population which have been consulted during the last three weeks, it is unnecessary to lay much stress on the two discordant notes in the chorus of approval. The first came from a coterie of princes who have tried before to win notoriety by publicly espousing without any special reason what appeared to be a popular cause. This time they would seem to have made a miscalculation, as public opinion is not with them. Their action, indeed, is supported only by Hasb-el-Watani, the old Nationalist Party, which refused at first to associate itself with the line of action adopted by Zaghloul Pasha, and now finds no other way of justifying its existence than in permanent opposition to him. Its manifesto on the subject declares that the proposed agreement contains no advantages to Egypt, that it confirms the Protectorate of 1914, and robs Egypt of her internal and external sovereignty. The old Nationalist Party, therefore, advises the Egyptian nation not to accept Lord Milner's scheme as a basis of settlement, but to continue to fight for national aspirations by all legitimate means. This is precisely the attitude adopted a year ago by Zaghloul Pasha and his followers, which threatened to work the undoing of Egypt. At the eleventh hour it was abandoned by them, and it is pathetic to see their discarded rôle taken up by their political opponents in a desperate effort to obtain party capital. A far more practical and patriotic course would have been to make common cause with the Zaghloul delegation, and to work out in harmony with them the details of the final treaty between Egypt and Great Britain.

That final treaty, as was indicated in the Foreign Office statement issued when the discussions between Zaghloul Pasha and Lord Milner were adjourned, will be the subject of negotiations between accredited representatives of the British and Egyptian Governments. Before this stage is reached, however, the Egyptian Delegation have to report on their mission among their own countrymen, and the discussions in London will be continued, in order that any fresh ideas gleaned during the visit to Egypt may be duly considered. In view of the course of events, it would seem that the report of Lord Milner's Mission could now be reduced to small proportions, as it will need to contain little more than the general principles on which it is recommended that the final settlement should be based. The valuable material collected by the Mission in Egypt will have to be made available for official reference, but as a result of the favourable turn taken by the negotiations there can be no necessity to revive in any published document the story of the recent troubles. When the finishing touches have been placed on the understanding between Zaghloul Pasha's Delegation and Lord Milner's Mission, it will only remain for the full terms to be submitted to the British Government, which will have to decide whether it can endorse the recommendations of the Mission. From this point, therefore, interest in the Egyptian question may be said to have shifted from Egypt to Great Britain. The general outline of a future agreement between the two countries has been suggested, and Zaghloul Pasha's Delegation have secured the consent of the bulk of their fellow-countrymen to it. Lord Milner and the members of his Mission were selected by the British Government (actually by the Foreign Office) for the purpose of reporting on the Egyptian situation, and it is almost inconceivable that their recommendations should be overridden. We cannot, however, overlook the fact that the Mission has no executive authority. Except for the vital issues at stake, the Mission will have been on the same footing as any other similarly appointed body, and it is open to Parliament, or indeed the Cabinet, to accept or reject their conclusions. But the issues at stake are vital, and for this reason it is out of the question that any serious challenge should be offered to Lord Milner's scheme. It may well be that even to individual members of the Government the *modus operandi* agreed upon with Zaghloul Pasha is unwelcome. We can imagine that it is a source of embarrassment to the Secretary of State for India, a disappointment to his colleague at the War Office, and perhaps unpalatable to Lord Curzon. But it would be impossible to contemplate anything amounting to a repudiation at this stage of Lord Milner's authority to bind the Government in the negotiations with Zaghloul Pasha. A reference to the subject in no way implies that any such step has been thought of; but it may not be altogether superfluous to mention the point, in case any section of public opinion in well-meant anxiety for the future of Egypt and in perfect good faith may still hold that a less radical measure of self-government would be more in the interests of the country.

Both in Egypt and in Great Britain we are satisfied that the great bulk of British opinion is content to accept Lord Milner's judgment in regard to the future status of Egypt. This attitude has succeeded to the first feeling of astonishment with which the news of the general terms of the offer was received. To understand the change it is only necessary to compare the situation in Egypt to-day with that of a year ago. It was in November, 1918, that Zaghloul Pasha formally presented his demands to the then High Commissioner, and twelve months later a portion of the Egyptian Press was proposing to inaugurate the day as a national holiday on the lines of America's Independence Day. Although the worst excesses had been suppressed, the country was in a general state of ferment: something like the wholesale assassination of witnesses for the prosecution in the murder trials then pending was being carried out, and in due course the Milner Mission was boycotted, with the inevitable accompaniment of demonstrations and inflammable speeches. To-day, as a result of the tact and statesmanship of Lord Milner, Egypt is to a considerable extent under the influence of a wave of pro-British feeling. It should be possible by the successful carrying out of the scheme which has now been accepted by the Egyptians to perpetuate that feeling, to the great advantage of Egypt and of the British Empire.

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# BULGARIA AND THE TREATY.

## THE QUESTION OF A VOLUNTARY ARMY.

In the last issue of THE NEAR EAST attention was drawn to the action of the French Government in notifying the Bulgarian Government that it did not propose to avail itself of the powers conferred upon the Allies by Article 176 of the Treaty of Peace for the payment of debts by means of a Clearing House. By the terms of the Treaty the provisions of the Article in question were not to apply unless within a period of one month from the deposit of the ratification of the Treaty notice to that effect were given to Bulgaria. France, therefore, in this instance has used the discretion allowed her by the Treaty, and it will be of interest to learn how many f the Allied or Associated Powers have been at pains to notify the Bulgarian Government that a Clearing House for debts has been established. In the case of Great Britain notice was issued of the formation of a joint department for Austria and Bulgaria; but in view of France's step it would be a simple matter to charge the clearing house with Austrian debts only and to relieve it of responsibility in regard to Bulgaria.

Perhaps the chief point of interest attaching to France's action is its bearing on the general attitude to be adopted by the Allies towards Bulgaria. It will be remembered that the Treaty, in addition to the reservation regarding the establishment of a Clearing House for debts, left in the matter of reparation a loophole for "a reduction or a postponement of any particular payment due or a reduction of the total capital sum to be paid by Bulgaria." The wisdom of the reservations is obvious, as the Allies had at the time no very certain information upon which to base the particular terms imposed. But it is eminently desirable that in any mitigation of the terms the Allies should act in unison. Already France has shown a tendency to treat with Bulgaria independently, and such a policy, coming on the top of the individual action of members of the French missions during the period of the Armistice, who tried to persuade the Bulgarians that the British and not the French were responsible for the severity of the terms imposed upon them, is apt to give rise to misunderstanding, if not to actual friction. In their anxiety to establish themselves in a strong commercial position in the Near East the French have realised that it is to the interests of all the Balkan States to see Bulgaria freed from any disabilities that may retard her economic recovery. Neither Roumania nor Yugoslavia nor Greece will challenge this view, but all three can only regard with misgiving a return to the old policy of one Great Power trying to score off another in the Balkans.

Another question that has engaged the attention of the French Press in regard to Bulgaria is the provision contained in Article 65 of the Treaty, which reads: "Universal compulsory military service shall be abolished in Bulgaria. The Bulgarian Army shall in future only be constituted and recruited by means of voluntary enlistment." It is a well-established fact, acknowledged by all the Allied Military Missions that have been in Bulgaria since the Armistice, that the raising of a voluntary army presents insuperable difficulties to the Bulgarians, and, sooner or later, the question will have to be seriously discussed between the Bulgarian Government and the Entente Powers. M. Stambolisky, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, will shortly arrive in England at the invitation of the British Government. It is understood to have been a stipulation on the part of the latter that the question of a revision of the Treaty should not be raised during the visit. M. Stambolisky will appreciate the spirit in which the request has been made; for he will understand that it would be distasteful to Great Britain to seem to be going behind the back of an ally in discussing alone with Bulgaria any item in a Treaty drawn up in consultation with a number of allies. But he would be less than human if he did not avail himself of any laxity on this score shown in France, as the subject can never be far from the mind of the Bulgarian Prime Minister. It is to be hoped, therefore, that, if the French Government considers the moment opportune for raising the question of the future Bulgarian Army, it will notify the British Government to this effect, and allow the latter to take advantage of M. Stambolisky's presence, in order to discuss the point at length with him.

Over and above the provision that the Bulgarian Army must be recruited by voluntary enlistment, the Treaty stipulates that the total number of military forces in the army shall not exceed 20,000 men, including officers and depot troops, and that the number of gendarmes, Customs officials, forest guards, local or municipal police shall not exceed 13,000, so that the total number of rifles in use in Bulgaria shall not exceed 33,000; that all officers, including the gendarmerie and other services, must be regulars, who undertake to serve at least up to the age of forty; that the total length of engagement of non-commissioned officers and men shall not be less than twelve years' consecutive service with the colours. These terms follow closely the provisions laid down in the German Treaty, and it does not seem to have occurred to the framers of the Bulgarian Treaty that the conditions in the two countries are wholly dissimilar. A system appropriate to a highly industrialised country is not necessarily applicable to an agricultural country, where the bulk of the inhabitants are peasants, and landed proprietors to boot. The Bulgarian peasant is wedded to his land, and is not going to volunteer for the army for any period, and certainly not for twelve years.

With a view to carrying out the terms of the Treaty the pay of the private soldier has been raised to an amount varying from 348 levas to 756 levas a month, a sum in excess of a captain's pay under the old system. It so happens that the daily wage of unskilled labour in Bulgaria to-day is from 40 to 60 levas, while that of a skilled artisan in coal mines, etc., may be set at 3,000 levas a month. Even if the Bulgarian Government were to fix the soldier's pay at an amount higher than that of unskilled labour—a course that would hardly meet with the approval of the Reparation Commission charged with supervising the payment of two and a-quarter milliards of gold francs—it would probably only succeed in attracting the least desirable elements of the urban populations, and the Army would run the risk of becoming a communist body, or the instrument of political rivalries. All efforts made so far to recruit for a voluntary army, it is understood, have failed. At one centre where recruits for the gendarmerie were required, it was with difficulty that 17 applicants were secured, and of these twelve deserted almost immediately, as soon as they appreciated the terms of service. There is no reason to attribute the Bulgarian Government's dilemma to bad faith, or any desire to evade the terms of the Treaty. The difficulty was foreseen in Paris at the time when the terms were imposed, and attention was drawn to the impossibility of a voluntary army in Bulgaria. The Supreme Council, however, held other views.

The solution that the Bulgarian Government is prepared to suggest to the Allied Powers is understood to be a form of restricted obligatory service. Under the system laid down by the Treaty Bulgaria at the end of ten years could count upon having in the country some 50,000 trained men. If, on the other hand, she were allowed to recruit compulsorily an annual contingent of 7,500 for three years' service, at the end of ten years

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

KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN.

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she would have, inclusive of gendarmerie, 85,000 men who had served with the colours. This number would be considerably more than the Treaty stipulates, but would be insignificant compared with the half a million reservists (by that time) in the neighbouring countries.

It is not to the Allies' interests that Bulgaria should become the prey to internal disorder as the result of having no military force capable of acting as a deterrent to lawless elements. The question of the Army is, therefore, important, and it must be inferred that the subject has already been brought to the notice of their respective Governments by the different Allied Missions. In these circumstances, and especially if it is probable that the question is to be discussed in Paris, there would seem to be no reason why the British Government should not take it up with M. Stambolisky during his stay in England.

## THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

I have a grievance against the *Egyptian Gazette*. The other day, in looking over some back numbers, I came across the following paragraph, in its issue of August 31:—

> Fate recently threw a beautiful Greek girl, torn from her husband, into the hands of Ali Bey, Pasha of Aleppo. The husband, learning the retreat of his wife, went to the Pasha and offered him a considerable ransom. Not only did the Pasha refuse this, but he also reunited the married couple, with a present of 30,000 piastres.

Now am I not justified in feeling that the "E.G." ought to be much more careful in giving such stories to the world? What does the second word of the paragraph, the "recently," mean? The title, "Ali Bey, Pasha of Aleppo," seems to me to suggest that the incident must be dated back before General Gouraud and his North Africans took a hand in the game in Syria; but the "recently" makes me feel doubtful on the point. Then what kind of "Fate" threw the beautiful Greek girl into the arms—no, I beg pardon, the hands—of Ali Bey? It does not look as if the Bey had sent out his minions (ha! ha!) to scour the city for victims of his lust—or however it ought to be expressed!—otherwise he would hardly have behaved as he is reported to have done later on. Why did the husband offer the Pasha a ransom? Why did the Pasha refuse it? And why, why, *why* did he part with his 30,000 piastres? In these days that is a lot of money for a poor Pasha. Really, one is tempted to wonder whether some bright journalist has not been "pulling the leg" of the "E.G.," and passing off as "news" some choice bit from the "Thousand Nights and a Night." And the doubt is harassing, for the story, if true, or even nearly true, would serve to show that the Orient still is the Orient, in patches at least. As it is, the only thing I can feel really sure of is that the tale is not an invention of—a Greek.

***

Journalists are often accused of making trouble, and I fear the impeachment is not entirely unjust. But it seems to me that I have come across an instance of a directly opposite character. The *Sunday Times* of September 19, published, by request, a somewhat acrimonious correspondence that had taken place between Lord Curzon and Major W. Ormsby-Gore, M.P. Into the merits of the correspondence I do not purpose entering. Who am I to sit in judgment on the Pashas and Great Ones of the land? But I note that some kind assistant editor had placed immediately after the correspondence a pretty little "Kissing Song." Whether the Foreign Secretary and the Major took the hint, or what they thought about it, I am unfortunately not in a position to inform my readers. But who shall say that there are no peacemakers among the Fleet Street brethren—or that the sense of humour has passed utterly away from poor old England?

***

Some time ago, when it first became known that the *Daily Herald* was being financed to some extent by Zaghloul Pasha and certain Indians who are not famed for their loyalty, I met a friend who expressed surprise that "any paper, even a Labour rag, should care to be associated with such folk." A few days ago I met him again, and—apropos of the Bolshevist-diamond—etc.—etc., transaction—reminded him of what he had said. "Good lord, yes!" he exclaimed. "I remember, but I should think now that the Gippies and Tilakians would resent being spoken of in the same breath as the *Daily Herald*"

CORSAIR.

## CHESS.

The principal clubs are now beginning to make preparations for the coming season, which, it is expected, will more than come up to the pre-war standard. It is certain that at no previous period have so many players taken an active interest in the game. Most of the clubs report a greatly increased membership. The effect on the winter tournaments of this new-born enthusiasm for the game will be the introduction on a larger scale of qualifying heats. Most players dislike the system. It means in practice playing in two distinct tournaments, and it is not every one who can sustain his form through such a lengthy ordeal. But it is difficult to find an alternative unless the classes into which players are divided are increased, and new tournaments instituted.

I give this week the game between Sir G. A. Thomas and Mr. G. E. Wainwright in the British Championship.

RUY LOPEZ.

| White. Sir G. A. Thomas. | Black. G. E. Wainwright. | White. Sir G. A. Thomas. | Black. G. E. Wainwright. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 P—K4 | P—K4 | 23 Q x Q | R x Q (ch) |
| 2 Kt—KB3 | Kt—QB3 | 24 R—B2 | R x R (ch) |
| 3 B—Kt5 | P—QR3 | 25 K x R | R—Q |
| 4 B—R4 | Kt—B3 | 26 K—K2 | Kt—K3 |
| 5 Kt—B3 (1) | P—Q3 | 27 P—QR4 (6) | B x P |
| 6 0—0 | B—K2 | 28 B—K | Kt x P (ch) |
| 7 P—Q3 | P—QKt4 | 29 K—B3 | B—Q3 |
| 8 B—Kt3 | B—Kt5 | 30 P x P | RP x P |
| 9 Kt—K2 | B x Kt | 31 B—KKt3 | P—Kt4 |
| 10 P x B | Q—Q2 | 32 R—R 6 | R—QB |
| 11 K—Kt2 | Kt—R4 | 33 P—R4 | P—R3 |
| 12 B—Q5 | R—Q (2) | 34 P x P | P x P |
| 13 P—KB4 | P x P | 35 K—Kt4 | B—K4 |
| 14 Kt x P | Kt x Kt (ch) | 36 B x Kt | P x B |
| 15 QB x Kt | Kt—Q5 | 37 B—Kt3 | K—Kt2 |
| 16 P—QB3 | Kt—K3 | 38 P—B4 | P—Kt5 |
| 17 B—KKt3 | P—QB3 | 39 P—B5 | B—Q5 |
| 18 B—Kt3 | 0—0 | 40 R—R7 | B x P |
| 19 P—KB4 (3) | Kt—B4 | 41 R x P (ch) | K—Kt3 |
| 20 B—QB2 (4) | P—Q4 | 42 R x P | R—KB |
| 21 P—Kt4 | P x P | 43 R x R | B x R |
| 22 P x P (5) | Q—Q7 (ch) | 44 K—K5 | Drawn (7) |

(1) This form of the Lopez is not to be commended.
(2) P—Kt4 might have been played with advantage.
(3) White, in my view, now has rather the better of the position.
(4) Q—B3 allowing Black to take the B. was preferable.
(5) The offer of the Kt was ingenious, but I think that White might have taken it safely.
(6) A blunder losing two pawns. If 28 PxB, Kt—Q5 ch, winning a piece or the exchange.
(7) Towards the end Black played weakly, and threw away a winning advantage.

CARO-KANN.

## ENQUIRY BUREAU.

*Readers abroad desirous of getting in touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.*

*Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."*

*ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.*

*No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.*

### Agents Wanted Abroad.

*ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, 'The Near East,'" 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2," when they will be re-directed to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.*

101. A correspondent in Lagos, Nigeria, wishes to get into touch with manufacturers of Arab red fez caps.

102. A stamp collector wishes to purchase in large quantities used Austrian stamps prior to the 1882 issue. Stamp dealers in the liberated provinces of Austria are asked to send bulk packages of such stamps to the care of the Editor of THE NEAR EAST, with the price in kronen of each stamp or price per dozen, per 100, etc., of each kind. All stamps required will be paid for at the price indicated and the rest returned. Newspaper stamps are not required, but rare postmarks should be included.

103. An Athens firm invites publishers of periodicals dealing with yarns (reports on local markets and world output) and cottons to send specimen copies with a view to its becoming a permanent subscriber.

104. A Greek firm is establishing an electric light station in Macedonia, and wishes to get into touch with firms dealing in the necessary machinery.

105. Engineering and general contractor in Mosul, Mesopotamia, wishes to get into touch with manufacturers in Great Britain.

106. Old-established English trading company with branches in Mesopotamia and Persia is willing to accept agencies there for manufacturers, etc.

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# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

## A Turkish View of Venizelos.

In a recent number of the *Ileri*, a lament is made that the Ottoman Empire had not its Venizelos:—

When during the distracted state of Crete, and the disagreement in Europe over opposing interests, it was arranged that representatives should be sent from Crete to the Chamber of Deputies at Athens, the foundation stone of the political fortunes of Venizelos was laid. The building up of his reputation speedily followed. Had it not been for Venizelos, Greece would not have united with Bulgaria and Serbia in the Balkan war, and would not have annexed, as a consequence, a large territory with a minimum of loss. Venizelos by his adroitness outstripped the older politicians of Athens, and in the great struggle came into rivalry with the victorious Constantine in a duel which ended in the abdication and retirement of the King. At the end of the war his great services demanded a recompense, and it was no great wonder that he should demand the heritage of Turkey—that is, all the European possessions of the littoral He knocked at all doors, and succeeded in securing for Greece important slices of Turkey and Bulgaria.

Had there been no Venizelos, assuredly these results would not have been accomplished. Being convinced that further security was required, he succeeded in undertaking the charge of the campaign against Mustapha Kemal, and gained the title of guardian of the Eastern frontier. Greece would never have embarked on this war if she had been under the guidance of her old diplomatists. Where was the strength, or the daring? Where was the diplomatic ability needed for such a venture in former times? Now the voice of Venizelos is heard in the Conferences of the Allied Powers, and the British Premier supports his arguments. Yes, Venizelos. It is he who proposed the rejection, without discussion, of the Turkish protests and counter-proposals, and succeeded in making his arguments prevail in the Council of the Powers. In a word, it is Venizelos who has raised Greece to the acme of her aspirations. It is Venizelos who directs the course of events in the East; and we may well be asked why have we not a Venizelos among us.

## Georgia's Foreign Relations.

The *Daily Telegraph* published on September 16 an article on the Allies and Georgia, by "A Diplomatic Correspondent," which is based on an interview with the Georgian Foreign Minister. The writer remarks that it will be interesting to see whether the Allies or the League of Nations will be the first to recognise the new Caucasian State, or, rather, which will be first to agree to the conversion into a *de jure* recognition of the *de facto* recognition accorded by the Supreme Council last January. He continues:—

The point is of singular interest in view of Washington's latest Note, in which even *de facto* recognition is denied the Russian Border States, and Georgia is specifically referred to in a disparaging sense as a "so-called State." M. Gueguetchkori spoke with obvious feeling on this American pronouncement yesterday: It was with deep regret, he said, that the Georgian people had thus learned of the American Government's attitude towards them. They could not regard it otherwise than as a grave injustice to themselves, the more painful because of the prestige and authority enjoyed by Mr. Wilson as the author of the fourteen points, that charter of freedom for all nations. On this ground the Government's refusal to recognise Georgian independence seemed to them utterly incomprehensible. But not even he could prevail over the fact of Georgia's actual existence as an independent State, upheld by the unanimous will of its inhabitants. It was probable that Georgia was insufficiently known in the United States, or that she had been misrepresented there. If only the Washington Government had taken the trouble to inquire of Americans now or recently resident in Georgia of the true situation there, its attitude would assuredly have been very different from what it appeared to be. For Washington would then have realised that a nation which had successfully emerged from the travail of re-birth, with its attendant chaos, and which had known how to defend itself without external help against powerful foreign aggressors, had thereby earned for itself the right to full nationhood and statehood, as also to the sympathy and assistance of the civilised world.

As to Great Britain, we are told:—

So far as Great Britain was concerned, the Georgians would ever remain grateful to her statesmen for the manner in which these statesmen had championed her case at the Supreme Council. Lord Curzon's initiative in securing for her *de facto* recognition was not only a fine gesture; it implied an initial but highly significant step towards the establishment of close and friendly relations between the British and the Georgian peoples. M. Gueguetchkori expressed the hope that British statesmen would shortly crown their work of liberation in the Caucasus by granting Georgia full recognition, and that the "mighty and fair-minded British Press," as he termed it, would support them on this issue.

The article then touches on Georgia's relations with neighbouring States. After a naturally somewhat cautious statement regarding the Bolshevists, it concludes:—

Georgia is naturally on good terms with Armenia, whose interests coincide very largely with her own. But she expects no good from the Turkish Nationalists in Anatolia. The Georgians have always maintained that all the Trans-Caucasian Republics would have been much better off if only they had acted as one, and on the strength of their common interests as neighbours. The Georgian Foreign Minister assured me that the attitude of his Government towards General Wrangel would remain one of strict neutrality so long as the latter did not propose, as did General Denikin, with his "one and indivisible Russia" formula, to dispute Georgia's title to independence. His Excellency concluded by expressing disappointment at the scant attention which Western commerce was paying to a country of such natural wealth as Georgia. So far the few transactions that have taken place between them had savoured rather of profiteering than of trade properly so called. There is, he says, a fine perspective and bright future for foreign capital in Georgia, both the political and the social conditions there being favourable to the early and rapid development of trade and industry.

## A Big-Hearted Failure.

An article in the *Morning Post* of September 22, "Jewish Colonies in Palestine," has a sub-title which will probably surprise many readers: "Failure as Business Undertakings." It tells the story of a great experiment, and is extremely interesting reading. It begins:—

There are in Palestine, at the present time, some forty or more Jewish agricultural colonies organised for the most part on the co-operative principle. They range from large settlements like "Khedera," near Haifa, holding about 2,000 hectares, to small undertakings like "Beni Reuben," in the Jordan district, owning 200 hectares and supporting about a score of families. They are distributed over the country from "Metula" up north at the foot of Mount Hermon, to Ekron, in the south—the very home of the ancient temple of Baal-Zebub.

In 1890, the writer tells us, Baron Edmond de Rothschild became the proprietor of over 12,000 hectares at Muzab, a station on the Hejaz railway. "The part played by this philanthropic Frenchman in furthering the Jewish colonisation of Palestine is quite unrealised outside the limits of the country," the article continues. "It is speaking well within the bounds of fact to say that but for his efforts and money there would not now be a single settlement of his co-religionists left in the whole of the Holy Land." The Baron, by 1896, owned and controlled many other holdings, and in the fifteen years during which he interested himself in settlement work in Palestine, he spent between 50 and 60 million francs. But he got no return on his money, and in 1893 he was glad to cut his losses. The article continues:—

The existing Jewish settlements of Palestine are the work of the past forty years. The year 1882 saw the first colony established by Russian immigrants. It was called, not inappropriately, "Rishon le Zion," the "First to Zion," and cattle and grass "Rishon le Zion," the "First to Zion," and cattle and grass frequency of low fever and eye complaints. "Rishon-le-Zion" is the pride of the Jewish immigrants. Other Jewish settlements in Palestine have been modelled on its pattern, and have even followed the example of its cultivators in devoting themselves almost exclusively to viticulture. But, proud as the settlers are of their vines, it is none the less true that the encouragement given to viticulture has been the chief cause of the failure of the Jewish colonies as commercial undertakings. And thereby hangs the story of Baron Edmond de Rothschild's mistake—a mistake that cost him some fifty million francs.

The Baron, being a Frenchman, was largely taken with the French system of intensive culture, which enables a man to make a living on a minimum-sized holding. So, in planning the settlements he founded in Palestine, he considered how to get the largest number of people supported by the smallest area of land. And he came to the conclusion that the cultivation of the grape—for which Palestine is specially suited—would give the largest returns. Accordingly, the grape was made the staple industry at the "First to Zion."

This was the initial mistake. Then, to encourage other colonies to do the same, the managers were empowered to purchase all grapes grown and wine made at a fixed price. The price was far above the market value. The consequence was that for fifteen years the Baron paid the high rates for the grapes, increasing thus the cost of the wine. And he never got back the one-hundredth part of the outlay he incurred this way. The price of the wine artificially kept up stopped the sale, and then the price went down again so low that it did not pay to sell. Moreover, the vines planted proved to be unsuited for wine. Plantations had to be grubbed up and new varieties procured for growing. All this meant the sinking of additional capital in the business.

Then another trouble came about when the wine crisis passed. The land per settler having been calculated at a minimum, and on the assumption that viticulture would maintain the people, the area of the colony was found to be too small, so there was a demand for more money to increase the size of the holdings. This call for more land has arisen in most of the other Jewish settlements. And the want of foresight in this respect, together with the enormous outlay incurred in starting most of them, is quite sufficient to account for their failure as business undertakings.

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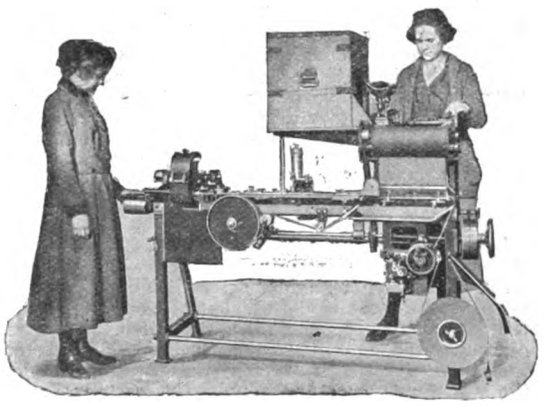

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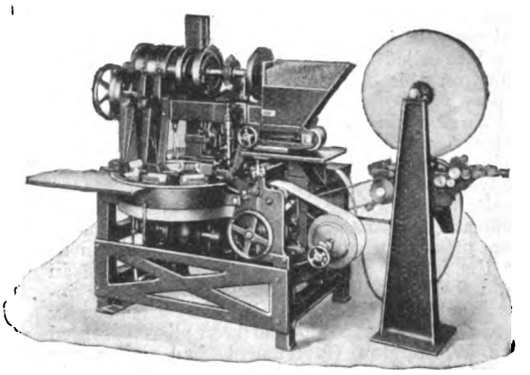

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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As the outcome of the Brussels Financial Conference, which commenced its sittings last week, it may be hoped that a clear and definite policy will be evolved to cope with the economic and commercial crisis from which the world is now suffering. Since the Armistice reconstruction has made all too slow progress in many countries, and it has become clear that what has been done will not suffice of itself, and in many respects conditions are worse now than when the war ended. Inflation has been steadily going on, prices have continued to rise, while the exchanges, reflecting the instability, have fluctuated to an extent that has gravely hampered the development of commerce. A continuance of these conditions would in the end lead to chaos. While all are agreed on the nature of the problem with which Europe and the world are faced, there is no such agreement as to its solution, and it is this that it is hoped the Conference will be able to provide.

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The problem of effecting the economic regeneration of Turkey has been rendered far more difficult than would otherwise have been the case by the widespread damage caused to some of the country's staple industries as a result of the extremely short-sighted policy of its rulers during the war. An outstanding example of this is provided by the silk trade, which reached its highest point at the time of the Balkan war, but which to-day, according to Captain Courthope-Munroe's report, is "about to die out." In 1913 Turkey produced seventeen million kilograms of cocoons, and losses of territory in the Balkan war reduced the output to fourteen million kilograms. To-day, however, it is no more than three million kilograms.

***

This state of things is due to the fact that during the war the Christian population was either exiled or interned. "The Mussulman emigrants who replaced the Christian population saw no use in the mulberry trees which grew in clusters round the villages, and, on the other hand, found it far easier to cut these down for firewood than walk for miles to find something else. Logs of mulberry trees of fifteen and twenty years' growth were being sold for firewood in the market at Constantinople." It is estimated that only about one-third of the mulberry trees are left, and it is stated that in villages where 150 boxes of silkworm seed was brought to yield yearly, the returning peasants are barely able to breed eight to ten boxes. The Ottoman Public Debt is endeavouring to further the re-establishment of the industry, but it is doubtful, says the report, whether its efforts will be recompensed by any serious results.

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Before leaving Captain Courthope-Munroe's report, I would like to draw the special attention of British firms to what is said with regard to the appointment of agents in dealing with Smyrna. Foreign Governments, it appears, take effective steps to prevent their firms being represented at Smyrna by other than their own subjects, and "a case is cited of a Government which intimated to a British firm that had been entrusted with a foreign agency that it need expect no support in any questions arising in connection with that agency." On the other hand, British firms have given their agencies at Smyrna to foreigners. It is obviously desirable from every point of view that British interests should be looked after by British subjects. It is also none the less essential that the British trader should have the same whole-hearted support from his authorities that his rivals receive from theirs.

***

An illuminating example of present industrial conditions, says a correspondent, is forthcoming from one of the leading centres of the boot trade. This industry has for some time been suffering from a very severe slump, many factories being on short time. An inquiry arrived for an estimate for 100,000 pairs of army boots, but while the news of the prospect of this order, which would have relieved the situation for the time being, was received with great satisfaction, we are told that before the order was fulfilled Labour would want to know for whom the boots were intended! As though this was a period when manufacturers could afford to select their orders! Of course, the apprehension doubtless was that good British leather would enable some wicked race to "foot it" against the Bolsheviks. As a matter of fact, the contract was for a Near Eastern country well out of reach of any possible contact with Russia, but the destination, after all, was immaterial, for the contract was not placed on account of the high prices.

***

Next week an extraordinary general meeting of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China will be held to pass resolutions authorising the sub-division of the 100,000 £20 shares into 400,000 shares of £5 each, and the increase of the capital to 600,000 shares by the issue of 200,000 new shares of £5 each, to be offered to shareholders in the proportion of one new share for every two held, at a premium of £2 10s. per share. It is explained that the increase of capital is rendered necessary by the increased demands of trade and the greater volume of business that the bank is being called upon to finance. A similar move is being made by the National Bank of India, whose directors have decided to make a further issue of 40,000 shares —the unissued balance of the share capital—to existing shareholders, in the proportion of one new share for every three shares held. As in the case of the existing shares, £12 10s. per share will be called up on the new shares which will be issued at a premium of £7 10s. per share. In the case of both banks the new issues will represent a handsome bonus for shareholders at present quotations.

***

The figures for the trade of the Sudan for the first six months of the current year make very interesting reading. The value of imports was £E3,446,435, as against £E1,995,274 for the corresponding period of 1919, while there was an even greater increase in the value of exports, which rose from £E1,418,269 to £E3,509,354. Rising prices have, of course, to be taken into account in these figures, but making allowances for that the statistics provide most gratifying proof of the steady expansion of the Sudan's commerce.

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The marked progress made by the Alliance Bank of Simla in recent years was fully maintained in the year ended June 30. The total assets rose from Rs. 14,62,52,900 to Rs. 15,86,32,800, while there was a notable rise in the deposits from Rs. 12,72,20,900 to Rs. 13,35,58,900. The net profits amounted to Rs. 13,42,800, as against Rs. 10,23,800, and the dividend and bonus are maintained at 17 per cent. free of tax

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Particulars are given in another column of the New Shipping and Mercantile Company which has been formed under the auspices of Messrs. Lionda and Company, of 3, Broad Street Buildings, to carry on business between the Black Sea Ports and Constantinople and the United Kingdom. I am informed that the largest shareholders in this venture are well-known Constantinople people.

COMMENTATOR.


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# Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, September 18.

**Freeing Exports.**

The Government has removed all restrictions upon the export of the following commodities: Buckwheat, "krupnik" (a kind of barley), and "sitna proja" (a kind of maize), shelled and in the form of flour; bay leaves and seed; garden seeds and extracts; onion seed, shallots, chaff, root crops for cattle food, tares, peas, fodder, bran, hops and hop flour; hives and swarms of bees, crayfish, shellfish, fish, entrails, reeds, acorns, mast, mineral waters, soft and hard cheeses, jams, bricks, tiles and pottery, horse chestnuts and wine.

The commercial treaty with Czecho-Slovakia has been confirmed.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, September 16.

**The Budget.**

In an interview granted to the representatives of the local press, M. Tourlakoff, the Minister of Finance, declared that the Budget, despite the greatest economies, would reach a total of three milliards of levas. This would include 2 per cent. interest on the debt of two and a-half milliards of levas, 45,000,000 francs according to the Peace Treaty. The revenue would be more than was anticipated. From alcohol 120,000,000 levas would be collected, from coal 110 to 120 million levas, and from State taxes 150,000,000 levas, while there would be substantial receipts from the Customs. There would, however, be a deficit of nearly 500,000,000 levas.

## CYPRUS.

NICOSIA (Undated).

**Danger to Carob Trade.**

It would seem that serious warnings are needed for village producers, and perhaps, it might be added, for many dealers and middlemen. A circular, signed by eight leading merchants of Limassol, has been recently issued, calling attention to the danger which threatens the carob trade owing to the admixture of earth and other extraneous matter too often delivered with locust beans. Cyprus carobs, which form so large a proportion of the island's wealth, are reported to be second to none; but owing to the defects referred to they run the risk of losing this reputation on account of the short-sighted folly and negligence of producers. The fault lies, in the first place, with village growers, for the beans are stacked in the open after gathering, and all kinds of impurities are allowed to get mixed up with them. Then the stores in which they are placed while awaiting shipment in town or village, often for many months, are frequently dirty and full of insects. Carobs are exported also from Crete, Sicily, Spain, Portugal and Algeria, and dealers in those countries are said to ship them in far cleaner condition, and they are accordingly beginning to take precedence over Cyprus beans, which are in reality superior. The United Kingdom has hitherto taken the largest quantities for cattle foods. France has taken a very considerable quantity. A new market is being found in Greece, but merchants there complain that 10 per cent. of impurities have been found in consignments. All markets may soon prefer the cleaner carobs of other countries, unless steps are taken to put a stop to the present suicidal negligence. Merchants now warn villagers that in future contracts they will protect themselves in such a way as to secure compensation when necessary. Similar warnings are again needed in the matter of wine. There has always been much trouble over the introduction of excessive quantities of gypsum in the red wine made by villagers, which caused their exclusion from France years ago. Again, cereal produce, especially barley, has been open to similar complaint.

**Agricultural Prospects.**

Reports from the vine lands indicate that the yield will probably not be abundant, as—owing to excess of rain in the spring—leaves and shoots have been over-developed at the cost of fruit. This should affect the vintage and raisins unfavourably. The olive crop, always a matter of anxiety, should be abundant and of good quality. There should also be a large yield of onions. Fruit is very abundant, and there have been good shipments to Egypt; but the prices for townspeople have not been diminished.

NICOSIA, September 14.

**Good Yield of Carobs.**

The gathering of carobs has been actively carried out, and high prices are expected. If hopes are realised, these may reach any figure up to 30s. the kantar (£6 13s. 4d. the ton), though some have already changed hands at much lower prices. The yield is abundant, as anticipated, especially in the lower zones, trees in the higher levels having suffered to some extent from the great cold of last winter.

**The Agricultural Association.**

The High Commissioner has received a deputation of the new Agricultural Society, headed by the Bishop of Kition. About forty villages have so far joined the movement. Among the Greek deputies was a Nicosia advocate, M. Roussos, and among the Turkish members was Rashid Effendi, a lawyer and journalist. One of the principal objects discussed was that loans on a wider scale than hitherto should be granted to agriculturists by the island Loan Committee in order to facilitate progress. Full consideration was promised. Another topic was the desire of farmers that control of the prices of cereals should now cease. The High Commissioner was unable to give a favourable reply, since the result would be contrary to the interests of the community in general. The prohibition in force against the export of barley was another subject of strong protest, and it was urged that permission should be given to export half the year's harvest. His Excellency reminded the deputation that the crop was 15 per cent. below the estimate, and that there were no surplus stocks of grain from last year's harvest, as there were in 1919; and he expressed his agreement with members of the Legislative Council, who consider that the export of cereals should not be allowed until there can be a reliable forecast of the crops of 1921.


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# MANCHESTER & EGYPTIAN TRADE.

## Marking and Folding of Cotton Goods.

Mr. James F. G. Hopkins, who has recently been appointed Controller of the newly formed Department of Commerce and Industry in Egypt, was the guest of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce on September 23.

In the course of the day interviews were arranged for Mr. Hopkins with representatives of the various trading interests between Manchester and Egypt, and in the morning an important conference took place with some of the largest users of Egyptian cotton on the question of the future production of cotton in Egypt and the necessity of maintaining purer types. Mr. Hopkins has undertaken to lay before the Ministry of Agriculture the views of Lancashire spinners in this connection.

Mr. Hopkins was entertained to luncheon at the Queen's Hotel as the guest of Mr. T. E. Casdagli, the chairman of the Egyptian section of the Chamber. Those present included Mr. Edwin F. Stockton, president; Mr. W. Clare Lees, vice-president; and Mr. W. C. Bacon, treasurer, in addition to other members of the Egyptian section. In proposing the health of Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Casdagli explained that at a meeting of the Trade and Merchandise Marks Committee held on January 26, consideration was given to the question of the evidence to be laid before the Board of Trade Committee referring to the false marking and folding of goods, and it was agreed that the committee should inform the Board of Trade Merchandise Marks Committee that as far as Egypt was concerned, the chairman of the Egyptian section of the Chamber of Commerce was going out to Egypt at an early date, and would report on the situation as early as possible. Meanwhile it was desired to defer the giving of evidence with regard to Egypt.

That resolution, Mr. Casdagli continued, was adopted on his pointing out the extreme difficulties of instituting reforms in Egypt at present, owing to the Capitulations. He suggested that when these were abolished, and the Egyptian Government was in a more settled condition, it would be preferable to allow that Government to institute its own reforms, but that in the meanwhile he would try and get information from the other side during his visit to Egypt, and report to the Chamber on his return. On his arrival in Egypt he had interviews with Mr. Hopkins and Sir Paul Harvey, Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, and two informal conferences were held, but nothing was definitely settled.

At the last informal meeting they had in Egypt Mr. Hopkins told him that he was shortly coming to England on a holiday, and he (Mr. Casdagli) suggested to him that a visit to the Manchester Chamber of Commerce would be beneficial to the large and important trade, both in exports and imports, which was carried on between Egypt and Manchester. Mr. Hopkins immediately accepted this suggestion, and promised to come to Manchester at any date which would suit the Chamber. He had much pleasure in extending to Mr. Hopkins, on behalf of the Egyptian section of the Chamber, a very hearty welcome. He was the first official of the Egyptian Government they had had the pleasure of receiving at the Chamber. Visits such as this were most influential, and would do a great deal of good, and would tend not only to maintain, but also to extend, the friendly and most important business relations between Egypt and Lancashire, who was Egypt's largest customer both for imports of textiles and exports of cotton.

In responding to the toast, Mr. Hopkins said he much appreciated the opportunity of getting into touch with the Manchester merchants who had such large interests in the future of Egypt. He had spent twenty-four years in Egypt, and as a result of his experiences, he declared himself to be an optimist at the present time. If English people would recognise the good points of the Egyptians and help them and stand by them in every way, the Egyptians would do the same for the English.

The President of the Chamber, Mr. F. Stockton, said how pleased the Chamber was to welcome Mr. Hopkins, and he felt sure that the visit would prove of mutual benefit.

At a special meeting of the Trade and Merchandise Marks (Statutory) Committee, held in the afternoon, to which members of the Egypt Section were specially invited, the question of the false folding of cotton goods exported to the Egyptian market was fully discussed, and Mr. Hopkins was able to hear the opinion so strongly held by Manchester merchants. The Chamber has long been anxious to make it impossible to send goods to Egypt with these false laps by which the fellah is deceived, since he buys by the lap under the impression that laps are a constant unit of length. Mr. Hopkins hopes that the new Egyptian Government will be able to introduce legislation whereby it shall be illegal to import into Egypt goods folded in laps of any other length than those of standard measurements. In this he will have the full support of the Manchester merchant and the Lancashire manufacturer, and the consumer in Egypt will, as a result, get full value for his money. The Chamber is to make official representations to the Minister of Finance in Egypt through the medium of the British Board of Trade.

Mr. Hopkins visited the Ship Canal on September 24, returning to London the same afternoon, and sailed for Egypt on September 25.

# PRODUCTION OF WOOL IN TURKEY.

In 1913 the total clip of wool for Turkey is shown in Turkish statistics to be 16,842,745 okes; in 1914 this production reached 17,413,891 okes. From 1915, on account of the outbreak of war and general dislocation of the services of the Ministry of Agriculture, no further statistics were kept. This was due also (says a British Consular report) to the fact that the production of wool in Anatolia during the war was no longer controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture, but by the Ministry of War, to the great advantage of the Germans, who thus succeeded in draining the country of its raw materials.

The following table shows the production of wool in okes during the year 1919 for the districts still remaining under Turkish sovereignty:—Broussa, 50,000; Kermasti, 50,000; Karadja-Bey, 55,000; Cesaree, 83,000; Eski-Chehir, 120,000; Seleuke, 10,000; Kutahia, 25,000; Semav, 20,000; Angora, 400,000; Adrianople, 250,000; Kara-Hissar, 600,000; Konia, 1,000,000; Samsoun, 58,560; Marache, 60,000; Nidge, 226,000—total, 3,007,560 okes.

Before the outbreak of war Anatolian raw wool sold at 6-7 piastres the oke. After the mobilisation, starting at 7-12 piastres, it gradually increased during the period of the armistice to 50-55 piastres, and now actually stands at 60-65 piastres the oke. This statement alone gives a sufficient idea of the severe ravages caused by the war on the flocks in Turkey.

Anatolian farmers, for different reasons, do not, as a rule, wash their wool. These reasons are the following:—(1) For the purpose of washing, special installation is necessary; (2) they are not fond of progress; (3) they are afraid of seeing their stocks of wool destroyed by mites if they are washed; (4) in certain districts there is a lack of water; (5) labour is very expensive, and it is more advantageous for them to sell the wool in a raw state than washed.

The farmers, as a rule, content themselves by driving their flocks into a river, and thus partially washing the wool. The portion of washed wool exported from Turkey is from 10—15 per cent.

As a result of the decrease in the production of wool and mohair during the war, a special trade, called "mattress wool," has come into existence. This wool, which before was not allowed to be exported, and was, consequently, sold at a knock-down price, was during the war a frequent object of trade with Germany and Austria.

Turkey occupies a unique position in the production of mohair. Her only competitor is Cape Colony, and the mohair produced there is not as good as that of Turkey. A very small quantity of Turkish mohair is consumed locally, the rest is exported to Europe, principally to England. The normal annual production is about 6,000,000 kilograms.

# INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

This week's Indian cable states:—During the week ending September 11 useful rain has fallen. Prospects of standing crops generally good, but more rain needed urgently in the Punjab and the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh and in parts of Central and Southern India. Crops withering in parts of the Punjab, Rajputana, Bombay, and Mysore. During the week ending September 18 rainfall mainly confined to North-Eastern India, Burma and Deccan. Jute forecast: Final forecast, 2,502,273 acres, 5,962,192 bales.

Bombay piece-goods market dull and unsatisfactory. Calcutta jute market excited, with business at a standstill owing to decreased estimates in jute forecast of some districts. Hessians easier, with business small; heavy goods steady, but no business done. No change in Bank rates.

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# RAILWAY SYSTEMS IN TURKEY

## FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

One of the most valuable features of Captain Courthope-Munroe's report on the trade and economic conditions of Turkey in 1919 is the section devoted to railway systems serving Turkish territory, in which some interesting suggestions are made as to future developments.

The future of the Anatolian Railway is most promising, it is stated, given a settled Government. The country has great agricultural possibilities, and also possesses extensive, and so far practically undeveloped, mineral resources, and given modern methods and encouragement from a settled Government its economic future would be very great. Roads and railways are badly needed everywhere to open up the country.

The opening of further branches and extensions of this railway would soon make it necessary, it is stated, to double the existing track in order to cope with the traffic. "It must be remembered that the interior of Asia Minor has few roads or navigable rivers. In former times the peasant cultivated enough for his needs and no more. It may be true that he is naturally indolent, but a more important cause of his want of enterprise was the impossibility of disposing of his surplus produce. In the districts traversed by the railway, this obstacle has been removed, and of late years the Anatolian peasant has shown that he is quick to learn and ready to use his opportunities. The railway has also mitigated the danger of famine, formerly very serious, as it is now possible for the products of a prosperous region to be sent to parts where the harvest has failed. A striking indication of the benefits conferred by the railway is given by the returns of the tithes collected by the Ottoman Public Debt, which in certain parts near the line yield five or six times the amount collected before the railway was built. It is not that the population has appreciably increased; on the contrary, the inhabitants of districts near the railway are always the first to be mobilised in time of war."

The future of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway and the Smyrna, Cassaba, and Extension, it is pointed out, is very promising, as the district behind Smyrna is a most productive one. The question is mainly political, a stable and enlightened Government being required. As regards the Mudania-Broussa Railway, a line of narrow gauge, 42 kilometres long, the report says:—"Very fertile and productive regions would be opened up by continuing the line to Ainegul, with a branch to Yeni-Shehir, or by building a line from Broussa westwards to Lake Apollonia and Mikhalij. Before the war all proposals for expansion had been foiled by German opposition. Since the Armistice an extension in a south-easterly direction has been projected to link up with the Anatolian Railway. All the chief railway systems in Asia Minor are built on the standard gauge, and thus the projected extension of the railway under review would be handicapped by the difference of gauge. Among the many disadvantages arising from this the most obvious one would be that through goods traffic could not come to the Port of Mudania. The simplest solution of this question would appear to be the construction of the extension on the standard gauge, and the conversion of the existing Broussa railway."

As regards the question of future construction, the report says:—"No construction until a settled Government is installed is at present at all likely. Numerous schemes were prepared by the German authorities during their occupation, some of which in due course may possibly materialise, but for the time being, until a firm Government is established and a definite trade policy is adopted, it is not likely that any constructional work will be begun. It must have been always evident to the Turkish military authorities that, in the event of war with Russia, the Black Sea would in all probability be too dangerous for transports, and that all troops and 'material' for the Caucasus front would have to be sent overland. Good and safe lines of communication from Constantinople to the Caucasus were an urgent necessity, and the importance of the matter was brought home to them by the war, as was indicated by the immediate commencement of the Angora-Yozgat and Extension Railway. From Yozgat the extension was to go to Sivas, and from this town a further continuation to Erzinjan and Erzeroum was projected. When the Black Sea was more or less closed to the Turks, they had to rely, for a great part of the way, on road transport to the Caucasus. The two chief routes used by them were (*a*) by rail from Haidar Pasha, *viâ* Konia, to Ulu Kishla, and thence by road *viâ* Kaisarié and Sivas, and (*b*) by rail from Haidar Pasha to Angora, thence by road *viâ* Kirshehir, to Kaisarié, where it joined the first-named route.

"Another important railway scheme contemplated by the Turkish military authorities and reported to have been sanctioned, was to open up by railway the vast stretch of country between Sivas and Mardin, and by this means considerably shorten the journey to Baghdad. The commencement of this projected line had naturally to await the completion of the Angora-Erzeroum scheme already outlined, and also the completion of the Taurus Tunnel section of the main Baghdad Railway. It is evident that both these other two railways were of much more urgent importance, and, in fact, the Turks are reported to have had no intentions of beginning the construction of this short cut to Baghdad till after the war. This railway is projected to run from Sivas *via* Kharput, Arghana, and Diarbekir, to Mardin, which is the terminus of the short branch line of the main Baghdad Railway. During the war a short Decauville railway was constructed from Mardin in a northerly direction towards Diarbekir, but this short stretch of light railway does not appear to have any bearing on the scheme under review.

"Sivas will be an important junction if the above two railways are constructed, and even more so if the projected railway from Samsoun to Sivas is carried through. In May, 1918, it was reported that the Baghdad Railway Company had been authorised to study the plane of this line with a view to connecting Samsoun with the Baghdad Railway, doubtless by the route through Kharput. The Anatolian Railway authorities have obtained a concession to link up the Ada-Bazar branch line with some point on the Samsoun-Sivas projected railway. This line would pass through Bolu. On the 1/1,000.000 map, the railway is shown as being already in existence as far as Duzje, a point more than half way to Bolu. No confirmation of this has been received.

"As regards the west of Asia Minor, there is information regarding three railway schemes. One of these is to connect the port of Adalia with Afion-Kara-Hissar on the Anatolian Railway and another is to join up Aidin to Marmarice with a line running parallel to the coast 20 or 30 kilometres inland. The third scheme is to join the town of Broussa with some point on the Anatolian Railway. There has also been discussed a projected railway following more or less closely the important main road Ulukishla-Kaiserié Sivas, used by the Turks during the war, which is now being used by the American Relief Committee for the Armenians."


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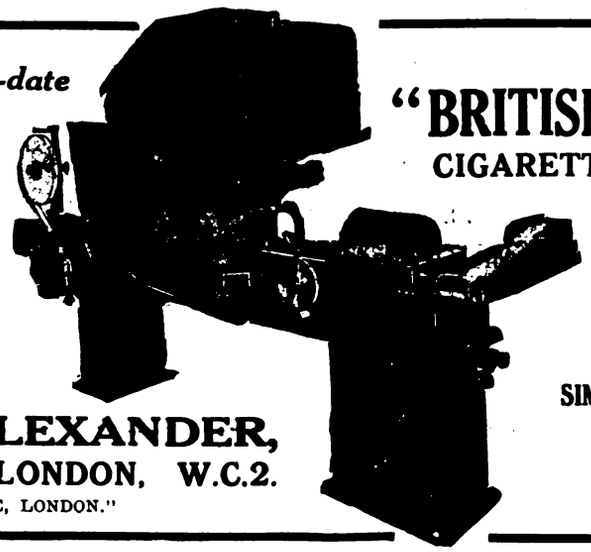

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# THE FUEL PROBLEM IN THE SUDAN.

## Afforestation Policy Required.

(From a Correspondent.)

There are only about 20,000 acres of land under cultivation by engine-driven pumps in the Berber, Khartoum, and Blue Nile Provinces of the Sudan. These pumps depend on wood for fuel, and it is always expensive and often difficult to obtain. The price of coal is prohibitive—it is now L.E.9. per ton at Khartoum, and even at that price is Government coal imported from South Africa, and not for sale to private individuals. Crude oil, or "mazout," as it is called in Egypt, is not available here, as there is only a small tank at Port Sudan, and very few railway tanks to transport it to the interior of the country even if it could be obtained.

Various remedies are suggested by a writer in the June issue of the *Journal* of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce. One is that natives should be exempted from the tax now levied on wood cut for fuel. Another is that the Government Steamers Department should facilitate the transport of wood fuel, and that cultivators should plant one-tenth of their area with quick-growing trees to avoid a sudden stoppage at a critical season. Gas producers might be of assistance, but at present there are none working in the Sudan. They would be useful and economical, as they consume cotton stalks and the refuse of trees and plants.

The position of the Government is just as difficult as that of the private individual or company. They are the largest consumers of wood fuel in the country, and have a monopoly of rail and steamer transport, and even then from time to time a wood crisis occurs. The staple fuel of Khartoum is charcoal, and each year the burners must go farther afield, consequently the price has risen to a point where it presses hardly on the poor.

The Government have never planted trees. During the twenty years since the re-occupation of the Sudan they have gradually denuded the forests that used to surround their wood stations on the White Nile until it is no unusual thing for a steamer to have to wait until sufficient wood is cut and brought in to allow her to proceed on her journey.

The cement for the Blue Nile Dam at Makwar, and the White Nile Dam at Jebel Aulia, is to be made locally; and the fuel to be used is charcoal, which will entail a heavy drain on the forests above Sennar.

As to the future, it is evident that if wood is to be used as fuel for the coming agricultural development of the Sudan transport arrangements will have to be made to get it where it is wanted. At the same time, it is suggested that an afforestation policy be laid down and rigidly adhered to. The experience of the Government of India is available as an example of what can be done by a Forestry Department. There it is laid down as an axiom that the irrigation policy is based on the preservation and extension of large forest areas which attract and conserve rainfall. Geologists assert that the Sudan is slowly drying up. Granted that this is a slow process extending over thousands of years—it can only be hastened by the deforestation now proceeding.

In the *Quarterly List* of the Sudan Government for July it may be noted that the Sub-Department of Forests has disappeared, and its place is taken by a Forests Section under the Department of Agriculture. Undoubtedly the Government has good reasons for its decision, but it is not one that is likely to add to the attractions of a service that requires trained men, who are not easily obtained.

It should not be forgotten that oil wells are working at Gemsah and Hurgada on the Egyptian coast of the Red Sea, and that there is reason to suppose that the same geological conditions prevail along the coast further south in Sudan territory. Extensive surveys for oil have been made in Egypt, and in all probability will soon be made in the Sudan. Lord Eustace Percy was in Khartoum last winter, and it is said that his visit was connected with the question of oil prospecting by one of the big British groups. It would be a great thing for the Sudan if oil was found. Port Sudan is being used extensively for coaling purposes at present, and with the rapid increase that is taking place in the use of oil fuel by ocean-going steamers it is certain that oil tanks will soon have to be installed. If their supplies could be drawn from Sudan territory it would leave the product of the fields at Gemsah and Hurgada available for use elsewhere.

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The directors of the Assam Oil Company have declared an interim dividend for the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the Cumulative 7 per Cent. Participating Preference shares, payable October 1, to holders registered on September 22.

# BULGARIA'S MINERAL RESOURCES.

Major C. Burt-Andrews, Secretary of the Bulgarian Branch of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States, in an article on the economic position and resources of Bulgaria in the *Chamber of Commerce Journal*, gives an interesting review of the mineral wealth of the country.

The mineral wealth of Bulgaria, he points out, has been known from ancient times. The researches of the last twenty years have brought to light many old mines dating back to the Roman period, and quantities of slag, the remains of former workings, have been unearthed. Old galleries and pits have been found in the districts of Burgas and Vratza. Under the Turkish domination the mining industry almost ceased to exist, with the exception of one small iron deposit at a place called Samokov, some 60 kilometres from Sofia.

Since the liberation of the country in 1878 mining development has only been carried out on a very small scale and with primitive methods. During the last ten years, however, German and Austrian engineers made a careful study of the Balkan Peninsula, and, although their reports were only revealed to the commercial departments at Vienna and Berlin, it is known that Bulgaria was considered the treasure-box of the Balkans for minerals. For two years prior to the war considerable activity was shown by German interests. During the war and up to September, 1918, large sums were spent by Germany in deep drilling, etc., for coal and other minerals. The information that did find its way to the people aroused such interest that in one year no fewer than 350 claims were filed in the Department of Mines. During the period 1900-1919 the total claims filed for all minerals and quarries numbered 3,514. A table is given by the writer showing that the concessions granted up to 1912 totalled 40 for an area of 13,174 hectares.

Since 1912, he continues, a large number of concessions have been granted for lignite and oil schist areas. In 1916 Germany had these areas carefully explored, and large samples of lignite were sent to Berlin for testing and briquetting. The results were highly satisfactory. The average calorific value of the lignite areas is between 2,300 and 4,500. The Pernic perimeters (Government areas) are very extensive (25 miles long and 8 miles wide), and contain the best quality lignite fuel in the country. This area is estimated to contain such quantities of fuel that by extracting 4,000 tons per day for six days a week, and working 52 weeks a year, it would take 500 years to work the perimeters out. In the vicinity of Sofia there are a number of lignite-bearing areas containing unlimited quantities.

Some 40 kilometres west of Sofia there is a very large basin some 40 miles square containing a black bituminous coal. The analytical tests of this coal give between 7,000 and 8,500 calories. There are two perimeters which have been developed, and seams ranging from 3 to 10 metres in thickness have been exposed. This coal, being of a light nature, and due to the dynamic forces, breaks up into small pieces. To make it a marketable product briquetting is necessary.

There are several rich copper deposits, one some 70 kilometres west of Sofia and another at Burgas, on the Black Sea. At the former, at a place named Placalnitza, a large smelting plant was erected years ago and is now being worked by a French company.

Iron and manganese have been discovered in several districts, but the want of knowledge and finance prevented their being exploited. It should be mentioned that in these areas are to be found water power sufficient to generate power for the largest industry which could be established. Coal, bituminous and lignite, is also to be found, so that it will be seen that power and raw materials are at hand for any commercial enterprise.

Zinc and lead deposits are numerous and only require development. In several of the river beds gold indications have been exposed, and several washings have indicated the presence of this valuable metal. Up to the present, through lack of knowledge and finance, no attention has been paid to this subject.

In several districts, specially in the mountainous parts, there are a number of quarries which, although being worked on a large scale, have not up to the present been sufficiently exploited to determine their classification and importance. They abound in a great variety of granite, marble, lithographic stones, and millstones, fuller's earth, fire clay, and several kinds of ochres, etc. Large quantities of soft limestone taken from the district of Rustchuk are yearly exported to Roumania. A number of the principal buildings in Bucharest are constructed of Bulgarian limestone.

The valuable mineral wealth of Bulgaria has really never been known, and it now only needs exploiting. Many of the raw materials which are now required in England are to be found in Bulgaria.

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**Crucea Societate pentru comertul si industria de vestminte si odoare bisericesti.—Capital, 1,000,000 Lei**
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# ROUMANIA.

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In 1914 the cultivated area was (according to an estimate of Dr. Colesco) 34,475,750 acres; of which 13,074,922 were ploughed lands, 468,670 were vineyards and orchards, 1,436,960 were meadows, 2,948,472 were pastures, and 5,705,750 were forests.

**POPULATION. About 17,400,000.**

**IMPORTS (1915). £8,533,234.**

United Kingdom, £848,997; Austria-Hungary, £3,718,182; Belgium, £43,230; Germany, £3,575,159; France, £660,287; Turkey, £558,238; Italy, £762,023.

**EXPORTS (1915). £21,742,379.**

United Kingdom, £2,238; Austria-Hungary, £13,576,255; Belgium, £2,343; Germany, £7,044,803; Turkey, £443,325; Italy, £37,838.

[NOTE.—In 1914 the Imports from the U.K. amounted to £2,231,773, and the Exports to it to £1,433,535.]

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# ENGINEERING.

## THE MACHINE TOOL EXHIBITION.

### Some Further Attractions.

The Darling and Sellers high-speed lathes also present features of interest. A speciality of this firm is the relieving lathe, the machine turned out by them being designed for relieving ordinary formed cutters as well as for axial and end relieving. New models of turret and other lathes were shown by Pollock and MacNab, of Bredbury, embodying all the improvements suggested by a number of years' experience. This firm make a liberal use of ball bearings for the shafts which enables them to run at unusually high speeds, thus increasing output. Frictional losses are also practically eliminated, and the oiling rendered more simple and positive. In the construction of the headstock the concentric clutches for operating the gear changes slide on castellated shafts supported by internal walls in the headstocks as well as at the two ends of the headstock, this design following the general lines adopted for motor car gear-box operation. Another feature is the roller-bar feed, which, although more expensive than the gravity feed, is extremely rapid in action, smooth in working, and permits any length of bar to be continuously fed through the chuck. A noticeable example of this firm's work was a 20-inch swing combination turret lathe with a 12½ inches swing over the cross slide. The maximum distance from the spindle to the turret face is 55 inches, an ample distance for all purposes, and the lathe has 16 spindle speeds, giving a speed range of from 10 to 243 per minute. The spindle has a hole 4¼ inches in diameter, large enough to take any ordinary stock, and the maximum length chased is 12 inches. Chasing saddle speeds 8 being from 10 to 80 per inch, size of turret face 10 inches by 6 inches, and the machine has 16 feeds ranging from 20 to 288 per inch. The 11-inch capstan lathe, made by the firm, is also worthy of notice, in that its strong design and substantial construction renders it capable of machining a large variety of work usually done on larger machines. As an instance of this, it may be mentioned that it is capable of screw-cutting a 1-inch Whitworth thread at one traverse.

John Birch and Co., Ltd., of London Wall, showed a variety of lathes, all of high-class rigid construction, and a good deal of attention was bestowed on their Birmel, claimed to be the latest type of 3½-inch centre British made lathe. This has been designed to meet the demand for a sturdy precision lathe of small dimensions, which will do work within limits of one-thousandth of an inch accuracy. The fast head has a hollow steel spindle, and the bearings, which are of ample length, are of best phosphor-bronze of the split parallel type. An eccentric back-gear is fitted, also a reverse-gear with a three-position lock. The carriage is traversed by handwheel through double reduction gears on a machine-cut steel rack, and for the sliding and surfacing motions power friction drives are incorporated which are operated through a two-speed gear-box on the back shaft. The surfacing slide is indexed in the usual manner, and the compound slide rest is arranged to swivel into any position, and is fitted with a square steel turret. The lead screw has Acme thread of one-quarter inch pitch, and micrometer attachments are fitted to the surface slide and swivel rest. The loose head is adjustable for taper turning. I understand that this machine, which is just the thing for the smaller engineering shops, particularly overseas, where a good deal of general work is likely to be met with, is supplied complete with a full set of 22 change-wheels for ordinary screw-cutting, 127 toothed-wheel for metric threads, a face plate, catch plate, four tool square turret, countershaft and all spanners, and every lathe is fully tested before being sent out.

**A Large Output.**

The chassis output of Harper Bean, Ltd., for the first eight months of the year totals 4,690. The figures for August were as follows:—Bean 271, Vulcan 100, Swift 150. Owing to stocktaking the Bean assembly track was in operation for only thirteen days during the month, and the Vulcan works also were closed for a fourteen days' holiday, in addition to the usual week for stocktaking.

**Welded Crankshafts.**

An interesting point was recently dealt with by Mr. R. G. Woodward, director of the world-famous steel firm, Edgar Allen and Co., Ltd. The statement was made that welded crankshafts would break elsewhere than at the weld, and Mr. Woodward, in reply, said: If it is the fact that this occurs, it would be interesting to know to what heat treatment the crankshafts are subjected after being welded.

If the crankshafts are made of a special alloy steel, it would be necessary for the complete crankshafts to be re-heat treated after welding. The welding heat would alter the structure of the steel at varying distances at either side of the weld. Local heat treatment would fail to set matters right, because there would still be points of altered and therefore weak structure where the effects of the local heat treatment approached the originally heat treated portions. Of course, if no re-heat treatment were given after the cranks had been welded, the result would still be the same; that is, points of structural weakness would be present.

**A Solidified Lubricant.**

I have just had an opportunity of examining and testing a solidified lubricant sold under the name of Asbestoline, which, I understand, is made in four different consistencies. It is claimed that this compound will give perfect lubrication under even the severest working conditions, and so far as I could judge this claim could be well substantiated. The qualities obtainable are:—(A.) for ordinary engines and machinery under all ordinary conditions; (B.) a slightly more solid variety which is of use in every case where a somewhat stiffer grease is required; (C.) for use in high temperatures; and (CC.) "specially suitable for steam heated bearings." I found the material clean and absolutely free from dust, dirt, or other impurities, and I am informed that one pound of Asbestoline will do the work of at least two gallons of the average lubricating oil. In many cases the use of this compound will reduce lubricating costs by about 75 per cent., which is a consideration nowadays.

**A High Grade Plug.**

Some time ago my friends of the Robinhood Engineering Co. sent me a K.L.G. plug to test. Examination showed that it was constructed on sound scientific principles and made in the best possible manner. The design also was good, and such as should be conducive to a long life. The plug was put into service on a particularly hot engine, and since that time has run just over 6,000 miles. Close examination shows that it is as good as ever it was, and there is practically no trace of pitting at the substantial electrodes. The plug seems good for an indefinite number of miles service, and I have pleasure in giving this testimony to what is one of the finest British productions I have yet used.

---

Yugoslavia's coal output in 1919 amounted to about two and a-half million tons, or, roughly, 1,000,000 tons less than in the best pre-war year.

Large deposits of magnesite have been discovered near Bihac, in Bosnia, and a company with a capital of 6,000,000 dinars is being formed to exploit them.

During the first quarter of the current year Bulgaria's imports amounted to 399,296,000 leva and exports to 95,448,000 leva.

Major B. Temple, H.M. Acting Commercial Secretary in Persia, is returning home on prolonged sick leave. The current commercial work will be dealt with by the Legation and Consular staff at Teheran.


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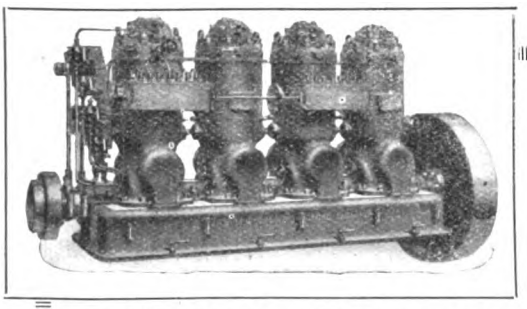

# "THE ALLEN"
## *Heavy-Fuel*
# OIL ENGINE.

THE "Allen" Heavy-Fuel Oil Engine is principally remarkable for its reliability and simplicity, while it will drive either by means of a belt or direct coupled to electric generators, pumps, agricultural or other machinery.

The "Allen" Heavy-Fuel Oil Engine is easily and quickly started, and will run for long periods with a minimum of attention.

We are building for stock requirements, against which early delivery can be given.

For quotations apply direct to Head Office or to:—
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**W. H. ALLEN, SONS & CO., LTD., BEDFORD, ENGLAND.**

# NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

**(Affiliated to the British Trade Corporation).**

***ESTABLISHED 1909 BY IMPERIAL FIRMAN.***

**CAPITAL - - - - £1,000,000 Sterling.**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

**CONSTANTINOPLE.**
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R. H. MACAULAY.
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**Head Office: CONSTANTINOPLE (Union Han, Galata).**
**Telegrams: "BRITBANF, CONSTANTINOPLE."**

**London Office: 50, CORNHILL, E.C.** **Telegrams: "NATBANK, LONDON."**

***Branches: STAMBOUL, SMYRNA.***

**Transit Warehouse: STAMBOUL.** **Bonded Warehouse: TUTUN GUMRUK, STAMBOUL.**

The Bank has Agents in all the principal Cities of Europe, America, and the Far East, and has Correspondents throughout the World.

Every description of Banking business, in all its Financial and Commercial branches, undertaken.

Business Houses trading with Turkey can insure Foreign Exchange with the Bank. Banks, Commercial Houses and others having interests in Turkey are invited to apply for terms.

Manufacturers and Merchants may address their enquiries to the Head Office for Trade Lists of Importers and Exporters


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## LANCASHIRE COTTON

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

There has not been any move towards increased activity in the market during the week, and, owing to the lack of fresh contracts, engagements of spinners and manufacturers have tended to run down. The unauthorised strikes at the spinning mills in Oldham have brought some relief, and yarn producers have been enabled to reduce their stocks. Although no definite settlement of the coal crisis has been reached, it is believed that a stoppage of production will be averted. Bearish sentiment has prevailed in local trade circles, and prices in the raw material, and also in manufactured articles, have tended to give way. No development has occurred in the outlook for supplies of American cotton. With regard to the Egyptian growth the reduced estimates of the yield are being maintained, and there are fears of fogs causing further damage to the plants. Values in Liverpool and Alexandria have continued to favour buyers, and purchasing by local users has been very limited. Egyptian yarns appear to be going from bad to worse, and more spinners are experiencing difficulty in securing the output of the mills. Now and again wretched prices are taken by pressing sellers. Piece goods bought for the Near Eastern outlets continue to be taken rather more freely, and a few attempts have been made at fresh transactions, but the orders booked have been of retail dimensions. Rather better advices, however, are coming to hand from Cairo and Constantinople. Our customers in India continue very indifferent operators, and as is usual in a falling market, buying is held back. Some tentative bids have been mentioned in bleaching shirtings for China, and the position in the Far East is understood to be improving. There has been no activity whatever for South America. Unemployment in most weaving districts in Lancashire is increasing A little more buying has been reported in weft qualities of American yarns, but prices continue very irregular. The few offers recorded in export bundles have been impracticable, and very little has been done either for India or the Near East.

## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

### Forthcoming Sailings.

The Johnston Line s.s. Cranmore, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 16.

The Cunard Line s.s. Brescia, for Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constanza, and Sulina, will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 9.

The Cunard Line s.s. Antigone, for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Varna, Galatz, and Batoum, will close for cargo in London on October 9.

The Ellerman Lines s.s. Destro, for Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 2.

The Prince Line s.s. Algerian Prince, for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Syrian coast ports, and Cyprus (with option of transhipment at Alexandria), will close for cargo at Manchester on October 2.

The Moss Line s.s. Limoges, for Gibraltar and Casablanca (accepting cargo for transhipment to all Moroccan ports), will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 7.

ANCHOR LINE
FAST PASSENGER SERVICE.
LIVERPOOL to BOMBAY.
KARACHI (via Bombay) calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.
LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
FITTED WITH ELECTRIC FANS.
MARCONI WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.
PASSENGER SAILING DATES—
SCINDIA ABOUT OCT. 16.
MASSILIA ABOUT OCT. 30.
ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LTD.,
16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.

# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar.—A quiet tone has characterised the free market. West Indian crystallised has been done at 95s. to 100s., and White Mauritius at 116s., while American granulated has been done at 118s. 6d. There has been a good demand for home refined at the official rates.

Coffee.—The market has continued somewhat weak. Costa Rica has been done at 130s. to 150s., Mocha at 170s., and Nairobi at 98s. 6d. to 120s. The futures market has been weak.

Oilseeds.—Indian linseed closes 6d. up on the previous week's prices at 41s. 6d., but La Plata is a similar amount down. Rapeseed has been quiet, Toria at 35s. 9d. being 6d. down, while Brown Cawnpore is 32s. 9d. Cottonseed is firm, with Indian at 15s. 3d., a rise of 1s., while Egyptian is 2s. up at 21s.

Oilcakes.—Business has been fairly brisk. Linseed cake has been done at 23s. 6d., while other transactions have included ground nut cake at 13s. 6d., rapeseed cake at 13s., and palm kernel cake at 12s. 6d.

Seed-Oils.—Linseed oil is harder at 82s. 6d. Rape oil is unchanged at 90s. for refined, and 74s. for crude. Cotton oil is about the same, deodorised being 92s., while Egyptian crude is 72s. 6d. and Bombay crude 62s. Turpentine is about the same at 145s. 9d. spot, 147s. 9d. October-December, and 152s. 6d. January-April.

## SMYRNA OPIUM REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended September 11:—We have to report a drop in prices of about 10d. per lb., with sales amounting to twenty cases, at 16s. 9d. to 19s. per lb., c.i.f., 11 to 12 per cent. old qualities. Our exchange continues high—viz., piastres 424 per pound sterling for cheque on London and 0.85 dollars for one Turkish paper pound. The arrivals to date amount to 200 cases against 690 at same date last year.

## NEW COMPANIES.

### New Shipping and Mercantile.

The New Shipping and Mercantile Company, Ltd., has been registered with a capital of £55,000 in £52,000 £1 Ordinary shares and 3,000 £1 Founders shares. Objects: To carry on shipping and mercantile business between the Black Sea and Constantinople and the United Kingdom. The company owns the steamer Caplpark. The directors are T. D. Barnes, of Messrs Lionda and Co., Ltd., 3, Broad Street Buildings, E.C.2, and Major Williams, also of Messrs. Lionda and Co., Ltd., Secretary, J. Hudson, 3, Broad Street Buildings, E.C.2.

The public adjudication of the Spanish section of the Tangier-Fez Railway, known as the Gharbia section, is to take place on October 25 at Tangier.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—Coupon No. 46 falling due October 1 on the Five per Cent. Debentures of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd., should now be lodged at the Bank of England, London, E.C., for payment.

The report of the National Bank of India for the half-year ended June 30 states that the net profits, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, amount to £251,733, and adding £135,633 brought forward, the available total is £387,366. The directors have declared an ad interim dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, free of tax, leaving £237,366 to be carried forward. Mr. Henry Chalmers, the general manager, was appointed to a seat on the board on June 8.

BRADBURY, WILKINSON
& Company, Limited.
25 & 27, FARRINGDON ROAD,
LONDON, E.C.1.
*Designers, Engravers, and Printers of*
BANK NOTES, POSTAGE STAMPS,
BONDS. SHARE WARRANTS,
COUPONS, LETTERS OF CREDIT,
CHEQUES, BILLS OF EXCHANGE,
& ALL MONETARY DOCUMENTS.
*Telegraphic Address: BRADBANK, LONDON.*

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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

ANGORA.

Wheat.—The market is quiet. Arrivals from the interior have been purchased for despatch to Bilédjik and Broussa at Ps. 65 to 85 the yarim of 12 okes. Prices undergo marked fluctuations almost daily. Stocks existing in the warehouses at Angora: 200 to 230 wagons.

Barley.—There have been no transactions. Arrivals have been bought for local consumption at Ps. 23 to 26 the yarim of 12 okes. Stocks existing in the warehouses at Angora: 10—15 wagons.

Mohair.—The market has been quiet, and there have been no important transactions. Present prices are Ps. 65—75 per oke. Stocks existing in the warehouses at Angora: About 6,000 bales, old and new crop.

Wool.—There have been no transactions. Nominal price: Ps. 36—38 per oke. Stocks: About 500 bales, old and new crop.

The climatic conditions so far have given reason to hope for very satisfactory crops of cereals. It is difficult yet, however, to give an opinion on the yield and quality, as the hard winter has delayed cultivation to some extent.

SMYRNA, August 10.

The report for the first half-year states: The forecasts of the cereal crop have been satisfactory. The news that has reached us from the interior has been good. So far the crops appear to be better than those of the previous year, but recent political developments, with the new military operations, will greatly delay their raising, transport, and realisation.

The vines on this side of the military zone make a good showing, despite the late rains.

The tobacco crop, favoured by the rains, is also doing well, as is the fig crop, which is considered as better than that of the previous year.

Consignments from the interior are coming in very slowly, and have been much interrupted of late by the new military operations.

---

It has been decided to restore the direct train service to Bucharest via Budapest.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended September 11 amounted to £18,176.

Great inconvenience has been caused in Jerusalem by a shortage of small change.


Tuck's

all the World over

LOOK FOR NAME & TRADE MARK

RAPHAEL TUCK & SONS



# IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

**Capital - £10,000,000**
**Paid-up - £5,000,000**

## GENERAL COMMITTEE.

### LONDON.

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E. C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

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LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE
J. BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
HENRI HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

## London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.
Assistant Manager: W. P. SHEPPARD.

**PARIS:**
**7, Rue Meyerbeer.**

**MANCHESTER:**
**25, Pall Mall.**

**MARSEILLES:**
**41-43, Rue Grignan.**

**CONSTANTINOPLE.**
**(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)**

**EGYPT.**
**Alexandria. Cairo.**
**Mansourah. Minieh.**
**Port Said.**

**PALESTINE.**
**Jerusalem.**
**Jaffa.**

**CYPRUS.**
**Nicosia. Larnaca.**
**Limassol. Famagusta.**
**Paphos.**

**SYRIA.**
**Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa.**
**Beyrout. Damascus.**
**Hamah. Homs.**
**Saida. Tripoli.**

**SALONICA. TUNIS. AFRICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.**
**(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)**

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

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

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.
Letters of credit granted.


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## TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—

**Egypt.**

(*The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.*)

Pumping Machinery.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of pumping machinery for a pumping station at Tawila, in the Province of Gharbicha. October 15 (L.)

Paving Stones, etc.—The Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of paving stones and granite headstones. October 15. (L.)

Steamer.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of an inspection steamer for the Upper White Nile Division. Specification P.T. 25. December 1.

Reservoir.—The Director of Technical Services, Municipalities and Local Committees Department, Ministry of the Interior, invites tenders for the construction of a masonry reservoir at the Assouan Dam. Specification P.T. 50. October 16.

**India.**

Steelwork for Bridges.—The Great Indian Peninsula Railway invites tenders for the supply of steelwork for bridges (Wadi-Bundar Viaduct). (Specification £1. Secretary, 48, Copthall Avenue.) October 15.

Diesel Engines, etc.—The Municipal Board of Agra invites tenders for the supply, delivery, and erection of (1) four Diesel engines and high-tension alternators, including foundations, switchgear, transformers, and sub-station equipment; and (2) Fifteen miles of high-tension underground cables, 28 miles of overhead low-tension three-phase mains, and street lighting equipment, complete with all accessories. (Specifications £2. Messrs. Handcock and Dykes, 11, Victoria Street.) October 22.

**Algeria.**

H.M. Consul-General at Algiers reports that a local trader desires to receive quotations from United Kingdom firms for the supply of iron or soft steel hoops for barrel-making. It is understood that the applicant is prepared to pay cash for the material. Firms in a position to offer supplies of the material in question can obtain the name of the inquirer, specifications, etc., from the Department of Overseas Trade.

## GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to July 31 (new style January 14 to August 13), 1920.

| | Monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper & Naxos emery. | Piræus Customs. |
|---|---|---|
| | Drachmae. | Drachmae. |
| Gross receipts, July, 1920 ..... | 5,222,312·71 | 4,102,654·65 |
| Do. do. 1919 ..... | 3,664,553·50 | 3,615,645·70 |
| Estimated receipts for 7 months (Law of Control) | 16,858,333·38 | 6,241,666·67 |
| Actual do. do. 1920 | 36,232,582·00 | 34,074,508·70 |
| Do. do. do. 1919 | 26,431,573·45 | 26,668,803·30 |
| Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 7 months ..... 1920 | +19,374,248·67 | +27,832,842·03 |
| Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 7 months ..... 1919 | + 9,573,240·12 | +20,427,136·63 |

## ON 'CHANGE.

### Depression Continues.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

The quiet but steady decline in prices which we have noticed during the last few weeks continues; there are but a few small increases to record; quotations, generally speaking, have either remained stationary or moved slightly in an adverse direction.

Among Government stocks the Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. (British Funds) have moved upwards considerably, from 59 to 60¼, but Egyptian Unified have fallen from 63½ to 63, and City of Alexandria 4 per cent. from 60 to 59½. Greek 1881 has declined from 55½ to 55, 1884 from 55 to 54½, and Monopoly from 45 to 43, while Rentes and the 1890 Loan, at 43 and 54 respectively, have each lost a point. On the other hand, the 5 per cent. 1914 Loan has gained two points at 55.

In Banks, Agriculturals have appreciated 1-16th at 4 1-16, but Land Banks have lost half a point at 4½. Imperial Ottoman Bank has also suffered a similar decline at 8½, while Ionian have fallen from 5 to 4⅞.

Ottoman (Smyrna-Aidin) Railway has risen from 8½ to 9¼, but Egyptian Delta Light has lost ⅛ at 5.

Building Lands, which have increased from 1¼ (nominal) to 1⅜ (buyers), give the only case in the Land section of an upward movement. Béhéra has lost ⅝ at 14, Gharbieh has fallen ⅛ at 3, and New Egyptians have suffered a small decline from 33s. to 32s. 6d. The change in Union Foncière is little more than nominal, being from 4½ (sellers) to 4¼ (buyers).

Among the Miscellaneous stocks the only increase is the very small one in Khedivial Mail, from 5 19-32 to 5⅝. Egyptian and Foreign Trust have lost 3d. at 12s. 9d., Egyptian Consolidated Lands have declined from 2s. 7½d. to 2s. 6d., George Nungovich Hotels from 8 to 7, and Port Said Salt has fallen from 105s. (nominal) to 95s. (buyers).

Amongst the Oils the only change to record is an advance of 3d. in Roumanian Consolidated to 21s. 9d.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria ..... | Piastres to £ ..... | 97⅛ | 97 7/16 |
| Athens ..... | Drachmae to £ ... | 25·22½ | 33·60-34·25 |
| Belgrade ..... | Dinars to £ ..... | 25·22½ | 101 |
| Bombay ..... | Sterling to Rupee . | 24d. | 1/10⅝-1/10½ |
| Bucharest..... | Lei to £ ..... | 25·22½ | 179-189 |
| Calcutta ..... | Sterling to Rupee.. | 24d. | 1/10⅝-1/10½ |
| Constantinople ..... | Piastres to £ ..... | 110 | 408-428 |
| New York..... | Dollars to £..... | 4·86⅔ | 3·48½-3·49½ |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £ ..... | 25·22½ | 51·85-52·55 |
| Sofia ..... | Levas to £ ..... | 25·22½ | 235 |
| Teheran ..... | Krans to £ ..... | 50 | 29½ |

## EGYPT'S COTTON EXPORTS.

The raw cotton exported from Egypt for the first six months of 1920 amounted to 2,667,570 bales of the value of £E58,693,134, as against 2,254,496 bales of the value of £E18,285,929 for the same period in 1919. The imports of the United Kingdom amounted in value to £E21,496,902 as against £E9,551,666, but this increase was greatly exceeded by the United States, which occupied the first place with imports of the value of £E24,537,000 as against £E2,786,803.

From January 1, 1920, to June 30, 1920, the value of imports into Egypt of cotton piece goods was £E11,287,050, as against £E3,520,836 in the corresponding period of 1919. The principal countries from which supplies were drawn were the United Kingdom, £E9,776,033, and Italy, £E1,122,587.

Cotton piece goods to the value of £E24,680 were exported principally to Palestine and Syria, as against £E81,716 in the corresponding period of 1919. Re-exports were £E161,419, as against £E1,405,338 in 1919.


# BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

Telegrams: "TRABANQUE, LONDON."

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.)
13 AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telephones LONDON WALL, 2947-2948

**CAPITAL.**

**Authorised, £10,000,000. | Subscribed and Paid up, £2,000,000.**

*Governor*, THE LORD FARINGDON. *Deputy Governor*, SIR HENRY BABINGTON SMITH, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.S.I.

*Manager*, A. G. M. DICKSON.

*London Manager*, P. C. WEST. *Secretary*, G. DE B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation is prepared to assist in the development of the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and offers exceptional financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their export and import trade.

It has Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world, and transacts Banking business of every description.

It invites enquiries, and will endeavour, where necessary, to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

*Branches :* BATOUM. BELGRADE. DANZIG.

*Affiliated Companies:* THE NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY, Constantinople and Branches

THE TRADE INDEMNITY CO., LTD. (*Established for the Assistance of British Trade by the Insurance of Accounts.*)


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## GENERAL BANK OF GREECE.

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

**Head Office - ATHENS.**

BANKING OPERATIONS:
Every description of Banking business transacted.

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

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

## POPULAR BANK OF GREECE.

**Head Office, ATHENS. Branch, PIRÆUS.**

Correspondents throughout Greece.

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

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

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

*General Manager:* D. LOVERDO.

## TRADE WITH THE NEAR EAST

WITH its offices in all the principal towns in **Greece**, in **Egypt, Cyprus, Crete, Constantinople**, and in **Smyrna, the Bank extends exceptional Facilities for Export and Import Trade between Great Britain and the Near East generally**, and invites enquiries and correspondence relating thereto.

HEAD OFFICE: ATHENS.

## BANK OF ATHENS

LONDON 22, Fenchurch Street E.C.3. MANCHESTER 57, Mosley Street

## COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE, LIMITED.

**CAPITAL PAID-UP - Drs. 15,000,000.**
**RESERVE FUNDS Drs. 5,250,205.45.**

**Head Office: ATHENS.**

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

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

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

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

## GREECE.

Area 43,522 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,746,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 296,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

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

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

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

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

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

**COINAGE.**—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 33 Drachmæ to £1.

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

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

## BANK OF NATIONAL ECONOMY (of Greece)

Head Office: ATHENS.

*Branches:*

PIRÆUS, SYRA. PATRAS.

**Capital Paid Up - Drs. 10,000,000.**

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

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

## THE HELLENIC COMPANY OF MARITIME ENTERPRISES

(PALIOS LINE.)

**Head Office - PIRÆUS.**

A. P. PALIOS, Founder. M. P. PALIOS, General Manager.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 492.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Nationalist Delegation, having sounded Egyptian public opinion regarding Lord Milner's offer, has left for England to report on the result of its mission. If the statement which the members issued before leaving Alexandria has been correctly rendered into English, it is to be hoped that it will not serve as a model for the official *communiqués* of the new Egyptian Government. "Our consultations have created a new opportunity to show the ripeness of the people to appreciate the political circumstances bearing on a decisive judgment as to their destiny," runs the message. Fortunately we have less circumlocutory evidence to show that the mission has been successful, that the Egyptian people as a whole approve of the principles underlying the measure of self-government to be offered to Egypt, and that the delegates return with a number of suggestions in regard to details of the final agreement.

Reports are bound to vary as to the degree of support that Lord Milner's offer has actually received in Egypt. *Quot homines, tot sententiæ*. No doubt some Egyptians, aspiring to leadership of the people, have tried to show that the offer which has found favour with the Zaghlulites is a snare and delusion, while others have already expressed anxiety at the prospect of a complete withdrawal of Great Britain's guiding hand. Between the two the new Egypt may expect to find salvation. Perhaps the most significant incident is the effort of one of the four Princes who signed the manifesto repudiating the offer and demanding complete independence to retrace his steps and to seek an interview with the Delegation. The latter, having gained so much itself by abandoning a false attitude of its own, will, we may trust, continue to meet half-way all who differ from it, whether amongst its compatriots or when once again it has to continue discussions in London. The difficulties ahead before a final agreement between the two countries can be concluded should not be underrated, but we cannot help thinking that public opinion both in Great Britain and in Egypt will bitterly resent any breakdown in the negotiations which have successfully reached such an advanced stage.

The Emir Feisal, whose withdrawal from Damascus does not necessarily entail the termination of his public career, has made public, or allowed to be published by his Staff, the first instalment of his side of the Syrian question. He inveighs against French action in massing troops against Syria. When the French first advanced into the rich Bekaa plain leading to Damascus, M. Clemenceau promised that they would be withdrawn. Meanwhile the Syrian people through their representatives at Damascus had declared Syria an independent kingdom. The armistice with Mustapha Kemal Pasha was followed by a concentration of troops in the French zone. It would have been easy, say the Emir's advisers, for the Syrian Government to have overrun this western zone before the concentration had progressed far, but King Feisal, out of loyalty to the Alliance, forbore, and decided to return to Europe to obtain a settlement as between the French and Syrians. Then came General Gouraud's ultimatum, the French advance, the riots in Damascus and the expulsion of the Emir Feisal. Since his departure, it is stated, over a hundred Syrians have been condemned to death, including officers who were the backbone of Feisal's army in the operations against the Turks, and whole villages in the Hauran have been shelled, bombed and burnt for their refusal to admit the legality of the new régime in Damascus.

The French case, as far as we are aware, has not been set forth in its entirety. It has usually taken up the Syrian challenge at a comparatively late stage in the conflict, that is to say, after the French concentration in the western zone had caused the utmost disquietude among the Arabs. Crimes of omission and commission are alleged against the Damascus Government; and it is probably not difficult to tax the Emir Feisal with complicity in the actions of the more extremist of his followers. Whether anyone else could have handled the embarrassing situation more successfully will never be known. In England there is a general tendency to give the Emir the benefit of the doubt. The Arab resolve to oppose French penetration was known to the Paris Government when there was a mere handful of French troops in the country. Emir Feisal never sought to disguise the fact, although he loyally undertook to try to influence his people in the direction of a better understanding with France. He has been blamed for not having kept a firmer control of the situation; but the criticism ignores the strength of the Arab opposition to the French, of which subsequent events have given abundant proof.

In the interests of France, Syria, and the Arabs it is to be hoped that some settlement will be possible that will not always entail an armed occupation of the country. To all three the economic development of Syria should be the chief concern, and for this purpose the co-operation of the Arabs is necessary. Schemes of commercial exploitation are on foot, and, inasmuch

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as British capital is interested, it should be possible for Great Britain to play the part of mediator, perhaps through the agency of Emir Feisal. If the Arabs have been as foolish and culpable as the French allege, they have already paid dearly for their inexperience. It is impossible that France should rule Syria as she does Cochin China, with both Egypt and Mesopotamia exercising the right of self-government. Commercial development requires the maintenance of peace and order in the land, and these need not be sacrificed if some concession is made to the Arab desire for a measure of independence under the French ægis.

The report that Turkish Nationalist leaders were assembling at Erzerum under the presidency of Mustapha Kemal Pasha to consider the world position in relation to Turkey and to decide upon the relative advantages of a forward movement towards the East or of one towards the West has been quickly followed by news of a Turkish invasion of Armenia. Enver Pasha is said to have supported the Eastern policy in opposition to Mustapha Kemal's natural desire to retrieve his fortunes against the Greeks. From the Nationalist point of view it would seem as if the wiser course had been adopted. Certainly the Turkish forces are more likely to gain successes in Transcaucasia than in Western Asia Minor. Olty has already been captured, and it remains to be seen whether the Turkish plan is to deal with Armenia or merely to hold the Armenians, while directing their main advance on Batoum. As the Allies can have no wish to see the Nationalist star in the ascendant, they must be prepared to help the Armenians and Georgians against this fresh attack. Any assistance, to be effective, must be prompt. A repetition in the East of the reverses suffered by Mustapha Kemal's arms in the West would go far to settle the problem created by the Nationalist movement.

It is not possible within the compass of a short note to pass judgment on the Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the administration of the Army in India. The subject is one that can be approached from two main points of view, the Imperial and the purely Indian. Lord Esher's Committee chose the former. They sought "to lay the foundation of a sound Imperial military system." From this standpoint India becomes as much merged into the Empire as the Aldershot Command or South Africa, and it seems as natural to employ Indian troops for operations in the Middle East as to ask South Africa to deal with the South-West Protectorate. But two difficulties at once arise: the status of India in the Imperial scheme, and the fact that her geographical position and numerical strength are likely to impose under such a scheme military obligations out of all proportion to her financial capacity. In the leading-article in our issue of September 16 it was pointed out that "India, the poorest member of the Empire, has not attempted and cannot afford to maintain permanently a large Imperial force, under cover of which her richer partners may have time to improvise in emergencies." The Committee may well have despaired of being able to strike a balance between the Empire's military need and India's peculiar position.

The Bolshevist position in Central Asia has reached an interesting and probably critical stage. By the capture of Bokhara the Reds have shown that little reliance can be placed on their specious promises, and that anything not exclusively Bolshevist must be prepared to be swept away when the opportunity offers. The Emir of Bokhara is said to be making his way to Kabul, where he will be able to enlighten the Ameer on the subject of Bolshevist methods. In the meantime the Bolshevists are actively engaged in trying to win over Afghanistan to their way of thinking and acting. They want Afghan assistance in order to reach India, and with Turkish help they hope to make a useful tool of the Ameer. The arrival of the fugitive Emir of Bokhara upon this scene should at least be piquant, and it will be of interest to learn whether the Bolshevist cause is going to receive a fresh accession of strength by the Ameer's action, or will be found to have overreached itself in this direction.

The beginning of October is by common consent the best time for taking stock of the economic position in India, for the monsoon has then done its best, or its worst, and anyone who is in possession of the records of rainfall can make a reasonably close estimate of the prospects for the next year. The verdict on the past season cannot be altogether favourable; the rainfall has been "patchy," and the reports are consequently more conflicting than usual, but on the latest information it looks as if the country as a whole should do tolerably well, though some important areas may have suffered considerable loss. The inference from the condensed official records published by the India Office is borne out by the statement that a limited export of food-grains is to be permitted, and by the recent movements in the freight market, while some authorities derive further comfort from the decision to discontinue the sale of Reverse Council bills, which is taken as implying a hope that the export trade may gradually return to its normal condition.

In this connection it is worth noting that among the causes which have recently combined to reverse the trade balance of India, one at least gives no cause for regret. It has been stated officially that very large payments for imported machinery have contributed materially to the abnormal figures of the last few months, and imports of machinery imply increased capacity for export in the near future. The war came just at a time when the country was preparing for an extended use of machinery in agriculture as well as industries; the movement was inevitably checked for the time, and when the Armistice was declared India found herself with her existing stock practically worn out, and with four years' arrears of extensions to make good. At that time fears were commonly expressed that the necessary imports would be impracticable, and that progress might therefore be delayed indefinitely, but apparently we may conclude that these apprehensions were exaggerated.

It is unfortunate, but not altogether surprising, that the end of the monsoon should be marked by a recrudescence of the strike fever in some parts of India. The experience of the last two years shows conclusively that the old stability, or stagnation, of industrial labour has passed away, and the new aspirations of the workers, vague as they are, represent a force which may do much either to make or to mar the prosperity of the whole country. The problem of the moment is one of leadership. One looks in vain for any sign of this quality among the few unofficial Indians who have so far interested themselves in the question, and apparently the road must be pioneered, as is so often the case, by official agency, or, in other words, by the new Board of Industries. We hear encouraging reports of the manner in which the problem is being explored by the Board, but we are not so sanguine as to expect that everything will be put right at a few days' notice; the indications are that unrest in the labour world will continue, and perhaps extend, while practical methods of dealing with it are being devised and tested by experiment.

The election of Sir Verney Lovett as Reader in Indian History at Oxford may be taken as a sign of the times. Hitherto the appointments of this nature at the English Universities have tended to be given to men who knew more of the India of two thousand years ago than the India of to-day, and students have been heard to complain that when they had finished their course, they had learned more of Asoka than of Akbar, and more of Akbar than of the men who moulded the country as it now is. We shall not hear such complaints from Oxford while Sir Verney is there. He is not a specialist in the knowledge of the remote past, but he knows the history of the last two centuries probably as well as anyone now alive, and he has the gift of fastening on essentials and presenting them in an intelligible way; his students will go out knowing, at least how the new India has come into existence, and what are its relations with the old, and such knowledge will be of greater value just now than anything else they could learn.

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# THE WEEK AT HOME.

**Coal.**

A week of negotiations has considerably improved the industrial position. The newspapers now speak of the coal "situation" in preference to the coal "crisis," and the change of phraseology accurately reflects the tempered optimism of the moment. The miners' representatives have tacitly recognised that output depends on wages, and that increased wages necessitate increased output—a point which was always obvious to the economists, but not quite so obvious to the protagonists in the fray. The question now is upon a "datum line," a rock-bottom production from which a minimum of wages starts, and a percentage increase of tons of coal produced on which a percentage increase of wages can be calculated.

On this point, of course, there are differences of opinion between employers and employed, and there have been awkward moments when the conferences seemed likely to break up. Mr. Lloyd George, in his original letter on the datum line, chose no definite figure, but took refuge in $x+y+z$. It was probably the first time a statesman has ever employed algebra, but the vagueness of that admirable science proved so useful that no politician in future is likely to be without at least an elementary knowledge of the higher mathematics. (Probably Mr. Austen Chamberlain, who is being attacked again by "big business," only wishes he could express the Excess Profits Duty in algebraic formulæ.)

The upshot of the whole business is that the coal strike is again postponed, and another ballot is to be taken in a fortnight's time. This appears to be sensible. It is generally recognised that a higher wage will be conceded anyhow, but the question is on the amount. When the parties have got so far, an interim settlement, and eventually a definite agreement, seem increasingly probable. Both sides have kept their tempers well in very protracted and occasionally technical discussions, and both seem to have an increased sense of responsibility as to the disastrous consequences of a strike.

The Yorkshire miners are definitely antagonistic to a strike, although they would no doubt obey strike notices if it came to the point; in Wales the sentiment is far more extreme, but even there a pronounced minority seems opposed to a strike. The general opinion of the country now is that the chief danger is over.

The Government has shown admirable patience and tact in carrying on the negotiations; the main credit must be given to Sir Robert Horne, who has earned golden opinions from both sides alike. Unfortunately for the advocates of a business government, Sir Robert is a lawyer, and even those who dislike lawyers as a class have to admit that he has shown honesty of purpose and public spirit in the way he has steered the country through this difficult position. A single mistake, and the chances of industrial peace would have vanished. As it is, the negotiations have furnished a signal instance of the advantage of constitutional methods over the violent courses which a small minority still hanker after, and the lesson is not likely to be forgotten.

It may perhaps be added as a postscript that the *Daily Herald*, the organ of the extremists, is again appealing for funds, and has given notice that its price will be raised from a penny to twopence. It was whispered in Fleet Street that the recent notoriety it acquired gave that revolutionary organ a temporary increase of circulation, but that is not likely to last very long. Its course has been altogether too erratic.

**Labour versus Churchill.**

The personalities of party politics seem to be reviving. Labour hardly cares to tackle Mr. Lloyd George, but a section of Labour announced at a congress this week that it would like to impeach Mr. Winston Churchill. The Secretary for War, who has played many parts in his time, would probably relish the experience, for with all his activities he would hardly be convicted. But a more practical difficulty that lies ahead of Labour at the moment is to exclude him from Parliament. Of the two seats at Dundee Mr. Churchill holds one and a Labour member the other. Labour will therefore have to put up two candidates if it wants to eject "the monster of modern militarism," and unfortunately the different sections of Labour cannot agree who is the right man to bell the cat. The Independent Labour Party wants to run Mr. Wallhead, a pronounced pacifist—in the very home of the Black Watch!—and others cherish a strange affection for Mr. E. D. Morel, whose peculiar activities during the war made him acquainted with the inside of a prison. And there are other Richmonds, or possible Richmonds, in the field, or looking over the hedge.

**The Examination Fiend.**

There is a panic in Whitehall at the suggestion that the temporary clerks there shall pass a competitive examination if they are to continue in Government employment. Many of the young ladies, who have very decided views on jumpers and face-powders, are a little vague in such trivial subjects as arithmetic and geography, and terrified at the prospect of putting their convictions in writing. But the little tin gods who order their days are said to have decided on the survival of the fittest—and a wicked rumour suggests that some of the temporaries have determined to resign rather than face the ordeal.

**The Right to Strike.**

Among a number of new autumn plays, one at least has hit the mark. It is "The Right to Strike," by Mr. Hutchinson, and it is likely to occupy the boards of the Garrick for some time. The bare bones of the plot are that first some workmen go on strike, and then, for an apparently sufficient cause, the doctor; but the medico relents when a woman, who is the wife of one of the strikers, is dangerously ill. He operates, and she recovers, and all is well. (It is a curious convention of the stage that while the parson is always a fool and the lawyer a rogue, the doctor is always a splendid fellow, whose look alone is almost a certain cure.) But there is a good deal of ethical discussion as to the rights of Capital and Labour, and most of the prominent capitalists and Labour leaders attended the first night, and blessed the dialogue as fair and convincing. Perhaps somebody will now give us a play discussing nationalism and private enterprise.

**Church Reunion.**

Some discussion is taking place in the religious Press, and in church and chapel circles, as to the possibilities of reunion of the churches—Anglican and Nonconformist, that is to say, for the Roman Catholics do not come into this matter, and they have made their position clear. The Lambeth Conference some weeks ago published resolutions dealing with this difficult problem in a very conciliatory spirit, and there have been many interchanges of pulpits. As the latter

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custom is increasing, after a certain amount of High Anglican opposition a year ago, it may be assumed to be successful, and to have done no particular harm even to tender consciences.

The next step, apparently, lies with the Dissenters. The Established Church is ready to recognise Nonconformist ministers—at least, those of the great bodies—on certain terms. The question is whether the Dissenters will consider that these terms practically involve reordination. If they do so decide, then reunion is for all practical purposes at an end, since the Nonconformist minister would quite naturally consider that this involved a slight upon his previous labours, and would be tantamount to an admission on his part that he had in the past not been fully competent.

On the other hand, a great number of the clergy hold firmly to the hypothesis of the Apostolic succession, which the Nonconformists manifestly have not got and do not believe in. It is possible that upon that rock the ship of compromise will be wrecked. But at least the discussions have made it evident that the sharpness and rancour of the old differences have died out.

**The Halfpenny Shortage.**

The introduction of three-halfpenny instead of the penny fares on the omnibuses has led to a sudden shortage of half-pennies. The despised coin, whom none were so poor as to reverence a few short weeks ago, has now become the observed of all observers, the thing that every man desires. The newspapers, tactfully forgetting that they can no longer be bought for a halfpenny, and, therefore, cannot be charged with increasing the shortage, have been discussing the problem volubly. The introduction of a three-halfpenny coin has been suggested in many quarters, but the coinage experts hint that the remedy may be as bad as the disease, since if the now extinct penny fare eventually goes up to two pence, the man in the omnibus would pay it with a three-halfpenny piece and still have to search his pockets for the odd halfpenny. Much more probably the man in the omnibus would begin to walk, to the benefit both of his pocket and his appetite.

A more reasonable solution would be the introduction of a nickel coinage. Nickel weighs less than copper, is more durable, and looks cleaner; but the authorities at the Mint consider that legislation would be necessary.

**The Week's Books.**

Several interesting books have come out these last few days. The most popular will probably be "Herbert Beerbohm Tree" (Hutchinson), by his brother Max Beerbohm, which gives a vivid figure of the great actor, and quotes many of his epigrams, such as the characterisation of an unnamed person, "He is an old bore; even the grave yawns for him." The memoir is full of these good sayings, but I was not prepared to find that Tree was ignorant of poetry. Yet Lady Tree writes, "On the day before his death he took from my hands Dr. Bridges's 'Spirit of Man,' which does not name the poets it quotes. He read such a one as 'Hail to thee, blithe spirit,' or 'Fair Attic shape,' or 'He praveth best who loveth best'; and musingly said, 'That is lovely—I wonder who wrote it?'"

"Reminiscences of a Stowaway" (Chapman and Hall) will furnish entertainment to Anglo-Indians. The author, after an adventurous career at sea in the old sailing ships, entered the Indian service as a police official, and the reminiscences consist largely of his experiences in the old penal service.

"Human Psychology" (Constable), by Mr. Howard C. Warren, a professor of Princeton, is a very adequate introduction to the subject, in the light of recent theories and discoveries. It is clearly and carefully written, as a text-book should be, and contains one or two useful illustrations.

A word may be given to Miss Dolf Wyllarde's "Temperament" (S. Paul and Co.). It belongs to what is known as the best-seller class of fiction, which, perhaps, sufficiently describes its character.

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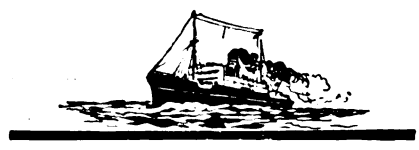

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, September 20.

**The Treaty of Alliance.**

The situation has certainly improved during the past week in the sense that there are more definite indications of the public attitude towards the proposed agreement. There is little doubt that the manifesto of the four members of the Sultania Family has failed in its object of rallying the public round the opposition. Wherever I go I find the same tendency to resent and ridicule the attempt to force an opinion on the nation by an element which, as one facetious Egyptian remarked, was the last to come in on the side of complete independence, and is the first to reject an offer which is generally regarded as conferring far more than the most sanguine expected. As a matter of fact, what I had hinted at last week is openly talked about to-day—viz., that the man really responsible for the Princes' action is Mohammed Said Pasha, the ex-Premier, and Zaghlul's bitter enemy, who, desiring to defeat the delegation in order to come in himself, has used the Princes for his own end, though he has, so far, carefully refrained from declaring himself openly.

By contrast we have this week had plain outspoken statements from such prominent Nationalists and former members of the Cabinet as Rushdi Pasha, Sarwat Pasha, and Sedky Pasha, who, in the form of interviews, have definitely supported the proposed agreement and have stated the reasons why they are in favour of it. Meetings of the Egyptian Bench and Bar, of the ulemas and clergy, of prominent notables and merchants, etc., have been held at which they have all signified their acceptance of the proposed scheme, and those notorious centres of active and extreme nationalism, the schools of Law and Medicine, have taken a similar decision.

**Attitude of the Legislative Assembly.**

But the most important factor has been the attitude of the Legislative Assembly. A banquet was given to them on Wednesday evening at which Mohammed Pasha Mahmud made a speech explaining the situation, and on Thursday afternoon they were invited to a private meeting at his house. The present Assembly, it should be explained, was elected in 1913, but owing to the war and the suspension of its deliberations, no new elections have taken place, and the vacancies which have occurred as a result of death, resignation, etc., have not been filled. There are consequently now only sixty members as against the fully constituted house of seventy-six. Of these forty-nine took part in the debates and recorded their vote; of the difference of eleven eight belonged to the delegation who for obvious reasons abstained from voting, while three were absent. The meeting lasted until midnight, and the result was that forty-four out of the forty-nine declared themselves in favour of the settlement on the basis of the proposed agreement. This meeting was, of course, not an official one, and must not be regarded as recording a vote which will appear in the official record. Nevertheless the result is important, and, taken together with the views expressed by other elements, will fully justify the four delegates in reporting that the country is in favour of a settlement on the proposed basis.

In the course of all these discussions various criticisms have been brought forward. Many of them are frivolous and reveal ignorance of what the proposed treaty really means. There are, however, certain points which are more or less reasonable, and which are worthy of consideration when the negotiations for the final treaty take place. It is highly probable that the four in reporting to their leaders will bring these points forward, and that if the delegation as a whole considers them sufficiently important they will be submitted to the Milner Mission. Since, however, the "inquiry," if one may so term it, is not yet concluded, although as a matter of fact its result may now be regarded as a foregone conclusion, it is preferable for obvious reasons at the present stage not to enumerate what the points in question are, but I shall hope to deal with these when the "four" leave.

They are due to sail for Europe on October 1, and as soon as they have reported, it is understood that the intention is for a new Cabinet to be formed under the presidency of Adly Pasha Yeghen. As this Cabinet will consist of men having a following in the country it is hoped that it will be considered as representative, and that it will be possible to select the Egyptian Plenipotentiaries for negotiating the treaty from the Cabinet and the Egyptian Delegation. The programme tentatively drawn up for the subsequent procedure is as follows:—It is proposed to proceed immediately with the new elections to the Legislative Assembly, and the latter, as soon as the Treaty has been initialed, will discuss and, it is hoped, ratify it.

Simultaneously, the Treaty will be laid before the British Parliament, and by the time the latter has ratified it, the Legislative Assembly will have drafted and approved the new constitution which the change in *régime* will necessitate. The Assembly will then be dissolved, elections for the new representative bodies will take place—it is understood that there will be two Chambers—and everything will be in readiness for the application of the Treaty. Opinions vary upon the date when it will be possible to introduce the new *régime*, but, in view of all the difficulties which must necessarily be encountered in elaborating a scheme requiring, among other things, the assent of two representative bodies, and, to certain important reforms, the consent of fifteen Powers, it would appear that, even as an optimistic view, the end of 1921 will be the earliest at which it can be hoped to be introduced.

**Effect of New Regime on Foreign Communities.**

I do not propose at this juncture to go into the question of the effect of the new *régime* on the European colonies. That they will be affected by the transfer to purely Egyptian hands of the administration of the country seems possible, though their position ought to be amply protected by the legislation affecting foreigners vested in the British representative and the presence in the Ministry of Justice of a British official who, it appears, is to watch over the administration of Justice as far as foreigners are concerned. So far, however, the foreign communities have not formulated any opinion on the matter, but it is noteworthy that a persistent decline has manifested itself in the share market since the announcement of the details of the proposed settlement. One fact seems pretty clear, and that is that the British colony will necessarily become a very small one, and that the French will increase considerably. The former will, of course, result from the reduction in the number of British officials in the service, while the French colony, if the French Government does not impose restrictions, will be expanded by the very large number of Syrians who reside in this country, and who have declared that they will opt for French nationality rather than continue to be considered as local subjects under purely Egyptian Government.

Finally, it is to be presumed that the reduction in the numbers of the British colony will knock on the head the projects for the erection of an Anglican Cathedral, for the creation of a large British hospital in the place of

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the existing Anglo-American hospital, and for placing the recently-founded English School on a permanent basis. Obviously, from the point of view of the actual requirements of the community, there will be little *raison d'être* for either of these three institutions under the new *régime*, although from the point of view of propaganda and of British prestige, there may be some justification for their creation and maintenance.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, September 22.

**Another Political Crisis?**

Yet another Ministerial crisis is brewing, which promises, for a change, to be interesting, and to have important political consequences. It will be remembered that the conservative Radical Party, which has governed the country for so many years, has made a pact with the Narodny Club or Croat Nationalists, and so balances the Democrat Socialist bloc. Now a proposal by the Radical Minister for the Constituent Assembly, Professor Markovitch, that the Parliament transfer legislative powers to the Executive, so that decrees can be issued with the full effect of laws, has raised a storm of opposition, not only from the other parties, but from some Radicals. M. Protitch and M. Pashitch, will, it appears, succeed in splitting the Radical Party as M. Vesnitch disagrees with them, and there is evidence that the Narodny Club will pass over to the Democrat bloc, at least to answer the elections to the Constituent Assembly, which are fixed for November 28. The new alliance will go into opposition and the Radicals be left to govern, if they can, meanwhile. An entente between the Democrats and the Narodny Club would give that much-desired stability to Yugoslav politics.

**The Prince Regent at Serajevo.**

Messages from Serajevo describe the brilliant scenes of the enthusiastic reception of the Crown Prince Regent by the Bosnians. On Monday, 20th, he attended a thanksgiving service at the Orthodox and the Roman Catholic Churches, then at Gazi-Husrefeg Mosque, and finally at the Jewish Synagogue. In a speech at the State luncheon he made felicitous allusion to the part which Bosnia and the sister province of Herzegovina had played in the history of the Serbian race. The first written memorial of the language was by a contemporary of Nemanja and Ban Kulin, and Saint Sava reposes at Mileshev. The great Bosnian King Turtko, who proclaimed himself King of Croatia in 1390, carried on the unification policy of Nemanja. Torn by the struggles between Rome and Byzantium, between Vienna and Stamboul, Bosnia and Herzegovina, divided by faith, remained Serb in language and sentiment: it was in Herzegovina that there broke out the rising against the Turks in 1875, which was the first step in the modern struggle for liberty which was but recently ended. That veteran warrior King Peter forty years ago had led a band of stalwarts among the crags of Bosnia and Herzegovina in their struggle against Austria, and fought side by side with the dauntless Luka Vukalovitch, Don Ivan Musitch, Husein Kanetan, and Ali Pasha Rizvan Begoritch.

The Regent has a happy turn of speech, and knows full well how to appeal to the national pride and vivid historical sense of his romantic people.

As souvenirs of his visit to the spot where was fired the shot that led through blood to the liberation of the enslaved Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, the Regent brings back some interesting souvenirs. The Chamber of Commerce has presented a laurel wreath in silver, with a leaf for each victory of the Serbian Army, and Herzegovina a presentation sword in gold.

**The Danube Racing Club.**

The Danube Racing Club evidently means business. The first meeting was such a success that a second was held a fortnight later, in brilliant sunshine. The course was crowded, and there were plenty of entries and some really good finishes. The win by a horse from the Royal stables naturally caused enthusiasm.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, September 18.

**The New Land Bill.**

On Sunday, September 19, the first act of distributing the land among the peasants will take place with great solemnity at a village near Bucharest, in the presence of the Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture, M. Garoflid, the latter being responsible for the carrying into effect of the Land Bill.

This measure is important for two reasons. It is the beginning of a new era in Roumanian agricultural history, and it will also fulfil the promise made by the King during the war that he would give the land to the peasants who, by the fact of their being the tillers of the soil, should be the rightful owners of it. The preliminary work in the settlement of this question, which has been to establish what allotments can be given, and the rights of each peasant to hold such an allotment, has been successfully accomplished. Peasants of military age have been carefully examined to find whether they have done their duty to their country or not, as deserters are excluded from this scheme. The division of each area into allotments was arranged by local committees, consisting of the mayor of the village, a delegation from the peasants, the agricultural inspector of the district, and a military officer (the latter being for the purpose of determining the military status of the peasants). It is estimated that by next March every peasant will be in possession of his holding in Roumania proper, when they will continue the scheme in the new provinces. The State will have to compensate the former owners of the land to the extent of 2½ milliard lei.

**Mission of M. Titulesco to London and Paris.**

On the Bessarabian question M. Titulescu succeeded the last mission of M. Vaida Voevod, by which the latter obtained a recognition from Lord Curzon last March, with certain conditions, that Russia has a right to an eventual appeal to the League of Nations about Bessarabia, and that the Chilia tributary of the Danube Delta should be handed over to the control of the Danube Commission; but Roumania protesting against this, it was admitted that the latter question should be decided at the General Conference of the Danube Commission, and that the Treaty of Bessarabia would be ratified after the position of the English and French landowners in this province has been settled. M. Titulescu has now obtained from Lord Curzon a further letter consenting that the Bessarabian question can be settled after the ratification of the Austro-Hungarian Treaty in the Roumanian Parliament, thereby reducing the settlement of it to a simple formality which will be completed in a few days.

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M. Titulescu also discussed with Mr. Chamberlain the precarious financial state of Roumania, and succeeded in concluding an agreement between England and Roumania, by which a postponement of the repayment of the Roumanian War Debt, and the liquidation of the Treasury Bonds, has been granted for fifteen months; and if America should allow England and France to forgo the payment of interest on the War Loans from America for three years, England would do the same for Roumania.

With regard to the destruction of the Roumanian oil industry during the war, the British Government took over the responsibility for this on August 12. With reference to the coupons of the 1913 Loan. M. Titulescu promised that they would be paid.

In Paris M. Titulescu had several discussions with M. Francois Marcsal, the French Minister of Finance, referring to the same subject. France asked for time to study the question. The possibility of a French Loan to Roumania was discussed, for the purpose of covering the amounts of the unpaid coupons to France. It is expected that France will agree to this. These arrangements with England and France are quite independent of the rights granted to Roumania at the Spa Conference.

M. Titulescu, after attending the Brussels Conference, will return to Roumania.

The local Press comments very favourably on the successful results of this mission, and it will have a good effect on next year's Budget, by giving Roumania a chance to take care of her internal reconstruction.

**The Concert Season.**

The concert season has been inaugurated in brilliant style by the appearance of the world-famous tenor, Leo Slezak, who is giving three concerts at the Carol cel Mare Theatre, Bucharest, commencing on September 19.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, September 18.

**The King's Name Day.**

The anniversary of the name day (St. Alexander's) of his Majesty the King was celebrated in all the principal towns in Greece. In the capital a service was held at the Cathedral in the presence of all the members of the Government, with the exception of M. Venizelos, who is still indisposed, and of M. Repoulis and M. Michalakopoulos, who were away from Athens. The Commander-in-Chief of the Greek Forces, General Paraskevopoulos, who had arrived from Smyrna a few days previously, was also amongst those present. King Alexander, following the example of his grandfather, King George, who made a point of never spending his name day in Athens, had left on the previous day for the island of Spetsai, accompanied by his morganatic wife.

After the service, the Bishop of Athens, the Council of Ministers, also the members of the Diplomatic Corps and other officials, proceeded to the Royal Palace and signed their names in the book of congratulations.

**The Political Situation.**

Although the Decree ordering the dissolution of the Chamber has not yet been published, the electoral campaign has already begun. In both the Liberal and the Nationalist parties the lists of the various candidates in Athens and the provinces are being prepared.

The Opposition are so far without a leader, and, although M. Gounaris, the absent chief of the Nationalist party, telegraphed from Rome to his friends here informing them that he expects to return to Greece for the purpose of taking an active part in the elections, this is considered very improbable, unless he receives a guarantee that all his accounts with Greek justice are to be regarded as settled.

In the meantime serious divergencies amongst the leading members of the Opposition party are reported by the Venizelist papers, but the anti-Venizelist Press contradicts these reports most emphatically, and assures us that perfect harmony of opinion reigns in the ranks of the Nationalists.

Immediately after the dissolution of the Chamber, which will take place next week, the Ministers will proceed to their respective constituencies, and M. Venizelos contemplates making a tour of the principal towns of Greece, in order to explain the importance of the approaching elections. The Greek Premier is so confident as to the issue of these that he declared, in one of the last sittings of the Chamber, that he would tender his resignation to the King if he did not obtain an absolute majority in Old Greece even though his party might be triumphant in New Greece.

**Northern Epirus.**

To a deputation from Koritza, which visited him a few days ago, the Prime Minister expressed his confidence as to an early and favourable settlement of the Northern Epirus question. The Greek Government, said M. Venizelos, has obtained a promise of support from the Governments of Great Britain, France, and Italy, and the only reason that no definite solution has been arrived at up to the present is the antagonistic attitude adopted by the United States of America. It is hoped, however, that after the General Elections in America these objections will be removed, and that the Northern Epirus question will be settled in a manner safeguarding Greek interests and in accordance with the wishes of the population of those regions.

**Miscellaneous News.**

By order of the Minister of War the Military Governor of Athens, Brigadier-General Tsimikalis, is appointed Commanding Officer of the Cidonia Division in place of Brigadier-General Othonaios, who has been nominated Military Governor of Athens.

Brigadier-General Othonaios was wounded during the recent operations in Asia Minor, but is now well on the way to recovery.

The last batch of 400 Bulgarian prisoners still in the hands of the Greeks left Crete for Salonika, whence

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they will proceed to the frontier to be handed over to the Bulgarian authorities.

After the occupation of Ouchak the Athens Division, continuing its advance beyond that town, captured over twenty villages. These villages were previously looted by the Kemalist troops, which then retreated eastwards. So far over 1,200 of the latter were taken prisoners, but more than half of them were set free, as it was ascertained that they had been forcibly recruited by Moustapha Kemal's agents.

## TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, September 25.

**The Cabinet Crisis.**

In spite of the suddenness of the resignations of the Sheikh ul Islam and the Minister of Agriculture, few people were surprised by the crisis which arose early this week. For some time past determined efforts have been made to bring about the downfall of Damad Ferid Pasha by the numerous army of place-hunters, most of whom own allegiance to the Entente Liberale Party. The methods employed by the Grand Vizier's opponents include—in the bag of the shady professional politician—lying stories supported by "documents," persistently repeated rumours of a scurrilous nature, and so forth. The first punitive expedition against the Nationalists failed because it was undertaken with inadequate forces, inadequate resources, and before the administration had been purged of the numerous partisans of the Nationalists introduced by the previous Grand Viziers, Ali Riza and Salih Pashas, who pursued a policy of reconciliation with the Nationalists. Damad Ferid Pasha was then accused of weakness, treachery, and what not, although from the very outset it was plain even to the superficial observer that there was no hope of the expedition succeeding. Having learned wisdom from this experience, the Grand Vizier is resolved this time not to move until his forces are sufficient in number, and well equipped in every way, and, above all, not until he has the necessary funds to ensure loyalty. In the meantime, it is proposed to grant an amnesty to all those who have joined the Nationalists, with the exception of the ringleaders, and who make their submission within a given period. It was this proposal that was the ostensible cause of the crisis, and the resignation of the two Ministers. So far as the Minister of Agriculture is concerned this is probably true, for Jemal Bey has always been a consistent advocate of ruthless repression; but until quite recently at least the Sheikh ul Islam was certainly in favour of milder methods, and his sudden change of front can only be ascribed to one of those doubtful manœuvres which have become traditional with the Entente Liberale Party. As remarked above, the campaign against the Grand Vizier has recently reached a strong pitch of intensity, and the Sheikh ul Islam, with his Entente Liberale friends, doubtless thought the time had come when the slightest push would cause the downfall of the Cabinet. There is no doubt that it has been a close thing, and that further trouble is in store; but the support of the Sultan has enabled Damad Ferid Pasha to stave off the attack on this occasion.

At the same time, it is quite clear that the Government has reached an *impasse*, from which there is no issue except financial accommodation on the part of the Allies. Detailed plans have been elaborated for the despatch of a punitive expedition to Anatolia, and so far as can be judged these plans would have every chance of complete success *if* the necessary twenty millions of Turkish pounds can be provided. The Government can no more find twenty millions than it could pay off the whole of the Turkish debt at one swoop. There is not even enough money to pay the very reduced salary list, and Government officials are remaining at home because they cannot pay their fares to and fro. The War Office is threatened with an assault by army officers who have had no pay for two months. Therefore, unless the Allies come forward the expedition to Asia Minor can get no further than the paper stage. The alternative is clear. If the Sublime Porte is not to be given the means to clear up the situation itself, the Hellenes will have to be granted permission to proceed further into Asia Minor. Why should not Damad Ferid Pasha be given a chance? There is no reason to suspect his good faith, and if he were given the same assistance that the Hellenes have received from us in their operations against Mustapha Kemal, there would be no doubt of the success of the proposed punitive expedition. In any case, it seems very hard to refuse to untie the hands of the Turks, and later to punish them for not carrying out the task that they were thereby prevented from fulfilling.

**Anatolia.**

According to the latest reports from Anatolia, the leaders of the rebellion are at loggerheads over the question of Bolshevism, and there can be little doubt that the proclamation of an amnesty would cause large numbers of waverers to return to their original allegiance. The ancient Turkish tradition whereby the Muscovite was regarded as the most deadly foe of Turkey cannot possibly have been obliterated in a few months, especially as during those few months there have been such occurrences as the appalling massacres of Elisabetpol. Nevertheless, the Anatolian Press reveals little or nothing of the struggle that is taking place amongst the leaders of the movement, and continues to preach the hope of salvation from "our noble Allies, Lenin and Trotski." The Bolshevist plenipotentiaries who recently arrived in Angora appear to have reached Trebizond by sea, in a ship flying the red flag, and were enthusiastically received by the population. There seems, indeed, to be little doubt that the Bolshevists are serious in their attempt to make trouble in Anatolia, and are flooding the country with pamphlets printed in the Turkish, Greek, and Armenian languages. The success of General Wrangel's armies would solve more than one problem—temporarily at least.

**Pontus.**

An interesting sidelight has been cast upon the Pontus question by a recent pronouncement of the leader of the Greek delegation which is agitating for the establishment of a Greek "Republic" on the southern shore of the Black Sea. It is known, of course, that it has been proposed to give Armenia the port of Trebizond as an outlet to the Black Sea, but the Greeks now declare that they would *far rather remain under the sovereignty of the Turks*. Those who have swallowed the stories of "massacres" and "deportations" from "Pontus" should reflect deeply. They will probably realise that there is far more than they suspected in the "horrors" reported from Anatolia.

## CYPRUS.

CYPRUS, September 4.

**The Deputation.**

A new phase has been reached. The delegates, having to decide whether their presence in London could be any longer justified, resolved to consult M. Venizelos. Three members accordingly saw the Greek Premier in Paris, who told them what he had already said on several previous occasions. According to a Cyprus paper, a communication from M. Venizelos to Mr. P. Constantinides was as follows:—"The fate of Cyprus is my affair. Tell your compatriots so when you return to your beautiful island. I cannot press the matter at the present moment with a friendly Government which is fully occupied with two great and important questions. But I hope the time is not far distant when the Cyprus question will be satisfactorily settled. I shall return to England in November. The deputation can now return to Cyprus, as nothing further can be done at present." The Mission has accordingly informed the Committee in Aid of Cyprus that they propose, for reasons which cannot at once be stated, to return "temporarily" to the island; and they apply for the remittance of £1.000 for expenses. This news has caused no little perturbation and anxiety among the party of Union, who fear that it points to an indefinite postponement of a settlement.

The papers, however, express a conviction that the future of Cyprus is safe in the hands of M. Venizelos, who would never have spoken as he has done had he not arrived at a definite understanding with the British Government. It is not Great Britain that has coupled Rhodes and Cyprus.

**General News.**

Mr. Malcolm Stevenson was duly sworn in as High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief on August 25, at

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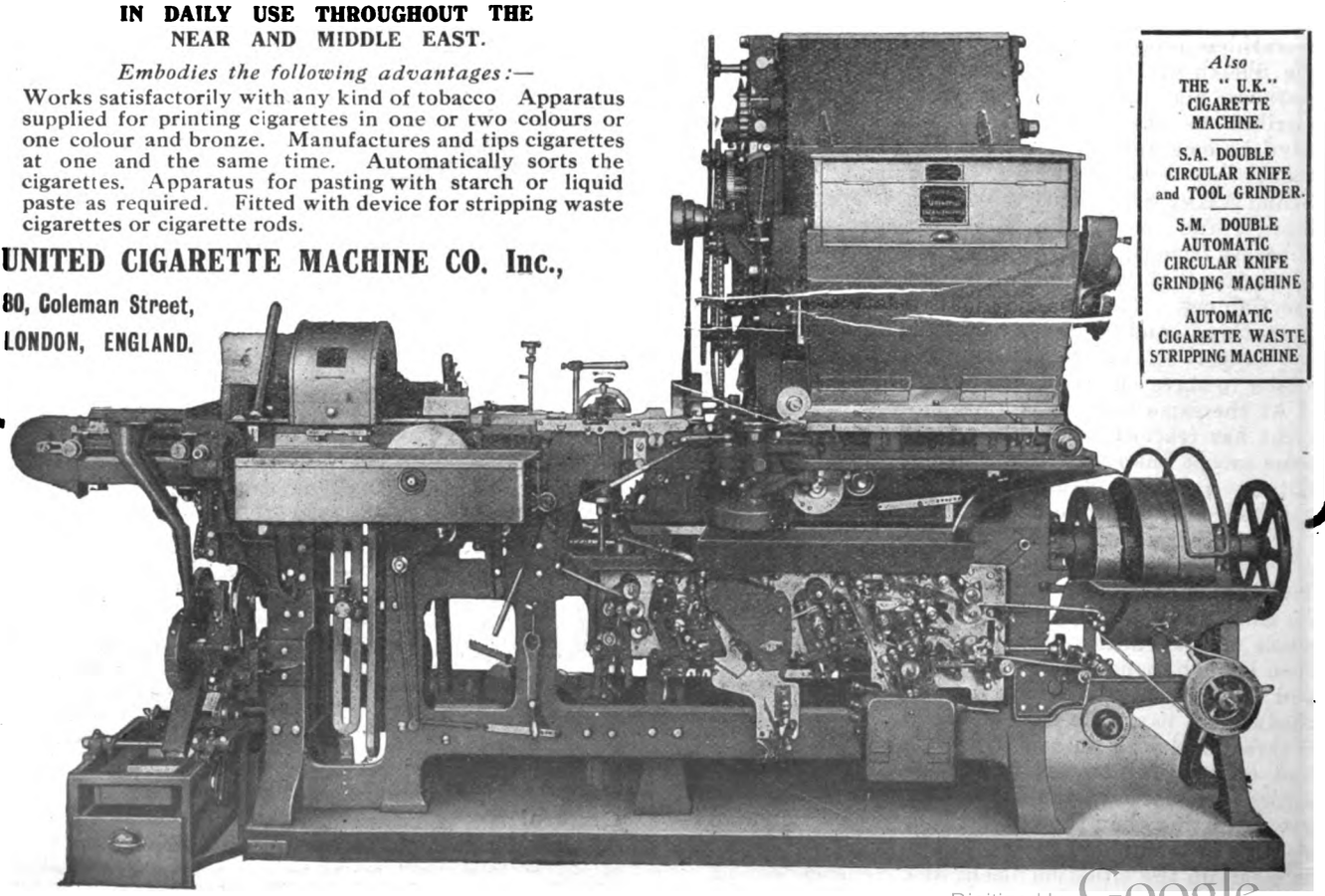

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Troodos, and the usual proclamation has been published. He has since visited Nicosia and Larnaca, and returned to Troodos.

Mr. J. C. Fenn has been appointed Chief Secretary and Member of the Executive Council.

The Chief Justice, Mr. Stanley Fisher, is expected from England early in October.

CYPRUS, September 16.

### The Season.

The summer is near its close. There has been great heat in the plains. On the heights of Troodos there has been an unusual amount of early rain, with hailstorms. The season has been a quiet and comparatively dull one. The High Commissioner, who is not so partial to Troodos as were his predecessors, is leaving early for Nicosia. The offices are going down on September 24.

### The Future of the Island.

The sense of doubt and obscurity which hangs over the island weighs heavy upon the spirits of all, and it will be well for all interests, economic and social, when the oppressive atmosphere, so long charged with disturbing elements, is cleared. Nobody can comprehend why a plain statement on what lies ahead cannot yet be made. Rumour succeeds rumour respecting the island's future, and people are more perplexed than ever. No one is surprised to hear that the Deputation is returning; and even the Press seems to consider that its work is done. If the truth were told, only too many would shake their heads and openly express their doubts as to any possible benefit that could come from a change of masters—*i.e.*, were the British element withdrawn. That a period of confusion and retrogression would follow is probable enough. There are many besides the 60,000 Turks who hold that the end of British rule would be the beginning of a series of troubles that would render hopeless any easy transition towards such progress as Cyprus needs. For all agree that, whatever the new settlement may be, a restoration of material prosperity can hardly be any longer postponed. Meanwhile, the general condition is far from what it should be. Legislation has proceeded while Greek members of Council have been absent in London. Business goes on, but the nightmare of stagnation from which agriculture and all industry suffer is still unbroken. The present High Commissioner has certainly interested himself on behalf of British officials, for whom little has been ever done in this impoverished island before. The rise of salaries for some came only just in time to save them from serious hardship and trouble.

### Cyprus and Foreign Aircraft.

According to an Order in Council under the Aerial Navigation Law of 1918, no flight over Cyprus or its territorial waters may be undertaken by foreign service aircraft without special permission of the High Commissioner. No explosives or ammunition may be carried over the island; and the carriage or use of photographic apparatus is similarly prohibited.

## INDIAN PENSIONS.

The Secretary of State for India announces the following revised scale of pensions for departmental officers (Commissaries, Deputy Commissaries, and Assistant Commissaries, with the respective ranks of major, captain, and lieutenant) and warrant officers (conductors and sub-conductors) of Indian Army departments. The scale must be regarded as provisional only, and is subject to revision hereafter:

The minimum rate of pension for each rank may be granted after twenty-four years' service, provided the required departmental service (sixteen years) has been rendered, and rises by annual increments up to a maximum after thirty-four years' service, as follows:—

| Rank. | Min. Pension. | Annual Increment. | Max. Pension. |
|---|---|---|---|
| (£ per annum in Europe or Rs. per mensem in India.) | | | |
| Major and Commissary | 300 | 6 | 360 |
| Captain and Deputy Commissary | 240 | 6 | 300 |
| Lieutenant and Assistant Commissary | 190 | 5 | 240 |
| Conductor | 150 | 4 | 190 |
| Sub-Conductor | 120 | 3 | 150 |

(The rupee rates in India are at present only applicable to existing pensioners.)

Special additional pensions at the rates shown in the column headed "Annual Increment" will be granted for each year or part of a year that an officer or warrant officer has been retained in the service beyond the age of fifty-five on account of the national emergency.

The revised rates of pension will be payable as from April 1, 1919. These rates will be subject to alteration either upwards or downwards after July, 1924, to an extent not exceeding 20 per cent., according as the cost of living rises or falls.

Revised rates of invalid pensions for Indian departmental officers and warrant officers will be notified hereafter. Forms of application for revision of pension under the foregoing rules will be sent out as soon as possible.

# CORRESPONDENCE.

## THE GREEKS IN ANATOLIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Allow me to express my great surprise at your Constantinople correspondent's amazing denunciation of the behaviour of the Greek troops in Asia Minor. He has the right to give his opinion, I will not contest him this right, and, of course, he may speak *ex cathedra*, as he happens to be on the spot and much nearer to the scene of action than I am. I will not try to embark on a controversy, because I have not finished yet with another one; I will simply say that the Greek troops closely co-operated together with the British contingents in the Near East since the *sans-culottes* of Mustafa have distinguished themselves in the New Anatolian Marathon race. The excellent conduct of the Greek soldier was highly eulogised by the British High Command and British staff officers. As for the Komitaji raids and Greek methods of terrorising Turkish peasants your correspondent gives no proofs and no details, with the exception of the well-known regrettable incidents of Smyrna, a question which has already been cleared and finally settled.

Indeed, "hardly a day passes without some story of massacres of Greeks in Anatolia." Last year it was Aidin, this year we heard about the Nazli and Demerdji Vespers and of the latest Nationalist prowess, the wholesale massacre of the Greek population of Kerasund, a town in the "Republic of Pontus," whose Hellenism was recognised by the Armenians themselves. All these massacres are but a bagatelle to your correspondent, though he must be aware that British officers took kodak snapshots of the Aidin massacres last June, 1919.

I am glad to see that your correspondent has at least condescended to confess at the end of his philippic that his remarks have been made neither in a pro-Turk nor in an anti-Greek spirit, but solely "in view of British interests and prestige." Perhaps he will be surprised to hear that M. Venizelos's opponents have accused him many times of having sacrificed Greece to Great Britain's interests. Without endorsing the opinion of the Greek Opposition I must, however, state that Greece without signing a Mephistophelian pact with England has become her ally and trustee in the Near East, and this theory was confirmed on July 21 in the House of Commons by the Premier when he openly (though not in a quite diplomatic way) declared that "England has no more confidence in Bulgaria" in her policy in the East. "The lamentable error" of the British statesmen, of which your correspondent talks about, was thus corrected, I mean the misunderstanding of the vitality of the Greek Kingdom and the Hellenic race committed in the past in this country after the 1897 disaster, when the Bulgarians, thanks to their splendid propaganda, made everybody believe that their country alone *erat imperare orbi Balkanico*.

Greece is not a pooh-bahed country at present, and needs British friendship. M. Venizelos said some days before the signing of the Turkish Treaty:—"Woe betide Greece, if she ever loses British friendship," and Greeks fully realise this theory, though they bitterly resent the scornful attitude adopted lately by Englishmen both at home and abroad who are eager to cast the first stone at an ally who did his bit in the common struggle. I read many Greek papers, and, so far, I have never found any attack or criticism of the British policy in Ireland, nor even have they hastened to brand without investigation the whole British Empire for the reprisals inflicted by the "black-and-tans" upon the Irish population.

Fair play is fair play, and your correspondent ought to bear in mind that it is hard for him to kick against the pricks.—I am, etc.,

THEODORE D. MOSCONA.

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## MUSICAL NOTES.

The London concert season has again started, and this time in more deadly earnest than ever. One is simply appalled by the number of engagements at the various halls, for, as my readers know, the mere giving and hearing of a concert are not evidence of a musical sense. In some obscure ways this plethora of concerts may do good, but, for one thing, it inevitably means the clashing of two or more good performances which the critic at least (though I admit that he [or she] is the last person who ought to be considered in the matter) would wish to hear. I believe that the concert list in London, where these things begin later than in other countries, is larger than that with which any continental capital is blessed.

Much is heard in these days of the influence of Oriental music upon Occidental compositions, but little is really known of the matter. Apart from Mr. Fox Strangways, whose book on "The Music of Hindusthan" is authoritative, there are not many English critics who have cared to delve in the mysteries of Oriental music. But an increasing number of musicians, chief among whom is Busoni, assert that the possible combinations in Western music, melodic and harmonic, are becoming exhausted, and that therefore we shall have to introduce from the East smaller intervals than the semitone. Whether an octave with more intervals than twelve is inevitable I cannot say, though it is certain that some notable composers, Scriabin, for example, have felt themselves cramped by the limitations of the modern keyboard.

It was in a state of blushing ignorance, then, that I found myself at the Steinway Hall on September 29, listening to a "Grand Concert of Indian Music," which had been arranged by the Comtesse de Brémont. But I had better confess at once that I learned nothing; and the failure was, perhaps, not all my fault. To make the gullible critic hark to pianoforte solos by Mr. Isidore Godfrey of Chopin and Rachmaninoff, however earnestly they may have been played, was scarcely the way to teach him the rudiments of Indian art; nor could one be suffused in the spirit of Hindustan with a recitation by Mr. Rathmell Wilson of Kipling's "Mandalay." Moreover, the songs which Pandit Shyam Shankar declaimed were accompanied on the pianoforte, which was rather a bewildering error. A performance of Indian dances was given, representing a divine love allegory, the rejection and final acceptance of Krishna by Brahma, and though Rhoda Rani and Krishna Rani danced quite efficiently, the music to which they moved was again on the pianoforte, where a lack of harmony made the whole monotonous. Jasoda Rani sang well two songs, "Main Jamoona Ki par" and "Teri Soora ia," written by Pandit Shyam Shankar and arranged by Vrinda Rani respectively, but one could not discover anything very Indian about them, for they were surely written in European style. The most interesting item of all was a performance on Indian instruments by Uday Shankar. He played successively on the swar bahar, the dilruba, the fiddle, the piccolo, and the jaltarang, and in all but one he was accompanied on the drum by Pandit Shyam Shankar. Whether he did well or not is hard to say, but one did wonder how comfortably the fiddle could be played in a squatting posture, and why the jaltarang, which appeared to be a series of cups or bowls partly filled with water (just like our own musical glasses), should have been attuned to the ordinary diatonic scale. It cannot honestly be said that the sounds from these instruments made much impression. Perhaps Indian music is not an end in itself, but merely a prompter of a particularly desired state of mind, and the appeal which it makes on the native leaves us, who generally treat music as absolute and subservient to nothing, cold and in the dark.

The modern Italian school of composers is not too well known in this country, though there are critics who say that what has come to England from Malipiero, Casella, Rispighi, and their fellows, does not make of our ignorance a thing of shame. But of all these composers Ildebrando Pizzetti is probably the least known, and it was undoubtedly the fact that his Sonata in A was being played that brought so large an audience to Miss Kathleen Parlow's violin recital at the Æolian Hall on October 1. Now this Sonata had been extremely well spoken of in the Press, especially by the "advanced" class of musicians, and one was prepared for something extraordinary. But the most startling thing about this most modern Sonata is that it does not startle. It is obviously the result of mature and restrained thought, though this is a matter for pleasant surprise rather than praise. For it is not a highly distinguished work. In the first movement (*Tempestoso*), the writing for the pianoforte especially is not easily intelligible: it is covered with short, incomplete phrases, and the frequent changes of time do not seem to help out the main idea. As a matter of fact, it reminded one of some of the matches we used to get in war time: it misfired at first, then struck, fluttered and spat, gave a fitful light, and finally failed. The second movement, called "Preghiera per gl' innocenti," was really remarkable for its possession of ordinary common chords, and it achieved fluency; but though there was sincere thought underlying this, its main effect was one of commonplace. It was the third movement (*vivo e fresco*), built on a kind of folksong, which partly justified the extravagant praise given to the work. Here was some most ingenious writing, and the impulse of the theme was splendidly maintained to the end. Miss Parlow, for whom Mr. Charlton Keith was at the pianoforte, played in the Pizzetti with vigour and insight, qualities which the pianist did not sufficiently show. But she played much better in the concerto in E minor of Jules Conus. It was a pity that such confidence and finish should be wasted on such paltry stuff as this concerto. The "Sicilienne and Rigaudon" of Francœur-Kriesler were very suitable to her; even on such light pieces she infused the sincerity which is her chief virtue; and altogether hers was a recital much above the average both in interest and performance.

It is in America, I suppose, that an artist can most easily gain the world and lose his soul; but in England also this fate is not impossible. It has befallen Mr. Mark Hambourg. With this pianist, who has genius but is not one, there are times when he plays irresistibly, but there are far more times when he causes suffering to the pianoforte and the ears of his listeners. At his recital at the Wigmore Hall on October 2, his temperament, unfortunately, did not treat us kindly. He drew one of the largest audiences I have seen in this hall, and to put them into a fit devotional mood he commenced with Franck's "Prelude, Chorale and Fugue." But the austere, religious spirit of this was converted into corybantic, even bacchanalian whimsicality; and a plentiful series of firmly hit wrong notes merely added to the caricature. Yet worse followed in Beethoven's "Waldstein" Sonata. One is accustomed to hearing Beethoven played with *rubato* nowadays, but Mr. Hambourg simply played very fast and very loose with him. Uncontrollable temperament can explain many things, such as the break-neck speed with which he knocked off some Chopin studies, in which he merely went wrong; but nothing can excuse such violation of Beethoven. Yet in the glorious Brahms-Paganini variations, of which he played the second book, he found the enormous technical difficulties superable, and in places he played with extraordinary beauty, almost making one forget what had gone before. And in the "Whirligig" of Arnold Bax, and in Ravel's "Jeux d'eau," he played with a delicacy of feeling which should have inhibited his ever performing on a music-hall stage. But his die is cast; and the populace, whose affection he firmly holds, can in no wise help his salvation.

ANDANTE.

Commendatore Volpe, who acted as Italian Plenipotentiary during the negotiation of the Italo-Turkish Peace Treaty at Ouchy, is on a visit to Belgrade, where it is believed he will confer with the Yugoslav authorities with regard to the forthcoming conversations on Adriatic questions.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

**I.—"DISCOVERY IN GREEK LANDS: A SKETCH OF THE PRINCIPAL EXCAVATIONS AND DISCOVERIES OF THE LAST FIFTY YEARS." By F. H. Marshall. (Cambridge University Press, 1920, 8s. 6d. net.)**

**II.—"INDIA." By Esmé Wingfield-Stratford. (Liverpool: Books, Ltd 6s. net.)**

## I.—THE EVOLUTION OF GREEK CIVILISATION.

Within living memory our knowledge of Hellenic art and all that it implies was derived from chance discoveries. Systematic excavation began as late as 1869; and its results have revolutionised our treatment of ancient history. We are able to view Athenian culture during the spacious days of Pericles, Plato, Praxiteles, and Pheidias in its true perspective, and realise its deep indebtedness to an immemorial past. Mr. F. H. Marshall has ably summarised the achievements of scientific exploration. He reminds us that Crete was the birthplace of Western civilisation. Its crude beginnings date from the twenty-ninth century B.C., when by dint of sea-power, a man of genius known in ancient legend as Minos extended his sway over the Ægean. Three millenia ago Crete was all that Great Britain is at present—the hub of a relatively extensive Empire. The civilisation termed "Minoan" lasted from 2800 to 1200 B.C. Its current was profoundly modified by external pressure, and the changes which it underwent are faithfully reflected by the results of excavation on the site of its capital city. The discoveries at Knossos include pottery and frescoes of surpassing beauty. Their modernity is very striking; a statuette figured App. 5 is draped in the fashion of the early Victorian era. Disraeli charged his fellow countrymen of that day with having "stopped short at comfort and called it civilisation." It is probable that Minoan art suffered from an exaggerated regard for life's material side. The systems of drainage, ventilation and water-supply laid bare at Knossos anticipate the latest devices of sanitary science. The Minoans had some knowledge of picture-writing, and a metrical system, but their inscribed clay tablets have not yet been decyphered. No traces of fortification survive, probably because the Minoan regime was a "Thalassocracy"; although strangely enough no pictorial representations of sea-going vessels have come to light.

About 1450 B.C. it was overwhelmed by foreign invasion, and the centre of civilisation was shifted to the mainland of Greece. The succeeding stage (1450-1000 B.C.) is styled "Early Prehistoric" or "Mycenæan," from the extensive discoveries made at Mycenæ, which was famed in the Homeric hymns as the home of Agamemnon. The Mycenæans were very skilful workers in metal, but they were unacquainted with iron; and succumbed to the invasion of a northern tribe, known as Dorians in ancient literature, who used weapons of tempered steel with terrible effect. Then was ushered in a "Later Prehistoric Era" (1000 to 700 B.C.). The works of art which it produced are full of vigour, but their crudity and childishness reveal the imprint of the rude northern conquerors. During the "Earlier Historic Era" (700-500 B.C.), the influence of Assyrian and Egyptian art made itself felt; the statues, bas-reliefs and pottery, although still archaic, show an increasing knowledge of technique and the principles of art.

The final stage of Greek civilisation began in the sixth century B.C., when the quarrelsome little City states united to hurl back the tide of Persian invasion. The struggle for independence generated energy which found an outlet in times of peace; and the victors' æsthetic faculty received a development which has endowed the world with models of unequalled beauty. But a recrudescence of civil warfare followed the removal of external pressure, and involved the centres of Hellenic art in ruin. After three and a-half centuries of progressive decadence the mainland and its colonies fell an easy prey to the nascent Empire of Rome. One of her greatest poets admits that "Greece subjugated her fierce conqueror." Roman civilisation at its zenith was to a great extent built on that of Greece, and the sixteenth century Renaissance revealed its incomparable grandeur to the modern world. F. H. S.

## II.—POST-KIPLING.

It was probably inevitable that after the war somebody should arise to explain the new India to Englishmen. Much of this task is, of course, being done in the political field, but Mr. Wingfield-Stratford has endeavoured to put into verse his thoughts about past, present, and future India; and his views are as likely to be accepted by the present generation as were Mr. Kipling's by the past one, the main difference in their methods being that whereas Mr. Kipling spoke as an Anglo-Indian, Mr. Wingfield-Stratford speaks as an Englishman.

This author does not like the Anglo-Indian; he implies, indeed, that the official mind is ignorant of or indifferent to the greatness of India's past civilisation, and to the dignity of her present population; and it is as much as a teacher as a poet that he has written the first part of his book, called "India Through the Ages." He deals with Hinduism, Buddhism, and Mohammedanism, and illustrates their spirit by versifying legends or facts concerning them. Probably the subject-matter prevents his writing anything very notable, but he does better in Part II. of his book, "India Mystica." Here where the transcendent beauty of his theme offers unlimited scope, he has written some appealing poems, of which we like best "Sita to Rama" and "Moonrise in the Mountains." But he also shows, in things like "The Bishop and the Fakir" a delightful ease in satirical writing, a power which is memorably expressed in the last poem in the book, "L'Envoi" (A Club Litany):—

Merciful God, have pity on folk without a soul!
I mean the Johnson Smiths and Mrs. Pogson Clarke
And Sir Pontius Pilate and Colonel Moale,
Who walk about at noonday in the dark,

And then play bridge because they lack the vital spark,
And if they talk discuss some bunker-guarded hole. . .
O Lord, deliver me from Mrs. Pogson Clarke
And Sir Pontius Pilate and Colonel Moale!

Perhaps a fellowship at King's and four and a half years' service with the Territorials in India make this kind of thing inevitable, but how much more refreshing it is, say, than Keynes's "Economic Consequences of the Peace"! We would not be so rash as to say that writing like this proclaims Mr. Wingfield-Stratford a poet; it is not, indeed, as poetry that this book should be appreciated, but rather as a philosophy which atempts to show the true way of dealing with India. Of the author's sincere love for both England and India there is evidence on every page, and it is really his ardent desire to see the cultures of the two countries harmonised that has produced this book. "India," then, is scarcely good poetry, but it is good, readable matter. If those who believe in "East is East, and West is West" and similar bygone jingles read this book, they may not agree with our verdict; but the possession of the world is not with those who desire stationary epochs.

There is a preface to "India," written by the Rai Pandit Radhakrishna Bahadur, whose remarks are chiefly upon the universal importance and influence of Indian civilization.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Quatrains of Omar Khayyám." A new translation by O. A. Shrubsole. (London, E. Marlborough and Co., 51, Old Bailey, E.C.; 2s. 6d. wrapper; 3s. 6d. cloth).

Handbooks prepared under the direction of the Historical Section of the Foreign Office:—No. 57, "Mohammedan History," 3s.; No. 58, "Turkey in Asia," 6d.; No. 59, "Anatolia," 3s.; No. 60, "Syria and Palestine," 3s. 6d.; No. 67, "China," 3s.; No. 68, "Mongolia," 1s.; No. 69, "Manchuria," 2s.; No. 70, "Tibet," 2s.; No. 71, "Kiaochow and Weihaiwei," 1s. 6d.; No. 73, "Japan," 2s. 6d. (Published by H.M. Stationery Office.)

"Allenby's Final Triumph." By W. T. Massey. (London: Constable and Co. 21s. net.)

"Small Holding and Irrigation. The New Form of Settlement in Palestine." By Dr. S. E. Soskin. (London: Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 2s. net.)

"Die Herkunft und Geschichte des arischen Stammes." By Karl Georg Zschaetzsch. (Nicholasee, Berlin: Arier-Verlag. 25s.)

"Memoirs of the Count de Rochechouart 1788-1822, in France, Southern-Russian, in the Napoleonic Wars, and as Commandant of Paris." Authorised translation by Frances Jackson. (London: John Murray. 16s. net.)

"The Asiatic Review," October Double Number. (London: Asiatic Review. 5s. net.)

"Women of India." By Otto Rothfeld. With 48 coloured illustrations by M. V. Dharandhar (London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent and Co. 30s. net.)

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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**TO-DAY.**

October 7 (New Style).
September 24 (Old Style).
Moharram 24, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tishri 25, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Maharaja of Alwar is staying at Cromer for a short time.

Lord Oranmore and Browne has left 12, Cavendish Place for Dublin.

Field-Marshal Lord Plumer left Malta last week for a fortnight's holiday in Sicily.

Sir Henry and Lady Bax-Ironside have returned to 23, Grosvenor Place from Ireland.

The Crown Prince of Sweden will shortly spend a holiday in Southern Europe, probably in Greece and Italy.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (September 22):—
Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Clarke have returned to Belgrade.
Commander Diggle, R.N., has left Belgrade for Rome.
Princess Helena Karageorgevitch, sister of H.R.H. the Crown Prince Regent, is staying at Ilidzhe, near Sarajevo.

Mrs. Elliadi, wife of Captain C. M. Elliadi, of Athens, gave birth to a daughter (Theodora Emily) on September 6.

Sir Solomon Bandaranaike, C.M.G., native A.D.C. to the Governor of Ceylon, has left the Royal Palace Hotel for Ceylon.

M. Gennadius, Honorary Greek Minister, and Mme. Gennadius have returned to London from their tour in Brittany and Normandy.

M. Michel Gavrilovitch, Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, arrived in London on October 4 from Belgrade.

Major-General Torquhil Matheson left for India last week. All correspondence should be addressed care of Messrs. Cox and Co., bankers, Bombay.

The Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires last week had an interview with Sir William Clark, Controller-General of the Department of Overseas Trade.

General Ironside has proceeded to Mesopotamia to take over a divisional command under General Haldane, Commander-in-Chief of the British forces there.

Our Athens Correspondent writes (September 18):—
The Minister of Agriculture, M. Cafandaris, has proceeded to Paris on leave.
The High Commissioner for Greece in Smyrna, M. Sterghiadis, has returned to that town from Athens.
The Commander-in-Chief of the Greek Army, General Paraskevopoulos, has returned to Smyrna after spending a few days in Athens.

Viscount Milner, Secretary of State for the Colonies, has appointed Mr. A. C. C. Parkinson, of the Colonial Office, to be his Private Secretary, in succession to Mr. H. C. Thornton, who has been appointed a Crown Agent for the Colonies.

Mr. E. C. Ramsbottom, of the Ministry of Labour, will shortly proceed to Bombay to assist in organising a new Labour Department which the Bombay Government has decided upon in view of the frequency of strikes in the Presidency.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (September 26):—
Dr. Ante Manditch, who was well known in London as a prominent member of the Yugoslav Committee in 1918, has arrived in Belgrade.
M. Theodore Emandi, the new Roumanian Minister, has arrived in Belgrade. His predecessor, M. Langa Rascano, has left for Bucharest.
Colonel Fehler, the well-known Swiss military correspondent, has arrived in Belgrade to inspect the battlefields of Serbia. He has already published one work on the Serbian front, which he will shortly supplement by an additional detailed and well-illustrated monograph.
Dr. J. Cvijitch (Tsviyich), Rector of the University of Belgrade, the distinguished geographer and ethnologist, and Member of the Plebiscite Commission for Tselovats (Klagenfurt), has sufficiently recovered from his recent illness to leave for Carlsbad to convalesce.

M. Stambolisky, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, who is due to arrive in London on October 9, will stay at the Bulgarian Legation. His programme, according to present arrangements, will include a week's stay in London, and visits to Birmingham, Manchester, and Glasgow. He will also visit two agricultural colleges. M. Stambolisky will be accompanied during his stay in England by Dr. Stancioff, who reached London earlier in the week. Dr. Stancioff was formerly Bulgarian Minister in Paris, and his name is mentioned in connection with the London post, which has yet to be filled.

The officers who served with Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby on the G.H.Q. Palestine Staff in 1917-18 dined on September 28 at the Café Royal, Regent Street. Viscount Allenby presided, and among those present were Major-Generals Sir Louis Bols, Sir Walter Campbell, Sir John Adye, Sir Arthur Money, Sir R. H. Luce, C. P. Dawnay, and E. R. C. Butler; Brigadier-Generals W. H. Bartholomew and F. Gascoigne; Captain W. B. Macdonald, R.N.; Colonels Sir Graham Bowman-Manifold, E. M. Paul, B. T. Buckley, G. F. Davies, and G. E. Badcock; Lieut.-Colonels T. E. Lawrence of the Hejaz, Norman Coates, C. de Paravicini, R. C. Jellicoe, A. H. Clive Davies, Lord Dalmeny, H. V. Bagshawe, and H. H. Andrew; the Rev. P. N. Waggett, Major Alan Dawnay, and Captain Raymond Savage, who acted as Military Secretary to Lord Allenby in Palestine, and who organised the dinner.

The following are among the decorations and medals awarded by the Allied Powers at various dates to the British Forces for distinguished services rendered during the course of the campaign. The King has given unrestricted permission in all cases to wear the decorations and medals in question:—

**CONFERRED BY THE KING OF THE HELLENES.**

Order of King George I.—Commander: Hon. Brig.-Gen. R. C. Boyle, C.B., C.M.G., retd. pay. Officer: Lt.-Col. B. J. Ward, T.D., Essex R. (T.F.). Chevalier: Lt. (temp. Capt.) S. Ades, R.F.A. (T.F.); Lt. F. R. Sanderson, O.B.E., R.F.A. (T.F.)

**CONFERRED BY THE KING OF ROUMANIA.**

Order of the Crown of Roumania (with Swords).—Grand Cross: Lt.-Gen. Sir W. N. Congreve, V.C., K.C.B., M.V.O. Grand Officer: Maj.-Gen. Sir G. F. Gorringe, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O. Officer: Maj. B. R. W. Beor, O.B.E., R.A. Chevalier: Lt. R. P. Bolton, 5th Bn., N. Staffs. R. (T.F. Res.); Capt. U. E. C. Carnegy, D.S.O., M.C., 3rd Dn. Gds.

**CONFERRED BY THE KING OF THE HEJAZ.**

Order of "El Nahda" (2nd Class).—Lt.-Col. H. D. Pearson, D.S.O., Ret. Pay, late R.E.; Brevet Lt.-Col. (temp. Brig.-Gen.) A. P. Wavell, C.M.G., M.C., R. Highrs.; (3rd Class) Capt. N. H. P. Whitley, M.C., 7th Bn., Manch. R. (T.F.).; Maj. E. Earl Winterton, T.D., Suss. Yeo. (T.F. Res.).

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. Dohajsky has been appointed First Secretary to the Czecho-Slovak Legation in London.

M. Max Lobkovitch has been appointed Second Secretary to the Czecho-Slovak Legation in London.

Sir Harrington Verney Lovett, K.C.S.I., has been elected Reader in Indian History at Oxford University.

It is understood in Paris that M. J. A. Defrance will shortly be appointed French Ambassador at Constantinople.

Dr. T. W. Arnold, C.I.E., who succeeded Sir Charles Mallett as Secretary for Indian Students, has been appointed to be whole-time Professor of Arabic at the London School of Oriental Studies.

M. Vojtech Mastny, the newly appointed Czecho-Slovak Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James, with Mme. Mastny, will arrive in London this week from Prague to take up his diplomatic duties.

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## OBITUARY.

### THE LATE DR. CUFFEY.

The report for 1919 of the British Hospital at Port Said contains the following appreciation of the services of the late Dr. Cuffey:—

"It is with the deepest regret that, at the very time when this report was being prepared, a sad blow fell on the committee, the staff, and all those concerned in the activities of the British Hospital. For some time past our principal medical officer had been ailing, but his cheeriness and activity had prevented any of his colleagues from imagining that he was so near his end. On February 25 he passed away very suddenly, and no one who had known him could help feeling the deepest regret at so able and popular a man having been thus cut off in his prime.

For upwards of twenty years Dr. Cuffey had been the heart and soul of the hospital, and it is due in no small measure to his energy and enthusiasm that the present hospital was built, to replace the old bungalow in which he had for so many years upheld the true traditions of healing and curing the sick."

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

Japan is establishing Legations in Greece and Poland.

Yugoslavia ratified the treaty of peace with Austria on September 30.

French troops, states a Casablanca message, entered Wazzan on October 2.

Turkish Nationalist newspapers announce the arrival of the Soviet envoy, Comrade Iliava, at Angora from Baku.

On October 1 1,800 drivers and conductors on the Calcutta tramways struck work, demanding a 50 per cent. increase in wages.

The first number of the *Evreiski Golos* (Jewish Voice) has appeared in Batoum. The paper is the organ of the Zionist Federation in Batoum.

H.M.S. Emperor of India arrived at Smyrna on September 26 with Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Webb, High Commissioner in Constantinople, on board.

Special postage stamps have been brought into use during the plebiscite now in progress in Carinthia, which lies between German-Austria and Yugoslavia.

Mr. Israel Cohen, the emissary of the Zionist World organisation, has completed a short propaganda tour in New Zealand, during which he raised £20,000 for the Palestine Restoration Fund.

Rear-Admiral Dumesnil, who was recently appointed commander of the Cruiser Division of the French Eastern Mediterranean naval squadron, left Toulon on September 26 to take up his new post.

At a meeting of the Yugoslav Cabinet on September 28 under the presidency of the Regent, the Adriatic question was discussed, and instructions were drafted for the delegates to the forthcoming conference with Italy.

Turkish Nationalists were to assemble at Erzerum on October 1, under the presidency of Mustapha Kemal Pasha, to decide whether they should direct all their forces towards Transcaucasia and Mesopotamia, or attack the Greeks in the Smyrna region.

The Armenian Government has sent a telegram to M. Chicherin, Bolshevist Commissary for Foreign Affairs, protesting against the hostile operations of Bolshevist troops in Armenia regardless of the preliminary Peace Treaty signed at Tiflis on August 10.

According to the *Neue Freie Presse*, the population of a part of the Carinthia plebiscite area intends to submit to the Inter-Allied Plebiscite Commission a petition for the dispatch of four battalions of British troops as a guarantee of fair play, in view of a possible Yugoslav *Putsch*.

The War Office reports that a French punitive column in the Hauran defeated and completely dispersed a rebel concentration on September 14; three guns and six machine-guns were left behind by the Arabs in their flight. The Hauran chiefs are now reported to have made peace with the French.

Our Athens Correspondent writes (September 18):—According to information supplied by the Statistics Department of the Ministry of National Economy, 3.573 foreigners entered Greece during the first six months of 1920. Of these 609 were British, 559 American, and 454 French, the remainder being of various other nationalities.

At a sale held at Messrs. Harmer, Rooke, and Co.'s Fleet Street auction rooms on October 2, says *The Times*, £340 was realised for a complete set of twenty-five of the Baghdad occupation stamps. Only fifty-nine sets were issued, but it is doubtful whether half of these are now in existence, as many were bought at the post offices by soldiers, who had little idea of their value.

## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1920.


## THE LITTLE ENTENTE.

The understandings recently concluded by Czecho-Slovakia with Yugoslavia and Roumania—the first piece of constructive statesmanship since the war—throw an interesting light on the trend of events in South-Eastern Europe. The form taken by the combination is that of an alliance between Czecho-Slovakia and Yugoslavia, and an Entente between the former and Roumania, which allows the two allies to count upon Roumanian assistance in the event of any attempt by Hungary to infringe the Treaty. M. Benes, the Czecho-Slovak Minister for Foreign Affairs, was the prime mover in the creation of the "Little Entente," as it is generally termed, and his official statement to his fellow-countrymen of the reasons that prompted the understanding has been accepted as a full and accurate explanation. The Little Entente provides for the encirclement of Hungary. That country, declared M. Benes, after emphasising the desire of Czecho-Slovakia to maintain friendly relations with its neighbour, is at present the disturbing element of Central Europe; it has been the least changed by the war, and is still governed by the oligarchy which was in the main responsible for the war. He aimed at achieving security for Czecho-Slovakia, and this object had been attained by the understandings with Yugoslavia and Roumania. It was, moreover, in the interests of the Great Allied Powers that Central Europe should not be at the mercy of unforeseen events, and this immunity again would be secured by the Little Entente, which, while maintaining existing treaties, would render impossible new confederations and the restoration of the former monarchy. The alliance between Czecho-Slovakia and Yugoslavia, it goes without saying, looks eastwards only. It was formed under the menace of a Bolshevist seizure of Poland and the necessity for the Czecho-Slovaks to be safeguarded against Hungarian aggression if they should ever find themselves in difficulties on their north-eastern frontiers. There is no reason to suppose that Czecho-Slovakia intended to influence the dispute between Yugoslavia and Italy, although the knowledge of this Slav block, it would be imagined, would tend to make Italy more anxious than before to live in friendly relations with her neighbours across the Adriatic. In the case of Roumania there were difficulties in the way of a hard-and-fast alliance which did not confront Yugoslavia. The olive-branch had already been held out to Hungary, with whom it is entirely in Roumania's interests to establish a good understanding; simultaneously to conclude an alliance directed solely against the Magyars would not be calculated to predispose the latter to sweet reasonableness, although there was no reason why Roumania should not pledge herself to defend the Treaty of Peace. At the same time, it is evident that the Roumanian Government is anxious to retain for itself more freedom than would be compatible with a hard-and-fast alliance with only one or two of the neighbouring States.

While a good case can be made out by the three States concerned for hurrying through an agreement which offers protection against all possible developments in Hungary, there has clearly not yet been time for the peoples or Governments of South-Eastern Europe to determine the precise form that the new political orientation necessitated by the war is to take. Most of the statesmen of these countries have refrained from committing themselves on the subject. M. Take Jonescu, the Roumanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, however, has been the exception, and he has made some emphatic pronouncements on the subject of Roumania's foreign relations. As far as can be judged, his policy for the present does not go beyond the maintenance of the situation created by the war. Roumania is to strengthen the ties that bind her to her Allies, and all late enemies are to be kept severely in their places. He did not favour a definite alliance with Czecho-Slovakia unless it embraced Poland and Greece. M. Take Jonescu will have nothing to do with a Balkan Confederation, mainly on the ground that both Roumania and Yugoslavia now reach into Central Europe, and cannot, therefore, be relegated into an exclusively Balkan orbit. A Confederation on this account he rules out of court, and would have instead, according to a statement attributed to him by a Press representative, defensive alliances between the five victorious States—Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Czecho-Slovakia, and Poland—stretching from the Baltic to the Mediterranean. "Into such an alliance," he added, "the vanquished States—Austria, Hungary, and Bulgaria—would be accepted with pleasure provided that, like ourselves, they consider the Treaties of Peace as definitive." Perhaps the first thing that will strike the student of political affairs in this enunciation of Roumania's policy is the implied admission that the smaller States of Europe will still have to trust to their own might for their mutual protection. The efficacy of the League of Nations, it is to be feared, finds few enthusiastic believers in South-Eastern Europe; yet if ever that fine conception was to justify the ink and words devoted to it, we should have expected it to have a very real significance for small States. M. Take Jonescu is too practical a statesman to imagine that anything but force or the show of it can secure permanency for the settlement evolved by the Supreme Council, and for this reason he ranks high the necessity of those who imposed the settlement holding together in order to enforce it. The view, coming from such a quarter, commands respect; the only thing likely to invalidate it is that the future of South-Eastern Europe should turn on economic rather than on political considerations.

European statesmanship, to say nothing of the League of Nations, must be bankrupt indeed if the main energies of the Near Eastern States have to be devoted at this moment to safeguarding themselves against aggression on the part of Austria, Hungary and Bulgaria. Fortunately all that is known of two of these three countries suggests that the fears on which such action might be based are groundless. Hungary may possibly try to regain by astute diplomacy something of what she has lost by war; but if her strength in this sphere is at all formidable, mere military conventions will hardly avail to lessen the danger. As far as can be judged, the only peril that threatens the countries of South-Eastern Europe comes from within in the form of unrest occasioned by economic pressure. Even if there be no direct connection with Russian Bolshevism, the existence of this active agency at the gate is always an incentive to such unrest. For the moment Red Russia's capacity for military expeditions in new directions is practically exhausted; but there is ample evidence that few opportunities for Soviet propaganda are lost. In these circumstances it would be well if all the Near Eastern States could devote less time to foreign affairs and concentrate all their attention on the arduous and complicated task of economic reconstruction. To insist upon the maintenance of the different treaties savours of beating the air, as the Allies are numerous enough and strong enough to ensure that no treaty can be modified without their consent. The suggestion that the concentrated wisdom of all time was to be met with in Paris during the Conference, which General Smuts described as "a seething cauldron of human passions and greed," and that consequently every treaty must remain for ever in its entirety as sacrosanct as the laws of the Medes and Persians, will not commend itself to any thinking man. No treaty is to be evaded by the country on which it has been imposed; but whether individual clauses may have to be modified by the Allies in the light of subsequent events or of fuller knowledge is a question that may safely be left to the good sense of

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the Allied Powers or the League of Nations. In the meantime that Government will have deserved well of Europe which has been strong enough to assure its people that, as a result of the war, they can leave foreign affairs to take care of themselves, and may concentrate wholly on building up the material prosperity of the State. Old-time methods of production will no longer suffice; and old-time methods of administration will assuredly cause the richest country to fall behind in the economic struggle, even if they do not provoke the internal upheaval which is a possibility—and not a remote one—for every country to-day.

## THE PRIME MINISTER OF BULGARIA.

Monsieur Alexander Stambolisky, the Prime Minister of Bulgaria, who will arrive in London this week at the invitation of the British Government, is 41 years of age; he is powerfully built, and is, in every sense of the world, a strong man. Born in 1879, at Slavovitza, in the district of Tatar Pazarjik, he had to rely on his native village for his primary education, but afterwards attended the Gymnasium of Plevna. Subsequently he spent a short time in Germany, where he studied agriculture and political economy. On his return in 1899 to Bulgaria he began to write for agrarian publications, and in 1902 became editor of the "Agrarian Standard" (*Zemledelsko Znamé*), the official organ of the Bulgarian Agrarian League, a post which he held until the outbreak of the war. In 1908 he entered Parliament, and in 1911 was elected Deputy for the Great Sobranje (National Assembly) at Tirnova. It was in connection with the latter that he first came into clash with King Ferdinand, by protesting, in the name of the Agrarian Party, against the King's presence at the Assembly, and by opposing the amendment to the Constitution conferring on the King powers to conclude secret treaties. After the Balkan wars, M. Stambolisky again became prominent for his denunciation of Ferdinand as the author of the country's misfortunes. On September 17, 1915, he was one of the Opposition leaders who had asked for audience of the King in an endeavour to detach the Government from the Germanophil policy which it had espoused. They demanded a Coalition Government, and protested vehemently against any agreement being made with the Central Powers. M. Stambolisky on this occasion was characteristically outspoken, and did not hesitate to warn Ferdinand that the chief responsibility for the calamitous consequences which must ensue would fall on him personally. The warning elicited the retort that Stambolisky would do well to have a care for his own head. Before the end of the month he was arrested and sentenced by court-martial to imprisonment for life. Three years later he was pardoned at the instance of the Malinoff Cabinet, and on the same date, September 25, was summoned to the Palace for a second audience of the King, at which he showed that he held the same views as strongly as before. The following day he left for the Macedonian front, and three days later was proclaimed as an outlaw. He succeeded in escaping arrest, and was with the troops who mutinied and marched against Sofia as soon as the Allied offensive began. For a brief space King Ferdinand tried to stem the tide with the help of German troops, and his action convinced M. Stambolisky that only in a republic would Bulgaria find salvation. Meanwhile the situation in the capital developed along different lines. King Ferdinand abdicated, and Prince Boris, who inherits all the good qualities of his French mother, the Princess Marie Louise of Bourbon, and had no sympathy with his father's policy, came to the throne. A formal amnesty was granted to M. Stambolisky by the Sobranje in January, 1919, and he entered the Cabinet of M. Theodoroff, whom he succeeded as Prime Minister prior to the signing of the Treaty of Neuilly.

M. Stambolisky's tenure of office has been characterised by considerable firmness. He has made a bold stand for a scrupulously correct observance of the terms of the treaty imposed on Bulgaria; and is entitled to credit for the smoothness with which the Greek occupation of the ceded territory in Thrace was effected. Symptoms of internal unrest, as in the case of the strike on the Bulgarian Railways, have been dealt with sternly; and in these matters the Prime Minister has the good sense of the nation behind him. He advocates the doctrine that Bulgaria should devote herself single-mindedly to economic recuperation, and with this object in view has introduced the conscription of labour, a measure which compels all sections and classes of the people to devote a certain portion of the year to practical manual work. In forming an exclusively Agrarian Cabinet, M. Stambolisky has added to the difficulties of his task, as much of the legislation introduced has been

of an experimental kind. He has shown, however, that he neither fears criticism nor hesitates to profit by it.

M. Stambolisky is a warm partisan of Great Britain, and has set his face against the tendency of some of his fellow-countrymen to abandon their British sympathies on the ground that the British Government is primarily responsible for the harshness of the terms imposed upon Bulgaria. He desires to convince the Allies that the Bulgarians are not hankering after political adventures and that, while prepared to defend their national claims, they now realise that their salvation lies in promoting the economic prosperity of the country. M. Stambolisky is particularly anxious to interest British capital in certain development schemes to which his Government is committed. During his stay in England he will make a tour of some of the chief industrial centres. It is hoped in Bulgaria that his visit will be the precursor of the visit of King Boris to England. This wish, there is reason to believe, is strongly shared by M. Stambolisky, who has had opportunity to realise the advantages of a constitutional monarchy under an able and constitutionally-minded monarch.

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# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

### Russia and the East.

The *Yorkshire Post* of September 25 does well to lay stress upon Russia as the most important factor in any consideration of Eastern questions, for there is a tendency to forget that all recent settlements in the Middle East were made at a time when Russia's influence was at a discount. After looking at Turkish Asia Minor, Persia, and Mesopotamia, it says:—

A careful examination of these disturbed areas reveals one country and one doctrine as largely responsible for most of the trouble. That country is Russia, and that doctrine Bolshevism. If we imagine Russia eliminated, we see at once how the existing troubles, not only in Poland, but in Asia Minor, Persia, and even Mesopotamia, would diminish, or even disappear, with the removal of this great disturbing element. It is well known that besides the actual military pressure which Red Russia is exercising in some of these regions, a very pronounced Bolshevist propaganda campaign is being prosecuted in all of them and throughout the entire East. This campaign is particularly directed against the British Empire, for it is clearly recognised in Russia that we, as the greatest of Eastern Powers, stand in the direct road of advance of Bolshevism in those regions which the directors of its policy have specially marked out for its spread. In India, Afghanistan, Persia, and Mesopotamia, as well as in the highlands of Turkestan, on the shores of the Caspian, and in the Nile Valley and the Arabian deserts, it is against the British Empire—which has a more or less direct interest in all these regions—that the Bolshevists' chief efforts are directed. That dangerous firebrand, Enver Pasha, is said to have been present at a recent conference at Baku, and to have been given the command of the Bolshevist forces in the Middle East, and it is known that relations have long been established between Russian Bolshevism and Turkish Nationalism. It is probable that the results of this co-ordination of the efforts of two such distinct creeds may be apparent before long in Anatolia, where Mustapha Kemal has been unusually quiet for some time, and it must be remembered that the winter is especially favourable for military operations in certain Eastern countries.

If a peaceful solution is found with Poland, we may expect to see greater efforts put forth against General Wrangel, whose operations are beginning to constitute a grave danger to the Soviet Government; and also in Persia and Trans-Caucasia; and a combination of Red Russians with the more disorderly elements in these parts will certainly react upon the situation in Cilicia, Syria, and Mesopotamia. It is in these directions, rather than in India or Afghanistan, that developments may be expected, although frontier troubles are sure to occur upon the Indian North-West frontier. In such a situation, which more or less directly affects all the Western Allies, it is important that they go hand in hand, and that not only British but Allied policy be firmly determined and consistently pursued. It is not necessary to make any sudden departure or adopt any sweeping measures. It may not be advisable for us to create a separate Government department to deal with the Middle East, as is advocated in certain quarters, but what is essential is a clear understanding of local conditions, a recognition that Russia is the key to the situation in the East, and the prosecution by all the Allies of a firm policy based upon these facts.

### Mesopotamia.

In the *British Empire Review* for September there is an article upon "Our Eastern Mandates," by Mr. Roland L. M. Michell, C.M.G. He comments upon the various regions over which a British mandate is being exercised, and concludes in a manner rather different from what has now become the fashionable one:—

That there has been some blundering, want of tact, and over-officialism, here and there, on the part of young and inexperienced men is likely enough. But so far from blaming our officers, either military or civilian, we should give the greatest credit to Colonel Wilson and his colleagues, who have been upholding, under very trying circumstances, both native and British interests and prestige. Much progress has been made in every department, and the summoning of Arab representatives, in order to form an organic law for the new State, has been an honest attempt to fulfil our promises. There is no justification for the late attacks on the home Government, which have been largely misdirected. The road to peace is not through abandonment of our trust. We can hope that Sir Percy Cox, who is accompanied by Mr. St. J. Philby, will exert, with the best effect, that influence which he so eminently possesses. All parties are averse to military commitments or expenditure which are not absolutely necessary; but there can be no question that the risings should be quelled, and as much self-government as possible be given to the people. How far they can govern themselves at present remains to be seen. We shall, of course, in any case retain whatever territory north of the Persian Gulf is needed; but, even so, withdrawal would almost certainly mean a long-continued state of discord and tribal warfare. If the Government, which is in possession of much information not accessible to the public, continues to pursue a firm, sympathetic, and far-sighted policy, in fulfilment of our mandates, it should receive the full support of the nation.

### Articles to Note.

"Quo Vadis in India," by Lord Meston; and "Some Sidelights on Dalmatia," by Lucy Re-Bartlett, in the *Contemporary Review* (October).

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101. A correspondent in Lagos, Nigeria, wishes to get into touch with manufacturers of Arab red fez caps.

103. An Athens firm invites publishers of periodicals dealing with yarns (reports on local markets and world output) and cottons to send specimen copies with a view to its becoming a permanent subscriber.

104. A Greek firm is establishing an electric light station in Macedonia, and wishes to get into touch with firms dealing in the necessary machinery.

105. Engineering and general contractor in Mosul, Mesopotamia, wishes to get into touch with manufacturers in Great Britain.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

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The public proceedings of the Brussels Financial Conference, which have been devoted to receiving and discussing statements as to the position of the various nations and to general debates on public finance, have not been calculated to inspire any overwhelming confidence in the success of the Conference's mission. Still, as the real work of the delegates is being done in private by a system of committees it would perhaps be going too far to draw a generally unfavourable conclusion from the character of the debates. Speaking generally, the discussions were distinguished by few outstanding contributions. The doctors, to lapse into metaphor, did not differ as to the nature of the disease from which their patient is suffering, but there were marked divergences as to the remedy, and one of the physicians, indeed—the unofficial representative of America—seemed to be of the opinion that the illness had been allowed to go too far. He believed, he said, that Americans would find it difficult to convince themselves that Europe under present conditions was a good business risk. And yet Americans since the Armistice have simply been tumbling over one another to secure contracts and trade in the Near East and other zones of war-swept Europe.

***

On the debate on international credit, which came late in the public session, a really constructive note was touched when M. Delacroix, the Belgian Prime Minister, propounded a scheme for the exchange of commodities between countries on a basis which would enable the adverse exchanges to be ignored. Suggestions somewhat similar to those of M. Delacroix were made later in the discussion by M. C. E. ter Meulen, a Dutch representative, who proposed that the credits necessary for commerce should be secured on revenues in the importer's country. Something on these lines will clearly have to be done, for no one can tell when the exchanges will be stabilised at reasonable levels, and pending that longed-for event means must be found to enable trade to be carried on if Europe is not to be faced with absolute disaster. And the most obvious course would seem to be a system of barter based on some form of credit. On a small scale that is already being carried on in certain cases, but its adequate extension must obviously be a matter for international arrangement. It should be possible to crystallise the two proposals into a workable scheme, and there seems to be ground for hope that whatever else the conference fails to do a satisfactory solution will be forthcoming of the credit problem.

***

Hitherto, conditions have been such that a revival of the tourist traffic to Egypt on anything approaching pre-war lines has been obviously an impossibility. The lack of shipping accommodation alone has been an insuperable obstacle. While the position in this respect is still far from normal, there has been a pronounced improvement, and it is evident that as far as the obtaining of passages is concerned, would-be tourists should find no difficulty in visiting Egypt next year. There is, however, the all-important question of fares. The present rates would absolutely prevent the development of any considerable tourist traffic, but as shipping companies are not immune from the law of supply and demand, I imagine that this factor may bring about a decrease in the cost of passages.

***

I have often had occasion to emphasise the point that the position of British traders in attempting to develop commerce with countries like Morocco is immensely strengthened by the fact that the United Kingdom is in a position to take almost unlimited quantities of the produce of these countries. A notable indication of the development of trade on this reciprocal basis is afforded by the announcement of the consignment to the United Kingdom from Morocco of a cargo of about two and a-half million eggs. This is to be the first of a series of regular consignments of similar quantities. As the eggs can be delivered here speedily it follows that a satisfactory market for them is assured.

***

Companies such as the Smyrna-Aidin Railway operating in areas where there have been considerable territorial readjustments as the result of the war, are inevitably faced with new problems. Lord St. Davids, presiding at the recent meeting of this company, pointed out that before the war the railway only had the Turkish Government to deal with, but now they had to negotiate with Governments having special interests in different parts of the territory in which the line is situated. Still, the difficulties, such as they are, should prove readily capable of solution in the case of this company. It is in the interests of all the authorities concerned to do everything to promote the rapid development of commerce, and that provides an ample guarantee that transport facilities are not likely to be hampered by restrictions.

***

In view of the fact that the home market has been largely in the hands of foreign cinematograph film manufacturers it is not a matter of surprise that British films should have been conspicuous by their absence abroad, particularly in the Near Eastern countries. But now that British firms are showing signs of greater enterprise in meeting foreign competition it may perhaps not be untimely to point out to them that throughout the Near East they will find an admirable market for their productions, particularly in countries like Egypt and Turkey, if only they will take the trouble to study the types of films that appeal in the regions in question. The scope of the market may be gathered from the fact that a centre like Smyrna has no fewer than nineteen cinemas, and the popularity of this form of entertainment in the Near East is such that in the near future it is certain that no town, however small, will be without its cinemas. Unquestionably the market is one that British producers cannot afford to neglect.

***

The fact that foreign film producers have practically monopolised the Near Eastern markets has naturally had a detrimental effect on British interests. Our competitors are fully alive to the value of the film for propaganda purposes, and they have utilised it greatly to their advantage, and will do so still more in the future unless British firms are to the fore with a counteracting influence. And if British producers are to offer a really effective opposition it must be by means of carefully selected films. Anything emphatically will not do. There have been instances of films intended for propaganda which must have had a directly contrary effect. If I were to judge by the films that have been shown in this country I should have little confidence that these mistakes would not be repeated, and that even worse *faux pas* would not be perpetrated. Most of them—certainly all the worst, however—hailed from abroad, and I am not without hope that British film manufacturers will prove equal to the demands of the position.

***

Remarkable progress was made by the Bank of Athens during the first six months of the present year. At the end of that period the balance-sheet showed an increase of 83,874,349 drachmæ, while the profits amounted to 13,805,000 drachmæ, thus surpassing the results for the whole of the previous twelve months. An interim dividend of 5 drachmæ is being paid on the ordinary shares, and 11,405,000 drachmæ are being carried forward.

COMMENTATOR.


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


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# Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

## GREECE.

ATHENS, September 18.

**Customs Receipts.**

The receipts of the Piræus Customs during August amounted to 5,658,962.85 drachmæ in paper and 279,656.50 drachmæ in gold. In comparison with the receipts during the corresponding period last year there is an increase this year of 1,543,634.55 drachmæ in paper and a decrease of 38,289.75 drachmæ in gold.

**The Housing Problem.**

Steps are at last being taken by the Government to cope with the housing problem in the capital. The Minister of Communications, M. Papanastasiou, has announced that a large company is about to be formed to undertake the construction of many houses to be sold against payment by yearly instalments. It is understood that the National Bank of Greece will be one of the principal shareholders in this company.

**Increased Tobacco Production.**

According to further information supplied by the Ministry of National Economy the total tobacco production during 1920 will reach twenty million okes. This figure, however, does not include the production in the islands of Samos and Chios and the provinces of Phtiotis and Phocis, for which no information is yet to hand. The production in the provinces of Serres, Drama, Kozani, and Argolida will exceed considerably that of last year.

**Good Wheat Crop in Thessaly.**

The latest news with regard to the crops of wheat in Thessaly is extremely reassuring. According to a telegram dispatched by the Commercial Club of Volo to the Ministry of Supplies, the production is so abundant this year that about sixty thousand tons will be available for export.

**Large Olive Oil Yield.**

With the exception of the island of Corfu this year's production of olive oil in Greece will be exceptionally abundant. In the island of Mitylene there has not been so much olive oil since 1900. In the province of Messinia the yield will reach 5,607,000 okes, last year's production having been only 1,700,000 okes.

The following are the forecasts for the production of olive oil for the whole of Greece (the figures representing okes): Lesvos, 17,900,000; Samos, 4,500,000; Crete, 35,500,000; Corfou, 3,000,000; Zante, 2,500,000; Arta, 50,000; Preveza, 200,000; Argolida and Corinth, 2,400,000; Achaia and Elida, 2,000,000; Arcadia, 900,000; Laconia, 3,000,000; Messinia, 5,600,000; Aetolia and Acarnania, 560,000; Phtiotis and Phocis, 2,500,000; and Eubœa, 1,500,000. There is no information to hand with regard to Jannina.

**The Lloyd Triestino and Patras.**

The Lloyd Triestino Steamship Company has notified by cable its agents in Patras that the company's boats will henceforth discontinue calling at that port. This measure was taken by the company as a protest against the high wages demanded by the port labourers at Patras.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, September 18.

**Arrival of a D.H.9.**

A few days ago a D.H.9 aeroplane from Messrs. Handley Page, Ltd., arrived in Bucharest from London. The time taken was sixteen hours' actual flying time, and the machine was piloted by Mr. H. H. Perry, who carried as a passenger Mr. R. Wright, joint manager of Messrs. Nasmyth, Wilson, and Co., Ltd., locomotive and general engineers, Manchester. The arrival of the aeroplane caused a little sensation in aviation circles, being the first aeroplane to arrive in Roumania in a commercial capacity.

**Rejected Kronen.**

During the withdrawal of the kronen in Transylvania a good many have been rejected by the Government as being falsely stamped, and this has caused no slight anxiety amongst the holders. The Ministry of Finance has since decided to accept only kronen bearing the Roumanian stamp, and those which are unstamped, or have been obviously falsely stamped in Austria and Hungary, are refused.

In view of the pending withdrawal of the Bessarabian roubles the Government decided to close the frontiers to prevent the smuggling of this currency into the country. The necessity for precautions is shown by the discovery of an attempt to smuggle two million roubles into the country at Constantza. All passengers entering the country are being strictly searched, their clothing being subjected to a minute examination. To encourage the officials a certain percentage is given for each rouble found, and one official is reported to have already received about 100,000 lei in this way.

**Austro-Roumanian Convention.**

In my last letter I gave the terms of this convention. I am now able to give a detailed list of the products which Roumania will be able to export to Austria, as well as those with which Austria will be able to furnish Roumania:—

Clause 1 gives the list of products which Roumania will export to Austria, provided internal requirements are satisfied and no further restrictions are imposed for assuring home consumption. Cereals, etc.: Luxury wheat and flour, maximum, 3,000 truckloads; rye, 3,500; barley, 7,500; oats, 6,000; maize, 12,000; millet, 1,000; potatoes, 1,000; 20,000 pigs; 600 oxen (Vienna consumes daily 400 oxen); five truckloads of eggs (in normal times Austria imported from Transylvania annually 100 truckloads of eggs); cheese, 100 wagons; wine, 500 wagons; summer fruit, 3,000 wagons; dry cherries, 100 wagons; dry prunes, 200 wagons; plum jam, 100 wagons. Oils, etc.: petrol, 48,000 tons; lamp oil, 72,000 tons; heavy oil, 18,000 tons; crude oil, 10,000 tons; lubricating oil, 2,000 tons; 4,000,000 hareskins; 1,000,000 deer and roe skins; horns, 100 wagons; bones, 500 wagons; lime, 100 wagons; vinegar, 30 wagons; methyl alcohol, 30 truckloads; and alcohol, 50 truckloads.

Clause 2 represents imports from Austria, and includes the following:—Metal Goods: Iron and metal articles, 500 wagons; wire, 60 wagons; truck axles, 30 wagons; zinc wire, 60 trucks; agricultural implements to the value of 200,000,000 crowns; various instruments to the value of 90,000,000 crowns; nails to the value of 10,000,000 crowns; scythes and sickles, 1,000,000 each; horseshoes to the value of 6,000,000 crowns; screws and rivets to the value of 30,000,000 crowns; wire for the petroleum industry, 100 wagons; tubes to the value of 25,000,000 lei; pipe elbows to the value of 24,000,000 crowns; armatures to the value of 12,000,000 crowns; bridges to the value of 24,000,000 crowns; iron sheets of various qualities, 40 wagons; kitchen utensils, 10 wagons; iron barrels, 5,000 pieces; railway sleepers, 10,000 tons; bridge sleepers, 10,000 tons; pumps and meters to the value of 300,000,000 crowns; binders and reapers to the value of 100,000,000 crowns; apparatus for drying maize, 100,000,000 crowns; ploughs and milling machines to the value of 100,000,000 crowns; ploughshares to the value of 50,000 crowns; 12,000,000 seeds; 4,000 sowing machines; 6,000 typewriters; rails to the value of 100,000,000 crowns; railway locks, stoves, iron, furniture, pen-nibs, alpaca, electric lamps; zinc sheets, 20 wagons; lead sheets, 20 wagons; copper, 100 wagons; lorries; 1,000 cisterns; 10 locomotives for narrow gauge; 500 passenger coaches; 100 mail-vans; 300 animal trucks; 150 trams, barges, tanks, tugboats, carriages, tractors, locomotives; tin, 10 wagons; industrial tin, 10 wagons; antimony, 5 wagons; motor-cars; metal bearings, 60 wagons; telegraph and telephone apparatus, electro-technical material, accumulators; 30,000 electric lamps for mines; cables and insulators, 800,000 metres; hosiery, thread, coloured threads, and draperies; hides, 100 wagons; leather soles; transmission belting, 50 wagons; 1,000,000 pairs boots; saddles, reins, etc.; paper, two wagons monthly; newspaper, 20 wagons monthly; writing-paper and stationery to the value of 40,000,000 crowns; cigarette and other kinds of paper; cardboard; copybooks; wallpaper; chemicals and drugs; dynamite for mines and pits; surgical instruments, etc.

The Austrians have agreed to pay all export taxes, and in exchange will reduce the export tax for newspaper, which they expect to send monthly. The convention expires on August 21, 1921.

**British Group and Railway Contracts.**

A few days ago negotiations were started at Cluj between an English commission and a Roumanian railway company

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which wishes to build a factory for locomotives and to construct new railway lines for Transylvania. The company intends to build a line to connect Roumania with Transylvania viâ the Nehoi Pass, the Predeal line being insufficient for the growing traffic. The Sibiu-Piatra-Olt railway project is also the subject of further discussion.

**Steaua Romana Developments.**

The "Steaua Romana" was freed on September 18 from sequestration, under which it has been since the entry of Roumania into the war, so that this company has now begun to resume its pre-war activity.

On the same day the Council of Administration was formed as follows: President, Prince Barbu Stirbey; vice-presidents, Sir Albert Gerald Stern and M. Champin; members: Messrs. Marmorosch, Blank and Co., represented by Mr. Mauriciu Blank; Banca Romaneasca, represented by Engineer N. P. Stefanescu; Banca de Credit; Banca Taraneasca; Banca Generala; Tarei Romanesti, represented by M. Victor Antonescu; Banca L. Bercovici and Co., represented by L. Mrazeca; the director of the Geological Institute; C. Osiceanu, mining engineer; M. I. Boamba; M. Anghel Saligny, engineer inspector-general; Banque de Paris et de Pays Bas, represented by two delegates; Bank Mirabeau, represented by M. Champin; Bank M. Mallet Frères and Co.; Ernest Mercier; Sir Albert Gerald Stern; Bank Stern Bros.; James Dunning and Co.; and Irving Watson, Wigan.

The council of administration, therefore, consists of ten foreigners and eleven Roumanians. The executive committee consists of eight members, namely, the president, the vice-presidents, one Englishman, one Frenchman, two Roumanians, and the general manager of the company, Engineer C. Osiceanu.

The above financial group have obtained the majority of the shares in this company, namely, 100,002 out of the 200,000, which constituted the capital of the company. The Roumanian group possess 50 per cent. of these 100,002 shares, whilst the English and French have 25 per cent. each.

The Council of Ministers has authorised the Ministry of Industry and Commerce to proceed with the stamping of the 100,002 shares of this company, which formerly belonged to enemy subjects, and existed as security in Switzerland. The above group bought these shares for 75,000,000 Swiss francs, which, together with expenses, brings the value of one share to about 800 Swiss francs.

**Oil Shares Soaring.**

The Stock Exchange has been very animated all through the week, there being an extraordinary boom in oil shares. Concordia and Credit Petrolifere shares have risen about 2,000 points in the last fortnight. Trade is improving despite the fact that prices are soaring, which is greatly due to the depreciation of the lei during the last few days. The pound has been fluctuating round about 170-180.

**Miscellaneous.**

Three first-class carriages are now being attached to the Simplon express between Bucharest and Temeshvar on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday of each week.

The Minister of Industry and Commerce has decided to establish Chambers of Commerce in Vienna and Berlin to ensure closer co-operation in business relations between Roumania, Austria, and Germany.

A decree-law has been passed authorising the issue of new certificates of Treasury Bonds, shares, and other valuable documents sent during the war to Moscow.

The average price of cereals at Braila during last week was as follows (the figures representing lei per 100 kilos):—Wheat, 100-139; maize, 120-135; barley, 125-140; oats, 100-115; rye, 115-125; millet, 85; beans, 150; rapeseed, 55; peas, 100-105; flax, 190.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, September 26.

**State Sugar Monopoly.**

The Government has decided to add sugar to the list of monopolised articles. It is stated that the annual consumption of sugar in Yugoslavia is about 80,000 tons, of which 15,000 are produced in the country from fourteen factories, and the balance has to be imported. The State will buy the product of these factories at a fixed price of seven dinars per kilo and place it on the market at a fixed price of eleven dinars. As this is considerably below the average market price at present, this will be an excellent thing, for the public will benefit by obtaining enough of the commodity at a reasonable and fixed price, while the State will benefit by an addition of about 160 million dinars to the revenue.

**Forged Dinar Notes.**

It is stated that the forged 1,000 dinar notes in circulation may be recognised not only by the distinct two violet shades in the colouring, but by the watermark, which in the forged notes has a larger head with a pointed nose, while in the real notes the nose is rounded. The paper of the forged notes is smoother and of finer quality than that of the real notes, which are coarser and more uneven.

**A Tax on Turnover.**

A financial novelty is the introduction of a tax on turnover, which took effect from September 25. It applies to all commercial undertakings, and the penalties for failing to comply with the regulations are a fine of 5,000 dinars, and the payment of the tax doubled.

**General News.**

The Minister of Finance states that the wheat crop amounts to 120,000 truckloads, and the yield of wheat and barley to 100,000 truckloads.


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| **PAID-UP CAPITAL** ... ... ... ... ... | **8,503,718** |
| **RESERVE** ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | **8,750,000** |
| **(30th JUNE, 1920).** | |
| **Current, Deposit and other Accounts** ... ... ... | **£322,646,306** |

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# GREEK CURRANTS.

## POOR CROP ESTIMATE.

Messrs. Burlumi's annual report, dated September 30, states:—Our last report was dated September 30, 1919, when we estimated the crop of currants, 1919-20, at about 125,000 tons. On August 11 last year the British Food Minister decided to re-impose control on dried fruits, and the Government brokers invited the importers to make their offers to them. This method of purchasing continued up to October 20 and about 50,000 tons of currants were shipped, out of which about 30,000 tons consisted of low rain-damaged quality masqueraded as produced in the well-known districts of Vostizza, Gulf, Patras, and Zante. The Food Ministry having fixed the prices of purchase of these growths, and being several shillings below the ruling price in Greece, the shippers in order to secure the orders had no alternative but to ship rubbish, in order to avoid a serious loss. These 50,000 tons were shipped, principally in bags, during the space of less than two months to the United Kingdom, when the Government suddenly ceased further purchases. Notwithstanding the low quality of the fruit the luckless consumers had to pay 1s. 2d. per lb. for their currants without discrimination of quality. This state of affairs lasted for several months, until the dried fruit trade had to protest very forcibly against the continuation of this senseless method of dealing in dried fruits.

The currants shipped to foreign countries were distributed as follows: United Kingdom, 70,000 tons, against 86,000 tons in 1918-19; United States and Canada, 28,000 tons, against 4,500 tons; Holland, 6,000 tons, against 2,000 tons; France and other parts of the world, 6,000 tons, against 7,500 tons; total, 110,000 tons, against 100,000 tons.

The privileged company received during the season in their warrant stores 8,500 tons, all of which had been withdrawn before the end of the season. No dried fruit had been offered to the company for purchase, the ruling market prices being always very much higher than the convention limits. In their retention stores the company received 7,500 tons, making 12,400 tons with the certificates in circulation on August 22, 1919. The land tax, in kind, at 7½ per cent. on the exported quantities, absorbed 7,400 tons and 5,000 tons represented by certificates in circulation have been carried over. The retention currants have been sold to the local distillers and to wine makers. About 8,000 tons of low-quality currants, unfit for export, have been disposed of locally for the same purpose. The stock of old sound fruit carried over to the present season is computed at about 3,000 tons. Deducting 1,000 tons of old fruit brought over from the previous season, 1918-19, we find that the crop of 1919 has yielded 127,500 tons against 125,000 tons in 1919 and 117,000 in 1917.

Although shipments of currants to the United Kingdom ceased after the Food Controller's notice on October 18 last to the end of control, which was notified to the trade on May 29, the steady demand from the United States continued unabated during the winter months for good sound quality at from 72s. to 80s. c. and f. New York, packed in barrels and half-cases. This phenomenal increase in importation of currants to the United States must be, to a great measure, attributed to wine-making for home use, since Congress prohibited by law the sale of intoxicating drinks.

Shipments to the United Kingdom were resumed in June, and the first cargoes arrived at the beginning of July by the s.s. Gourko in London and the s.s. Grodno in Liverpool. The fruit was found by the trade to be of excellent quality and far superior to any shipped early in the season, and large business was done at from 82s.-84s. for Amalias, 85s.-86s. for Patras, 88s.-90s. for Gulf in bags, up to 98s. for Vostizza in quarter cases. The market continued steady all through July and August.

The clearances for home consumption in the United Kingdom were not published for over three years and publication was only resumed lately, therefore it is difficult to find out the exact figures of distribution. Nevertheless some 63,000 tons must have been cleared from the beginning of September, 1919, to the end of August last, notwithstanding the atrocious quality of the fruit offered to the consumers. The stock of currants in the United Kingdom as returned by the Board of Trade at the end of August, 1920, was 13,650 tons against 8,500 tons in 1919 and 1,400 in 1918.

The new crop is estimated according to the latest news received from Greece at 85,000 to 90,000 tons. Although no peronosporos has attacked the vines this year the excessive and continuous heat which prevailed during the summer months has considerably affected the fruit, thus diminishing the yield by more than 30 per cent. compared with that of last year. Business in new crop currants has been small. Very few sales have taken place on c.i.f. terms, and what little has been done consisted of Pyrgos growth in bags at from 78s. to 80s. c.i.f. for early shipment.

The s.s. Phrygia with new fruit arrived in Liverpool on the 15th followed by the s.s. Thurso in London on the 20th inst. These cargoes consisted of Pyrgos and Amalias growths principally, and the prices paid were 88s. to 89s. for Pyrgos and 90s. to 91s. for Amalias in bags. A few parcels of Patras, also in bags, fetched 95s. to 97s. in Liverpool, all per cwt. duty paid. The reception of the new fruit has been most disappointing, both as regards prices and weight. The s.s. Coya has also arrived in London followed by the s.s. Crane with a good selection of Vostizza, Gulf, Patras, and Zante growths, but the transactions have been so small in volume, that it is not worth recording them. The quality of all growths without exception has given great satisfaction, and it is considered by the trade to be one of the best grown for many years.

The privileged company distributed to the ordinary shareholders for the year ended August 22, 1919, a dividend of 26 drachmæ per share, equal to a little over 10 per cent. on the capital, and to the founders 7.10 drachmæ per share. It paid the State £20,000 as a share out of the profits, and carried over about £77,000 excess duty profit for the years 1918-19. The retention for the current year has been fixed at 5 per cent. in kind and 30 per cent. in money.

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The Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., announce the appointment of Mr. David Wells Paterson and Mr. R. Roy Wilson as assistant general managers at head office.

The transfer books of the Aboukir Company, Ltd., will be closed from October 8 to 15, inclusive, for the preparation of the interim dividend of 8 per cent., payable October 15. Coupon No. 18 must be lodged at the offices, 134-135, Palmerston House, Bishopsgate, E.C., three clear days for examination.


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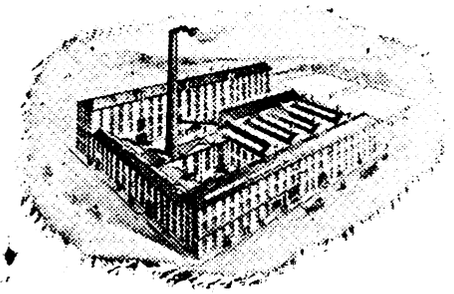

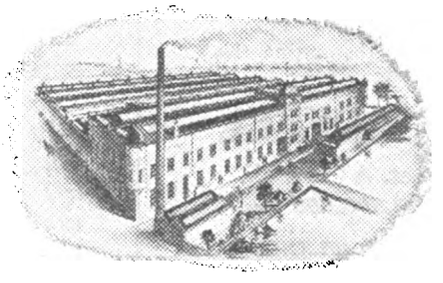

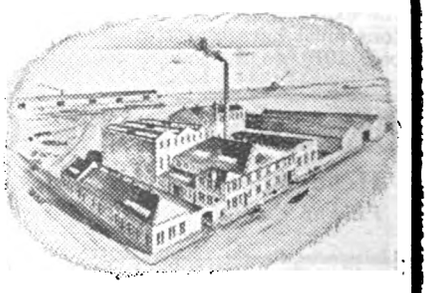

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## THE RUPEE POSITION.

### Suspension of Reverse Councils.

The announcement made last week that the Indian Government had suspended their offerings of sterling sales on London—commonly known as Reverse Councils—came as a surprise, and caused the Indian exchanges to fall sharply. In India the immediate effect was a drop of three-farthings, and although a slump to some extent was inevitable, it cannot be described as having caused a panic in the markets, in which terms one of our leading daily newspapers alluded to the fall.

It has been well known for some time that the weekly drain upon their resources in London to provide for Reverse Councils has been a source of anxiety to the Indian Government. Hopes had been entertained that a revived activity in exports would help to stiffen exchange and tend to relieve the necessity for sterling sales on London. Government themselves, however, have been responsible for a stoppage of exports with regard to wheat. During the monsoon months exports of grain from Karachi and Bombay usually require a large amount of tonnage, but this year Government imposed restrictions, which were only removed last week.

Fortunately, the wheat crop has proved the best since 1916, being considerably over ten million tons, so that the surplus available for outside consumption may be as much as one million tons. According to experts, this estimate is not excessive, although the wheat-eating population in the Punjab is on the increase. Government, no doubt, adopted a cautious policy in withholding permission to export wheat, as they naturally waited to see the result of this year's monsoon, and a free export of grain might have led to disaffection if local wheat prices had thereby been forced up. They are evidently satisfied that the situation justifies a removal of the embargo, and at a meeting held at Simla on September 27, they decided to allow 400,000 tons of wheat to be exported through the leading recognised shippers.

In mercantile and banking circles, it is expected that the financial arrangements required to enable this amount of wheat to be transported will so stimulate exchange that the recent setback will be fully recovered. Government no doubt would welcome any movement in this direction which would bring the rupee nearer the level of two shillings, which they are practically pledged to maintain. It would be foolish, however, to ignore certain factors in connection with exports which may influence the future of exchange.

The jute crop is shorter than usual this year, and will, therefore, require less money to handle it. The state of the tea industry is well known. Steps are now being taken to restrict the output, and there are several hundred thousand tons of common teas in the London warehouses which are absolutely unsaleable. The export of skins and hides from India is practically at a standstill, and stocks in this country are more than sufficient to meet all requirements for a long time. The monsoon is over, and, according to reliable estimates, results will show twelve annas only, which means that crops throughout the country will be no more than 75 per cent. of the normal.

India has, however, been blessed with a succession of good years, from which all classes have benefited, and although the immediate outlook for some industries may not be particularly bright, the business expansion in the country, which is rapidly growing, cannot be seriously retarded by temporary influences. The exchange question at the moment is a disturbing element in commercial relations; dealers decline to retire their bills because they have been led to expect a two-shilling rupee, and merchants look to Government for some guarantee. Stability in the exchange is the sure basis for satisfactory and successful trading, and it is to be hoped that a gradual return to normal conditions will place Indian exchange upon its proper level, although at the moment it is difficult to discern from which direction the stiffening influence may come.

GOLD MOHUR.

## THE MOTOR SHOW.

### Dunlop Rubber Company's Exhibits.

At the coming Motor Show, which opens on October 15, the Dunlop Rubber Company's exhibits, which will occupy one of the largest stands in the gallery, promise to be the most attractive in the tyre section, owing to their originality, diversity, and excellence. Those who mentally limit the scope of Dunlops to tyres and minor accessories only will be surprised to find that the company specialises in rims and wheels as well, and in the display of those component parts will be found new evidence of the enterprise that marks the management of this famous company.

Pneumatic tyres, whether giant or pigmy, require specially made rims, and in their application to commercial purposes it has been found desirable to devise special wheels for their fitment. In this development the company has taken a leading position. For giant pneumatics, a type that is destined to supplement solids for a hundred purposes, Dunlops submit cast steel wheels in which the steel felloe provides the rim for containing the tyre. A wire wheel, a new departure, is also supplied for the air-filled giants, lightness and strength being its chief characteristics. Following the twin tyre there is the twin rim mounted on a steel felloe band for use in conjunction with a wood wheel. Wood and wire wheels for twins make up a display that will attract alike motor manufacturers and users.

With the development of Fort Dunlop, the largest rubber factory in the kingdom, the company is now in a position to pursue the manufacture of giant pneumatic tyres for commercial and other vehicles. It is noteworthy that these tyres are of the straight side type. Built on multiple ply cord casing, 36 by 6 and 40 by 8, they are moulded on flat base rims, and are easily detached by the removal of one of the rim flanges without entailing any forcing over the rim by levers. There are giants amongst solids as well as amongst pneumatics. The Dunlop solid giants, made in 8 in., 10 in., and 12 in. sections, and in 36 in. and 40 in. diameters, give great cushioning capacity and prolonged durability.

A super-cushion makes its first appearance, a particularly resilient tyre for passenger service, which will be welcomed by those who remain sceptical about air-filled tyres for heavy loads. Standard solids are, of course, on the list, one with a non-skid tread which has been successfully used on fire-engines. A safeguard of this kind is essential. With giant pneumatics, super-solids, unbreakable wheels, light bodies, and unfailing engines, the progress of road locomotion is speeding to an end which as yet can be only conjectured. In this productive work Dunlops, in their particular province, are playing a prominent and praiseworthy part.

All reports received up to date have been most favourable for the tobacco crop of 1920 (says the American Consul at Smyrna in a recent report), and it is estimated that this crop will amount to approximately 28,200,000 lb., which figure represents tobacco grown inside and outside the zone of Greek occupation. The 1919 tobacco crop amounted to approximately 16,920,000 lb., grown only in the occupied zone.

According to reports received, there are about 120,000 deunums (80,000 acres) of tobacco land under cultivation this year in the regions held by the Greek Army, and about 12,700 deunums (8,560 acres) outside this area:

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Of all Chemists, 1/3 and 3/-.

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OWES ITS UNIVERSAL SUCCESS TO THE FACT THAT IT EMBODIES MANY VALUABLE UNIQUE REFINEMENTS THAT ENSURE THE UTMOST UNIFORMITY OF PRODUCT.

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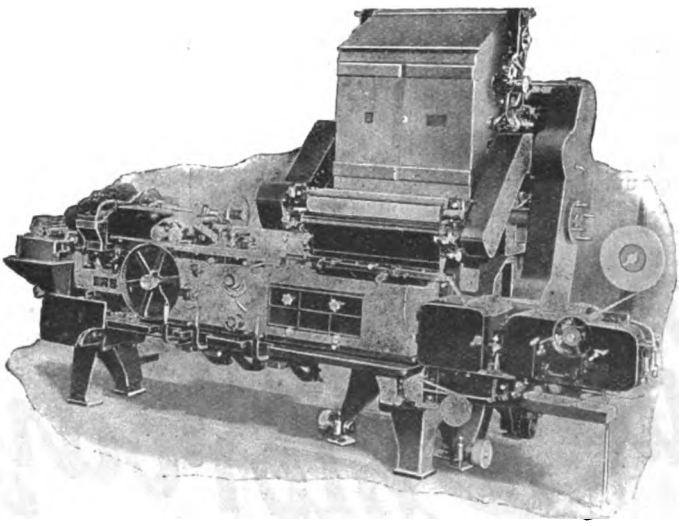

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## ENGINEERING.

### British Iron Production.

The fact that the production of British pig-iron last month reached the highest level since the Armistice is certainly a good sign, but the rate will have to be increased very considerably if our production of steel is to be maintained. We have only been able to keep this at a reasonable figure by using to full advantage the enormous supplies of scrap in the country. Steel works have in this way been able to show a larger tonnage than the blast furnaces have yielded. As a matter of fact our steel output for August was approximately 80,000 tons below that for the preceding month. At present the situation is relieved to some extent by the available supplies of Spanish ore, and in the near future large cargoes of Newfoundland ore will be reaching the Tees, so that once again we are rapidly getting into the condition of being dependent on seaborne supplies.

### New Furnaces.

American and German ironmasters are putting down a number of new furnaces, and there is some reason to believe that they anticipate a great increase in production. Considerable developments are under way in connection with home and Empire mining enterprises, and provided ample supplies of coke are forthcoming, as seems likely to be the case, the output of British pig iron should receive a great impetus before Christmas. One of our chief needs is, however, the erection of a considerable number of new blast furnaces, and although at the present moment fifteen are actually in course of construction at least a further fifty could be used to advantage. In this connection it must be borne in mind that a number of the older furnaces now in commission are far from being as efficient or as economical in regard to fuel as could be desired. The cost of building the required furnaces at the present price of labour and material would be high, but the work will have to be done sooner or later, and as there appears to be no reason to suppose costs in this connection will be lower in the immediate future it would be the soundest policy to commence construction at once. One thing is certain: the furnaces must be built if our steelmakers are to have, and to continue to have, a sufficient supply of pig iron to meet the requirements of the British engineering industry.

### Coal Carbonisation.

In continuance of its campaign against the high cost of petrol the Automobile Association is arranging deputations to those able to assist in securing Government intervention. Urgent representations are being sent to the Government, particularly with regard to ensuring that the coal carbonised in this country should be so treated before use as to extract all the possible available motor spirit.

### An Economical Radiator.

Particulars have recently been forthcoming of a novel and interesting type of electric radiator which is not of either the luminous or the radiant heat type. A fair demand is likely to be found for this during the coming season, as the appliance is simple, highly efficient, and requires little or no attention. It heats the room in which it is in use by means of convection currents which it sets up in the air, and for this purpose the radiator is claimed to be the most economical on the market. The current consumption is very low, and the fire risk is practically non-existent. The radiators, which are known as the "Magnet," are made in two distinct types. Of these the column type comprises a system of tubular hot-water circulators provided with a large number of heat-distributing gills or blades. A dual immersion heater is fitted at the bottom so that a varying heat control can be obtained. The cabin type, as the other design is called, is of similar construction, but is broader and not so high. For this a single immersion heater only is use. These radiators require no attention, except that it may be necessary once a year to add a little water to that contained in the radiator. A water-filler, with cap, is provided for this, and the operation is simplicity itself.

### Magnetic Alloys.

A certain amount of interest attaches, from an engineering point of view, to the possession of magnetic and electrical properties by iron-nickel alloys. A series of tests involving considerable research work was recently undertaken to determine whether any iron-nickel alloys could be found which had what is called a higher saturation value than pure iron. A number of alloys containing varying proportions of nickel were submitted to test, and it was found that the saturation value decreased slowly between an increase of 0.1 and 20.0 per cent. nickel, and then rose rapidly to 30.0 per cent. and again rapidly up to 50.0 per cent. nickel. After this it fell off more or less rapidly until 100.0 per cent. nickel. It was found that at no point did it exceed that of pure iron.

### Brass Substitutes.

During the war, owing to the shortage of materials, a number of Continental metal founders and manufacturers not only had to exercise the utmost economy in the use of brass and bronze, but were driven to employ a number of substitutes for those alloys, some of which were far from satisfactory. On the other hand it was found that some answered their purpose so well that their use will be continued commercially by reason of their cheapness and serviceableness. In most cases it was found that good results were obtained by employing ordinary iron or steel faced with brass or bronze, especially in such parts as are normally subjected to sliding friction under pressure. For certain forms of bearings it was found sufficient merely to face or line these with brass or bronze instead of casting them throughout of the more expensive alloys. Whenever for certain reasons iron or steel could not be used as a base the use of a brass composition containing but little copper and no tin was found to answer most purposes, and in some instances good results were obtained by the use of coatings of zinc, lead, or cheap and low-grade brass. It was also found that pressed and stamped parts which before the war were made from brass, copper, or bronze as a matter of course equally answered the purpose when pressed from zinc, iron, or thin sheet steel. Bushings, taps, valves, large bearings for shafting, spindles, casings, and similar parts made of iron and brass, coated either electrolytically or by a heat treatment, were also found to be commercially successful. In many instances where bronze worm wheels had previously been used good results were obtained by using wheels made of a special kind of cast iron produced either in the crucible or in an oil furnace, and lengthy use under heavy duty showed that with a special heat treatment these worm wheels, as regards strength and elastic properties, are practically equal to the bronze parts they have supplanted. In Germany, in particular, substitutes for brass and bronze were largely used, and the general consensus of opinion amongst engineers of that country is that the use of steel instead of bronze castings and the use of special brands of cast iron and low-grade brass containing only a small percentage of copper has given results which far exceeded expectations.


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**Industria Forestiera din Transilvania.—Capital, 12,000,000 Lei**
**Industria Chimica Romana.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei**
**Tipografia Gutemberg.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei**
**Casele Populare.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei**
**Crucea Societate pentru comertul si industria de vestminte si odoare bisericesti.—Capital, 1,000,000 Lei**
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# ROUMANIA.

**AREA (after Peace Treaties of 1919) 122,282 sq. miles.**

In 1914 the cultivated area was (according to an estimate of Dr. Colesco) 34,475,750 acres; of which 13,074,922 were ploughed lands, 468,670 were vineyards and orchards, 1,436,960 were meadows, 2,948,472 were pastures, and 5,705,750 were forests.

**POPULATION. About 17,400,000.**

**IMPORTS (1915). £8,533,234.**

United Kingdom, £848,997; Austria-Hungary, £3,718,182; Belgium, £43,230; Germany, £3,575,159; France, £660,287; Turkey, £558,238; Italy, £762,023.

**EXPORTS (1915). £21,742,379.**

United Kingdom, £2,238; Austria-Hungary, £13,576,255; Belgium, £2,343; Germany, £7,044,803; Turkey, £443,325; Italy, £37,838.

[NOTE.—In 1914 the Imports from the U.K. amounted to £2,231,773, and the Exports to it to £1,433,535.]

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FULLY PAID-UP CAPITAL:
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The BANK opens current accounts, collects and discounts bills, &c., on Roumania and other countries. Collects dividends, makes advances on shares and other securities, and upon merchandise, and carries on all usual banking transactions. Receives cereals on consignment and undertakes their sale.

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**Authorised Capital, 160,000,000 Lei. Capital Paid Up, 100,000,000 Lei. Reserve Fund, 38,936,306 Lei.**

**Head Office in BUCAREST, 5, Strada Smardan.**

**Branches in BAZARGIC, BRAILA, CONSTANTZA, CZERNOWITZ (Bucovina), GALATZ, KISHINEFF (Bessarabia), SILISTRIA, TULCEA, TEMESVAR.**

**Council of Administration:**—*President*, G. N. BAGDAT, former President of the High Court of Justice and Cour de Cassation.
*Vice-President*, G. I. STOICESCO, former Vice-President of the Senate, Professor of the University.
**Board of Directors and Members:**—C. G. COCIASU, Barrister, former Vice-President of the Senate; V. BRATIANU, former Manager of the Banque Nationale de Roumanie, former Minister; D. D. BRAGADIRU, Merchant and Manufacturer; Al. F. BADESCU, Engineer, General Manager of the Société de Tramways de Bucarest; G. CORBESCO, Barrister; I. G. DUCA, former Minister; I. I. STANCULEANU, Barrister, former Member of Parliament; Al. N. STEFANESCU, former Manager of the Banque Nationale de Roumanie.
**Auditors:**—D. MATAK, Engineer, Manufacturer; H. FULGA, retired, former Bank Manager; V. V. STEFAN, former General Manager of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce; Em. DAN, former General Manager in the Ministry.
**General Manager:**—N. P. STEFANESCO, Engineer, Inspector-General, former General Manager of the Navigation Fluviale du Danube.
**Manager:**—I. SAVESCO. **Sub-Managers:**—N. BANULESCO, C. T. TEODORESCO, Ion C. PILIDI, S. HENZEL, D. CONSTANTINESCO.

Banking transactions of every description. Deposits repayable on demand and with notice. Cheques and letters of credit issued on all countries. Stock Exchange orders executed in Roumania and abroad. Advances on securities, discounts and collections. Bonds, shares and objects of value received for safe keeping. Applications received for all issues without charge.

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## LANCASHIRE COTTON

### Better Demand for Cloth.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

Prices throughout the market continue to favour buyers, and owing to bearish sentiment, activity in the way of a larger turnover is held back. Spinners and manufacturers are still struggling against adverse conditions, and although there is a feeling in some quarters that rates are near the bottom our customers have not the pluck to anticipate future requirements. Reports relating to the American crop are not favourable, but growers in the South are offering supplies more freely, this attitude, it is said, being due to the financial stringency. Mixed advices have been received relating to the Egyptian growth, and the climatic conditions vary a good deal. There are fears that the yield will not be anything like so large as at one time expected. Lancashire users continue to purchase very sparingly. There is no confidence in current rates. Yarns made from Egyptian cotton continue very slack. Now and again producers accept wretched figures in order to secure a little relief. Many counts and qualities are now being sold at a loss. Cloth inquiry all round shows some improvement. Shippers to the Near East have been more prepared during the last few days to purchase stock lots, and it is again recorded that distribution in Egypt and Turkey is on a more encouraging scale. More demand has also been about for India, and one or two leading exporters have placed substantial orders in light fabrics, such as dhooties, mulls, and jaconets for Calcutta. No particular change has taken place in the off-take for China, and only isolated transactions have been mentioned for Java and Singapore. Restricted buying has occurred for South America. Home trade buyers remain cautious. Unemployment in most Lancashire towns is of a serious character. American yarns although in slightly better inquiry have not moved off freely, and prices when tested have been very irregular. There has been no activity whatever in shipping bundles. Arrangements are now being made for curtailment of production on an organised scale in the spinning section of our industry, but the details of the scheme have not yet been made known.

## CINEMATOGRAPH FILMS FOR TURKEY.

Cinematographs are perhaps the most popular form of amusement in the larger towns of Turkey, as theatres are almost completely lacking (says a recent Consular report). Cinema theatres vary in size according to their class, accommodating from 500 to 1,000 persons. In Constantinople there are five first-class, eight second-class, and two third-class. In addition to Constantinople, all the larger towns of the interior boast of at least one cinema.

In Smyrna, besides the big theatre, which is the only legitimate theatre for the actual production of stage plays in Turkey, and which is also used as a cinema, there are ten cinema theatres in the town and eight in the suburbs.

Modern dramas with smart setting are by far the most popular form of film. These are generally of Italian production, such as "Itala" or "Cines," etc., but Pathé also sent several. Comic one-act films, such as the Vitagraph Company produce, are also much appreciated, especially in second and third class theatres. Films such as "Quo Vadis?" "Cabiria," "Antony and Cleopatra" run much longer than an ordinary film, and consequently fetch a much higher price per foot.

British films are quite unknown, but at the present moment would undoubtedly be very well received. All war pictures draw a large audience. Titles of films and explanatory details, etc., should preferably be in French, as this is commonly spoken throughout Turkey.


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**SCINDIA ABOUT OCT. 16.**
**MASSILIA ABOUT OCT. 30.**

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### Forthcoming Sailings.

The Johnston Line s.s. Cranmore, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 16.

The Prince Line s.s. Scottish Prince, for Alexandria, Syrian Coast ports, and Cyprus (with option of transshipment at Alexandria), will close for cargo at Manchester about October 15.

The Cunard Line s.s. Antigone, for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Varna, Galatz and Batoum, will close for cargo in London on October 9.

The Papayanni Line s.s. Destro, for Malta and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 9.

The Moss Line s.s. Amarna, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta and Alexandria, accepting cargo for transhipment to Moroccan, Algerian, Cyprus and Syrian ports, will close for cargo on October 16.

The Bibby Line s.s. Leicestershire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on October 20.

The Henderson Line s.s. Martaban, for Port Said and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Glasgow on October 9, and at Birkenhead on October 13.

The Ellerman Lines s.s. Asturian, for Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 23.

The Byron Steamship Co. Ltd. (M. Embiricos) s.s. Admiral Hamilton, for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (if sufficient inducement offers), will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 20.

The Harrison Line s.s. Explorer, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 18.

The Anchor Line s.s. Massilia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Glasgow on October 8, and at Liverpool on October 20.

The Clan Line s.s. Clan Mackinnon, for Bombay and the Persian Gulf, will close for cargo at Manchester on October 11.


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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

ANGORA, July 31.

Wheat.—Arrivals have been small, owing to agriculturists being occupied in raising the new crop. The small quantities coming from the villages have been bought for local consumption at Ps.60-80 the yarim of 12 okes. Stocks, 250-300 wagons.

Barley.—The market is firm, owing to the lack of arrivals from the neighbourhood. Prices are Ps.26-30 the yarim of 12 okes. Stocks, 30-35 wagons.

The new crop of cereals is poor, contrary to the favourable forecasts of the spring; it is estimated at 50 to 55 per cent. of that of the previous year.

STAMBOUL, September 11.

The sales for Roumania have continued this week, and have imported a transitory animation to the market. Prices are, however, weak, and holders are trying to realise even lower rates. The fall in the price of cotton has also had an unfavourable influence here. The financial stringency continues.

Sugar.—The decline recorded last week has ended, and there has been a rapid improvement in prices following continued purchases for Roumania. The s.s. Liverpool Marou arrived last week with a cargo of 6,000 tons of sugar, and has only discharged 3,500 tons. The balance, which had been despatched in consignment, could not be disposed of here, and has been diverted to Genoa.

Coffee.—The situation is unchanged. There have been some insignificant transactions.

As regards exports quiet continues to rule here. The demand for the principal articles of export—rice, mohair, and wool—has been weak, and the arrivals are unimportant.

SALONIKA, August 31.

The drought, which continued through July and August, has had an unfavourable effect on the maize crop. Following large arrivals of cereals from Roumania the prices of wheat, barley, and maize have undergone a marked decline.

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The British, French and Italian delegates on the Board of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt assumed control on October 1 of Turkey's finances.

A branch of the Bank of British West Africa was opened at Cairo on October 1.

A contract for 50 bogie petroleum tank wagons, each 30 tons capacity, for the Egyptian State Railways, has recently been awarded to Cravens Railway Carriage and Waggon Company, Darnell, Sheffield.

The monopoly taxes in Yugoslavia on salt and petroleum (burning oil for lamps) have been increased respectively to 50 dinars (gold) and 100 dinars (gold) per 100 kilos.

Permission has been granted for the export from Algeria of a limited quantity of best quality figs, in modification of the order prohibiting the export of figs and dates other than those of the variety Deglet-Nour in view of the deficient grain harvest.

The Union of International Associations at Brussels has addressed to the Director of the Universal Postal Union at Berne a protest against the proposal to raise the charges for letters and other postal packets conveyed in the international service.

It is announced by the directors of the Bank of Athens that in connection with the exchange of the existing warrants to bearer of the 1913 issue for 600,000 Ordinary shares of the bank against new warrants to bearer for 480,000 Ordinary and 120,000 Actions de Jouissance warrants will be exchanged up to December 31, 1920. New share warrants to bearer for four Ordinary shares and one Action de Jouissance will be exchanged for every five Ordinary share warrants to bearer of the 1913 issue.


# IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

**Capital - £10,000,000**
**Paid-up - £5,000,000**

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**SYRIA.**
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. | Beyrout. Damascus. | Hamah. Homs. | Saida. Tripoli.

**SALONICA. TUNIS. AFRICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.**
**(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)**

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

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

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.
Letters of credit granted.


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## TENDERS INVITED.

**Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—**

**Egypt.**

*(The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.)*

**Pumping Machinery.**—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of pumping machinery for a pumping station at Tawila, in the Province of Gharbicha. October 15 (L.)

Paving Stones, etc.—The Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of paving stones and granite headstones. October 15. (L.)

Steamer.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of an inspection steamer for the Upper White Nile Division. Specification P.T. 25. December 1.

Reservoir.—The Director of Technical Services, Municipalities and Local Committees Department, Ministry of the Interior, invites tenders for the construction of a masonry reservoir at the Assouan Dam. Specification P.T. 50. October 16.

**India.**

Steelwork for Bridges.—The Great Indian Peninsula Railway invites tenders for the supply of steelwork for bridges (Wadi-Bundar Viaduct). (Specification £1. Secretary, 48, Copthall Avenue.) October 15.

Diesel Engines, etc.—The Municipal Board of Agra invites tenders for the supply, delivery, and erection of (1) four Diesel engines and high-tension alternators, including foundations, switchgear, transformers, and sub-station equipment; and (2) Fifteen miles of high-tension underground cables, 28 miles of overhead low-tension three-phase mains, and street lighting equipment, complete with all accessories. (Specifications £2. Messrs. Handcock and Dykes, 11, Victoria Street.) October 22.

**Algeria.**

H.M. Consul-General at Algiers reports that a local trader desires to receive quotations from United Kingdom firms for the supply of iron or soft steel hoops for barrel-making. It is understood that the applicant is prepared to pay cash for the material. Firms in a position to offer supplies of the material in question can obtain the name of the inquirer, specifications, etc., from the Department of Overseas Trade.

**Turkey.**

Railway Material.—The Anatolian Railway Administration, Constantinople, is urgently in need of glasses for point lanterns, paints for bridges, augers for bridge work, boiler-tube ferrules, lamp wicks, firebricks, fireclays for fire-boxes, etc. The schedule, etc., can be inspected at the Enquiry Room, Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1. Quotations should be submitted direct to the Director of Railways, Constantinople.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cable received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated September 29 :—During the week ended September 18 light to moderate rain has fallen. Prospects of standing crops generally good, but more rain needed everywhere in the Punjab, United Province of Agra and Oudh, Bihar, and Bombay, in parts of Central India, Madras, and Western Bengal, and in unirrigated areas in the North-West Frontier Province, and the Central Provinces. During the week ended September 25 monsoon active in Lower Burma, Southern India and extreme North, with local rainfall elsewhere. All India final wheat forecast 29,976,000 acres, 10,092,000 tons.

Bombay cotton market irregular. Good M.G. Southern October Rs. 430. Piece-goods market steady with little retail inquiry. Calcutta jute market steady with prices unchanged, though small business done. Heavy goods quiet but firm, with good demand for B twills. Hessians quiet with easier prices. No change in bank rates.

## ON 'CHANGE.

### Rise in Egyptians.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

The steady fall in prices which we have had to record during the past few weeks appears to have come to an end, at any rate for the present; there is a brighter tone in almost every group, and in some cases the advance in price is considerable.

Among Government stocks, however, Greeks have not participated in the movement, but show, on the contrary, a further weakening, the 1881 Loan having declined from 55 to 54½, while the 1893 and 1914 Loans have each lost a point at 52 and 54 respectively. Turkish stocks also have declined; the 4 per cent. (1891) has lost half a point at 62, and the 3½ per cent. Egyptian Tribute bonds have suffered a like decline to 53½. But Egyptian 4 per cent. Unified Debt has made the substantial advance of four points at 67, while the 3½ per cent. Pref. has appreciated from 53 to 55¾, at which price there are still buyers. City of Alexandria 4 per cent. has gained half a point at 60.

Among the Banks Agriculturals have advanced from 4 1-16 to 4 3-16, and the Cumulative Preference from 5 to 5 1-16. Imperial Ottoman Bank is half a point better at 9, and Land Bank of Egypt has gained ⅛ at 4⅝. Bank of Athens has suffered a small decline from 4 to 3 15-16.

In the Railway group Egypt Delta Light has gained ⅛ at 5⅛, while Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin has declined from 9¼ to 8¾.

Among Land shares Mortgage Company of Egypt's 4½ per cent. debentures have lost half a point at 73½, but elsewhere the improvement has been general. Aboukir has gained 6d. at 33s. Béhéra has risen from 14 to 14½, and the Pref. have jumped from 65s. to 68s. Egyptian Delta Land has gained 1s. at 14s. 6d., while Egyptian and Foreign Trust is 3d. better at 13s. Gharbieh Land, Sidi Salem, and Union Foncière have each gained ¼, and now stand at 3¼, 2¼, and 4½ respectively. Sudan Plantations have appreciated 1-16 at 5 1-16, while New Egyptian has jumped from 32s. 6d. to 33s. 9d.

In the Miscellaneous group Alexandria Water has gained 5-16 at 7 9-16, at which price there are still buyers. Associated Cotton Ginners has advanced from 22s. 6d. to 24s., while Egyptian Markets is 3d. better at 20s. 9d. Egyptian Salt and Soda has gained ⅛, and now stands at 2⅛. There is a small decrease to record in Morums Oriental Stores, this stock having receded 3d. at 17s. 9d.

The only change to note amongst the Oils is a decline of 9d. in Roumanian Consolidated to 21s.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97 7/16 |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 33·75-34·25 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 102-104 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/9 5/16-1/9 3/8 |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 179-189 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/9 3/16-1/9 3/8 |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 410-430 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅜ | 3·48½-3·49¾ |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 51·95-52·30 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 247½ |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 29½ |

## OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields—Gemsah—Production for week ended September 26, nil tons (last week, nil tons). Hurgada—Production for week ended September 26, 2,936 tons (last week, 3,092 tons).

Algerian Oilfields.—Production from leased area, August, 46,753 kilos.


# BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

Telegrams: "TRABANQUE, LONDON."

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.)
13 AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telephones LONDON WALL, 2947-2948

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**Authorised, £10,000,000. | Subscribed and Paid up, £2,000,000.**

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*Manager*, A. G. M. DICKSON.

*London Manager*, P. C. WEST. *Secretary*, G. DE B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation is prepared to assist in the development of the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and offers exceptional financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their export and import trade.

It has Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world, and transacts Banking business of every description.

It invites enquiries, and will endeavour, where necessary, to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

*Branches :* BATOUM. BELGRADE. DANZIG.

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## GENERAL BANK OF GREECE.

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

**Head Office - ATHENS.**

BANKING OPERATIONS:
Every description of Banking business transacted.

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

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

## POPULAR BANK OF GREECE.

**Head Office, ATHENS. Branch, PIRÆUS.**

Correspondents throughout Greece.

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

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

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

*General Manager:* D. LOVERDO.

## TRADE WITH THE NEAR EAST

WITH its offices in all the principal towns in **Greece, in Egypt, Cyprus, Crete, Constantinople, and in Smyrna, the Bank extends exceptional Facilities for Export and Import Trade between Great Britain and the Near East generally,** and invites enquiries and correspondence relating thereto.

HEAD OFFICE: ATHENS

## BANK OF ATHENS

LONDON 22, Fenchurch Street E.C.3. MANCHESTER 57, Mosley Street

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

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

## GREECE.

Area 43,522 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,746,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 296,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

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

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

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

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

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

**COINAGE.**—The unit is the Drachme, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 33 Drachmæ to £1.

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

**WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.**—It was decided in 1914 to introduce the metric system. The change is to be gradual from the old system, which is:—Oke = 2·82 lb., stater = 123·20 lb., livre (Venetian) = 1·05 lb., baril (wine) = 16·33 imperial gallons, kilo = 0·114 imperial quarter, pike = ⅔ of a yard, stremma = ·242 of an acre.

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(PALIOS LINE.)

**Head Office - PIRÆUS.**

A. P. PALIOS, Founder. M. P. PALIOS, General Manager.

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26 PASSENGER and CARGO STEAMERS.

85 AGENCIES in Greece, Sea of Marmora, Black Sea, Sea of Azof, Asia Minor, Egypt, Mediterranean and principal Ports of the World.

Coaling Yards and Repair Shops.

GENERAL AGENTS for the High Commission of Sea Transports; for all Passenger Steamers requisitioned by the Greek Government.

*Cable Address—Navigation Palios.*

*Codes used—Scott's (1906) 10th Edition; A.B.C. (1901) 5th Edition.*

## MARITIME BANK of GREECE

**AUTHORISED CAPITAL FULLY PAID DR.10,000,000.**

Founder—A. P. PALIOS.

**Head Office: PIRÆUS, GREECE.**

Cable Address: "Maritime Bank."

Codes Used.

Scott's 1906—10th Edition. A.B.C. 1901—5th Edition. Palios 1919

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*The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business, and by reason of its connections, throughout Greece and the Levant, is in a position to offer to the trade exceptional facilities.*

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BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO, London.

For the U.S.A.—NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK CITY, U.S.A.

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**Capital Paid Up - - - Drs. 25,000,000.**

**Head Office - ATHENS.**

Every kind of Banking Business Transacted.

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


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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 493.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The visit of M. Stambolisky to England should prove an event of first-class importance both to Bulgaria and to the Balkans as a whole. By issuing its invitation the British Government paid a personal compliment to the man who had made a bold stand in his own country on behalf of the Entente Powers in 1915, and at the same time showed its readiness to recognise that the Bulgaria of King Boris and M. Stambolisky may well be an entirely different country from the Bulgaria of King Ferdinand and M. Radoslavoff. Little attention would have been paid by neighbouring States to any claims in this direction emanating from Sofia itself; but the fact that M. Stambolisky now has the ear of the British and French Governments will bespeak a hearing for him elsewhere. In this action the Entente Powers are consulting the interests of all the countries of South-Eastern Europe, for it is certain that the latter can never reach the high-water mark of prosperity so long as the old antagonisms and suspicions are perpetuated.

It was inevitable that the period immediately following the war should find Bulgaria an object of suspicion to her neighbours, and probably only M. Stambolisky, with his striking political record and with his reputation for strength and determination, could have succeeded, as well as he has, in rehabilitating his country in such a short time. Without a definite lead from a Great Power, however, he might still have been beating the air. As a result of the British invitation he has now the satisfaction of seeing some response to his overtures for more friendly relations with the neighbouring States. The statement of the Greek Chargé d'Affaires on his arrival in Sofia that the Hellenic people, forgetting the past, entertained no feeling of hatred towards Bulgaria, and had no other desire than for friendly collaboration with the Bulgarians for the good of the two nations, was in studied contrast with the chilliness with which official relations with another neighbour had been resumed a few months previously. Roumania is not likely to lag behind Greece in this respect, and it is to be hoped that a meeting in London between M. Stambolisky and M. Take Jonescu will convince the Roumanian Government that little time need be diverted from the task of economic reconstruction to creating elaborate safeguards in the realm of foreign policy against Bulgarian aggression.

The report that conversations between the Italian and Yugoslav Governments on the subject of the Adriatic problem are about to be renewed will raise no hopes this time, in spite of the assurance that both parties are resolved to come to a conclusion—satisfactory or unsatisfactory—without delay. In the absence of outside pressure there would seem to be no new factor calculated to bring the two Governments into agreement, unless it be the weariness of public opinion in Italy and in Yugoslavia, as well as in the world in general, over the dispute. The good intentions of the Italian and Yugoslav Governments are not questioned, but both fear to present their political opponents with a handle. Sooner or later it will be brought home to them that the good sense of their respective nations will welcome any settlement in preference to a continuation of the present anomalous position which prevents the two peoples from giving their undivided attention to the more pressing matter of economic recovery.

The trial, in Cairo, of Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy and twenty-eight other Egyptians, on a charge of conspiracy, concluded on October 5, when four of the accused were released, and Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy and the rest of the prisoners were found guilty. Their sentences will not be promulgated until the proceedings have been submitted to the General Officer Commanding; but it is safe to say that if they are not severe it will be solely due to the desire to avoid doing anything that might prejudicially affect the improvement in Anglo-Egyptian relations which has been observable of late. As it is, one Cairo report states that the "wholesale conviction has aroused a certain amount of bitterness among the natives," but it is satisfactory to learn that the prevailing impression appears to be that the trial has been absolutely impartial, and that the manner in which it has been conducted has increased Egyptian respect for British justice and helped to restore British prestige. The worst feature of the case was, of course, the attempt to prevent, by bribery or intimidation, evidence being given against the accused, but the firmness with which the worst of these attempts were handled by the Court had its effect, which, we may hope, will last for at least some time.

Apart from "sensational" and "dramatic" incidents of the class dear to certain newspapers, the trial would in any case have attracted much attention by reason of the expectation that the accused would be found to have been closely connected with many of the disturbances that have disgraced Egypt during the past year and a half, such as attempts on the lives of Ministers and of British soldiers. Reports available at the time of writing indicate that such connection has been established, and the "Vengeance Society

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of which the accused are said to have been members, appears to have been formed by the amalgamation of half-a-dozen societies, all with melodramatic titles, and all intent on upsetting the established order of things by resort to methods of assassination and anarchy. How such associations can ever have acquired the power they undoubtedly did gain it is hard for Englishmen to understand. That all decent Egyptians will be glad that this particular gang has been laid by the heels is not to be doubted; and if other prosecutions on similar lines should have to be undertaken in the near future it is probable that the police and other forces of good government would find their task rendered much easier for them than has been the case in regard to the prosecutions just brought to a successful termination.

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It now appears to be almost certain that the Nationalist-Turkish attack on Armenia was undertaken as the result of an understanding with the Bolshevists. Chicherin, it is reported, promised the support of the Moscow Government if the Nationalists would embark on a campaign for the capture of Kars, Ardahan, and Batoum; and a report received by the Armenian Bureau in London from the Armenian representative at Tiflis states that "the Turks [i.e., the Kemalists, of course] have demanded Kars and Ardahan in accordance with the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk." The Armenian Government has officially declared war on the Nationalist Turks, and according to latest reports is concentrating its forces at Kars. The Nationalist forces are led by Ali Shefik Bey, Kiazim Karabekir Pasha, and Muhi ed-Din Pasha, and Angora has announced that they will wipe out Armenia within a month and open up the road to Azerbaijan. If wishes were horses, beggars would ride; and Mustapha, Enver and Co. may find the wiping out process not quite so easy as they expect it to be: the Armenians are brave fighters, and Georgia, though preserving her neutrality, is informally lending them valuable help in one way and another. In connection with Georgia it is to be hoped that Nationalist calculations of a Turco-Ajarian rising at Batoum will be baulked, for the Georgian Government is reported to have taken exceptional precautions against anything of the kind.

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Some details are now available of the proposals made by the Porte in its Note to the Powers on the situation in Anatolia. It proposes to raise and equip a force of 40,000 men, to be recruited from the population of areas now in Greek occupation; and it asks the Powers to assist it by releasing arms and munitions required, which are now under Allied guard, by rendering naval help, by providing gendarmerie instructors, and by agreeing to a loan of 4½ millions to defray the cost of a three months' campaign. The Porte also points out that the Nationalist forces have not proved very formidable in the field so far, and that it has entire confidence in the officers and men of the force that it proposes to raise. Therefore, it deprecates any further advance by Greek forces as unnecessary and provocative, and declares that an Armenian advance would almost certainly lead to concerted action by the Kurds. At the present moment, it is true, the Armenians are hardly in a position to undertake any offensive; but in any case, the Porte's contentions have more justification than is sometimes the case with regard to its Notes; and though the Allies will certainly want to feel sure that the £4,500,000 will be devoted strictly to the purpose for which it is asked, the proposals upon the whole do not seem to be unreasonable. Without assistance from the Western Powers it is clear that Turkey must be powerless. The giving or withholding of such help will, therefore, supply a test of their honesty.

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The difficulty of obtaining trustworthy information regarding events in Mesopotamia is admittedly great, and we have frequently suggested that greater candour on the part of the Administration would be welcome, and would in the long run do good rather than harm. The censorship exercised in Baghdad over Press messages is the subject of a good deal of comment, not to use any stronger expression, and it is far from improbable that the "bad Press" in this country from which the Mesopotamian administration undoubtedly suffers, is largely attributable to the irritation thus created. Nevertheless, it is much to be regretted that in their anxiety to bring about an instant evacuation of the country—or their determination to "work a stunt"—at all costs, certain newspapers should allow themselves to be rushed into publishing statements which, though inaccurate and misleading, yet obtain credence with a section of the public, and may eventually do very real harm.

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The latest example of the kind of alarmist report, to which we refer, was published by a London newspaper last Friday. Under three or four large-type headlines, referring to a "New Mesopotamia Surprise" and "Mystery Plans," it published a dispatch from its Allahabad correspondent to the effect that more troops are under orders to proceed to Mesopotamia in December, and commented on the announcement by asking why the troops should be sent, what was at the bottom of the mystery, and whether we are "going to get out of Mesopotamia or not"? All this is disturbing, and since the British taxpayer is informed by the paper in question that he is at present paying at the rate of £100,000,000 for the upkeep of "more than 300,000 persons" in Mesopotamia, he may perhaps be pardoned if he becomes restive about it. But for the present we would advise the long-suffering Briton to keep cool. More troops may, unfortunately, have to be sent to Mesopotamia eventually, but the moment all signs point to the improbability of their being called for in December; and the report that they are "under orders" has not only not reached us from any of the sources that we regard as well informed regarding Mesopotamia, but has also been authoritatively denied. Moreover, it is an unfortunate fact that whereas the dispatch, dated October 6, speaks of Sir Percy Cox having had "a triumphal journey to Baghdad," Sir Percy did not actually leave Busreh till October 6, and, according to latest reports, was not to enter Baghdad until the 11th. . . . . We apologise for spending so much time on this particular report, but in view of the urgent necessity for keeping a clear head about Mesopotamia and its future, it has seemed worth while to do so.

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Whether because Sir Percy Cox has arrived in the country and taken over his duties as High Commissioner, or because the creators of disturbances are, for one reason or another, tiring of their game, the situation in Mesopotamia has sensibly improved, though it cannot yet be described as normal, or nearly so. The South is now more troublesome than the North, where the Kurds are showing a rather more friendly disposition to us. A column organised at Ur for the relief of Samawa has been making good progress, though not unopposed; Kufa still holds out, and pluckily signals "All Well" to our aeroplanes, although the burning of the defence vessel, "Firefly," must have been discouraging; and a column moving south from Hillah has inflicted a defeat upon a force of insurgents numbering 3,000, after a stiff fight lasting three and a-half hours. Other points of interest which may be mentioned are the safe arrival in Baghdad of all the women and children from Kerind (with the exception of a few sick), and the arrival at Kasvin of Major-General Ironside, to take over the command of our forces in North-West Persia.

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The correspondence between Lord Curzon and the Russian Government contains a summary by the former of Bolshevist activities in Central Asia, which is of historical interest as a succinct analysis of the situation in that part of the world. The Soviet Government, Lord Curzon points out, has continued to send Russian troops to Persia; it is engaged in a military conspiracy assisted by the dispatch of considerable numbers of Bolshevist troops, with the Turkish Nationalist Party in Asia Minor, a movement ostentatiously directed against British interests; it has threatened, and continues to threaten, the invasion of Khorasan; it has created a great organisation at Tashkent for marshalling the forces of Central Asia in an attack upon British territory or British interests; it has brought about a revolution in

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Bokhara with the same object; it has for months maintained a series of envoys in Afghanistan, engaged in an attempt to conclude a Treaty with the Ameer of Afghanistan, and openly aimed at inciting a tribal rising on the Indian frontier. At conferences held at Moscow, Baku, and elsewhere it has launched a veritable tornado of propaganda, intrigue, and conspiracy against British interests and the British power in Asia. The only comment that need be made on this indictment is that, in spite of these well-known facts, the British Government seems to have imagined that all these activities would cease at the wave of a wand to enable the Bolshevists to gratify the British Government's anxiety to trade with them.

# THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

**The Prince in London.**

In perfect weather London gave a rousing reception to the Prince of Wales this morning on his return from his trip round the world. It was something more than a mere perfunctory welcome home, for the Prince has done well, and has won his own place in the heart of London, which greeted him, not so much for the work he has done on the tour through Australia, as for his own sake, as somebody we are glad to have back.

It is to be hoped that the Prince will now be allowed a short term of rest before he is called on to take the lead at public functions by ambitious mayors and other officials. He has earned a holiday, and he looks as though he were in the mood to enjoy it.

**The Return of Politics.**

Coal has taken a back seat for the time being, the miners being now engaged on balloting, and Mr. Smillie having made it known that he favours a temporary settlement. A more accurate word to describe it would be a truce, as he has stated in an interview that he thinks the whole subject must come up again, apparently in some three to six months' time. We shall see. There are those who believe that the question will never be settled unless there is a real trial of strength in a fight, and others who hold that every postponement is so much gained in the interests of sweet reasonableness. The wise man stocks his cellar, and hopes for the best.

Meanwhile the approach of the autumn session reminds us that politicians succeed pheasants in the sportsman's calendar. Various Liberal statesmen have contributed long letters to *The Times* on Irish policy during the past few days, and have been duly shot at by the leader-writers. Lord Grey suggests a two-years' truce in Ireland; Lord Morley, with the sunny optimism of the octogenarian, pleads for a reasoned sanity; Mr. Asquith would give Ireland freedom in Customs and defence, confident that she would never use her ports or tariffs against Britain. Mr. Asquith, in short, suggests in Opposition what he never contemplated in office, when passing his own Home Rule Act, and these various solutions, if they can be given so dignified a name, have roused little response either in Ireland or England.

Mr. Lloyd George, speaking in Wales, denounced the Sinn Fein outrages and murders, and predicted that Home Rule would be passed by the present Government; he might have added that it would have been passed long before had Irishmen shown any signs of agreement among themselves. Incidentally, he referred to Mr. Asquith as Jehoshaphat; the implication is a trifle obscure, but it sounds offensive, Jehoshaphat having made a Coalition in his day with that astute politician Ahab—whom one had not hitherto regarded as a typical Conservative. Fortunately, the Prime Minister did not elaborate his parallel; if he is going to add the Book of Chronicles to his speeches as well as the algebraic symbols of last week we shall begin, as poor Pelissier used to say, to wish we had been educated instead of going to public schools.

But obviously Mr. Lloyd George is in high spirits, and he has good reason to be, for events are playing into his hands. At the last by-election the Government polled more votes than Liberal and Labour candidates combined; the threat of direct action ruined the latter, and the certainty of Liberal inaction has ruined the former.

**A Suggested Coalition.**

So evil are the prospects of the Opposition, indeed, that Mr. George Cadbury, of the *Daily News*, has propounded the novel idea of a Coalition Opposition. It was not very long ago that this newspaper was denouncing coalitions as unprincipled, but apparently that only applies to other people's coalitions when in power; the Bournville variety is high-principled, because it is not in power. The distinction is a trifle subtle, but Labour is not taking the offer.

It is wise in its generation. For many years it was the tail of the Liberal dog; now it is a complete political animal—not very fleet indeed, and a little too much like the stage elephant which pulls in two directions at once, but still a recognisable political animal, which some day hopes to get its feet into the trough of office. It has little to gain from Liberalism, and it does not want to risk its independence. In any event, its fundamental principles are different from those of Liberalism, and it cannot very well barter these. Besides, it would not gain very much if it did: it is in the position of the famous lady who replied indifferently to her tempter: "Sir, I will not sell my honour, and in any case you are much too poor to buy it."

**Short Work and Hard Times.**

Unemployment appears to be on the increase in a good many towns and industries, and employers as well as workmen are having an anxious time just now. All the same, the prevailing opinion is that the trouble is incidental and transient, and people are more optimistic than they were a few weeks back. That is proved by the fact that some rather big flotations of capital have been made during the past few days, including fifteen millions of local loans, and there are more to follow.

But unemployment and the prospect of its increase are serious enough for the Government to be considering remedies, and it is said to be contemplating a large policy of road construction, or rather reconstruction, for the relief of distress. Judging from the evil condition of some of the main roads in Kent and Essex, the roads might be reconstructed for other reasons as well; but the County Councils, with irate ratepayers looking suspiciously at their demand notes, are appalled at the cost, and also inclined to look to the Government for aid.

The newspapers have announced a slight fall in the cost of living as a set-off against unemployment. It is not visible to the naked eye, except perhaps in things like grand pianos and fur coats and high-powered motor-cars; luxuries are certainly cheaper, but ordinary household and personal expenditure seems much the same. However, the tailors are now advertising against each other for custom; Mr. Mallaby-Deeley started the fashion, and others follow every day, denouncing their rivals as quacks and profiteers and offering well-cut made-to-measure suits at low prices compared with those of the ordinary City or West End maker; and something of the same kind seems to be taking place among the boot-makers, whose windows are filled with figures and percentages and a catalogue of their virtues as well as shoes. It reminds one a little of the injudicious advertiser who placarded his shop with the legend "Don't go elsewhere to be robbed; come here"; but it seems to indicate that competition is returning.

**A New Port.**

The war demonstrated the potential usefulness of Poole Harbour, one of the finest sheets of water along the South Coast, but useless for modern shipping on account of the shallowness of its channel. Estimates have now been made for the deepening of the channel from 16 to 26 feet, which would permit the entry of large vessels, and the eventual provision of 18,000 feet of new wharfage; the total cost would be 3¼ millions sterling, not a very large sum as the times go. Southampton is scarcely likely to look on this rivalry with a very friendly eye, but Poole is anxious to regain some of its old prosperity, and may put up a fight for traffic.

If Poole developed a large transit trade, it would

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probably compete for the Birmingham and Black Country export traffic; it could not expect much from London, which has its own docks, and it certainly could not live on the Somerset and Dorset traffic, which is mainly in tourists and milk.

**The London Diocese.**

The Bishop of London is notoriously overworked, but it is doubtful whether a suggestion, unofficially made this week, will be adopted. Somebody has put forward the idea that London shall be divided into four bishoprics, with an Archbishop at the head. There is a good deal to be said for raising London to archiepiscopal status, but I fear that a Bishop of Stoke Newington would find it a little difficult to live down his name, even in a Latinised form. But it is not organisation that the Church needs so much as more driving power.

**A Challenge to a Duel.**

The country has been considerably amused by a challenge to a duel being sent within the last few days. The challenge was sent by Sir Claude de Crespigny to his kinsman, Lord Kenyon, the challenger making public some pointed comments on Lord Kenyon, and more particularly criticising his alleged conduct during the war. Sir Claude is an Essex country gentleman, and a vigorous young man of between seventy and eighty. He recently married again. Lord Kenyon has laughed at the challenge, and expressed his surprise that anybody should be interested in the affair. Needless to say, it is not likely to come off.

**The October Summer.**

The British climate is, proverbially, fearfully and wonderfully made, but this year it has surpassed itself. In March it was as warm as June; in July we took to overcoats and in August to sitting over the fire; September began badly, but improved every day, and October has so far been a sheer ecstacy of glory—cloudless skies and mellow warmth and peacefulness. Never were the woods more perfect in their tints than now, and at some of the seaside places visitors have appeared again for belated holidays—a fact which will probably cause landladies to conclude that their charges for rooms have been too low, for it is our article of faith with these harpies that by the end of the season the holiday-maker should have only his return fare in his pocket and his eyes to weep with.

When the Government extended summer-time from the end of September till the end of October for the first time this year there were some doubts of its wisdom in doing so, as the early mornings are said by early risers and others who delight in such foolish works of supererogation to be a little chilly; but the Government evidently knew what they were about better than their critics. The story goes that, in view of the danger of a possible coal strike, Mr. Lloyd George offered the Sun the O.B.E. if he would increase his output, and the Sun, impressed by the Government's majority at the Ilford by-election, began doing overtime at once. But they do not quite believe this explanation in the Labour camp.

**The Golf Tournament.**

Youth will be served, even in golf. At the great professional tournament last week Braid and Taylor were defeated by Mitchell and Duncan, and the mantle of the prophet passes to new hands. Perhaps it was time; yet there is always a feeling of regret when the old heroes are deposed. Duncan is now the open champion, and Mitchell shares his glory as unofficial "match-play champion," having won the £590 tournament two years running—an extraordinary feat.

**Current Literature.**

I fancy the most popular book of the day is likely to be Sir Algernon West's "Contemporary Portraits" (Fisher Unwin). It is full of good stories, such as that of the Australian who complained that "the million and a-half Englishmen who inhabit these colonies, and during the last fifteen years have believed that they possessed self-government, have really been governed for the whole of that time by a person of the name of Rogers"—Rogers being Lord Blachford. Perhaps even better is a hitherto unrecorded epigram by W. S. Gilbert. When Garter King-at-Arms was one day remarking to Gilbert that he found it hard to provide arms and mottoes for newly-made peers and baronets, he instanced Sir Blundell Maple as an example. Gilbert replied: "For a coat of arms put Richard Cœur de Lion through the bars of his prison, and for a motto 'Blondel m'appelle.'"

An enormous tome has been published entitled "Phenomena of Materialisation: A Contribution to the Investigation of Mediumistic Teleplastics" (Kegan Paul), by Baron von Schrenck-Notzing. It is a scientific examination of certain aspects of spiritualism; and in view of the recent controversy on spirit-photography, its long and extraordinary series of photographs—all reproduced excellently in the book—should have a certain importance.

A book that will be indispensable to every student of London history is "The Great Fire of London" (John Lane), by Walter G. Bell. The account has never been written in detail before, and Mr. Bell collects a vast amount of curious evidence. The booksellers of Paternoster Row, confident that the Fire would never damage Old St. Paul's, deposited all their books in the Crypt; they were all burnt. The populace believed that the Fire was the work of Papists or Dutchmen—England was at war with Holland at the time—but there was no evidence to prove what was, after all, the natural consequence of a wooden city, an east wind, and a careless baker. The official verdict was that the Fire was due to "the hand of God upon us, a great wind, and the season so very dry," but on the Monument was subsequently cut the inscription, "Here by ye permission of Heaven, hel broke loose, upon this Protestant City, from the malicious hearts of barbarous Papists"—a statement which provoked Pope's couplet:—

"Where London's column pointing at the skies,
Like a tall bully, lifts the head, and lies—"

A book that deserves, and will obtain, serious consideration is "The Triumph of Nationalisation" (Cassell), by Sir Leo Chiozza Money. Sir Leo takes for his text the war-time control of industry, and argues that it was so successful that the State should pursue the same policy in peace. The weak point of the thesis is that the motive of patriotism is less to the fore in peace than in war, that a great deal of work is in itself unattractive, and that it can only be carried on from the motive of private gain or the need for making a living. Sir Leo performs ably enough the not very difficult task of picking holes in the present industrial system, but in fact the only alternative seems to be the full State control of Capital and the conscription of Labour—a system which England is unlikely in any circumstances to adopt. But since the relations between Capital and Labour, with the State as umpire, are obviously changing before our eyes, it is well to have this ground explored from every point of view. Sir Leo's remedies will not be accepted as a whole, but it is possible that some points in them will be found capable of being engrafted on our existing system.

OCELLUS.


**THE BAGGING OF BAGHDAD.**

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, September 27.

**Proposed Basis of Agreement Accepted.**

Matters have now advanced to the point where one can definitely state that the majority of the population of Egypt accept the draft as the basis for an agreement between Great Britain and Egypt. After the Legislative Assembly and other elements of the community, it was this week the turn of the provincial notables and of the provincial councils to meet the Egyptian Delegation and discuss the situation. Almost without exception these meetings have declared in favour of the proposal, while making reservations and recommendations on the same lines as those put on record at previous meetings. The latest development comes, however, from Prince Omar Toussoun, the chief signatory of the manifesto issued about a fortnight ago, to which reference has been made in my last two letters. His Highness, obviously realising the tactical blunder into which he had been led, has endeavoured to allay the irritation caused by the manifesto by explaining to Press representatives that he had had no intention of trying to influence public opinion, but had merely wished to make known his personal opinion. He has now intimated a desire to meet the Egyptian Delegation when they visit Alexandria on their way back to Paris, an invitation which the Delegation have most readily accepted; and this last gesture on the part of Prince Omar Toussoun may be expected considerably to strengthen the position of the Egyptian Delegation.

The four delegates, who will be accompanied by the three other members of the Delegation who are still in Egypt, are due to embark on the French steamer Lotus on October 1. They will proceed direct to Paris, where they will report to Zaghloul Pasha and Adly Pasha, and it may be forecast that those two Egyptian leaders, when conveying to Lord Milner the result of the inquiry conducted in Egypt, will state that that inquiry has shown that the majority of the Egyptian nation are in favour of an agreement on the basis proposed, and that they have full confidence in the Egyptian Delegation.

The Nationalist party, in a desperate attempt to strengthen the opposition, have this week published a detailed report, accompanied by a statement to the effect that the proposed agreement merely confirms the Protectorate declared in 1914 and deprives Egypt of her internal and external sovereignty. This is, however, but a flash in the pan, and the party's intervention has for all practical purposes fallen on deaf ears.

**Water Power at Asswan.**

According to reports that reach me, considerable progress is being made in connection with the scheme for the development of the water power running to waste at Asswan. Recently the Council of Ministers took a decision that the production and control of the power must remain in the hands of the Egyptian Government, but that there was no objection to granting concessions for the utilisation of the power produced. Sir Murdoch MacDonald, who is now in London, but will have to be back in Egypt by November 1 for the criminal libel action which he is bringing against Sir William Willcocks and Colonel Kennedy, has been busy for the past two months on his report, and it is expected that the scheme will be ready by the time he returns to Egypt. Its importance lies in the fact not only that it will provide power for water-lifting plants in Upper Egypt, where free flow irrigation would not otherwise be possible, but that it will provide for the manufacture of nitrates, of which Egypt requires, and will in the near future require, a very great quantity.

**A New "Nationality" Law.**

One of the results of the war, and one of the measures which the introduction of the new régime will necessitate, will be a new Nationality Law. The legal officers of the Government have been studying the question for some time, but until the present interregnum comes to an end and the negotiations with the Powers with regard to the change in régime are concluded it will not be possible to finish the draft. I gather, however, that in the new law the rights of children born in Egypt of parents of foreign nationality will be safeguarded, and that provision will be made for a very clear definition of "Egyptian" nationality and for its application to residents in Egypt who were formerly Ottoman subjects.

**The Conspiracy Case.**

The conspiracy case in which Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy and twenty-eight others are being tried for treason and conspiracy before a Military Court still drags its weary way, and has now lasted for over two months. This past week, however, it entered upon the concluding stage, when Mr. Mitchel Innes made his final address to the Court in defence of Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy, his speech lasting for a little over a day. As I write this, counsel for the other defendants are making their final addresses, and it will be the turn of Mr. Maxwell, the Crown Prosecutor, to reply, probably on Tuesday. After that the Judge Advocate will sum up and the Court will adjourn to consider its verdict. It is not expected that the sittings will be resumed or that the sentence—if any of the accused are convicted—will be promulgated until the end of the first week of October.

Taking advantage of the presence in the country of the two visitors from the English Bar, and wishing to show them some hospitality, the Council of the Egyptian Bar entertained Mr. Mitchel Innes and his junior, Major Hedley, at a banquet which they gave at Shepheard's Hotel. The evening was a huge success, and both hosts and guests delivered speeches couched in most felicitous terms. All the barristers associated with Mr. Mitchel Innes and Major Hedley in the defence were present, but it was noteworthy that no other representatives of the English Bar or Bench were invited to meet them.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, September 26.

**The Crisis Averted.**

The Ministerial crisis which was threatening the country, and foreshadowed in my last letter, has been averted, at least for the moment. During the visit of the Crown Prince Regent to Serajevo, M. Vesnitch and several of the Ministers accompanied him, and it was during their absence that M. Protitch began a series of violent articles in the *Samouprava*, the Radical organ, attacking M. Vesnitch and other prominent Radicals on the ground of faint-heartedness. The piquant thing is that he attacked the new Radical Minister for the Constituent Assembly, Professor Markovitch, who was himself on the staff of the paper, and who at once resigned. A split seemed imminent in the party, the die-hards siding with M. Protitch and the moderates with M. Vesnitch. It was feared that this would lead to the resignation of some of the Radical members of the Cabinet, and so to a fall of the Government, and it was confidently anticipated in well-informed circles that the crisis would break out at the first Cabinet meeting after the return from Serajevo, and there was a distinct feeling of nervousness. But it appears that the crisis has been smoothed over by M. Vesnitch, and the disaster averted. At the best, it was a purely political move engineered with the hope of getting the Radicals into power so that they could influence the general elections in their own interest.

The Government has plenty to keep itself busy with apart from artificial crises. The Adriatic problem is approaching a most interesting stage, when Dr. Trumbitch is entering into direct negotiations with Rome. Naturally, the Belgrade Government declines to take D'Annunzio's latest escapade seriously. In internal matters there is the burning question of the pay of "chinovniks," or Government officials. In spite of numerous grants on account of the terrific cost of living,

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this class has great difficulty in making both ends meet; which is as demoralising as it is unjust. The Minister of Finance has informed the Cabinet that he can give a credit of 200 million dinars for this purpose; other Ministers think that this money should not be given direct to the "chinovniks," but employed to reduce the general cost of living, which presses so hardly on all but the very richest members of the community.

**Serbia and Bulgaria.**

Relations with Bulgaria are occupying the attention of the Press, especially since our late enemies have signified their readiness to join the Little Entente. In Serbian circles this declaration is received with reserve, as the Bulgars are very naturally looked upon with suspicion and their honesty of purpose questioned. Serbs do not easily forget the fact that Bulgaria attacked their former allies treacherously in 1914, and it will be long before the soreness caused by Bulgarian behaviour during the three years' occupation of Serbian territory can be assuaged. Many Serbs recognise that the day must come when Bulgaria will enter the State of Yugoslavia, but as allies they will have little confidence in them as yet. "*Baja Ganje*," as the Serbs call "Johnny Bulgar," has much to expiate. And even if M. Stambolisky can inspire confidence in his good intentions, he has yet to inspire confidence in his strength. For while the Government is making assurances of friendship, the fact remains that Bulgar *komitajis*, under the leadership of the notorious Protogeroff, are busy in Serbian territory in Macedonia; they are frequently coming into conflict with the gendarmerie, who succeeded about a week ago in killing one of their leaders, with an evil reputation, in an action in which there were several casualties on both sides. The *Politika* says that the best guarantee they could offer would be to hand over their war criminals for trial, instead of trying them themselves, which is the official reply from Sofia. General Protogeroff was thus tried, condemned, and imprisoned, but in a very short time he re-appeared, organising his bands in Macedonia. And in the same connection, the *Tribuna* quotes an unfortunate article from the Sofia *Mir*, written in the most chauvinistic tone.

**Magyar Plots Against Yugoslavia.**

On the northern side, enemy intrigues, in the interest of the Hapsburgites or of Magyar chauvinists, are continuing with the same evil activity that promoted the disturbances at Subotitsa some months ago, and the recent deplorable rioting in Croatia. A plot has been discovered, again at Subotitsa, involving several prominent Magyars, such as Count Szecseny and Litke, manufacturer of the "wagon-lit" champagne. One of the objects of the plot was the murder of the Yugoslav representative and a *coup d'état* to place Magyar officials in power. It is announced from Pechuy, or Pecs, the colliery district in the Baranya, that the Subotitsa secret police have revealed a widespread organisation, of which the moving spirit is a man called Friedrich Fridech, who, under a false name, recruited a band of plotters to carry out his designs. When the police called at his house to arrest him, he succeeded in escaping through a back window and getting across the demarcation line into Hungary. It is on account of the ceaseless activity of the Magyar irredentists that Yugoslavs view with misgiving the inclination both of Great Britain and France towards Budapest.

**Miscellaneous.**

Among the numerous patriotic young Bosnians who helped the Serbian cause during the war, one, Predrag Kashikovitch, son of the editor of the *Bosanska Vila*, was condemned to be hanged by the Austrians. His mother was condemned to be hanged at the same time for the same offence. Prince George of Serbia, hearing this, went at once personally to Madrid and begged King Alfonso to intercede at Vienna on behalf of the condemned pair. The Spanish King's intercession was successful, and mother and son were both pardoned. This dauntless lady has now been decorated with the Medal for Valour by the Crown Prince on his recent visit to Serajevo.


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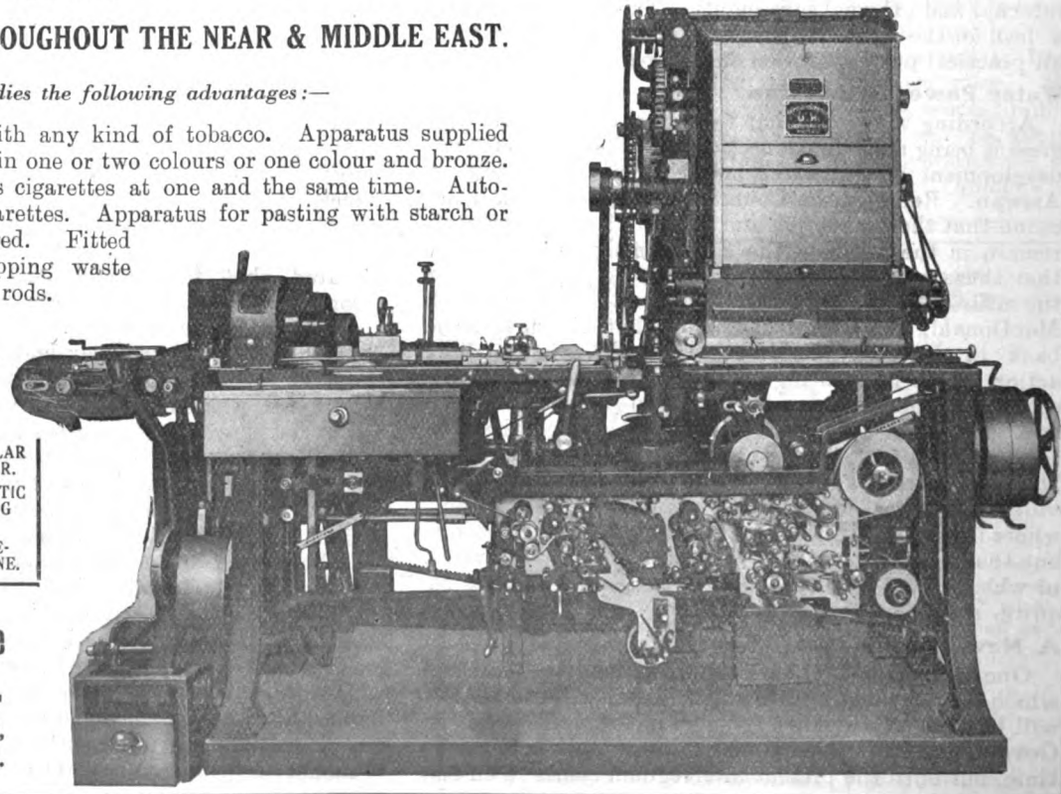

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A forger of 20-dinar Yugoslav notes has been arrested in Vienna.

The State Council has thrown out the appeal of the Communist Party against the decision of the Minister of the Interior, that the municipal elections were invalid, and consequently new elections will be held.

September 29.

**The Prince and Serajevo.**

Little anecdotes about the visit of the Crown Prince to Serajevo are now cropping up. One relates how the young lady who presented him with a bouquet of flowers had already had experience, for it was she who presented a similar bouquet to the late Archduke Franz Ferdinand on his fatal visit in 1914! In the same way, one paper states that Mme. Vesnitch lodged in the room in which the Archduke expired. But this is probably all sensation-mongering. More interesting is the account of the decoration of the plucky lady who was condemned by the Austrians to be hanged, together with her son, described in my last letter. A pretty incident is now forthcoming. On the road from the station to the Court there was a large party of *hanums* or Mohammedan ladies, duly clad in *feridje*. As the Prince passed by, the *hanums* with one accord lifted their veils, and a happy smile of welcome was seen on their pallid features; and in the evening they all took part in an unending procession, torch in hand, that defiled before the Palace, all singing national songs, to welcome their Prince.

**The Serbo-Bulgarian Frontier.**

The Commission for the delimitation of the new frontiers with Bulgaria is now at work, under the command of General Dushan Stefanovitch, who was until recently Military Attaché in Paris. A report from Skoplje states that the inhabitants have received the Commissioners with open arms, and the request that the officials and gendarmes who will be detailed to these districts be not from Serbian Macedonia, in which case they might have some old grudges to settle, but from old Serbia.

**Prince Milosh Obrenovitch.**

September 26 was the sixtieth anniversary of the death of Prince Milosh I. Obrenovitch of Serbia. He passed away in the *konak* at Topchider, which has for the last twelve months been the comfortable and picturesque home of the members of the staff of the Serbian Relief Fund.

**Miscellanea.**

King Peter has now taken up his residence in his villa on the Topchider Hill, near Belgrade. His Majesty is resting from the fatigue of his journey, but is receiving no one in audience.

General Sir George Milne, who commanded the British forces in Macedonia through the war, has arrived in Belgrade. On Monday the Regent gave a dinner in his honour.

The Yugoslav Government has decided that aliens resident in the country who are distinguished by race and tongue shall have no votes for the Constituent Assembly because they have the option of electing their nationality after one year, under Clause 80 of the Treaty of St. Germain.

M. Volpi, formerly Serbian Consul at Venice, has arrived in Belgrade. It is understood that his return is in connection with the forthcoming direct negotiations between Yugoslavia and Italy on the Adriatic question.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, September 25.

**The Dissolution of the Chamber.**

The life of the twentieth Parliamentary Period of the Chamber ended with the last sitting on Thursday, September 23. After a long debate, in which M. Venizelos and the Opposition members, MM. Pope and Eftaxias, spoke in connection with the interior questions, the Premier read out the Royal Decrees ordering the dissolution of the Chamber and the abolition of martial law in all the parts of Greece in which it was still in force.

The general elections will take place on October 25 (o.s.), and the new Chamber will be convoked on November 30 (o.s.).

**The Victory Festival.**

The organising committee of the Victory festivals, which will be celebrated on the 14th and 15th of this month (o.s.), has published the programme of the celebrations.

On the first day at 11 a.m. the mayors and presidents of communities in Greece will be officially received at the Municipal Theatre by the Mayor of Athens and the Municipal Council. In the afternoon they will assemble at the Zappeion Palace, whence they will proceed to the Stadium. Shortly afterwards the colours of all the regiments which participated in the war will make their entry into the Stadium accompanied by an escort of honour and military bands. The next to enter the Stadium will be the Bishops of the country attired in their official robes; these will be preceded by the banner of the monastery of St. Laura and a choir of 150 voices. A service will then be held in memory of the officers and men who fell during the war, and His Majesty the King will place a wreath of laurel leaves on the cenotaph specially erected in the Stadium. A thanksgiving service for the victory of the Greek arms will follow. At night the Acropolis, the Lycabettus Hill, and the main thoroughfares and squares of the capital will be illuminated.

In the afternoon of the second day there will be a performance of "The Persians," a tragedy by Æschylus, at the ancient theatre of Herod of Attica, situated at the foot of the Acropolis. At 8 p.m. a great banquet in honour of M. Venizelos will be given by the Mayors of Greece at the Zappeion Palace. At the end of the banquet the Mayor of Athens will, on behalf of the nation, present M. Venizelos with a golden wreath.

Hundreds of telegrams have been received from the mayors of various towns announcing their arrival in Athens, while a telegram from Crete announces the departure for the capital of 400 Cretan chieftains, all of whom are old comrades-in-arms of M. Venizelos at the time the Greek Premier was engaged in guerilla warfare against the Turks on the mountains of Crete. These old warriors will be attired in their picturesque national costume, and a great reception is being prepared for them by the Cretan Club in Athens.

In view of the anticipated large influx of visitors in the capital steps are being taken by the authorities to provide sufficient accommodation. Many hotel proprietors have offered to accommodate a small number of persons free of charge.

**A Requiem in Memory of Jean Dragoumis.**

A service in memory of Jean Dragoumis, who, it will be remembered, was shot dead on the day of the recent regrettable occurrences in Athens, was held last Sunday morning at the Church of St. Sotiros. In addition to the numerous personal friends of this unfortunate young diplomatist, many politicians and men of letters also attended the sad ceremony. After the service those present accompanied the deceased's father, M. Stephan Dragoumis, and his family to their residence in Boulevard Amelia.

**The Speed of Motor Cars.**

Owing to the numerous motor-car accidents which have occurred in Athens lately, orders have been issued by the Prefecture of Police to the effect that no motor vehicles must exceed 20 kilometres per hour in the town, while the maximum speed outside Athens will be 40 kilometres per hour. In certain parts of the city where the traffic is very heavy the speed must not exceed 10 kilometres per hour.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, September 27.

**Foreign Policy.**

The local Press has little to say regarding the policy of Roumania in connection with the "Little Entente" and other important questions of foreign policy, but it gives its readers extensive translations of M. Také Jonesco's interviews in the Allied Press. This is largely due to the fact that M. Také Jonesco has been given a free hand by the Government to act as he thinks best in Roumania's interests; and, moreover, the Roumanian people feel confident that he is the right man in the ri

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place with such intricate questions under consideration and discussion.

It is felt that since M. Jonescu became Minister for Foreign Affairs the country has had a well-defined foreign policy.

**Visit of British Professors to Transylvania.**

A few days ago, a party of Edinburgh University professors arrived at Cluj (Transylvania) from Buda-Pest. It consisted of Professors Webster, Pluming, and Curtiss, and the object of their visit is to study the Roumanian-Hungarian question, and especially the conditions referring to the various Protestant denominations existing in Greater Roumania. The party is staying at the house of Bishop Nagy, and is already in touch with the Roumanian authorities.

**Church Reform Bill.**

In connection with the Church question, M. Octavian Goga, the Minister of Religion, in an interview which he gave to the Press, made several interesting declarations concerning the Church Reform Bill which he intends to bring forward at the next Parliamentary Session.

He said that the most important point of the Bill will be the unification of the Roumanian Orthodox Church throughout the country, for at present there are four Church organisations, with four different legislations, in Transylvania, Bessarabia, Bukovina, and Old Roumania. It is absolutely necessary that the Orthodox Church, being canonically one, should have only one organisation. For the purpose of preparing this measure the Minister called a consultative meeting, which is now taking place at Bucharest. The gathering consists of representatives from the Kingdom and the newly-joined provinces. The basis of this reform will be the Synodical principle, based on universal suffrage, for the election of Church officials, and the participation of laymen in all ecclesiastic matters. In preparing the Church Bill, they will be guided by the laws set down by the late Bishop Saguna, the well-known ecclesiastic of the Orthodox Church in Transylvania.

At this meeting, or at the next Synod, a number of other Church problems will be discussed, the chief of which is the question of the monasteries. These monasteries have up to now been isolated, and were obsolete from every point of view. Besides their monastical duties, the monks will have to prove their usefulness to the community at large. The scheme is to establish libraries in some monasteries, whilst the monks at other monasteries will be taught to manufacture candles for any church requirements, to make priestly vestments, to take up bee-keeping, agriculture, etc. Another important question is the revision of the Church text and the translation of the Bible.

M. Goga further mentioned that he will not forget other national denominations in this country. He also invited officially all bishops of other Churches to swear the oath of allegiance to Roumania, in order that he may work in closer contact with them, and eventually subsidise them.

The Roumanian Minister to the Vatican has already left for Rome, and the Pope's delegate is very shortly expected in Bucharest.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, September 30.

**King Boris and President Millerand**

Immediately on the reception of the news of the election of M. Millerand as President of the French Republic, King Boris sent him a telegram of congratulations. M. Millerand, in the cordial reply which he sent, expressed his best wishes for the well-being of Bulgaria. These friendly telegrams are the first since the war exchanged between King Boris and the head of one of the Entente states, and thus acquire a real significance.

The President of the Honduras Republic, General Don Rafael Lopez Gulicaras, has, on the occasion of his election to that post, also exchanged telegraphic greetings with King Boris.

**Bulgarian Prisoners in Serbia.**

The Bulgarian Government has again made representations to the Yugoslav Government asking for the immediate release of the Bulgarian prisoners of war still remaining in Serbia. These number 2,000, and the Belgrade Government promised long ago that they should be sent back to Bulgaria.

**Territory to be Taken Over.**

It is expected that the Yugoslavs will enter into occupation of the territories awarded to them by the Treaty of Neuilly about October 6 or 7. A part of the population of these territories is emigrating and crossing the new frontier in order to remain still in Bulgarian territory; but a great part will still remain, the people clinging to their native villages. The Bulgarian Government will urge with all its force upon the Supreme Council at Paris that guarantees shall be given for the protection of the rights of the minorities in regard to their schools and churches.

**Communications With Hungary.**

Regular postal and telegraphic communications between Hungary and Bulgaria will be resumed to-morrow, October 1.

**M. Stambolisky's Visit.**

The news of the British Government's invitation to M. Stambolisky to visit England was received with much satisfaction by the whole nation, and it is earnestly hoped that this visit will win again for Bulgaria British friendship and sympathy. Dr. Dimitri Stancioff, formerly Bulgarian Minister Plenipotentiary at Paris, is leaving this evening for London in connection with M. Stambolisky's visit there. Captain W. B. Heard, H.B.M. Commercial Commissioner in Bulgaria, is also leaving this evening by the Orient Express for London in connection with the same visit.

**War Criminals.**

The Bulgarian Government is preparing a Note in reply to the Entente's demand for the extradition of 500 Bulgarian war criminals. The Note requests that, in accordance with the precedents established in the case of Germany and Austria, Bulgaria also may be granted the right to try these accused before her own tribunals on her own soil.

## ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA, September 27.

**Departure of the British.**

Commodore Maurice Fitz-Maurice, who has been in command in Smyrna since the Armistice, goes home on his flagship H.M.S. Bryony on October 1. H.M.S. Cardiff and Centaur will be stationed in Smyrna for a short time after the departure of the Bryony.

The British Military Mission will leave Smyrna on October 15, when the Inter-Allied Passport Bureau will also close, and Smyrna and district will then be left entirely in the hands of the Greek Government.

**Capitulations.**

Though the British Government is willing to waive the capitulations under which European subjects obtain many commercial advantages in Turkey, the French and Italian Governments absolutely refuse to make this concession to the Greeks, and insist on the capitulations remaining in force throughout the Turkish Empire. The Greeks claim that it will be impossible successfully to carry out their mandate for the Smyrna province if the capitulations are not abolished. It is rumoured that Mixed Tribunals, after the model of the Egyptian Courts, will be established. This means that the task allotted to the Greeks is such that a Sisyphus would have preferred his lower-world punishment rather than take it on.

## CYPRUS.

CYPRUS (undated.)

**General News.**

Among the new laws is one providing for the taking of a census next year. The Municipality of Papho has been authorised to borrow £2.000 towards a new water supply. Carobs of the new crop, which are of excellent quality, are being brought into the town stores. At Limassol there is now plenty of space in the merchants' stores. Three large steamers have shipped cargoes from that town. At Famagusta yet another Greek paper is about to be published under the title of *Demiourgia*: Mr. K. P. Rossider being the proprietor. Mr. E. McDonald is acting as Commissioner of Famagusta.

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

## THE HUB OF THE MIDDLE EAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—Reading this morning your quotation in THE NEAR EAST of October 7 (p. 506) from Mr. Roland Michell's article on "Our Eastern Mandates," I was struck with the suggestion which what you quoted distinctly puts forward, viz., that the Central Asian Society really was becoming a power in Asia, and if in Asia, then also in Europe. Your paragraph names four men—Mr. Michell himself, Sir Percy Cox, Sir A. T. Wilson, and Mr. St. J. Philby—all members of the Central Asian Society, all men of note in their line, and, after all, only four out of a Society which numbers over 300.

Putting aside Ireland, the very subject which Mr. Michell has been handling is the one which at this moment causes Britain, and, indeed, I may say, the British Empire, the profoundest anxiety. As you will remember, in February last Captain the Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore handled this theme before the C.A.S. in an admirable address, which drew from Lord Carnock, Sir Edmund Barrow, Sir Francis Younghusband, Colonel C. E. Yate, and others at once *encomia* and criticism which enhanced its value. If you will look at the programme of lectures of the C.A.S. for the current session, which you were so good as to insert in THE NEAR EAST for September 30, you will see that they all centre in that region which for half a century or more has been known as "the Buffer States" *par excellence*, meaning those that protected India from the ambitions of other European Powers. Whatever the future may bring forth, those buffer States must exercise a great influence over the fortunes of India; and if, twenty years ago, the Central Asian Society founded itself as, so to speak, the champion of British rights in Asia as opposed to Russian, to-day it is, or in the near future will be, the centre of an organisation which proposes to keep a close watch on British interests in all those countries over which Britain holds a more or less direct mandate. It is a most important duty, and in my opinion it is matter for public congratulation that the Society which undertakes this duty has in the last two years greatly increased its numbers and its influence. Political, commercial, strategical, social, and religious interests of great moment are bound up with this region, through which runs what was in the Middle Ages one of the two great caravan routes connecting the Far East with Europe. For the first time, perhaps, in the annals of history the Ægæo-Euxine Straits are an open commercial highway. It remains now to eliminate the unquiet spirit of Bolshevism from the breast of those Moslem races—Turkish, Persian, Afghan, and Uzbek—who have in their heart of hearts no sympathy with it; and if the Central Asian Society can contribute to that end, depend upon it, it will do so. Roads, railways, air routes, and commercial and financial relations pave the way to friendly intercourse and mutual interest, and it is in such-like enterprises that at this moment many members of that Society are closely engaged.—I am, etc.,

A. C YATE, Lieut.-Col.,
Hon. Sec., Central Asian Society.

The Athenæum, October 9, 1920.

## THE GREEKS IN ANATOLIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—Your Constantinople Correspondent in his letter of September 11 again raises the question of alleged "reprisals" committed by Greek "irregulars" in Anatolia.

Knowing perfectly well that these allegations are entirely unfounded and are simply the fruits of the imagination of persons who for various reasons desire to foment further trouble in the Near East, your Correspondent, notwithstanding attempts to forestall all criticism and denial of these—to put them mildly—allegations by declaring that "naturally all accusations will be refuted and proof will be forthcoming that the Greeks have behaved in Anatolia like lambs. Even Turks will be produced as witnesses, and will swear by Allah that it was even so."

It is perfectly useless to argue with a correspondent who does not hesitate to use such methods in attempting to pervert the truth. But, still, I must ask to be permitted to state that the Greek authorities have in their possession numerous declarations, made by the populations of all nationalities and creeds inhabiting the districts of Anatolia occupied by the Greek forces, in which these populations express their satisfaction with the conduct of the Greek troops. I have every reason to believe that these declarations were made quite voluntarily, and not as the result of coercion or fear of "reprisals." Besides, I may add that there are absolutely no Greek "Irregulars" in Anatolia.—I am, etc.,

M. LYKIARDOPOULOS.

33, Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W.1, October 4, 1920.

## GRECO-BULGARIAN UNDERSTANDING.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—Athenian papers write how M. Panurgia was well received by King Boris, to whom he presented his credentials, also that the Bulgarian Press unanimously hailed the resumption of Greco-Bulgarian diplomatic relations. This is but the first step towards a sincere and closer *rapprochement* which is much needed in the two countries, and, as I pointed out through your journal some time ago, the old feud may be buried only with the collaboration of the Press on both sides.

Exaggerated statements, fiery reminiscences, antagonistic tendencies, and reprisals must cease once and for all. M. Venizelos, fortunately, is not the man to trample upon a prostrate foe. On the other hand, M. Stamboliski has proved to be the modern Stambulov of Bulgaria, an iron-fisted man who intends to stand by his word and means to keep the pledge he signed on behalf of his people. M. Panurgia's name may sound for the Bulgarians as that of the illustrious son of Laertes, and my countrymen may repeat sceptically as the Trojan archpriest Timeo Danaos to the fervent assurances of the Bulgarian Premier, the essential thing is that confidence and not defiance are now urgently required in both countries.

When the liberated Bulgarian prisoners of war leave with cheers the Greek territory, and if King Boris receives through M. Panurgia the greetings of "his good brother and dear cousin," "why is not the persecution of Greeks in Bulgaria stopped?" We heard lately of the very critical condition of the Greeks in the districts of Kavacli and Sozouagathopoli. I expect that these incidents may prove that they are sporadic and not general, and that a sincere *rapprochement* may lead not only to the Little Entente, but, perhaps, to a Balkanic Entente, now that Greece, Bulgaria, and Albania are the only countries which can boast of being purely Balkan countries.—I am, etc.,

THEODORE D. MOSCONA.

32, Oxford Street, Manchester, October 9, 1920.

## "A TURKISH DISH."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—Mohammed advised his followers not to eat garlic and onion because the strong, unpleasant odour of these liliaceous plants usually remains a long time with those who eat them, and becomes a cause of annoyance to the decent people in mosques and in society. Therefore, Mohammedan priests and many other Moslems dislike their scent, and cannot eat them. "Imam Baildi" is a simple dish composed of eggplants and the bulbs of garlic cooked together, and its name is an allusion to the excess of garlic in it and to the fact that Imams dislike its odour to the point of fainting.—I am, etc.,

M. N. B.

Oxford, October 10, 1920.

## ALI HAIDAR PASHA.

A correspondent writes from Constantinople:

"I was very interested in the article by Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah in the issue of September 9. I have known the former Emir, Ali Haidar Pasha, for many years, and can heartily endorse every word of the article. It is during such critical times as when one is a prisoner of war that one discovers the value of friendship. During the whole four years of the war both Sherif Ali Haidar and his son Sherif Abdul Mejid were consistently kind, and never once did I hear of their having associated themselves with the rabid anti-British current that directed all Turkey's activities at that time. The sons of Ali Haidar Pasha have all had an English education, and efforts are being made to obtain permission for one of the younger ones to proceed to a well-known British University. Surely in these circumstances we should at least not injure our own interests if we gave Ali Haidar Pasha a chance to come forward as a candidate for the rulership of Mesopotamia. He does not ask any more than our moral assistance. He asks neither for guns nor soldiers. Why should he not be allowed to try his luck with the turbulent Arab tribes? If he succeeded, it is perfectly certain that our task in Mesopotamia would be immensely simplified."

A Gibraltar message states that much pleasure is evinced at the action of the Spanish Government in withdrawing the recent decree demanding that all persons entering or leaving Spain in this neighbourhood shall be provided with passports. Police tickets will be sufficient till further orders for the local populations of Gibraltar, Algeciras, etc.

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## M. TAKE JONESCU.

Monsieur Take Jonescu, Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who with Madame Jonescu arrives in London to-day, needs no introduction to the British public. As becomes a specialist in foreign politics, he is better known abroad than any other Roumanian statesman. Throughout his political career he has stood for the policy of a close understanding between Roumania and the Entente Powers, a natural corollary, perhaps, to a French education and to the circumstance that his first wife was English. In the critical days of 1914 his unswerving opposition to the proposal that Roumania should throw in her lot with the Central Powers went a long way towards confirming the country in a line of action which undoubtedly coincided with the national bent, although at variance with the official State policy of practically a generation. When the Germans overran Roumania, they showed their appreciation of the part played by M. Take Jonescu by selecting his property for a special exhibition of wanton destruction. The Roumanians have passed successfully through their ordeal, and to none can the consciousness of a definite policy pursued to a victorious end appeal more strongly than to M. Take Jonescu.

As head of the Conservative-Democratic party he finds himself in home politics midway between the National

**M. TAKE JONESCU.**

*[Photo by F. A. Swaine, 146, New Bond St., W.1.*

Liberals under M. Bratianu and the Conservatives. His following hitherto has not been numerically strong enough to obtain for him the chief post in the Government. When after the resignation of M. Bratianu, the Cabinet of Dr. Vaida Voevod, during the latter's prolonged absence abroad, came to grief over domestic questions, Roumania turned to General Averescu for a Government that would not be entangled with the complications that beset a purely party administration. But the new Prime Minister, in spite of the unique position he enjoyed, was obliged to turn to M. Take Jonescu for the Parliamentary experience essential to the conduct of the country's affairs, and it has been in no small measure due to the latter's handling of Parliament that the Cabinet has weathered a difficult session.

Freed from Parliamentary preoccupations, the Foreign Minister is now able to devote his attention to the affairs of his own Department, and it is evidently M. Take Jonescu's wish to be responsible for a new orientation of Roumania's foreign policy. He has identified himself with the Czecho-Slovak scheme of a "Little Entente" between Czecho-Slovakia, Yugoslavia and Roumania, but only as a stepping-stone to a wider agreement which is to embrace Poland and Greece. In the present stage of international relations in Europe, any grouping of States is bound to cause misgivings in some quarters, even if it does not actually provoke another grouping as a counterweight. While, therefore, the "Little Entente" in its present form may be accepted as a natural reply to the uncertainty of Magyar politics, any extension of it would at once raise a variety of points to which Great Britain and France, to say nothing of Italy, cannot be altogether indifferent. M. Take Jonescu has already explained that he is prepared to see late enemy States enter the proposed confederation, if they can satisfy the five countries that they intend to abide by the Peace Treaties; but the manner of the reservation implies considerable doubt on this subject. It so happens that M. Take Jonescu's visit to this country coincides with that of the Bulgarian Prime Minister, who would hardly have come at the invitation of the British Government if any doubt were felt as to Bulgaria's acceptance of the Peace Terms. A meeting between M. Stambolisky and M. Take Jonescu in England is almost certain to take place, and it is to be hoped, as a result of it, that the Roumanian Government will no longer feel that any insurance undertakings against its southern neighbour are necessary.

The advantages that General Averescu counted upon from the co-operation of the Conservative-Democrats are not restricted to parliamentary support and good relations with the Entente Powers. The portfolios held by M. Take Jonescu's party include those of Finance and Public Works as well as of Foreign Affairs. For Roumania at present the question of finance is most important, and it is possible that the Foreign Minister, who has been acting Minister of Finance during the absence of his colleague, M. Titulesco, may wish to continue the negotiations begun by the latter with the British and French Governments. But whatever be the affairs of State that may occupy M. Take Jonescu during his visit to England, he is assured of a hearty welcome on his own account, and the British public will be glad of the opportunity of showing its appreciation of a foreign statesman who has proved such a staunch supporter of the Allied cause in his own country.

## MOSLEM LITERATURE AND TRADITION IN EAST AFRICA.

Speaking on September 30 at the London School of Oriental Studies, Miss Alice Werner said that the Islamisation of East Africa was not due to any great movement of conquest or invasion. The settlers brought their religion with them, and their children by native wives grew up in it, while the slaves adopted it as a matter of course. At present "Swahili" and "Moslem" were practically synonymous terms, and the members of inland tribes who Islamised usually called themselves Swahili. Practically all Swahili Moslems were Sunnis, and most of them belonged to the Stefir sect. It was uncertain how long ago the Arabic character was first applied to the writing of Swahili—no manuscripts more than a hundred years of age appeared to be in existence; but some of the poetry extant was known to be of great antiquity. The Inkishafi was certainly earlier than the advent of the Portuguese in 1498, and some verses attributed to Liongo Fumo were dated by some before the thirteenth century. A great body of Swahili verse was in existence; much of this was written, and fresh manuscripts were continually being brought to light. Much of it was oral, being either handed down by tradition or continually produced afresh, for song and improvisation were as much a part of the people's life as they were, or used to be, in Italy. Most of the popular poetry and all the written poetry differed from the non-Islamised Bantu by possessing a distinct system of rhyme and metre. A feature entirely due to Moslem influence was that much of the poetry was of a religious character. Some of the poetry was by women.

Miss Werner gave extracts from or translations of some of these poems. One was a variation of the story of Job; others had been derived through the Koran ultimately from the Talmud or the apocryphal gospels. Another, of which she did not know the origin and which had not previously been published, was briefly as follows: The archangels Michael and Gabriel disputed as to whether there was any longer any compassion left on earth. Michael said that all men had become entirely hardhearted and cruel; Gabriel took a kindlier view. To settle the point they took human shape, and Michael, as a very sick man, sat at the door of a mosque in Mecca, attracting the attention of the people as they passed in and out. Gabriel appeared then in the form of a doctor, and was asked what would cure Michael. He replied that there was only one possible remedy. A man and wife must be found who had had seven children and lost them all excepting one; then, if they would sacrifice this one, Michael could be cured. It happened that a man, wife, and child fulfilling the required conditions were to be found in Mecca, and, being asked, all three were quite willing that the sacrifice should be made. In a great many stanzas and with much weeping the poem then related how the child's throat was cut, after which Gabriel appeared in his proper shape and restored the child to life.

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# MUSICAL NOTES.

### The Aria.

My remarks last week on the inevitable clashing of two or more important events have all too soon and sadly been verified. On October 5 Miss Ursula Greville and Mr. Leigh Henry were giving a lecture recital at the Æolian Hall on "The Aria: Its Development in Form and Feeling" at the same time as M. Lazare Saminsky was introducing his new Russian Choir at the Wigmore Hall. The unfortunate critic could thus be present only at half of either programme. At the first concert Mr. Henry, who is a notable English critic with something more than a bent towards modernism, explained the origin and growth of the aria, how it developed from the simple air or tune to the elaborate melody of modern times; and a little to enlighten the obscurity which an account of origins and growths always involves Miss Greville sang some arias. What I heard her sing were some folk-songs and Elizabethan arias, and a group of seventeenth-century Italian arias; and it was both because she does these things so well and because of the rather heavily-witted delivery of the lecture that one could have wished her interruptions to come more frequently. But, in spite of the unusual course of making the concert one more of instruction than of entertainment, she aroused a good deal of enthusiasm by her singing, especially of "Stizzoso, mio stizzoso," by Pergolese. Miss Greville's future was not made clearer by this concert, but it certainly was made more secure.

### The New Russian Choir.

It was great fortune not to miss Miss Lilias Mackinnon's playing at the concert which M. Saminsky had organised. "Two Sarcasms" of Prokofieff which she gave did not seem very distinctive works; but her playing of some Scriabin preludes made one think more highly than ever both of her and of the composer. Mme. Zoia Rosowsky, who sang some songs by Miaskowsky, Saminsky, Stravinsky, and Moussorgsky, was in great form—better than ever I have heard her in; two songs by Saminsky which she sang over a year ago at another concert were much more impressive this time. But the main event of the evening was the singing of the New Russian Choir, which is composed of a body of Russian refugees in this country. There are about fifty voices, and, if one considers the short time which they have been under M. Saminsky's instruction, they did not do badly. Everyone knows the tendency of sopranos and tenors to wander from the truth, and the accompaniment by the pianoforte was probably a necessary, if unfortunate, precaution. In two old Russian folk-songs, "O, Duckling of the Meadows" and "I was at the Feast," they sang with a rare lilt and exhilaration which did not often degenerate into mere eagerness. But their finest performance was in "The Fall of Jericho," a Biblical cantata of Moussorgsky. In this composition, which is almost unknown to English audiences, there is strong and unusual writing; it could, one imagines, be made a thing of tremendously stirring import. This Russian Choir intends to perform some extremely interesting and little-known works by Russian composers; and if its technical achievements in any way approach the standard of the music it is going to perform, it will deserve very well of this country. From how big a field it is possible to choose the members of this choir I do not know, but they cannot have a better interpreter and conductor of Russian music than M. Saminsky.

### An Impeccably Inefficient Singer.

One does not go to Mr. Gerald Cooper's recitals to hear him sing, for that he does not do; but one must go to hear what he has to sing. He is one of a very rare body of vocalists whose programmes are in spite of themselves irresistibly attractive. For Mr. Cooper has an almost impeccable taste and judgment combined with a strange and quite undeserved inability to sing what he knows is the best. He, with the Wadsworth Quartet, gave a chamber concert at the Mortimer Hall on October 6, and what was provided was pleasing, if not enjoyable. Arias of Bach and Mozart must indeed be sung badly not to be liked, and Mr. Cooper, whose vices as well as whose virtues are negative, should be praised for singing these things. He also sang some Elizabethan airs with a certain reserved charm; and later, with narrow conviction, songs by Philip Heseltine, Bridge, Bernard Van Dieren, and Richard Nicholson. Van Dieren, a Dutch composer, whose genius is little known but loudly acclaimed by those who do know his works, was represented by a song called "Schön Rohtraut," for voice and string quartet, in which it appeared that his methods are simple, direct, and successful compared with most modern composers. The Wadsworth String Quartet gave, with mezzo-soprano, tenor, flute, English horn, and double bass, the first performance of Rhapsody No. 2, by Arthur Bliss. This young composer's works generally have something to commend them; and this rhapsody certainly showed fluidity, even though a slight thinness of idea was apparent. The best thing of the whole evening was Mozart's Quartet for flute, violin, viola, and violoncello. Mr. Fransella, an extremely accomplished flautist, made an admirable leader, but he was indifferently supported by the strings. This concert was a shining example of how the tone of the chamber concert is being raised in England.

### A New Italian Tenor.

Whether it is true that every singer bears the characteristics of his nation I do not know, but the common notion that an Italian tenor should writhe with passion, and pantingly exude the dramatic sense, was dispelled by M. Luigi Rangoni at his recital at the Æolian Hall on October 8. M. Rangoni was unexpectedly reserved, and though this was partly due to nervousness, it was also partly natural. He obtained all his effects legitimately, and his sins were almost all of omission. In Carissimi's "Vittoria" his consonants were weak enough to rob him of half of the joyous effect of the music; in César Franck's "Nocturne" there was a lack of subtle *nuance* which is absolutely necessary for the atmosphere of the song; and in Gretchaninow's "La Steppa" one could not feel the break upon the wanderer's chill solitude. But he sang finely things as difficult and as different as Friedmann Bach's "Non Cresce un picciol stelo," Respeghi's "Nebbie," Zandonai's "I due tarli" (a new and very good song), and Pizzetti's setting (which is not as good as Da Parma's) of D'Annunzio's "I' Pastori." M. Rangoni is new to this country, and will probably do much better when he has settled down. He appears to be an artist, though it should be remarked that singing out of the tune for the sake of effect can become very inartistic.

### M. Mischa-Leon.

The worth of M. Mischa-Léon's singing is pretty well universally recognised now, and to miss one of his recitals is both a folly and a crime. His artistry is consummate, and he is a master of practically any form of song. At the Æolian Hall on October 9 his was pure singing all the time; he has apparently relinquished the tendency which was faintly discernible last season to introduce illegitimate methods of interpretation. His programme, which consisted of songs in French, Spanish, Basque, English, and Scandinavian, was beautifully chosen, the weakest song in fact being one "Talisman," by himself. I do not think I have ever heard anyone sing with more perfect *legato* tone; and his tone-colour, notably in Rhené Baton's "Crépuscule," Malipiero's "Chanson Morave," Roussel's "Sarabande," and Laparra's "Iraten hari nuzu" was utterly lovely. If there are any better tenors living, then they have not yet come to this country.

### M. Siloti.

One does not willingly leave before the end of so fine a recital as M. Mischa-Léon's, but I had to do so in order to hear M. Siloti, the eminent Russian pianist who was giving a recital at the Wigmore Hall. M. Siloti was a pupil of Liszt, and is reputed to be one of the great master's finest interpreters. But I was able to hear him only in Bach's "Sicilienne" and "Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue," and in some slight Russian pieces. His grades of *piano* tone in the "Sicilienne" were a revelation, and but for the inexplicable use of *rubato* it was a perfect performance. His interpretation of the "Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue" was certainly individual but scarcely distinguished; there was no eccentricity about it, but the presence of original thought did not bind one to the interpretation. Points were either less or more emphasised than is usual, though the glorious climax in the Fugue was grandly developed. It was a shameful descent from the sublime to the plain when he proceeded to play such trivial rubbish as Rachmaninoff's Prelude in C sharp minor and Rubinstein's Barcarolle in G minor; and it was fortunate that he included in this group, as a salvation of it from complete dulness, a charming little study of Roger Ducasse and his own very clever transcription of a Russian dance by Liadoff. M. Siloti's playing is, I should think, a thing that grows upon one. I should certainly like to hear him again in stuff of more moment. ANDANTE.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

**I.—"MEMOIRS OF THE COUNT DE ROCHECHOUART 1788-1822 IN FRANCE, SOUTHERN RUSSIA, IN THE NAPOLEONIC WARS, AND AS COMMANDANT OF PARIS." Authorised Translation by Frances Jackson. (London: John Murray. 16s. net.)**

**II.—"CASHMERE: THREE WEEKS IN A HOUSEBOAT." By A. Petrocokino, F.R.G.S. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 6s. net.)**

## I.—THE DUC DE RICHELIEU.

In all history there is probably no event which has caused a greater number of memoirs to be written than the French Revolution. Every student of the subject knows the almost interminable list of books, full of personal and sometimes valueless details, which he is supposed to study; and he also knows that those are least to be prized which have for their purpose the self-glorification or the self-justification of their author. But the book under review does not come into this category at all; for although it is sufficiently personal and intimate to interest the ordinary, non-historical reader, its origin is to be found in the author's desire to see justice done to the Duc de Richelieu, the Minister who presided over the affairs of France from 1815-1819. Most of the details which the author includes are designed to prove the worth of the Duke; but there are also some charmingly irrelevant remarks which illuminate the psychology of the *emigrés* of this period.

Much of this book does not concern readers of THE NEAR EAST; but no one could pick it up without finishing it. Lessons from it can be learned in connection with the *emigrés* from Bolshevist Russia; in fact, one might say that the book is of universal interest at the present time. Incidentally, it may be remarked that whatever one thinks of those Frenchmen, of whom our author was one, who fought with English, Russians, Prussians, and the rest, against Napoleon, there is no denying their loyalty to their king and their courage in the demonstration of it.

Louis-Victor-Leon de Rochechouart, who was born in 1788, first met the Duc de Richelieu at Odessa in 1804. An exile from the Revolution, and separated from all relatives, he was immediately adopted by the Duc as a son, and was not parted from him, except during the campaigns in 1813 and 1814, until the death of the Duc de Richelieu in 1822. De Rochechouart was entered into the Russian Army, and became the aide-de-camp of the Duc de Richelieu at Odessa, which province the Duc was administering on behalf of the Tsar, Alexander. When war broke out between Russia and Turkey in 1806 he entered Bessarabia and Moldavia with the forces of General Michelson. What he says of Moldavia is interesting and typical of his style:—

Moldavia is a delightful country. The soil is very fertile and the people afford an interesting study; they are of Roman origin, as may be easily seen from the beauty and regularity of their features and their robust constitution, especially in the case of the peasants. Were it not for their language, it would be difficult to recognise the descendants of the rulers of the world in these people, with their meek, timid, and cringing manners—the result of long servitude.

He was present at the attack on Chetal Island, and bears witness to the "desperate valour of the Turkish cavalry" on that occasion. Next year he was in Circassia, and gives a vivid description of the town of Anapa. Returning to Odessa, he was put in charge of some civil offices, but in 1808 the Duc de Richelieu chose him as companion on a visit to the colonies near Odessa. This tour gave de Rochechouart an opportunity of examining the effect of the German colonisation, undertaken at the instigation of Catharine II., upon the "New Russia," and his description of these provinces is extremely interesting and valuable. But that part of the memoirs which readers of this journal will read with most interest is the chapter devoted to the Crimea. In 1808 our author went all over the Crimea, and describes such towns as Kertch, Kaffa (a very important place when under the Genoese), Karassa-Bazar, Sudak, Alupta, Balaklava, Sebastopol, and Batchiserai. This chapter shows the author to possess a keen sense of the past, for what he says of Italian, Greek, Bulgarian, Armenian, and Tatar influence upon the Crimea is at once vivid and accurate. Soon after this de Rochechouart was made aide-de-camp to the Tsar, and though what follows is important, it scarcely concerns the Near East. However, before the plague broke out in Odessa, and he was called away to the North to fight against Napoleon, he was sent on a boisterous expedition into Circassia, of which he gives a spirited account.

Hence onwards the author's activities were spent in Russia, Germany, and France. He has notable things to say upon men like Bernadotte, Moreau, Schwarzenberg, but for the psychological light which the reports of his conversation with and his comments upon these men throw upon the great figures of this period the reader must go to the book itself. When the Allied armies entered France de Rochechouart was made Commandant of Paris, but apart from his remarks upon the various members of the Ministries of Louis XVIII., the personal element in his memoirs decreases. The book ends with an account of the death of the Duc de Richelieu in 1822, but the translator appends a note briefly relating the subsequent history of the author down to his death in 1858.

It is a rather melancholy thing to read this history of a man whose main activities were actually devoted against his country; though, of course, in his own mind French interests were identical with the interests of the Bourbon dynasty. He pays homage to the genius of Napoleon, but he never fails to regard him as an upstart. It was nothing but his royalist loyalty that made him, a pure Frenchman, carry out his appointed, though obviously and utterly distasteful, task of executing Marshal Ney. The ceaseless intrigues of the reactionaries all over Europe are dealt with very frankly here, for the author is not apparently concealing anything in his record of the persons involved.

This book does not contain historical matter of the first importance; it will make few estimates of men or events necessary; but it is all very readable and entertaining, and, as we have said before, is not without a bearing on happenings of the present day. The translator appears to have made a very faithful translation—erring, if at all, in giving a too literal rendering. The book has a valuable index.

## II.—CASHMERE.

It is rather difficult to imagine why this book should have been written. This seems an ungracious view to take after one has read the author's unpretentious Foreword, in which he says "if anyone . . . finds my experience in any way useful this book will have more than served its purpose," and that he hopes it may induce some "to take a trip they will never regret." But, except for one or two pieces of advice, the information given is not nearly detailed and full enough to be of any real help to anyone travelling in Cashmere, and one feels that the most ordinary guide-book would be much more useful. To a reader who knew Cashmere well this account of the hurried doings of a tourist very much pressed for time would prove merely irritating. If it had any value as a record of personal impressions and sensations this would not, of course, be so; but it appears to be only an enlarged diary of what the author did from day to day. One cannot think that the uninspired descriptions and the poor snapshots would really fill any reader with a desire to visit Cashmere, unless he had already longed to see that wonderful country.

Surely wood is not such a very unworthy material that the author need grudge it the decorations given to it by the artists of Cashmere; he does not seem to object to its being carved, but only to its being used as a foundation for the painted designs.

The book suggests exactly the conversation of the returned traveller showing his friends the snapshots he has taken during his tour. "Yes, that was taken the day we took the trip I was just telling you about. It isn't very clear, but still it gives you an idea." We can imagine the author in these circumstances giving a most entertaining and interesting account of his expedition; but to make of it a heavy book in a rose-pink cover, with the snapshots figuring as twenty-five plates, was unnecessary. There are two clear maps illustrating the journey at the end of the volume.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Under the Turks in Constantinople: A Record of Sir John Finch's Embassy, 1674-1681." By G. F. Abbott. With a Foreword by Viscount Bryce, O.M. (London: Macmillan and Co. 18s. net.)

"Early Judaism." By Laurence E. Browne. (Cambridge: University Press. 14s. net.)

"The Last Days of the Romanovs, from March 15, 1917." (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 18s. net.)

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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**TO-DAY.**

October 14 (New Style).
October 1, 1920 (Old Style).
Moharram 31, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Hesvan 2, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

We are informed that Riza Tewfik Bey is coming to England.

Mr. C. T. Allen, of Cawnpore, India, arrived in England on October 11.

Prince Habeb Lotfallah arrived in London on October 6 from Paris.

Prince and Princess Bibesco have left Paris for Roumania.

M. Pierre Almanacho. Secretary to the Greek Legation, left London on October 8 for Paris.

The King of the Hellenes, who was bitten by a monkey, is reported to be progressing favourably.

M. A. Gugushvili, Secretary to the Georgian Legation in London, has left town for The Hague.

Dr. Granville left Egypt on September 24 to attend the International Hygienic Conference at Paris.

M. Ghambashidze, the Georgian Chargé d'Affaires, returned to London on October 5 from Paris.

Sir John and Lady Bland-Sutton were among the passengers who arrived in England by the Balmoral Castle on October 5.

Colonel Rosetti, formerly Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, returned to London on October 6 from Bucharest.

M. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, entertained at luncheon on October 5 Princess Ghyka, Mme. Greciano, and Captain and Mme. Ghyka.

Dr. Rextar, Secretary to the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, and Mme. Rextar returned to London on October 10 from Belgrade.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—
Commander Luke, R.N.V.R., is leaving Cyprus to take up an important appointment at Jerusalem.

Colonel Sir James Dunlop Smith is on sick leave, and Mr. M. S. D. Butler, C.B., of the Indian Civil Service, is acting as Political A.D.C. to the Secretary of State for India.

M. Nicolas Vladesco, the newly-appointed Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, has arrived in London from the Foreign Office at Bucharest, and entered upon his duties.

Mr. Montagu, the Secretary of State for India, is suffering from a slight indisposition, and it is not expected that he will be able to return to the India Office within the next two weeks.

M. Guequetchkori, the Georgian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has arrived in London from Paris, where he was received by M. Millerand. M. Guequetchkori will visit Earl Curzon at the Foreign Office this week.

The engagement is announced of Miss Constance Helen Block, daughter of Sir Adam Block, K.C.M.G., and Lady Block, to Captain J. D. Woodall, O.B.E., M.C., R.F.A., son of Colonel Woodall, C.M.G., and Mrs. Woodall.

In honour of the visit of the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Madame Také Jonescu, a luncheon is being given at Claridge's Hotel, October 16, at 1.15 p.m., by M. M. B. Boeresco, Minister Plenipotentiary, Chargé d'Affaires of Roumania.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (October 6):—The Crown Prince Regent of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes has conferred the Order of St. Sava, 5th Class, upon M. D. Janitch. M. Janitch, who has been settled in England for nearly thirty years, is a prominent member of the small Serbian colony in London. He has the distinction of having written in English a play dealing with the heroic folk-songs of his country, which was produced some years ago at the Strand Theatre under the title "The Raven's Cry."

Prince Mirza Mehdi Khan Ala-es-Saltaneh Amir Nooyan, the Persian Minister in London, who is staying in Switzerland to recover his health, is making satisfactory progress towards convalescence. He hopes to return to England in the early part of next year.

H.M.S. Temeraire, writes Reuter's Malta correspondent, on October 8, with Prince George among her naval cadets, has arrived, and is remaining here for a fortnight. The Prince will be given an opportunity of visiting all the places of interest during his stay. The visit of the Temeraire to Algiers has been cancelled, owing to reasons connected with the Prince's health. According to present arrangements, Vice-Admiral Sir John de Robeck, Commander-in-Chief of the British Fleet in the Mediterranean, is returning to Malta from Constantinople with the remainder of the fleet on October 23.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (October 6):—
M. Nikola Pashitch has declined to be one of the Yugoslav representatives in the forthcoming negotiations with Italy. It is anticipated that his place will be taken by M. Adrija Radovitch.

The Faculty of Philosophy of the Belgrade University has unanimously elected Voivoda Sir Zhivoyin Mishitch Honorary Doctor of Philosophy. The only other Honorary Doctor is M. Toma Masarik, President of Czecho-Slovakia.

Dr. Koroshets, Minister of Communications and Leader of the Slovene Clerical Party, has entirely recovered from his recent serious illness, and will resume his duties this week.

M. Milan Rakitch, Yugoslav Minister at Copenhagen, has been appointed to Sofia.

Dr. Reiss, the eminent Professor of Lausanne University, who is the representative in Belgrade of the Inter-Allied Council on War Criminals, has been appointed chief of the Police Technical Service of the Minister of the Interior.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

General Savoff, the former Bulgarian Commander-in-Chief, is reported by the *Temps* to have been appointed Bulgarian Minister in Paris.

M. Pappas, Hellenic Chargé d'Affaires at Bucharest, has been appointed, says the *Orient* of September 29, Greek Minister to Armenia, and proceeds immediately to Erivan.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—Dr. F. B. Thompson has been appointed Chief Medical Officer. Dr. E. Corsellis, who has for some time filled the acting appointment, will, it is believed, be offered a higher post elsewhere.

Mr. J. C. Howard has been appointed President of the District Court of Larnaca, on probation.

Mr. E. D. Vergette will act as President of the District Court of Papho during the absence of Mr. H. C. Grimshaw.

## THE VISIT OF M. STAMBOLISKY.

M. Stambolisky, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, arrived in London on Saturday evening, October 9. At Dover he had been met by M. Madjaroff, Chargé d'Affaires, and Dr. D. Stancioff, of the Bulgarian Foreign Office, who had reached London on the previous Tuesday. The Ostend steamer was over two hours late, and it was 10.45 p.m. before the boat train arrived at Victoria Station. Among those on the platform to meet M. Stambolisky were Mr. Owen Monk, M.B.E., representing the Foreign Office, Mr. W. B. Heard, H.M.'s Commercial Secretary in Sofia, M. Mamartcheff and M. Radkoff of the Bulgarian Legation, and Mr. J. D. Bourchier. In the Prime Minister's party were M. Karakarcheff, Minister for Railways, M. Kissimoff, the newly appointed Bulgarian Minister to Athens, M. Milosheff, Director of the Bank of Sofia, and Mademoiselle Nedejda Stancioff, who will act as M. Stambolisky's private secretary and interpreter. M. Stambolisky will reside at the Bulgarian Legation during his stay in London.

On Monday M. Stambolisky saw Lord Curzon at the Foreign Office.

The programme of the visit includes a visit to Messrs. Saunderson's Tractor and Implement Works at Bedford, a visit by motor-car to Cambridge on October 14, and lunch at the London Chamber of Commerce on October 15. On October 17 M. Stambolisky leaves for Birmingham; Manchester will be reached on Tuesday evening, and Glasgow on Friday, the 22nd. During his tour of the provinces he will be the guest of the British Government, and he will be entertained at luncheon by the Chamber of Commerce of each city.

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## PILGRIMS TO JEDDAH.

The *Pioneer* of September 10 states:—"In forwarding the report of the Protector of Pilgrims, Bombay, for 1919-20 to Government, the Commissioner of Police points out that the year under report was remarkable for two reasons: First, it was Akbari Haj, and, secondly, it was the first Haj since the war, under more or less normal conditions. Over 9,000 pilgrims proceeded on Haj during the year under review, and the number would have been higher but for the Afghan War. One important point to which the Police Commissioner draws attention is in regard to the creation of a Pilgrim Department at Jeddah similar to the one in Bombay. Such a department under the supervision of the British Agent at Jeddah, he says, would go a long way to help the pilgrims."

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

The new Turkish Chargé d'Affaires arrived at Rome on October 5.

Private messages can now be transmitted by wireless telegraphy between France and Roumania.

The *Palestine Weekly* states that this year's olive crop in the Holy Land will be a bumper one.

M. Stamati Pezas, the first Greek Minister appointed to the Argentine, has arrived in Buenos Aires.

Owing to a strike at the gas and electricity works, Cairo was in darkness on the night of October 5.

The first sitting of the Advisory Council to the High Commissioner of Palestine was held on October 6.

A Paris message says that the Italian Government has refused permission to ex-King Constantine to enter Italy.

Bengal Ministerial officers have received temporary increases of salaries of 15 to 30 per cent. to meet the high cost of living.

Sir Herbert Samuel, High Commissioner of Palestine, on October 5 opened the standard gauge railway between Ludd and Jaffa.

According to a Constantinople message, the Turkish rebels have pillaged the ancient town of Nicaea and destroyed the historic church there.

At the request of the inhabitants of Klagenfurt, the Council of Ambassadors has decided to send fifty Allied officers to supervise the preparations for the plebiscite there.

According to a Moscow wireless message, a military and economic alliance has been concluded between the Governments of Soviet Russia and the Azerbaijan Soviet Republic.

A postal aeroplane while on the way from Rabat to Toulouse fell into the sea on October 2 off the French coast. Most of the mails were recovered, but two persons were drowned.

A Blue-book (Cmd. 957) has been issued containing reports of his Majesty's High Commissioner on the finances, administration, and condition of Egypt and the Sudan for 1914-1919.

The *Temps* states that it is probable that the first important journey M. Millerand will take as President of the Republic will be to Algeria, and perhaps to Morocco, some time next spring.

According to a Rome telegram, *pourparlers* have been opened between the Serbs and Albanians for a cessation of hostilities, but it is considered improbable that an agreement will be reached.

Interesting archæological discoveries are reported from Janavar Tepé, a hill near Varna, Bulgaria, where a cross and other articles and coins in gold have been unearthed, dating from the days of Constantine the Great.

The *Palestine Weekly* states that a conference of the boy scouts of Palestine has just been held. It has been decided to encourage the scouts to take up agricultural work. The palm has been chosen as the emblem of the Palestine Scouts.

The Conference of Propagandist Societies of the League of Nations was to have opened on October 12 in the Blue Room of the Royal Palace at Milan, and delegates of Poland, Roumania, Czecho-Slovakia, and Yugoslavia were to be among those present.

The Government of India has received a gift of 100 aeroplanes from the Imperial Government. Some have been given to the local governments, while others have been offered to ruling princes, and twenty have been made over to the Royal Air Force.

It is announced from Malta that a heated discussion took place at the last meeting of the Council over the question of the indemnity to be paid for damages which were sustained in June, 1919, through disturbances caused by private persons. As a result, three elected members were ordered out of the Council Chamber.

The Postmaster-General announces that letters for prisoners of war in Mesopotamia should be addressed with the address-ending "Prisoner of War, care of General Headquarters, Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force," the usual particulars of number, rank, unit, and so on being included in the address for the purposes of identification.

## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

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## THE ESHER COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Further study of the report of Lord Esher's Committee on the Administration and Organisation of the Army in India serves to confirm the impression we recorded last week that to the wider public its chief interest lies in the conflict of ideals which it discloses, and in the aspirations towards Imperial unification on which some of its most important recommendations are based. At the same time it must be recognised that these matters affect only a portion of the report. The terms of reference were drawn widely, and the questions before the Committee may be divided into two main groups, the efficiency of the army serving in India and its relations with the authorities in this country. The constitution of the Committee suggests that the former group was most prominent in the minds of its selectors: Lord Esher had as colleagues six eminent administrators, four military and two civilian, while Indian opinion was voiced by two members of outstanding ability, and it may fairly be said that on what may be called internal questions the decisions of this body are in all cases authoritative, and in many cases conclusive. On the wider constitutional issues the Committee as a whole commands less confidence: here Lord Esher stood practically alone, and the conclusions must be regarded not as the verdict of experts, but as the opinions of a body of able men, all of them but one without special qualifications for their task, and, on their individual records, likely to be predisposed in favour of a particular line of action. Further, there is the fact that, by what we must regard as a most unfortunate accident, the constitutional issues had been disposed of before the Indian members joined the Committee, and Sir Krishna Gupta's minute on matters already decided cannot take the place of that free discussion which would doubtless have occurred if he had been present at the earlier meetings. The recommendations made in the report must therefore be examined separately, distinguishing the pursuit of efficiency within the borders of India from the attempt to lay the foundation of a real Imperial unity.

Under the former head we have no criticisms to offer. The Committee have examined the working of the administrative machine, have ascertained the defects established by experience, and have indicated the changes which are required, rejecting revolutionary proposals, and fixing their eyes steadily on the goal of progressive efficiency. It is common knowledge that the greatest weakness was at the top, and it is in dealing with Army Headquarters that the Committee are at their best; we need not enter into technical details of the proposed reforms, but we can accord unreserved approval to the principles underlying them, real decentralisation of authority and effective financial control from within. If these proposals are accepted, and if they are worked in the spirit in which they are made, the army in India will be very much more efficient as an instrument of defence than at any time since our relations with the country began. Efficiency, however, is a matter of spirit as well as of machinery, and the bulk of the report is devoted to the difficult task of removing the grounds of that discontent which has of late been so much in evidence. Service questions, as the phrase goes, are notoriously controversial, and we do not anticipate that the recommendations under this head will secure unqualified approval from all the interested classes; but there can be no doubt that, if these recommendations are adopted and carried out in the generous spirit shown by the Committee, they will attain their object of a great increase in the efficiency of the army as a whole. The cost will, however, be high; no precise estimate is offered, but the Committee hope the expanding revenues of India will suffice to meet it, and they do not take formally into account the question whether the new Legislature will be disposed to acquiesce in the large and progressive increase in expenditure. On this question we are still in the dark, but if the constitution of the new Legislature resembles that of the old, we must expect that all military expenditure will be regarded as *primâ facie* suspect, and that increased funds will not be willingly provided, unless the scheme as a whole is found to fit in with the new national aspirations. Whether it does so will depend mainly on the decision taken in regard to the conflict of ideals, to which subject we must now turn.

The Committee prefaced the first portion of their report with the postulate that they could not consider the administration of the Army in India otherwise than as part of the total armed forces of the Empire, and their detailed recommendations for supreme control are in strict accordance with this view. Moderate Indian politicians have concentrated on the early attainment of the status of a Dominion, and they ask that all official action shall be framed so as to help them to attain that goal. There is the conflict, for no one can assert that the army in Canada or Australia is part of the total armed forces of the Empire; the Dominions maintain forces of their own, which hitherto they have put at the disposal of the Empire, in case of need, and Indian politicians will be likely to ask, not perhaps that India should attain that position immediately, but that any changes which may be made shall tend definitely in that direction. India, in fact, wants to draw level with the Dominions as they now stand, while the Committee would have her take the lead in an advance towards a higher stage of Imperial organisation, in which a common force should be controlled by a common legislature and executive. As our readers are aware, the Empire is not yet unanimous as to the desirability of such an advance; opinion in its favour is probably increasing, but there are many who hold that the bonds of interest and sentiment suffice, and at the moment there are few signs of a project of organic union in the field of practical politics. The best solution of the conflict would undoubtedly be that India, in recognition of the great change in her status, should voluntarily accept the proposals made by the Committee, and declare that, so far as her resources permit, she will lead the way in placing her forces permanently at the disposal of the Empire, content to await for a time the grant of powers correlative with her new liabilities. Such action at the present juncture would do more than anything else to consolidate her position in Imperial politics, and to win for her the respect and admiration of the world at large. We do not anticipate, however, the adoption of that heroic solution. Imperial sentiment is in India a new growth, not yet firmly rooted in the soil, while particularist nationalism is at least as strong among the political classes as it is in any of the Dominions; the gift of political imagination is still imperfectly developed, and unless the new Legislature should be characterised by a very great advance in this direction we must expect that the Committee's proposals will be received with an indignant negative. In that case we are convinced that any attempt to insist on them would be most unwise. The case should be fairly stated, the opportunity should be offered of securing an unassailable position in the Imperial brotherhood, but the decision of India should be accepted as conclusive for the time. If she chooses the ideal of a Dominion of to-day, the prophets of closer Imperial organisation must be content to wait. In any case, the work of the Committee will not be wasted. They have shown how the army in India can be made efficient, and increased efficiency is the immediate need, whether the reorganised forces are to be regarded as Indian or Imperial.

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# THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA.

## ITS PRESENT-DAY SITUATION.

**By A. Gugushvili.**
(*First Secretary to the Georgian Legation in London.*)

Independent and sovereign Georgia has had little more than two years' existence. In normal conditions, two years in the life of a State are but the twinkling of an eye, but in the present exceptional epoch, when events unheard of before in history are taking place, when the social and national problems brought to the forefront by the world war and great revolutions destroy the old foundations in a moment and on their ruins create a new basis for the intercourse of nations, during these desperate struggles new national States come to life; and in such an epoch two years of creative labour are equal to tens, nay, scores of years, in their significance and rich conquests.

While the National Council and National Assembly proclaimed under exceptional conditions the political independence of their country and people, the Georgians were passing through a very critical period. The outlook for their future existence as a people was dark and uncertain, for at that time Georgia was menaced by two enemies: on the one hand by the social anarchy and civil war which threatened from the north, and on the other hand by the horrors of an invasion by the Turks, to whom the Bolshevists had, by the Brest-Litovsk Treaty, ceded an integral part of Georgia, namely, the province of Batum and Ardahan, thus giving the Turks the means of threatening Georgia. Fortunately the Georgian Army defeated and threw back those Bolshevist hordes, which from the north tried to penetrate into Georgia, and also checked the Turkish advance.

The country and people underwent a deep psychological change, and in the stress of these heavy trials and desperate life and death struggles there was forged, tempered, and hardened in the consciousness of the mass of the people a deep conviction of the fruitlessness of depending upon others; of the necessity of recreating their own State; and, still more important, of the necessity of national unity, which is a security for independent political existence. This unity of the Georgian people enabled them to show to the world a strong national front; they were, and ever will be, ready to defend to the last man the honour and dignity of their Republic. By this national unity they have fully expressed their will and determination to direct their own destiny, and, although already exhausted by the world war in which they fought the common enemy, together with the Russian army, and in spite of all the difficulties they had to overcome, they worked, and are working, ardently at the reconstruction of their State.

Thanks to these circumstances, the Georgian Republic has been organised as a modern democratic State; and, although it is surrounded by countries in which civil war, anarchy, and chaos prevail, it has safeguarded law and order throughout the country. By the political self-control of its people the country has been saved from the horrors of civil war; and of the whole of the former Russian Empire, Georgia is the only oasis where a quiet and nearly normal life exists. The Revolution in Georgia has not destroyed the State, as in Russia. On the contrary, it created a State on a purely democratic basis. This is the best proof of the political maturity of the Georgian people. They have not only organised a Constituent Assembly and Government, but have also reorganised the administration.

There is to-day in Georgia compulsory public education, a national University, and a people's University at Tiflis, the creation of which Georgians had vainly demanded from the Russian Government for some scores of years. The country has now a national army, which, organised on democratic principles, is not a menace to anybody, but at the same time will not allow anyone to devastate the small oasis of Georgia.

The Government has been brought nearer to the people. Municipal and rural self-governments, elected, like the Constituent assembly, on the basis of a universal electoral system, have been created; by means of the State Agrarian Fund, the Government has safeguarded the small peasants, by allotting them the land they require at a low price; an eight-hour working day has been instituted; and insurance and a tariff-chamber for regulating workers' wages have been introduced. Numerous elementary and preparatory schools and colleges have been created and placed under the rural and municipal councils; and the Courts of Justice have been reorganised, so that from instruments of bureaucratic oppression have become institutions in which the people have confidence.

Thus, in the course of these two years, Georgians have proved to the world that they can exist independently, and that the 200-year-old tradition of independent state life of the Georgian nation has not only not been obliterated, but has not even been diminished by a century of Russian domination.

The State organisation has a purely democratic basis, and it is the earnest wish of the Government and people to imbue it with the best European culture. If a century ago, in order to establish a new connecting link with Western Europe (of the old one viâ Constantinople they were deprived by the fall of that city to the Turks), the Georgians concluded a voluntary Alliance with Russia (1783), which she shamelessly violated in eighteen years' time (1801), to-day it is the wish of the country to have an independent connection and to renew a direct relationship with the West. In order to take part in the intellectual and material progress of Europe, the Georgian people, with the aid of the knowledge and experience of the Europeans, want to develop all that Nature has so abundantly given to their country, and to introduce it on the European market. If economic stability is one of the necessary conditions of the independent existence of a State, then the enormous natural riches of the country are a sufficient guarantee of a sound economic foundation of the Georgian State. It is true that economically the country is not yet on a sound footing, but who has built up a State, or even a house of business in a year or two?

Georgia has at her disposal everything necessary for the development of her own industry, such as raw materials, labour, etc. But such development of the country did not constitute part of the programme of the old despotic Government of Russia, and to-day the Georgian people have a country rich in raw materials and mineral resources, enormously rich potentially and poorly developed industrially, comparatively poor actually. Georgia wants foreign capital, knowledge, and experience to come to the country in a friendly way, in order to utilise its wealth to mutual advantage, and the Government is prepared to grant favourable conditions for the exploitation of these riches. There is no doubt that on this field, too, the Georgian people will achieve success in a few years' time, provided that they are not disturbed externally. They are diligent, industrious, and painstaking; the country has not known a single strike since the day of the Revolution, and there has been, and will be, no civil war there.

Unfortunately, however, in this sphere of economic work, the Georgian Government is handicapped by the fact that some uncertainty still prevails in the attitude of the Allied Powers regarding the final recognition of the *de jure* independence of Georgia—uncertainty which makes the establishment of economic relationship between Georgia and Western Europe very difficult. The *de facto* recognition of Georgia's independence by the Supreme Council in Paris on January 16, 1920, was a great step towards the final political emancipation of the country; but in spite of that, the withholding of the *de jure* recognition is very injurious to her, especially at the present moment, when there are so many possibilities of foreign capital coming into the country to take up the exploitation of its natural riches. This question is now, therefore, a subject of great anxiety and solicitude to the Government.

The final recognition of the *de jure* independence of Georgia, and of the other Transcaucasian States, is absolutely necessary, not only for the political stability and peaceful economic and cultural development of

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Georgia and Transcaucasia, and of the whole of the Middle East, but, what is most important for the Allied and Associated Powers, for the prevention of the spread of political and social anarchy in Central and, in fact, in the whole of Asia. It is superfluous, and would be a waste of time, to argue that civil war will cease in Russia in the very near future; this means hoping against hope. The vast territory of Russia has often been soaked with the blood of the Russians themselves, and who may venture to predict that it may not be drenched yet more?

Whatever the end of the struggle between the Bolshevists and General Wrangel and his associates, one thing is certain: that none with a fair knowledge of things Russian can say that Russia will in the near future be able to become creative and to advance on the road to peaceful development. Russia cannot become a normal, orderly State as long as she cherishes ideas of conquest and expansion. Russia has first to create and nurse her nationhood, to develop nationally; people who have not developed themselves into a nation cannot rule others, nationally better developed.

What was the cause of Russia's failure in the world war? Nearly half the territory of the Russian Empire was inhabited by peoples discontented and racially and nationally different from the Russians; and this fact, depriving her of creative power, gradually brought her to the state she is passing through to-day. The re-establishment of the *status quo ante bellum* would be the same old-new source of disease, and this time, possibly, of death to her. Finland, Esthonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Ukraine, Kuban, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, and many other components of her vast pre-war territory represent national units, politically, culturally, and economically so well developed that they will not have the slightest desire to supply those explosives which kept Russia constantly in a volcanic state. And, it is useless to argue that it will be possible to crush and annihilate these national units by means of knouts and military power.

The restoration of Russia within her old-pre-war frontiers is impossible. Her resurrection and deliverance does not lie in gathering Russia (sobiranie Russi) *à la* Ivan Kalita, but in marking out national territorial frontiers, encompassing Velikorossia (Great Russia) which is Russia proper, and which, after comprehending its own interests, will, no doubt, find that the deliverance of Russia is impossible unless it will fully utilise all its creative genius and energy for the benefit and wellbeing of the Great Russians within Great Russia's frontiers.

Of the surprising phenomenon that is going on in Russia, Georgia is an outside spectator. The Georgian nation, which has separated itself entirely from the Great Northern Empire, asks only to be recognised, and that the act by which the Georgian nation expressed the re-establishment of its independence, which had been unjustly interrupted for a whole century, be respected.

## THE Y.M.C.A. AND THE BRITISH SOLDIER IN INDIA.

The Y.M.C.A. reports that it is catering for the needs of the British soldiers in thirty-two centres in India at an annual cost of over two and a-quarter lakhs of rupees. Commanding officers are anxious that these activities should be extended. The present number of Army Y.M.C.A.'s in India could be doubled immediately if workers and funds were available. The aim of the Association is not only to keep the men fit by providing recreation and wholesome amusement, but to help them to take an intelligent interest in the people and the country during their stay in the country, to teach them the responsibilities of Christian citizenship, and as far as possible to equip them for a larger share in the life of their own community when they return to their homes.

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# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

### Armenia and Russia.

A writer in the *Daily Herald* of September 29 comments upon the recent resumption of the campaign on behalf of Armenia. He says that though Armenian claims have been met and its independence granted, yet she does not yet possess independence, because she is still at war with her neighbours. He continues:—

No purpose will be served by discussing what brought Armenia to her present plight. Let us accept the fact that Armenia desires peace above everything. Well, she can get it if she is prepared to face realities and ignore the counsel of some of her reactionary friends. She has nothing to gain, and everything to lose, by maintaining an unfriendly attitude to Russia and appealing to the Allies for military or diplomatic support. If she is, as alleged, encircled by armed foes, the Allies cannot save her. Their hands are fully occupied. The French have more than enough to do with the Arabs in Syria; the British will not, thanks to Labour, take up arms against Russia.

The only policy left to Armenia is, therefore, that of a *rapprochement* with Russia. Had the Armenian Government been wiser, such a policy would have commended itself to them from the first for two reasons. M. Tchitcherin, on behalf of the Soviet Government at Moscow, has on several occasions assured Armenia of his readiness to recognise her independence. Then, again, M. Tchitcherin has the advantage of enjoying considerable influence with Mustapha Kemal, the head of the Turkish Nationalists at Angora and the foe of Armenia. With the good offices of Russia the opposing claims of these hereditary enemies could doubtlessly be settled without further bloodshed. As a matter of fact, M. Tchitcherin actually offered to give diplomatic recognition to Mustapha Kemal as the upholder of Turkish national rights, if he in return respected the aspirations of the Armenians to independence, and, furthermore, he stated that he was willing to mediate between them in order to secure peace. A *rapprochement* with Russia would also obtain for Armenia friendly relations with her Eastern neighbour Azerbaijan, now a Soviet Republic. There is no other practical course for Armenia if she is to achieve her liberation and attain stable conditions of peace.

### Egypt.

The *Yorkshire Post* of October 4, in discussing our Egyptian policy, remarks that the Agreement has yet to be considered by the British Government, that it has not yet been put before the Cabinet, and that Egyptian consent has also to be obtained. It continues:—

But official opinion in Egypt has been very much disturbed by what is known of the Commission's proposals. Egypt is a remarkable country, occupying an unique position and requiring unique handling. The position of the British Empire in regard to it has no parallel in history, and the fact that through it runs the most essential international waterway in the world—the direct and shortest highway of communication between East and West—gives it a peculiar importance no other country possesses. In all arrangements for the government or administration of Egypt there are two points of view in addition to that of Egypt itself—those of the British Empire and of the other nations which have a more or less direct interest—political, financial, or military—in this historic land. It is no secret that the British officials in Egypt, from the highest downwards, are much concerned at some of the Milner Commission's proposals, but it is not fair to represent this concern as being due to a fear for their own position or pockets. British public men, whether civilians or soldiers, are capable of rising above such personal considerations, and most of them who have been associated with Egypt for a number of years feel a real interest in the fortunes of the country, as well as in the effect the drastic changes now recommended will have upon the safety of the Empire.

These changes would probably lead, certainly at first, to a great set-back to Egypt's present prosperity, and the large financial interests in the country—not only British and Egyptian, but of other nationalities—view with profound alarm what amounts to the surrender of the government of Egypt into purely Egyptian hands. Still more alarming are the effects that would be produced upon the military position, the safety against both internal disturbance and external aggression. The proposal to withdraw all British troops from the Delta and the Nile and to maintain only a small force upon the Suez Canal for its special defence is not accepted with any favour by any military authority. Egypt is not so settled and happy nor so free from foreign intrigue as to be safely left to the rather doubtful care of the Egyptian Army, which throughout the war was kept in the Sudan, for the most part, out of touch with the rest of the disturbed world. As to the defence of the canal, against whom is it to be defended? If against external enemies, then the 3,000 men or so designated as its garrison will be wholly insufficient; if against attack from Egypt itself—a much more possible danger—then this paltry force would be far better situated in the Delta, controlling the railway lines, the water supply, and certain centres of disturbance, such as Tanta, where trouble of this sort invariably shows itself first. It is rumoured that the latest idea is that the Suez Canal garrison should not be on the Canal itself, but in the desert to the East of it, and wholly out of touch with Egypt proper, but we can hardly believe that so absurd a proposal is seriously entertained. It is surely time for this question to be tackled in earnest by our Government, who should hasten the publication of the Report of the Milner Commission and make known their intentions in regard to it.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

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The visit to this country of the Bulgarian Prime Minister for the purpose, among other things, of arranging for the increased imports of British goods to Bulgaria, is an event of outstanding importance. M. Stambolisky wholeheartedly supports the idea of the development of close commercial relations between the two countries, and in his policy he has aimed at the removal of all restrictions that might prevent the achievement of that aim. After the war the Bulgarians, faced with the necessity of raising money, did not hesitate to have resort to all kinds of unsound methods of taxation, such as taxes on imports, etc., which, of course, were economically indefensible, and had the inevitable result of retarding the recovery of the country, and preventing the growth of trade with the United Kingdom which is alone is a position to supply many of its essential requirements. Many of these restrictions have already been abolished by M. Stambolisky, and the remainder are going, so that only the unfavourable exchange stands in the way of commercial development, and it may be assumed that the result of the negotiations between the British authorities and M. Stambolisky will be an arrangement which will enable that difficulty to be overcome.

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The reports of the four committees appointed by the Brussels Financial Conference for the consideration of the questions of International Trade, International Credit, Currency and Exchange, and Public Finance are comprehensive, if nothing else. Unquestionably the delegates have done their best to carry out the purpose for which they were appointed, but their very thoroughness is likely to undermine the results of their labours. The whole field of international relationships would appear to be covered by the resolutions, but, unfortunately, something more concrete than the expression of what in a number of cases strikes one as being mere platitudes is needed to heal the ills from which Europe and the world are suffering, and the conference must be judged not by the arduousness of its labours, but by its consequences. These in the immediate future are not likely to be great, but in one important direction, at any rate, a tangible result may be forthcoming as the result of the recommendation of what would seem to be quite a workable scheme to meet the problem of a country which needs imports but lacks credits to pay for them.

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If apart from the credit scheme there seems little likelihood of any speedy results arising from the Conference, the delegates have at any rate accomplished the invaluable service of setting forth in plain terms the sound lines for the conduct of financial and economic affairs by Governments. Particularly noteworthy in this respect is the report of the Committee on Public Finance—a document which brings into clear relief the immense gravity of the position with which the nations affected by the war are faced. Twelve European countries placed before the conference a statement of their finances, and of these all but one anticipate a Budget deficit. The country which accepts the policy of Budget deficits, says the report, is treading the slippery path which leads to general ruin; to escape from that path no sacrifice is too great. The recommendations of the Committee are that the ordinary expenditure should be reduced to an amount that can be covered by the ordinary revenue, that expenditure in armaments should be rigidly reduced, that all unproductive expenditure should be ended, and that all artificial expedients which conceal from the people the true economic situation should be abandoned. This policy represents the only way to recovery, and must be adopted by the countries which are at present allowing matters to take their course on the principle of *après nous le déluge* if something approaching a general catastrophe is to be avoided.

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The Indian exchange continues to decline, and is now in the region of 1s. 7d., or roughly, 5d. below the parity which the Government desires to maintain, and so far as can be judged, the prospect is that it may reach a yet lower level since the outlook for India's export trade is uniformly unfavourable. It might possibly be unkind to cite the example of King Canute, but one cannot help feeling that in view of the chaotic conditions of world commerce it was rather too optimistic to endeavour to fix a permanent figure for the rupee until the position became somewhat clearer.

Naturally, the result of the instability of the rupee is that the commerce of the United Kingdom with India is being gravely hampered. The warehouses at Indian ports are overloaded with goods which are not going into consumption because the Indian merchants who ordered them expected a 2s. rupee, and are refusing to take up consignments now that the rupee is at its present level. At the same time, fresh orders are not being given in view of the uncertainty as to the exchange at the time of delivery, and at the moment trade is practically at a standstill.

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There is a most illuminating reference to the effects of Government control of the dried fruits trade in Messrs. Burlumi's annual report on currants, which was given in these columns last week. On the re-imposition of control in August of last year the Food Ministry fixed the prices of currants produced in the Vostizza, Gulf, Patras and Zante districts at several shillings below the rates ruling in Greece at that time, and so, we are told, "the shippers in order to secure the orders had no alternative but to ship rubbish, in order to avoid a serious loss."

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Altogether 50,000 tons of currants were shipped, of which 30,000 tons consisted of "low rain-damaged quality masqueraded" as produced in the districts named. It is not surprising that after two months the Government ceased making purchases! Bearing in mind the quality of the bacon and butter and other staple articles of consumption that we have had to put up with in recent months, I strongly suspect that the explanation is to be found in a series of transactions similar to that related in the report. It only goes to show that trade cannot be satisfactorily dealt with on official lines.

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The absence of British films in Egypt is commented on in an article in a recent issue of the *Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt. At the present time it is pointed out that there are about 40 cinemas in the country, and their programmes are nearly all of United States, French, or Italian origin. In this respect the position is merely the same as it is elsewhere in the Near East, but it is particularly to be deplored in the case of Egypt, which should prove a specially good market for British film manufacturers, and it is to be hoped it will be possible to tell a very different story in the near future.

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An excellent report is forthcoming from the Barsi Light Railway Company for the year ended March 31. There were notable increases in both passenger and goods traffic, and the net profits, after deducting Indian income-tax and super-tax, amounted to £59,213, as compared with £33,366, to which has to be added the exchange adjustment, making the total £88,394. Deducting debenture interest and interest and sinking fund instalment on the Latur Extension debentures, and adding £11,210 brought forward, the available total is £88,356. Out of this it is proposed to allocate £30,296 to the reserve account for the equalisation of dividends, etc., to place £15,000 to the taxation reserve account, to increase the dividend and bonus from 8 to 12 per cent., and to carry forward £11,860.

COMMENTATOR.


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# Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

## GREECE.

Athens, September 26.

**Reasons of the Trade Crisis.**

The manager of the Bank of Piræus, M. Tombros, in an interview with a representative of the *Ethnos*, stated that the present trade crisis is due to the following reasons:—(1) The overburdening of the market with orders exceeding its requirements; and (2) the appearance of many new merchants, the majority of whom are quite inexperienced, and who, holding but small capital, placed large orders, hoping to realise huge profits. These merchants, however, on discovering that the Near East markets were already overburdened with merchandise, and could not therefore absorb any further quantities, were placed in a very critical position, seeing that they had to fulfil immediate obligations, and were obliged to dispose of their goods at low prices. The fall of prices in the countries of production and the reduction of freights obliged the merchants to be cautious. Orders from abroad have diminished, and stocks are now being consumed; but large stocks still remain, causing a scarcity of ready money. This scarcity is increased through other reasons—viz., the circulation of the drachma not only in the newly liberated territories but also in many parts of the Balkans, Europe, and the United States of America. In Albania the value of the drachma is such that the villagers there in their dealings demand Greek paper money (100 drachmæ notes), which they call "black," and decline to receive the French 100-franc notes, which they call "red." On the other hand, the last loan of 300 million drachmæ has absorbed from the market a considerable amount of paper money, in addition to which a large amount of capital has been locked up in foreign currency notes, causing heavy losses. Persons in possession of large amounts of lei make no use of them, but are instead waiting until they go up in value.

The two principal reasons for which the banks are unable to meet the demands of the merchants are as follows:—(1) the execution of orders over and above the needs of the market and the inability therefore of the banks to render any assistance to their clients; and (2) the scarcity of paper currency. In no other country to-day is there such a small circulation of paper money as in Greece in proportion to its population and size. Another cause which largely contributes to the scarcity of paper currency is the fact that Greek villagers who during the present time dispose of their produce—viz., currants, tobacco, etc.—hoard the proceeds of their sales, amounting to considerable sums, and the money is thus held back from circulation. At this time of the year, even prior to the Balkan wars, when Greece only extended as far as Larissa, the scarcity of paper currency was much felt.

**Exports of Currants from Patras.**

Statistics just issued by the Greek Chamber of Commerce at Patras show the amounts of currants, in kilos, exported from that port to various foreign countries from August 10, 1918, to August 10, 1920 (o.s.). During the past year 110,872,285 kilos of currants were exported, as against 112,880,619 kilos for the previous twelve months. Of this total the United Kingdom and the United States took between them 103,799,231 kilos, the respective figures being 59,385,700 and 44,413,531. France was third with 2,711,424 kilos, and Canada fourth with 1,701,196 kilos. A comparison with the preceding figures shows marked alterations in the direction of trade. The United Kingdom was then easily first with 87,553,805 kilos; while France was second with 15,458,781 kilos, and the United States third with only 4,882,419 kilos.

**Customs Receipts.**

The receipts of the Piræus Customs during the first ten days of September (o.s.) amounted to 2,047,392.50 drachmæ in paper and 168,266.10 drachmæ in gold. These figures show an increase of 873,695.75 paper drachmæ and 59,297.95 drachmæ in gold on the receipts of the corresponding period last year.

## ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, September 27.

**Cultivation Statistics.**

According to the information collected by the Statistics Department of the Ministry of Agriculture the following areas were sown throughout Roumania, including the new provinces, during 1919-1920 (the figures representing hectares):—Wheat, 2,016,454; rye, 292,127; barley, 1,222,367; oats, 893,304; maize, 3,007,812. The statistics for the various provinces are as follows:—Old Kingdom: Wheat, 835,536; rye, 73,470; barley, 451,775; oats, 459,925; maize, 1,954,874. Transylvania: Wheat, 689,767; rye, 76,753; barley, 124,524; oats, 238,034; maize, 463,125. Bukovina: Wheat, 10,728; rye, 14,108; barley, 18,986; oats, 18,734; maize, 553,148. Bessarabia: Wheat, 447,423; rye, 127,796; barley, 627,082; oats, 176,011; maize, 553,248.

Compared with the areas sown in pre-war years there is a decrease as regards wheat and rye of about 40 per cent., and of about 20 per cent. as regards maize. On the other hand, oats and barley have been cultivated on a larger scale than in previous years.

**Exchange of Bessarabian Roubles.**

The Council of Ministers at their meeting held on the 25th inst., fixed the rate of exchange of the roubles existing in Bessarabia and the rest of the country at one lei for the Romanoff rouble and thirty bani for the Lwov rouble. This decision has come as a blow to owners of roubles as well as to speculators, since, although they expected one lei for the Romanoff rouble, they thought they would get at least fifty bani for the Lwov currency. The Minister of Finance, in fixing this rate, knew that the Lwov rouble was mostly used by speculators, and he thought that the rate of thirty bani was very generous. The total amount of roubles declared, as gathered from the figures at the Ministry of Finance, is one milliard 200 millions. Of this sum three-quarters are Lwov roubles, which is a further sign that the Lwov rouble has been introduced by smuggling, and does not require a better rate. In connection with this, as mentioned in my last letter, all frontier towns and ports were closed for a certain period. They were reopened on the 25th of the month.

**Markets.**

At the Bucharest exchange 500,000 kilos of lubricating oil have been sold at 400 lei per 100 kilos, and 1,020,000 kilos of distilled lamp oil (viscosity 820-825) at 300 lei per 100 kilos.

At the Braila exchange 4½ wagons of barley have been sold at 1,425 lei per wagon, 7½ wagons of maize at 13,500 lei per wagon, 1½ wagons of rye at 13,250 lei per wagon, and 1½ wagons of oats at 12,250 lei per wagon.

**The Oil Question.**

M. Ilescu-Brançeni, the General Secretary of the Ministry of Industry, has made the following statement in connection with further measures which are being taken in respect of the internal consumption and export of oil and of the petroleum industry generally:—

1. The necessity of increasing oil production. Before the war the oil production in Roumania was about 500 wagons per day, but owing to the destruction of oil wells during the war, and the fact that very few new wells have been bored, the production has decreased by one-half, so that now the daily production is about 250 wagons. This production must be increased by every means, both for internal consumption and for exportation on a larger scale in order to improve the present rate of exchange. The chief difficulty in increasing production is the high cost of material necessary for digging wells. An oil well cost before the war 150-200 thousand lei, but to-day the figure would be from four to six million lei. A further obstacle is the general lack of means of transport, which impedes the arrival of the necessary material, hinders the working of the refineries, and consequently limits production. Another reason is the considerable reduction in working hours, and finally the unstable measures taken by the authorities, which are too often changed for oil producers to be able to estimate their figures with any degree of certainty.

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2. Measures for improvement. Following a conference between oil experts and the authorities, the following measures have been adopted:—In the first place a stable regime will be assured for a longer period, thereby allowing producers to estimate their figures satisfactorily. In connection with this prices for petroleum products have been fixed, which will allow new wells to be dug. Internal prices have been limited to the minimum for consumers, producers being allowed to compensate themselves by export.

3. Exports. In order to assure to producers the maximum profit from the export trade, they have been guaranteed the monopoly of the export of oil, so that export prices and the rate of exchange are left free, and the export tax of the State is permanently fixed. The authorisation for export will be granted immediately, as it is in the interests of the country to export as much as possible.

4. Quantities allowed for export and home consumption. Home consumption is given priority, and statistics have been compiled establishing the amount required, also of the average production and stocks existing at present. The following percentages may be exported of the different kinds of oil:—Light petrol 80 per cent., heavy petrol 20 per cent., lamp oil 50 per cent., "motorine" 10 per cent. Light lubricating oils can be exported, but not heavy lubricating oils. The export of residual oil is totally prohibited. In order to facilitate the work of the large producers, home consumption is being undertaken by the "Distributia" Company. The State guarantees to the oil producers that products destined for internal use only will not leave the country in any form.

5. Means of transport. The lack of means of transport is a great handicap. Because of this, it has very often happened that factories have been obliged to close down. One hundred and eighty wagons of oil products per day are supposed to be transported, but a few weeks ago hardly 15-30 wagons a day were being moved, and there were some days when only two wagons left the oilfields. All the transportation for home consumption is being carried out by private locomotives, and 25 per cent. of the carrying capacity of these engines is reserved for oil transport.

6. Consumption of residual fuel oil. There is a deficit of this fuel oil. During the last few years a number of engines burning residual oil, which is a very cheap fuel, have been in use. The monthly consumption of residual oil is as follows:—(*a*) For industries of the first importance, such as railways, mills, river navigation companies, hospitals, water and power stations, etc., 2,500 wagons. (*b*) Sugar and cement factories, ironworks, etc., 1,600 wagons. (*c*) Private heating during the winter, 500 wagons. The total production is, however, only 1,700 wagons, so that what is produced is not sufficient for the consumption of industries of the first importance. The increase in production will take time, and the only means of making up for this deficit will be to burn with residual oil its superior products, such as "motorine" and lamp oil.

**Production of Oil.**

According to the *Monitorul Petrolului*, the production of crude oil is now stationary round about 260-275 wagons per day. The lack of electricity continues to hamper production, but hopes are entertained that this will be remedied in a few days. Some firms have already installed petrol and steam engines in the place of electrically driven machinery to ensure the motor power necessary for the working of the factories.

Oil well No. 69, belonging to the Astra Romana Company, continues to spout 40-50 wagons per day, while at Ochiuri this company has been successful with another well, No. 27, which has started with a small eruption.

The Concordia Company has succeeded in striking oil at Runcu with well No. 346, at a depth of 475 metres. This well made a good start, but was afterwards stopped for the purpose of completing the installations for tanking and transportation. Operations on this well, as also on well No. 27 belonging to the same company, will begin very soon.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, September 29.

**Credits and the Exchange.**

The Centrale des Devises is now abolished, and its functions are transferred to the General Inspectorate of the Ministry of Finance. Henceforth the sale of products will be in dinars, so that foreign buyers must first obtain a supply of this currency either on the Bourse or through the National Bank or some other recognised financial institution. Certain restrictions still prevent banks from accumulating foreign currency with a view to speculation, and credits may be given to foreign firms only with the approval of the Ministry of Finance. Banks are forbidden to give credits on the basis of foreign currency, and any such credits now existing must be liquidated within a month. Money-changers at last come under the control of the Ministry of Finance. It is hoped that by this means traders will be relieved of many troublesome regulations, and that the Government will be in a position to support the dinar during the dead season on the strength of the imports of foreign currency during the export season.

**An Emigration Tax.**

Emigrants to America or Australia must now pay an Emigration Tax of 250 dinars. As a further discouragement to emigration to America, a U.S. visa now costs ten dollars, which at present is equivalent to another 250 dinars.

**Iron Ore for Germany.**

The Ministry of Mines and Forests has concluded an arrangement for the export to Germany of 100,000 tons of iron ore in exchange for 13,000 tons of coke. The price of the ore is fixed at 140 marks, and of the coke at 107 marks.

## CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, September 22.

**Commercial Activity.**

There has been great activity at the ports, especially at Limassol, where four large steamers have been loading carobs. These have been sold at 26s. and 27s. 6d. the kantar (£5 15s. 6d. and £6 2s. 2d. the ton). Large quantities are being brought daily into the stores. There have been good shipments of wine, grapes, raisins, pomegranates, and other fruits. The launching of a new sailing vessel at Kyrenia is announced, which shows enterprise in that district. Wheat is being sold at Nicosia at 14s. to 18s. the bushel, and barley at 5s. to 8s. Large numbers of families are returning from the various hill quarters, and the seaport towns are crowded, which adds to their usual liveliness.

Tunisia's wine production this year is estimated to amount to 418,000 hectolitres, a decrease of 100,000 hectolitres on the previous figures.

The Oilfields of Egypt, Ltd., announce that the first heavy drilling rig ordered by the company in Holland has been inspected, passed, and shipped. The second rig is expected to be ready for shipment in a few weeks. The field manager, Mr. W. F. MacDonald, is returning to Egypt on October 22, and a staff of six drillers is also leaving for the field this month.

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# EGYPT'S TRADE DURING JULY.

## Great Increase in Imports.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 29.

The July statistics issued by the Egyptian Customs show a further unprecedented increase during the month in the external trade of the country. Imports during the month amounted to £E10,532,666 and exports to £E2,774,235, as against £E3,616,453 and £E3,774,173 a year ago. Imports therefore increased during the month by about seven millions, and exports fell off by about a million. For the seven months the figures are: Imports £E58,303,252 (£E23,104,633) and exports £E67,398,233 (£E26,727,043)—the figures in parenthesis are for the corresponding period of 1919—thus showing an increase of over 35 millions, or 150 per cent. in imports, and of 40 millions or 160 per cent. in exports.

The chief imports during the period have been: Boots and shoes, £E371,837 (about half from the British Empire); wheat, £E2,016,426 (of which two-thirds from Australia); flour, £E5,260,312 (of which over 40 per cent. from the British Empire and about 20 per cent. from the United States); oranges and mandarines, £E186,928 (mostly from Palestine); raw sugar, £E1,689,042 (half from Java); coffee, £E814,354 (of which 20 per cent. from British Possessions, 30 per cent. from Abyssinia); coco-nut oil, £E247,727 (of which 70 per cent. from British Possessions); kerosene, £E1,207,335 (of which 20 per cent. from the United States, and a large portion of the balance from Russia); oil-fuel, £E655,563 (of which 25 per cent. from Mexico); mineral lubricating oil, £E219,304 (equally divided between United Kingdom and United States); printing paper, £E226,120 (of which 35 per cent. from the United Kingdom); building wood, £E996,513 (of which 35 per cent. from Sweden and 14 per cent. from Turkey); coal, £E2,760,437 (equally divided between United Kingdom and United States); cement, £E152,724 (one-third from the United Kingdom); manures, £E1,367,846 (of which over 80 per cent. from Chili and the rest from the United Kingdom); household soap, £E391,185 (of which two-thirds from the United Kingdom and 25 per cent. from Palestine); cotton yarn, £E916,834 (of which 75 per cent. from the United Kingdom); sewing cotton, £E250,209 (of which 80 per cent. from the United Kingdom); cotton textiles, £E12,552,199 (of which 90 per cent. from Great Britain); woollen textiles, £E1,851,581 (of which 90 per cent. from the United Kingdom); silk yarn, £E335,088 (two-thirds from China and the rest from Italy); silk textiles, £E1,226,506 (of which 20 per cent. from China, 35 per cent. from France, 30 per cent. from Japan); empty sacks, £E686,210 (from India); manufactured iron or steel, £E2,464,936; tobacco, £E1,890,742 (of which more than half from Greece, 25 per cent. from China).

As regards exports, the principal items were: Eggs, £E285,968; hides and skins, £E306,371; rice, £E163,925; cotton seed, £E2,045,069; cotton cake, £E371,434; onions, £E527,451; sugar, £E771,129; phosphates, £E249,880; cotton, £E60,590,310; cigarettes, £E581,586. Practically all the eggs, cotton seed, cotton seed cake went to the United Kingdom, which also took 75 per cent. of the onions. Of the sugar 70 per cent. went to British Possessions, while of the cotton the United States took 40 per cent., Great Britain 35 per cent., France 10 per cent., and Italy, Japan, and Switzerland 10 per cent. between them.

As regards the share of the various countries, that of Great Britain more than doubled under imports, and increased by not quite 100 per cent. under exports. On the other hand, Italy more than quadrupled her share of imports, and the United States more than trebled hers. Under exports Austria and Germany reappear once more, the former with £E198,107 and the latter with £E764,500, mainly cotton, while the share of the United States rose from a little over three millions to just under twenty-five millions, as a result of their purchase of cotton, which increased in quantity from 394,000 kantars to 1,150,000 kantars.

Trade with the Sudan during the seven months has also improved. Imports into Egypt have risen from £E978,760 to £E1,569,011, and exports from £E1,521,369 to £E2,317,015. The chief imports into Egypt have been: Bullocks, £E274,996; sheep, £E257,966; sesame, £E321,958; dates, £E118,449; groundnuts, £E110,256; charcoal, £E54,008. The only decrease of any importance was in gum, which fell from £E95,921 or 3,000 tons, to £E29,668 or 621 tons. The chief exports from Egypt were: Wheat flour, £E71,519; sugar, £E664,075; coffee, £E143,618; cotton textiles, £E536,701; sacks, £E83,796; and tobacco, £E136,752.

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Under an economic agreement which has just been concluded between the two countries, Czecho-Slovakia undertakes to supply Bulgaria with sugar and coke in return for oil and cereals.

# MOTORS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

## A NEGLECTED MARKET.

In a recent leading article the *Busreh Times* gives some interesting particulars of the development of the uses of the motor car in and around Busreh, and emphasises the growing importance of the Mesopotamian market, which British manufacturers have up to the present mainly left to their American competitors. We give the following extracts:—

"Busreh may fairly be described as the principal motoring centre in Mesopotamia. Not only is the number of privately owned cars considerably in excess of the number Baghdad can produce; there is also a large fleet of public utility vehicles—approximately 150, we believe—with the result that all classes of the community have become familiarised with the most modern means of transport. The Busreh-Ashar taxi-service has done a flourishing trade for the last twelve months, notwithstanding the fact that inexperienced drivers have had to be utilised for the work, and their training in many instances has been an expensive matter for the proprietors. The motor service is showing no diminution of popularity, albeit, at eight annas for each passenger, it does not provide particularly economical transit between the two towns. The explanation of Busreh's lead in motoring matters is to be found in the fact that most of the roads in the immediate vicinity are very much better than one finds in other parts of Mesopotamia. Only a short portion of The Strand remains to be completed, and it should be possible in the forthcoming winter months to maintain the taxi service regularly, no matter what the weather has in store for us. The road from Ashar to Makina should also give little trouble for some time to come.

"The commercial aspect of motoring is of first-class importance in Busreh. Most of the big firms in the trade in this country, including those who have head offices elsewhere, have found it necessary to have representatives here to take over delivery of their cars and spare parts from the shipping companies, to attend to the requirements of the local market, and to establish workshop facilities for the repair and upkeep of the vehicles which they sell. Perhaps the most striking feature at present is the overwhelming preponderance of American cars. . . . We are glad to see signs, however, that the British makers are beginning to realise that cultivation of overseas markets is vital to their interests. At the moment they are hampered not only by the enormously increased costs of production, but also by a shortage of certain essential parts (entailing the holding up of nearly finished cars), and by the difficulty of getting ample supplies of raw materials, especially of steel. When some of these difficulties have been overcome we hope to see a large influx of mass-production British cars in Mesopotamia. The reliability, workmanship, and economy in running costs of the British product are proverbial; and, in our opinion, if the difficulties associated at present with the question of delivery were solved, the British makers would find a very promising field for development and enterprise in Mesopotamia and Persia."

# ENQUIRY BUREAU.

*Readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.*

*Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."*

*ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.*

*No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.*

## Agents Wanted Abroad.

*ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, 'The Near East,' 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2," when they will be redirected to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.*

101. A correspondent in Lagos, Nigeria, wishes to get into touch with manufacturers of Arab red fez caps.

102. A stamp collector wishes to purchase used Austrian stamps prior to the 1882 issue. Stamp dealers in the liberated provinces of Austria are asked to send bulk packages of such stamps to the care of the Editor of The Near East, with the price in kronen of each stamp or price per dozen, per 100, etc., of each kind. All stamps required will be paid for at the price indicated and the rest returned. Newspaper stamps are not required, but rare postmarks should be included.

103. An Athens firm invites publishers of periodicals dealing with yarns (reports on local markets and world output) and cottons to send specimen copies with a view to its becoming a permanent subscriber.

105. Engineering and general contractor in Mosul, Mesopotamia, wishes to get into touch with manufacturers in Great Britain.

106. Old-established English trading company with branches in Mesopotamia and Persia is willing to accept agencies there for manufacturers, etc.

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## ENGINEERING.

### Oil Fuel.

A considerable extension in the use of oil fuel in industry is anticipated, and a number of improvements in oil-burning furnaces of various kinds are foreshadowed. The successful results of the change over to oil fuel burning of the big Atlantic liners recently also focussed attention on the possibilities of this method of firing, and information is now to hand that two particularly interesting industrial developments have taken place in the United States. It appears that the pottery manufacturers of the upper Ohio valley, together with those of Western Pennsylvania and the tile makers of Ohio, have been interested in a number of tests carried out with a view to ascertaining how far the oil furnace would prove useful in pottery firing. Altogether over 500 firms are connected with the trade organisation, and with the gradual increase in the demand for natural gas and the cost and shortage of fuel it is believed that unless oil firing can be adopted on a commercial scale their position is likely to become extremely difficult. It appears, further, that fuel troubles are being experienced in the glass manufacturing business, and both glass makers and brick makers are seeking information as to the possibility of using oil fuel. Whilst from one point of view this probable development of the use of oil is gratifying, it may prove to be the cause, should it eventuate, of a further increase in the price of oil in this country.

### A Steel Combine.

It has long been known that American and German steel makers were anxious to find some openings by which it would be possible for them to work not exactly in co-operation, but at any rate in close co-ordination, and it is now over a year since the U.S. Steel Trades combine made their first overtures to German iron and steel masters. Something very like a steel combine has now been formed, in which not only U.S. and German, but also French firms are represented. The only conspicuous absentees are the British steel makers; and whilst they are to be congratulated on their sturdy independence, it is evident that more than mere admiration of their attitude will have to be forthcoming if we are to help them face the fierce competition they will have to meet. Some time ago, under the old International Steel Rail arrangement between the producers in various countries, our trade received a setback from which it was exceedingly difficult to recover in spite of the superior quality of our productions, the vast size of our Colonial and Indian markets, the tremendous amount of capital we had invested in foreign undertakings, and other advantages. At present we are suffering from a shortage of rail mills, and it would seem that at any cost that deficiency must be overcome. The far-sightedness of our steel firms in keeping aloof from the new International Combine is to be commended, and their efforts should be assisted in every way possible by all interested in British trade development. From every point of view our people are likely to do better fighting than assisting the combine, and British industry should certainly be the gainer by this attitude of sturdy independence.

### Japanese Coal.

A good deal of apprehension existed a few months ago in coal-exporting circles as to the result of the efforts Japan was making to secure a big market overseas for the output of her collieries. It seems, however, from advices just to hand that the mine owners are having to curtail their efforts and dispose of their stocks at any price they can obtain. A big decline in price has already occurred which is likely to be more marked in the course of a few weeks. At Kawaguchi, to give only one instance, over 250,000 tons have accumulated which must be sold. The actual output last year amounted to 28 million tons, and it was anticipated that this year production would reach the 30-million mark. Instead, a singular depression set in, and out of over seventy coal mining companies established in Japan since the outbreak of the war, only two or three are in existence to-day.

## TRADE WITH BULGARIA.

The Bulgarian Prime Minister, M. Stambolisky, is to address the members of the London Chamber of Commerce at the offices of the Chamber (97, Cannon Street, E.C.) on Friday, at 2.30 p.m., on the possibilities for British goods in the Bulgarian market, and the advantages offered for the investment of British capital in Bulgaria.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended September 10 amounted to £E200,655.

The Government of India has ordered 4,000,000 ft. of creosoted British Columbia ties.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended September 25 amounted to £21,414.

## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

### Forthcoming Sailings.

The Johnston Line s.s. Aviemore, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 16.

The Johnston Line s.s. Cranmore, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 30.

The Byron Steamship Company's s.s. Admiral Hamilton, for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constanza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 20.

The Cunard Line s.s. Antigone, for Gibraltar, Corfu, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Varna and Galatz, will close for cargo at Antwerp on October 16, and in London on October 21.

The Ellerman Lines s.s. Asturian, for Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika and Constantinople, will close for cargo in Liverpool on October 23.

The Ellerman Lines s.s. Austrian, for Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria, will close for cargo in Liverpool on October 23.

The Papayanni Line s.s. Andalusian, for Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika and Constantinople, will close for cargo on November 6.

The Moss Line s.s. Amarna, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta and Alexandria, accepting cargo for transhipment to Moroccan, Algerian, Cyprus and Syrian ports, will close for cargo in Liverpool on October 16.

The Moss Line s.s. Assiout, for Gibraltar, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo in Liverpool on October 16.

The Anchor Line s.s. Massilia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 20.

The Bibby Line s.s. Leicestershire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon, will close for cargo in London on October 22.

The Bibby Line s.s. Leicestershire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on October 20.

The Henderson Line s.s. Mandalay, for Port Said and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Glasgow on October 20.

The Clan Line s.s. Clan Stuart, for Bombay and Persian Gulf, will close for cargo at Glasgow on October 20, and at Birkenhead on October 29.

The Harrison Line s.s. Explorer, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 18.

## BUCHAREST-LONDON FLIGHT.

Mr. Reginald Wright, managing director of a Lancashire firm of locomotive engineers, who was conveyed to Roumania last month by a Handley Page aeroplane piloted by Mr. Perry, arrived back at Cricklewood Aerodrome on October 11. On the homeward journey a record was created in a non-stop flight from Strasburg to London, a distance of 420 miles, which was covered in three hours fifty minutes. For the whole journey from Jassy to Cricklewood the average flying speed was slightly over 100 miles per hour. Besides making the journey both ways by aeroplane, Mr. Wright used the Handley Page machine in travelling in Roumania. Thus on one occasion he visited Jassy from Bucharest and returned the same day, whereas if he had had to travel by railway the journey would have taken altogether forty hours.

Mr. Murray Harris, general manager in the Near East of the Royal Exchange Assurance, was honoured by a long interview with the Sultan of Egypt on September 23.


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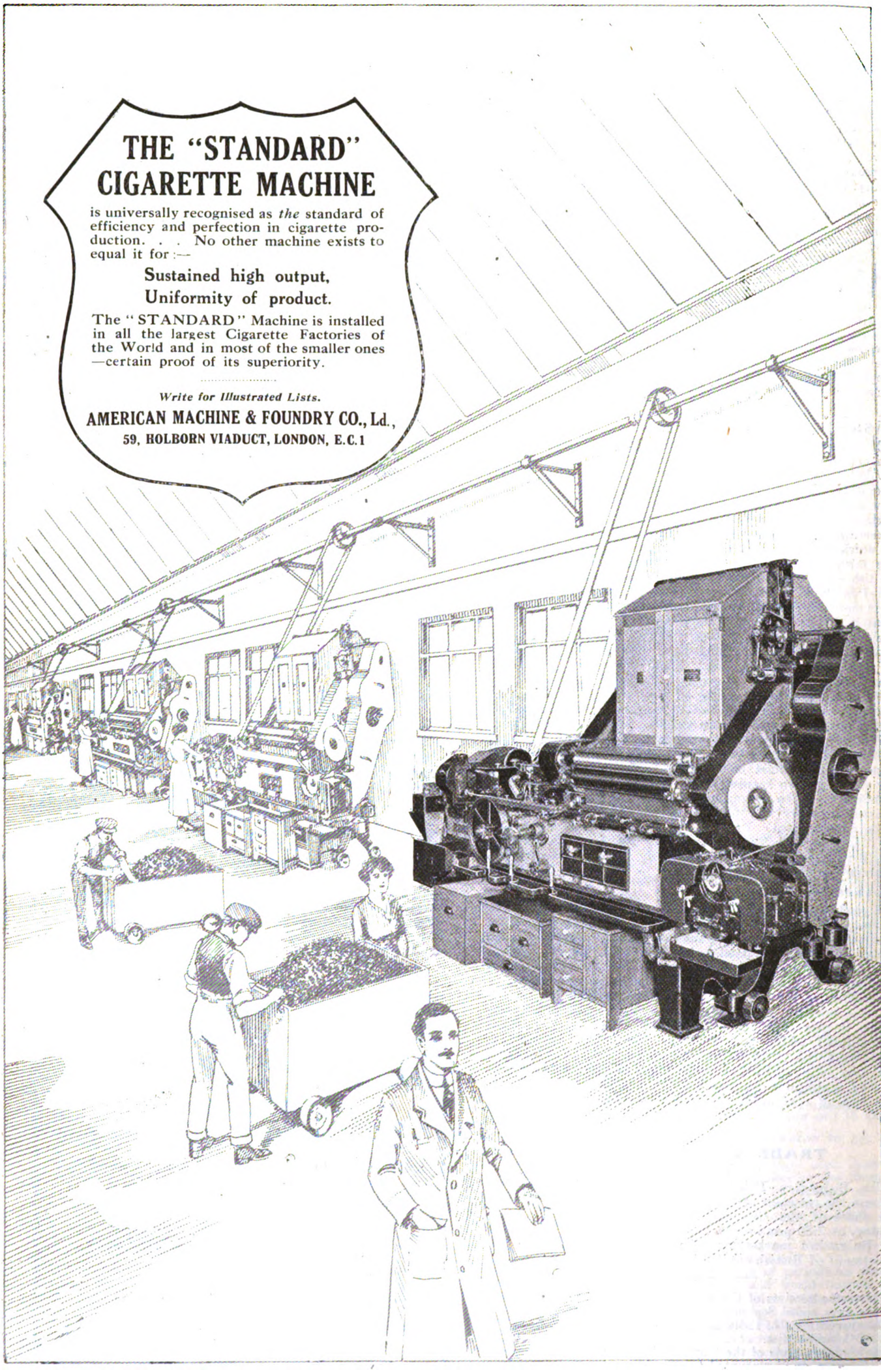


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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—Business has been rather restricted. The market is very short of supplies, and the prevailing high prices and the general uncertainty have had the effect of making buyers hold aloof for the time being.

Sugar.—The free market has been steady. West Indian crystallised has been done at 97s. to 103s., white Mauritius at 115s., and American granulated at 118s. There has been a good demand for home refined at the official prices.

Coffee.—There has been a small demand for export. Mocha has been done round about 170s., while Costa Rica is quoted at 125s., and Brazilian at 68s., all these prices being for sound qualities. The futures market has been very dull. Quotations are: December 54s. 6d., March 54s. 3d., May 54s. 3d. In their weekly report Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson point out that "so long as primary markets continue to press their product upon markets that are out of joint through financial stringency and other causes, no improvement can be expected in futures. On the other hand, the comparative steadiness of values in the terme market of late, while heavy falls have been daily recorded in other leading staple commodities, is perhaps not without significance in betokening a level that coffee has reached, which perhaps is adjusted to the present adverse conditions. It must not be forgotten, however, that a most severe decline has been recorded in coffee during the last three or four months, and this anticipation of the downward course that has since overtaken other markets, has tempered the present adverse chilly current of cut prices in marked degree to coffee. We hear that the force of the financial current has in the course of its onward sweep and irresistible pressure upon all and sundry markets in the U.S. been the cause of compelling actual traders in coffee to part with their holdings, and this has naturally exercised a depressing effect upon the future market there. Additionally, these movements have discouraged retailers in up-country centres, with the result that deliveries from importing points show a falling off compared to last year. Eventually this will prove a matter of strength to the market as traders come later on to replenish bare shelves. This wave of price reduction and financial stringency in America is undoubtedly bringing about an entirely revised perspective of values all round and a fresh outlook. It may be that the present efforts have nearly run their course. Curiously, the movement synchronises with the coming Presidential election and all that this means."

Oilseeds.—A quiet tone has characterised the market. Indian linseed has been done at 38s., while La Plata has come to business at 35s. Rapeseed has declined somewhat, Toria being 34s. 9d., bold Ferozepore 33s. 9d., and brown Cawnpore 32s. 3d. Cottonseed is rather weak. Indian has been done at 14s. 3d., and Egyptian at 19s. 3d.

Oilcakes.—Business has been fairly brisk, a number of varieties being in special demand. Linseed cake has been done at about 22s. 6d., cottonseed cake at 11s. to 14s., and arachis cake at 14s. to 19s. Other transactions have included coconut cake at 15s., and palm nut cake at 11s.

Seed Oils.—Oils have been rather featureless. Linseed oil has been done at 77s., while refined rape oil has come to business at 90s., and the crude variety at 75s. Turpentine is easier at 136s.

## SMYRNA OPIUM REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Bros. report as follows for the week ended September 25: "The sales this week on our market amount to 16 cases, of which 14 are New Karahissar at 17s. to 18s., and two Old Karahissar at 19s. The exchange is 416 piastres per pound sterling for cheque, and 0.85 dollars for one Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are 32f cases, against 650 at same date last year."

Mr. Thomas M. Ainscough, O.B.E., H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in India and Ceylon, will read a paper on "British Trade with India" before the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts on Friday. The chair will be taken by Sir C. C. McLeod.


**CENTRAL BANK OF GREECE**

**Head Office: 12, Aristeides Street, ATHENS.**

***Paid-up Capital - - - 3,500,000 Drs.***

*Administrative Council:* LEONIDAS SKENDER *(Chairman)*, GEORGE EMBIRICOS *(Vice-Chairman)*, K. SALLIARIS, A. DAMBASIS, Ph. LOUKISAS, M. EVLAMBIOS *(Director of the National Bank of Greece)*.

*General Manager:* GEORGE MOUSTAKAS. *Manager:* G. A. KARYSTINAKIS.

**EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED**


## EMPIRE COTTON-GROWING COMMITTEE.

Mr. L. G. Killby, Superintendent of the Department of Technology, City and Guilds of London Institute, has been appointed secretary to the Empire Cotton-Growing Committee. He took his B.A. degree at Oxford in 1904 in the Honours School of Natural Science, with first-class honours in chemistry. He then became demonstrator in chemistry, and in 1907 was awarded the B.Sc. degree for research work. He has been on the staff of the Department of Technology for fourteen years. During the war Mr. Killby received a commission in the Army and served in France as one of the chemists on water supplies in the field, and was afterwards transferred to the Chemical Warfare Department of the Ministry of Munitions. He was mentioned in despatches.

## SUDAN PRODUCE.

### Gum.

The C.E.B. report for July states that the exports during the month were 44,656 kilos of bleached of the value of £E2,620, 725,721 kilos of hashab of the value of £E35,545, and 37,749 kilos of talh of the value of £E1,208 viâ Port Sudan, and 75,120 kilos of hashab of the value of £E1,223 viâ Halfa.

Kordofan Province.—1,707 kantars were sold in El Obeid market during July, as against 3,621 kantars during the same month last year, at an average price of £E1.357 per kantar of 100 rottles. Arrivals from Nahud were 1,453 kantars, as against 934 kantars during July last year. The amount sold at Um Ruaba was 13 kantars, as against 180 kantars last year, the average price being £E1.050 per kantar. No gum was sold at Rahad during the month; 560 kantars were sold in July, 1919.

### Cotton.

Khartoum Province.—American cotton grown at Sabon, in Sennar Province, as a Seluka crop turned up in Omdurman market during the month in the hands of small merchants, who failed to get anything like its value in Omdurman, but on the attention of the Director of Agriculture being called to the matter this cotton was bought by him at its true value.

### Wheat and Barley.

Halfa Province.—Wheat has risen slightly to about PT.20 the kirat. This slight rise is accounted for by nearly all the taxes having been collected.

Halfa Province.—The price of barley is PT.289 per ardeb. Wheat is in demand, preference being given to American, which is cleaner than that of Dongola.

Darfur Province.—The price of wheat is £E2.450 per ardeb of 300 rottles (135 kilos).

### Sesame.

Nuba Mountains Province.—Trade stagnant, as always during the rains. It is noteworthy that directly the road between Kadugli and El Obeid is closed owing to mud, the Talodi Meikaz attracts the Simsim from Kadugli district which has not already gone north. Transport of this Simsim and of onions from Rashad district have been the only signs of activity during the month.

### Livestock, Hides and Skins.

Berber Province.—Eighteen cattle and 746 sheep were exported during the month.

Darfur Province.—Six hundred and eighty-eight head of cattle passed through El Fasher quarantine station during the month.

Halfa Province.—One thousand seven hundred and sixty-six cattle, 12 goats, 7,856 sheep, and 310 skins were exported from the Sudan viâ Halfa during the month to Cairo.

Kassala Province.—Thirty-four cattle and 94 sheep were exported from Kassala to the interior of the Sudan.

The restrictions on the exportation of onions from Malta have been removed.

A new company has been established in Alexandria by Messrs. Mokhtar Nadoury and Ahmed Chabana for the importation of motor-cars and accessories.

The annual general meeting of the Egypt and Levant Steamship Company, Ltd., will be held to-day at the head office of the company at Smyrna.


**BANK OF PIRÆUS**

***for Commerce, Industry and Shipping.***

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Subscribed Capital - - -** | **Drs.** | **10,000,000** |
| **Paid-up Capital - - - - -** | **„** | **5,000,000** |
| **Reserve Fund - - - - -** | **„** | **3,135,000** |

**HEAD OFFICE: PIRÆUS.**

OFFICE AT ATHENS.

***Telegraphic Address: PIREBANK.***

Every kind of Banking Business transacted. The only Greek Bank possessing vast stores of its own, just on the quay, for warehousing goods

HAS A COMMERCIAL SECTION FULLY ORGANISED.


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# BANCA NAȚIUNEI

**Capital and Reserve Fund: 85,000,000 LEI.**

**BUCHAREST: Calea Victoriei 98 (Piata Palatului Regal).**

Chairman:—N. D. GHIKA. Deputy-Chairman:—MIHAIL D. STURDZA. General Manager:—ION G. STOIAN.

**EVERY KIND OF BANKING AND FINANCIAL BUSINESS TRANSACTED.**

*The following Companies have been established by the BANCA NATIUNEI:—*

**S.T.A.R. Societatea de Tractiune Automobila din Romania.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei**
**Gospodariile Taranesti.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei**
**S.R.C. Societatea Rom. de Combustibil.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei**
**Industria Forestiera din Transilvania.—Capital, 12,000,000 Lei**
**Industria Chimica Romana.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei**
**Tipografia Gutemberg.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei**
**Casele Populare.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei**
**Crucea Societate pentru comertul si industria de vestminte si odoare bisericesti.—Capital, 1,000,000 Lei**
**Minele de Aur din Romania.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei**
**S.A.R.D.A. Societate Anonima Romana de Aprovizionare—Capital, 2,000,000 Lei**

# BANQUE MARMOROSCH, BLANK & CO.

(Joint Stock Company).

**HEAD OFFICE: BUCHAREST (Roumania).**

**Capital: 125,000,000 Lei. Reserves: 140,000,000 Lei.**

BUCHAREST, CONSTANTINOPLE, PARIS, NEW YORK
AND
Branches in all the Principal Towns of Great Roumania.

# ROUMANIA.

**AREA** (after Peace Treaties of 1919) **122,282 sq. miles.**

In 1914 the cultivated area was (according to an estimate of Dr. Colesco) 34,475,750 acres; of which 13,074,922 were ploughed lands, 468,670 were vineyards and orchards, 1,436,960 were meadows, 2,948,472 were pastures, and 5,705,750 were forests.

**POPULATION. About 17,400,000.**

**IMPORTS (1915). £8,533,234.**

United Kingdom, £848,997; Austria-Hungary, £3,718,182; Belgium, £43,230; Germany, £3,575,159; France, £660,287; Turkey, £558,238; Italy, £762,023.

**EXPORTS (1915). £21,742,379.**

United Kingdom, £2,238; Austria-Hungary, £13,576,255; Belgium, £2,343; Germany, £7,044,803; Turkey, £443,325; Italy, £37,838.

[NOTE.—In 1914 the Imports from the U.K. amounted to £2,231,773, and the Exports to it to £1,433,535.]

# BANQUE DE CREDIT ROUMAIN

(Joint Stock Company)

FULLY PAID-UP CAPITAL:
**70,000,000 LEI.**

**BUCHAREST. BRAILA.**
**GALATZ. CONSTANZA.**

The BANK opens current accounts, collects and discounts bills, &c., on Roumania and other countries. Collects dividends, makes advances on shares and other securities, and upon merchandise, and carries on all usual banking transactions. Receives cereals on consignment and undertakes their sale.

# BANCA ROMANEASCA. *Established 1911.*

**Authorised Capital, 160,000,000 Lei. Capital Paid Up, 100,000,000 Lei. Reserve Fund, 38,936,306 Lei.**

**Head Office in BUCAREST, 5, Strada Smardan.**

**Branches in BAZARGIC, BRAILA, CONSTANTZA, CZERNOWITZ (Bucovina), GALATZ, KISHINEFF (Bessarabia), SILISTRIA, TULCEA, TEMESVAR.**

**Council of Administration:**—*President*, G. N. BAGDAT, former President of the High Court of Justice and Cour de Cassation.
*Vice-President*, G. I. STOICESCO, former Vice-President of the Senate, Professor of the University.
**Board of Directors and Members:**—C. G. COCIASU, Barrister, former Vice-President of the Senate; V. BRATIANU, former Manager of the Banque Nationale de Roumanie, former Minister; D. D. BRAGADIRU, Merchant and Manufacturer; Al. F. BADESCU, Engineer, General Manager of the Société de Tramways de Bucarest; G. CORBESCO, Barrister; I. G. DUCA, former Minister; I. I. STANCULEANU, Barrister, former Member of Parliament; Al. N. STEFANESCU, former Manager of the Banque Nationale de Roumanie.
**Auditors:**—D. MATAK, Engineer, Manufacturer; H. FULGA, retired, former Bank Manager; V. V. STEFAN, former General Manager of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce; Em. DAN, former General Manager in the Ministry.
**General Manager:**—N. P. STEFANESCO, Engineer, Inspector-General, former General Manager of the Navigation Fluviale du Danube.
**Manager:**—I. SAVESCO. **Sub-Managers:**—N. BANULESCO, C. T. TEODORESCO, Ion C. PILIDI, S. HENZEL, D. CONSTANTINESCO.

Banking transactions of every description. Deposits repayable on demand and with notice. Cheques and letters of credit issued on all countries. Stock Exchange orders executed in Roumania and abroad. Advances on securities, discounts and collections. Bonds, shares and objects of value received for safe keeping. Applications received for all issues without charge.

**Telegraphic Address: ROMANEASCA, BUCAREST.**

***LONDON AGENTS:*** **BARCLAYS BANK, LIMITED. COMPTOIR NATIONAL D'ESCOMPTE DE PARIS. BANQUE BELGE POUR L'ETRANGER.**


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# COMPANY MEETINGS.

## CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

### Increase of Capital Approved.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China was held on October 6 at 38, Bishopsgate, for the purpose of considering resolutions subdividing the shares and increasing the capital of the bank. Sir Montagu Cornish Turner (chairman of the bank) presided.

The Chief Manager (Mr. W. E. Preston) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—Our circular letter of September 16 last will have explained the object of our meeting here to-day, and, as regards the first resolution, few words on my part are required, I am sure, to recommend its acceptance by the shareholders. For some time past we have appreciated the fact that the denomination of our shares, £20 each, plus the premium attached thereto, made the share a rather heavy security to deal with in the market, and it has been somewhat difficult for the smaller class of investor to take up a share which, perhaps, commands a value of from £70 to £80 in the market—or even £90, as it did at one time—so that many desirable people whom we would welcome as constituents of this bank are unable to enjoy the privilege of being shareholders in the Chartered Bank. Therefore, it is with pleasure that I shall presently propose the resolution that the £20 share be subdivided into four shares of £5 each. Then, as regards the second resolution, our letter states that, in order to meet the increased demands of trade and the greater volume of business that the bank is now called upon to finance, the court of directors consider it desirable to put before the shareholders proposals for the increase of the bank's capital. In my remarks at our extraordinary general meeting in September, 1918, I gave particulars as to the gradual increase of the capital and reserves of this bank. I need not refer to these figures to-day, but I will give you some figures which are of considerable interest. They show the growth of the business during the past two years, and also the necessity for our coming to you to-day with proposals for an increase of capital.

#### Current Accounts and Deposits.

Taking first the figures with regard to current accounts and fixed deposits, on December 31, 1918, when we made our last issue, they stood at £33,777,000. On December 31, 1919, they stood at £48,000,000—an increase of 42 per cent. On June 30 of this year they totalled nearly £54,000,000; that is an increase of 59 per cent. over the figures of 1918. Bills of exchange at December, 1918, totalled £22,244,000; in December, 1919, they were £26,500,000, an increase of 19 per cent. On June 30, 1920, they amounted to approximately £28,000,000, an increase of 25 per cent. over the figure of 1918. Bills discounted and loans in December, 1918, were £12,600,000, and twelve months after that date they were £17,500,000, an increase of 40 per cent. In June of this year they were £26,400,000, an increase of 109 per cent. over the figures for 1918. Bills of exchange, re-discounted at December, 1918, amounted to £4,000,000, in round figures, and in December, 1919, to £16,000,000, an increase of 306 per cent. In June, 1920, they stood at just about the same figure. Forward contracts outstanding we can only give up to December 31 last, because the year has not expired yet. At December, 1918, they were £13,300,000, and on December 31, 1919, they were £48,500,000, an increase of 164 per cent. The total figures shown in our balance-sheet—the total assets and liabilities—were £47,600,000 in December, 1918, and £68,700,000 in December, 1919, an increase of 44 per cent. In June, 1920, they were approximately £75,600,000, an increase of 59 per cent. over the figure in 1918, when we made our last issue of shares.

#### Increase in Net Profits.

Ladies and gentlemen, I think no further words are necessary on my part to show that we are fully justified in coming to you to recommend an increase of our capital. Our profits have also increased quite satisfactorily. In 1914 our net profits were £372,000. Then came, in 1916, that terrible tax, the Excess Profits Duty; but in spite of that we showed an advance on 1914, the amount being £331,250. In 1917 the net profits were £402,500, in 1918 £409,000, and in 1919 £447,347, after payment of Excess Profits Duty. I think, therefore, you will agree with me that, along with our increase of business, we are able to show an increase of profit, and for this year I do not anticipate a falling off from the profits shown last year. We have had a satisfactory half-year, and I hope we shall not have a very unsatisfactory six months ending December 31, 1920. As regards the terms of issue, I am sure the shareholders will appreciate the fact that they will now get one new share for every two old ones, as against two for every three on a previous occasion, and that the premium on the £5 share is only £2 10s. Had we made the issue on previous lines the premium would have been £5 per share; in other words, shareholders would have had to pay £10 for their share instead of £7 10s. We did this with the purpose of giving our shareholders a good turn. We think they deserve it, and we are able to make it. I was rather pleased at having a letter from one of our shareholders saying that he was astonished at our liberality, and asking whether we could afford it. Well, gentlemen, we are just able to afford it. Then it was thought desirable that full payment of the new shares should be made by December 31 of this year, because by so doing they will rank for full dividend *pari passu* with the old shares as from January 1, 1921. There, again, you have an advantage which you did not have before and which I hope you will appreciate.

#### The Reserve.

With the issue of these shares, if the resolutions are confirmed, the capital of the bank will in future stand at £3,000,000, and the reserve at £3,500,000. We shall have to build up our reserve again, and I hope we shall do so in the course of time. I should like to point out, however, that if we had made the premium £5 instead of £2 10s. we would have had a reserve of £4,000,000 instead of £3,500,000. There, again, we considered our shareholders. We must not forget that the large increase in our business, which is evidenced by the figures I have read to you to-day, has entailed considerably more work, far greater responsibility and devotion to duty on the part of our staff. It is only right and fair that their efforts should be suitably rewarded, and the directors have not overlooked this consideration. I mention that because another shareholder wrote a letter in which there was a slight insinuation that we were considering the staff more than the shareholders. Well, it was very ungrateful, because I can assure you that that is not the case; we considered both alike. We should be absolutely failing in our duty, however, if we did not try to meet the fair and just demands of our staff, considering the increased cost of living, which is terrible in some parts of the East, the difficulty of housing, and the discomforts of living in a tropical climate.

#### The Future.

Another shareholder has just written to me saying that he regretted he could not be present to support the resolutions to be submitted to-day, but he would be glad to have an assurance from me that we shall be able to maintain the present level of our dividends. I should like to ask that gentleman if he can assure me what trade is going to do in the next twelve months, what is going to happen in the East and in the West, what is going to happen in the case of the remarkable coin the rupee, and various other little considerations. We cannot tell, but we do hope that we shall not disappoint the expectations of our shareholders. We do assure them that every effort will be made on our part to maintain that fair return on the shares of this bank. We would not recommend at any time to give them what I call an outrageously big dividend, but we do try to give them a fair and just return on their investments in this bank. As regards the present position of trade, undoubtedly we are in for a dull time. We are in, perhaps, for a period of anxiety and difficulty, but with calmness and moderation on the part of the directors of the bank and with fair treatment of our customers, who have always stuck so loyally to us in the past, I think we can assure you that there will be no great catastrophe as regards the business of the Chartered Bank, and I am fully convinced that once this cloud of unrest in the labour world, once this period of unrest due to militarism, has passed away we can be pretty well assured that trade in the East and in the West will not be much worse in the years to come than it has been in the past. We must not give way to pessimism or to despair—our trade and our commerce were not built up on those lines—but we must go on with courage, firmness, and conviction that all will be well when once the clouds roll by. Now, ladies and gentlemen, I have talked enough, and I beg to propose the first resolution: "That the present capital of the bank—viz., 100,000 shares of £20 each, be sub-divided into 400,000 shares of £5 each."

The Rt. Hon. Lord George Hamilton, G.C.S.I.: Ladies and gentlemen, I have great pleasure in seconding that proposition.

Mr. Henley: I believe that in the original deed of settlement of this bank, and for some years, the minimum subscription of a shareholder was five shares. Is that the case now, and how will it affect the fresh arrangement?

The Chairman: So far as we know it will be still five shares. There is no reason to anticipate that any change will be made. I must also tell you that until recently, under the terms of our articles of association, we could not have issued the new shares of £5 each; that is to say, without having two classes of shares. There would have been one class of £20 and one of £5, but we have had the consent of the Treasury to make all the shares of one denomination. I do not think you need anticipate any trouble on that score.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved: "That the capital of the bank be increased to 600,000 shares by the issue of 200,000 new shares of £5 each, and that such shares be offered to the existing shareholders in the proportion of one new share for every two shares already held at a premium of £2 10s. per share, payment to be made as follows: £5 on or before November 15, 1920, £2 10s. on or before December 31, 1920. Interest on these instalments will be paid at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, from date of payment until December 31, 1920, after which date the new shares will rank in all respects *pari passu* with the existing shares."

Mr. Thomas Cuthbertson seconded the resolution, which was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman announced that a confirmatory meeting would be held on October 27, and the proceedings then terminated.

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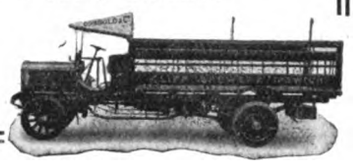

GUARDIAN EASTERN INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 11, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

Subscribed Capital - - £650,000
Paid-up Capital - - - £130,000

DIRECTORS:
Chairman: The Hon. EVELYN HUBBARD.
ALBERT I. BELISHA, Esq., T. G. C. BROWNE, Esq., S. J. COHEN, Esq., P. LYTTELTON GELL, Esq., MONTAGUE GLUCKSTEIN, Esq., Sir EDWARD R. HENRY, Bart., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., C.S.I., Col. Sir HERBERT M. JESSEL, Bart., C.B. C.M.G., NATHAN LASKI, Esq., Sir CHRISTOPHER T. NEEDHAM, GEO. W. REYNOLDS, Esq.

*All the principal classes of insurance business transacted.*

CONSTANTINOPLE.—Merchants holding Stocks in Constantinople and Near East generally, and wishing to dispose of same locally, are invited to communicate with Messrs. Toplis & Harding.

*Messrs. TOPLIS & HARDING*
*(Auctioneers, Estab. 1790.)*

have a branch office at Sabit Bey Han, Constantinople, and hold regular sales by Auction of all classes of merchandise and salvage. Next sale November, when goods to the value of £40,000 will be offered on behalf of a London house. Further goods may be included in this sale by arrangement.—All communications should be addressed to

**Head Office: 28, OLD JEWRY, LONDON, E.C.2.**

# NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

**(Affiliated to the British Trade Corporation).**

*ESTABLISHED 1909 BY IMPERIAL FIRMAN.*

**CAPITAL - - - - £1,000,000 Sterling.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
S. DE BILINSKI, C.B.E. (Chairman).
SIR ADAM BLOCK, K.C.M.G.
F. EDWIN WHITTALL.
H.E. AHMED DJEMAL BEY.
H.E. NAIL BEY.
H.E. ISMAIL DJENANI BEY.

LONDON.
A. G. M. DICKSON (Chairman, London Committee).
HON. HUGO BARING.
SIR HENRY BIRCHENOUGH, K.C.M.G.
C. S. GULBENKIAN.
R. H. MACAULAY.
E. N. MEYER.

**Head Office: CONSTANTINOPLE (Union Han, Galata).**
Telegrams: "BRITBANF, CONSTANTINOPLE."

**London Office: 50, CORNHILL, E.C.** Telegrams: "NATBANK, LONDON."

***Branches: STAMBOUL, SMYRNA.***

**Transit Warehouse: STAMBOUL.** **Bonded Warehouse: TUTUN GUMRUK, STAMBOUL.**

The Bank has Agents in all the principal Cities of Europe, America, and the Far East, and has Correspondents throughout the World.

Every description of Banking business, in all its Financial and Commercial branches, undertaken.

Business Houses trading with Turkey can insure Foreign Exchange with the Bank. Banks, Commercial Houses and others having interests in Turkey are invited to apply for terms.

Manufacturers and Merchants may address their enquiries to the Head Office for Trade Lists of Importers and Exporters.


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## AGRICULTURAL SHOW IN ALGERIA.

It has been arranged to hold the annual congress of French agriculturists at Algiers next year, and the Union of Agricultural Associations of Algeria has decided to avail itself of the occasion to organise an agricultural show and exhibition fair, the honorary presidency of which has been accepted by the Governor-General of Algeria. The exhibition is expected to open in the month of April next, and will be held on the Champ de Manœuvres, in the suburbs of Algiers, and will occupy an area of nearly 12½ acres. H.M. Consul-General at Algiers states that the agricultural show will consist of displays of various classes of horses, cattle, poultry, and other domestic animals and birds, of wines and spirits, all kinds of products connected with agriculture, and aids and appliances. The exhibition fair will not be competitive, and will comprise an exhibition of motor-cars, motor-tractors, and the industrial and other products of North Africa. The first two will include foreign as well as French exhibits. The price of sites for tractors is 15 francs per square metre in the open, and exhibitors may erect their own structures; that for cars has not yet been settled.

The exhibition of North African products will be divided into the following classes:—Foodstuffs, various native industries, textiles, mine products, wood, and Algerian, Tunisian, and Moroccan arts. Inquiries respecting the exhibition should be addressed to M. Celestin Granier, Commissaire General, 4, Rue Marechal Bosquet, Algiers.

## COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

### Barsi Light Railway.

The report of the Barsi Light Railway for the year ended March 31, 1920, states that the net earnings, less Indian income-tax and super-tax, amounted to £59,212, or, adding the exchange adjustment of £29,181, £88,394. After providing the interest on the debenture stock, £5,600, and the interest and sinking fund instalment, etc., on the Latur Extension debentures, £5,649, there is left £77,145, which, with the balance of £11,210 brought forward, makes £88,355 available. The directors have transferred £30,295 to reserve for equalisation of dividends, depreciation on investments, etc., which account now stands at £115,000, and £15,000 to taxation reserve to meet the balance of income-tax. The directors recommend a final dividend of 3 per cent., with a bonus of 4 per cent., making 12 per cent. for the year, leaving £11,859 to be carried forward.

### Egyptian Consolidated Lands.

The report of the Egyptian Consolidated Lands for the period ended June 30 states that the area sold aggregates 738 feddans, of which 473 feddans were reclaimed land, realising an average price of £E.75 per feddan. The balance, about 260 feddans of unreclaimed land, realised approximately £E.50 per feddan. The area unsold at June 30 last was 1,391 feddans, of which 400 feddans are in course of reclamation. The Rodah Island property consists of a building estate, the area of which, excluding roads, is 110,605 square metres. A property of 117 feddans purchased for cash during the early part of the year at £E.54 per feddan was subsequently sold on terms at £E.71 per feddan. The balance due from purchasers in respect of land sold appears in the balance-sheet at £116,402, and is secured by the vendor's lien on the land. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., October 19, 12.30 p.m.

### Assam Railways and Trading.

The report of the Assam Railways and Trading Company for the year to March 31 states that the gross earnings of the railway were Rs.14,79,820, an increase of Rs.1,01,741 over 1918-19, and the expenditure totalled Rs.10,48,450, an increase of Rs.1,45,692. The general revenue account shows a profit for the year of £110,035. After payment of debenture interest, and allowing for all the preference dividends, there remained a balance at credit of net revenue account of £19,219. From this has to be deducted the interim dividend on the "B" stock of 2 per cent. paid in March last, and the directors now recommend a final dividend on the "B" stock of 3 per cent., making 5 per cent. for the year, leaving £4,219 to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty, if any. Meeting, Winchester House, October 20, noon.

## NEW COMPANIES.

### Yule, Catto and Co.

Yule, Catto, and Co., Ltd., has been registered as a private company with a capital of £100,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on business of East Indian and general merchants, bankers, ship owners and brokers, etc., formerly carried on at Finsbury House, E.C., as George Yule and Co. Solicitors: Slaughter and May, 18, Austin Friars, E.C.

### Anglo-Eastern Trading.

The Anglo-Eastern Trading Company, Ltd., was registered on September 29 with a capital of £250,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of importers, exporters, refrigerators, shipowners, charterers of ships or other vessels, warehousemen, etc. The subscribers (each with one share) are: W. C. Bacon, Shawbrook Lodge, Burnage Lane, Withington, Manchester; E. Latimer, Kirtle House, Knutsford, Cheshire. First directors: J. D. Williams, E. Latimer, W. L. Norbury, L. L. Bunting, J Heys, W. C. Bacon, and D. Beith.

## LANCASHIRE COTTON

### Continued Inactivity.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

Increased activity in the market is still held back by the falling tendency of prices, the unfavourable position of Eastern exchange rates, and the general financial stringency. Enterprise remains at a very low ebb, and owing to spinners and manufacturers not nearly selling the output of the machinery, ground is still being lost. There have been no indications during the week of an early change for the better, and reports from sellers have been depressing. Lancashire users continue to purchase Egyptian cotton on a limited scale. There has not been anything particularly new in the private advices relating to the crop. One authority has put out an estimate of 6,250,000 kantars. During the last day or two a little more inquiry has been met with in Egyptian yarns, but most of the demand has been of a tentative character, and buyers cannot make up their minds that the time is ripe for freer operations. More mills in Bolton and district are stopping part of the spindles. It is anticipated that the Masters Federation will easily secure the necessary majority in favour of stopping all the spinning mills on Saturdays and Mondays for a month. In cloth for the Near Eastern outlets there has not been any general business. Some merchants have picked up cheap stock lots from time to time. Goods now being distributed in Egypt and Turkey are at prices much higher than those ruling to-day in Manchester. With regard to trade for India progress has been considerably blocked by the fall in the value of the rupee, and very little progress has been made by buyers and sellers in arranging transactions. The drop in silver has also been a discouraging factor in the situation, and scarcely anything at all has been done for China. More manufacturers have pressed for fresh contracts, but leading shippers refuse to be tempted to operate, even when very low figures are quoted. Unemployment in weaving districts still tends to increase. A dragging state of affairs has existed in home American yarns, and prices continue to favour buyers. Only retail lots have been sold in export yarns both for India and the Near East.

## NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at July 31, 1920, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

Banking Department.

| | | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each) | | 2,925,000 |
| Reserve Fund: | | |
| Statutory Reserve | | 1,462,500 |
| Special Reserve | | 487,500 |
| Current, Deposit and other Accounts | | 16,936,625 |
| Mixed Tribunals | | 2,286,718 |
| Egyptian Government | | 1,294,860 |
| Bankers' Accounts | | 1,043,665 |
| Cheques and Bills payable | | 1,127,487 |
| Sundry other Accounts | | 1,204,591 |
| | | £E28,768,946 |

| | | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government | | 14,353,377 |
| Sundry Securities | | 228,195 |
| Advances on Merchandise | | 737,666 |
| Advances on Securities | | 1,507,005 |
| Advances otherwise Secured | | 1,957,571 |
| Sundry other Advances | | 961,770 |
| Bills of Exchange | | 2,723,199 |
| Local Bills Discounted | | 228,629 |
| Buildings and Furniture | | 228,339 |
| Money at call and at short notice | | 1,716,000 |
| Bankers' Accounts | | 1,318,634 |
| Sudan Government | | 148,518 |
| Sundry other Accounts | | 407,215 |
| Cash:— | | |
| Notes | £E1,986,442 | |
| Gold | 26,741 | |
| Silver, Nickel, etc. | 239,645 | |
| | | 2,252,828 |
| | | £E28,768,946 |

Issue Department.

| | | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Notes Issued | | 45,400,000 |
| | | £E45,400,000 |
| Gold | £E3,333,100 | |
| *British Treasury Bills | 19,366,810 | |
| | | £E. 22,700,000 |
| Securities:— | | |
| Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government | 432,447 | |
| British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds | 22,267,553 | |
| | | 22,700,000 |
| | | £E45,400,000 |

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of Gold. (See *Journal Officiel* October 30, 1916.)

The Bank of England are prepared to receive the coupons due October 15 on Egyptian Government preference bonds, the necessary lists of which can be obtained on application at the dividend pay office, 5-6, Lombard Street, E.C.

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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

HAIFA.

The report for August states: The satisfactory result of this year's harvest would have given rise to a brisk export trade if exportation were not prohibited by the local authorities. The town will soon have abundant stocks of wheat, barley, chick peas, and lentils, which will be stored in the warehouses.

The market is much quieter because of the political situation of the Hauran and the interruption of communications between Haifa and Damascus. There have been increasing imports of colonial produce and manufactured goods for this region.

JAFFA.

The report for August gives the following particulars :—In the first half of the month the prices of cereals remained at the relatively high level to which they had risen as the result of the lack of important arrivals; but towards the end of August a fall took place following the appearance in the market of considerable supplies. Consumers alone have profited by the fall, for the large buyers, foreseeing another decline, abstained from entering into any transactions. Compared with preceding months the market in cotton goods and other manufactured articles has been fairly favourable.

ALEXANDRETTA, September 1.

Despite the occupation of Aleppo and Damascus by the French troops and the submission of several brigand chiefs, communications between this port and the interior continue to be interrupted, and only a very few consignments have been despatched to Aleppo via Beyrout.

Except for some imports of merchandise for local needs, there have been no transactions, but it is hoped that shortly, with the pacification of the country, business will assume its pre-war aspects.

RHODES, September 6.

The treaty of peace with Turkey has placed Rhodes under the rule of Italy, while the other islands of the Dodecanese are restored to Greece. It is to be foreseen that the new political régime will have a profound effect on the island's economic future. The customs barriers that will be set up between Rhodes and the other islands will certainly be injurious to the existing reciprocal economic relations. On the other hand, the Italian Government has the intention of making Rhodes the transit port for merchandise destined for Anatolia (Adalia, Makri, etc.), and for that end will proceed with the improvement of the port and the construction of docks and warehouses.

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According to advices from Bucharest the complete returns for the month of August from the various oil producing companies show an increase of 17,210 tons over the output for July, the chief increases being in the districts of Prahova, Dambovitza, and Buzau.

Ottoman 3½ per Cent. of 1894.—Messrs. Dent, Palmer and Co. give notice that the bonds drawn for redemption on October 15, and also the half-yearly dividend due on that date on the outstanding bonds of the above loan, will be paid on and after October 15.

Mr. Montague Gluckstein, chairman of J. Lyons and Co., has joined the board of the Guardian Eastern Insurance Company.

The numbers are announced of 112 debentures, amounting to £11,200, of the Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt Four and a-Half per Cent. Debentures (Series B), which have been drawn for repayment at par on November 11 next.


# IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

**Capital - £10,000,000**
**Paid-up - £5,000,000**

## GENERAL COMMITTEE.

| LONDON. | PARIS. |
|---|---|
| EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B. | LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE |
| E. W. H. BARRY. | J. BOISSONNAS. |
| VISCOUNT GOSCHEN. | CHARLES DE CERJAT. |
| SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E. C.I.E. | LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY |
| LORD HILLINGDON. | GEORGES HEINE. |
| General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B. | A. HENRY. |
| LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P. | HENRI HOTTINGUER. |
| SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart. | RAOUL MALLET. |
| | PYRAME NAVILLE. |
| | FELIX VERNES. |

## London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.
Assistant Manager: W. P. SHEPPARD.

**PARIS:**
**7, Rue Meyerbeer.**

**MANCHESTER:** 25, Pall Mall. | **MARSEILLES:** 41-43, Rue Grignan.

**CONSTANTINOPLE.**
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

**EGYPT.**
Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

**PALESTINE.**
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

**CYPRUS.**
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

**SYRIA.**
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. | Beyrout. Damascus. | Hamah. Homs. | Saida. Tripoli.

**SALONICA. TUNIS. AFRICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.**
**(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)**

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has t own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

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

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.


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## OPENINGS FOR MACHINERY IN PERSIA.

If Persia is destined to be a great wheat-producing country in coming years it will be necessary, in addition to the prosecution of irrigation schemes, to supersede the primitive agricultural methods of the country by the importation of agricultural and other machinery from Europe (says H.M. Consul at Shiraz in a recent report).

At the present time there are certain difficulties which stand in the way of agricultural developments on modern lines. For example, it is difficult to bring anything up from the sea to Shiraz which cannot be carried on a mule's back. It is necessary, therefore, that the motor road from Bushire should be completed and improved. Again, coal is unknown, and wood and charcoal very expensive. Petrol also is so expensive as to render its use alone almost prohibitive. Lastly, there are no native Persian engineers or mechanics, and all repair work would have to be done by foreigners, the cost of living for whom, including Indians, is very high.

There appears to be an opening for pumps in order that greater use might be made of the water in numerous wells for irrigation purposes. Pumps of the most simple nature and capable of being easily repaired would be in demand if available. These could be fixed down the wells and operated from the surface by hand or engine. For example, the greater part of the plain of Marv Dasht, which at one time supplied Persia with huge quantities of cereals, is now lying fallow as the natives have no suitable facilities for drawing water from the Bandamir River. At Bandamir there is plenty of power at the dam which is now being wasted, except where it drives a few primitive flour mills. Here, with hydraulic rams, the water could be lifted and the whole countryside flooded for many miles at little expense beyond first cost. Higher up the river the water could also be lifted, but the working expense would be greater. At Bandamir modern flour mills could then be worked, which would be capable of coping with the increased crops obtained by the new irrigation.

It is not surprising that Persians cannot be persuaded to undertake the expense of any simple irrigation scheme, or of experimenting with the soil with British ploughs and tractors until they see such apparatus in actual operation. It is necessary, therefore, for British firms to show sufficient enterprise to take this first step in carrying out practical demonstrations. There is a danger that if this pioneering work is delayed for any length of time we may see some of our competitors in the field before us.

As mentioned at the outset, transport difficulties are at present a serious consideration, but may be overcome. There is also the question of customs duty, freight, and other charges, coupled with the fact that other countries can step in with their trade on an equal footing with pioneers. The whole question of developing the agricultural resources of Persia, therefore, requires serious consideration from many aspects if it is to be tackled with success by a British firm.

## TENDERS INVITED.

**Egypt.**

Steamer.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of an inspection steamer for the Upper White Nile Division. Specification P.T. 25. December 1.

**India.**

Brass Boiler Tubes, etc.—The Secretary of State for India in Council invites tenders for the supply of (1) brass boiler tubes, steel boiler tubes, tyres, steel, engine, and (2) locomotives. The conditions of contract may be obtained on application to the Director-General of Stores, India Office, Whitehall, S.W., and tenders must be made by 2 o'clock p.m. on October 26 for No. 1, and on November 5 for No. 2.

## ON 'CHANGE.

### A Discouraging Week.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

Any tendency to rally that prices may have shown at our last report has been entirely offset during the past seven days; they have fallen in every department. Among Government stocks, Egyptian Unified has lost two points at 65, and the 3½ per Cent. Pref. has declined from 56¾ to 54½. The Greek 1884 likewise has declined from 54½ to 54, the 4 per Cent. Rails and 4 per Cent. 1910 have each lost a point at 45 and 38 respectively, and the 1914 Loan has fallen from 54 to 52½. Turkish 4 per Cent. has declined from 62 to 61½; the Egyptian Tribute Bonds, however, are an exception, having gained a point at 54½.

Taking the Banks, Agriculturals have declined from 4 3-16 to 4⅛. Bank of Abyssinia from 1⅛ to 1, Bank of Athens from 3 15-16 to 3¾, Imperial Ottoman Bank from 9 to 8½, and Land Bank from 4⅝ to 4½. Here the exception is provided by National Bank, which has appreciated from 17⅞ to 18⅛.

Among the Railways, Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin 6 per Cent. Pref. has lost a point at 9.

In Land Shares, Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment has declined from 3⅝ to 3 17-32, Béhéra from 14½ to 12¼, Egyptian Delta Land from 14s. 5d. to 13s. 9d., Gharbieh Land from 3¼ to 3⅛, New Egyptian from 1 11-16 to 1⅝, Sidi Salem from 2¼ to 2, Sudan Plantations from 5 1-16 to 4 13-16, and Union Foncière from 4½ to 4¼. There is a small gain in the case of Aboukir, which has gained 1-32 at 1 23-32, and Anglo-Belgian has gained ⅛ at ⅜.

The Miscellaneous group tells much the same story. Abyssinian Corporation has lost ⅛ at 5-16. Alexandria Water has declined 1-16 at 7½, and Morum's Oriental Stores have dropped 3d. at 17s. 6d. Associated Cotton Ginners have gained 1s. at 25s.

Among the Oils, Anglo-Egyptian B have appreciated from 2 15-16 to 3⅛, while Roumanian have gone off 3d. at 20s. 9d.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97 7/16 |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 36·00-36·80 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 110-112 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·7-1·7⅜ |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 185-190 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·7-1·7⅜ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 418-438 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅜ | 3·49½-3·50½ |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 52·90-53·20 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 247½ |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 30 |

A motor show is to be held at Delhi in February of next year under the auspices of the local motor trade association. It will be open to those motor firms in India who are agents or recognised sub-agents for motor-cars and vehicles, motor-cycles, and motor accessories.

The annual general meeting of the Imperial Ottoman Bank will be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., on November 17.

Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway.—The directors will propose, at the general meeting to be held in December, the payment in January, in addition to the half-year's guaranteed interest of £1 10s. per cent., of an interim dividend of £1 per cent. in respect of the profits for the year 1920-21.

The Banca Commerciale Italiana and Romena (Bucharest) has opened a branch at Braila.


# BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

Telegrams: "TRABANQUE, LONDON."

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.)
13 AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telephones LONDON WALL, 2947-2948

**CAPITAL.**

**Authorised, £10,000,000.** | **Subscribed and Paid up, £2,000,000.**

*Governor*, THE LORD FARINGDON. *Deputy Governor*, SIR HENRY BABINGTON SMITH, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.S.I.

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

The Corporation is prepared to assist in the development of the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and offers exceptional financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their export and import trade.

It has Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world, and transacts Banking business of every description.

It invites enquiries, and will endeavour, where necessary, to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

*Branches:* BATOUM. BELGRADE. DANZIG.

*Affiliated Companies:* THE NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY, Constantinople and Branches

THE TRADE INDEMNITY CO., LTD.
*(Established for the Assistance of British Trade by the Insurance of Accounts)*


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## GENERAL BANK OF GREECE.

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

**Head Office - ATHENS.**

BANKING OPERATIONS:
Every description of Banking business transacted.

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

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

## POPULAR BANK OF GREECE.

**Head Office, ATHENS. Branch, PIRÆUS.**

Correspondents throughout Greece.

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

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

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

*General Manager:* D. LOVERDO.

## TRADE WITH THE NEAR EAST

WITH its offices in all the principal towns in **Greece, in Egypt, Cyprus, Crete, Constantinople,** and in **Smyrna, the Bank extends exceptional Facilities for Export and Import Trade between Great Britain and the Near East generally,** and invites enquiries and correspondence relating thereto.

HEAD OFFICE: ATHENS.

## BANK OF ATHENS

LONDON 22, Fenchurch Street E.C.3. MANCHESTER 57, Mosley Street

## COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE, LIMITED.

**CAPITAL PAID-UP - Drs. 15,000,000.**
**RESERVE FUNDS Drs. 5,250,205.45.**

**Head Office: ATHENS.**

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

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

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

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

## GREECE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**COINAGE.**—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 36 Drachmæ to £1.

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

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

## BANK OF NATIONAL ECONOMY (of Greece)

Head Office: ATHENS.

*Branches:*

PIRÆUS, SYRA. PATRAS.

**Capital Paid Up - Drs. 10,000,000.**

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

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

## THE HELLENIC COMPANY OF MARITIME ENTERPRISES

(PALIOS LINE.)

**Head Office - PIRÆUS.**

A. P. PALIOS, Founder. M. P. PALIOS, General Manager.

**REGULAR MAIL, PASSENGER, and FREIGHT SERVICES from PIRÆUS to MEDITERRANEAN PORTS, GREECE, SEA OF MARMORA, BLACK SEA, SEA OF AZOF, ASIA MINOR, SYRIA, and EGYPT.**

26 PASSENGER and CARGO STEAMERS.

85 AGENCIES in Greece, Sea of Marmora, Black Sea, Sea of Azof, Asia Minor, Egypt, Mediterranean and principal Ports of the World.

Coaling Yards and Repair Shops.

GENERAL AGENTS for the High Commission of Sea Transports; for all Passenger Steamers requisitioned by the Greek Government.

*Cable Address—Navigation Palios.*

*Codes used—Scott's (1905) 10th Edition; A.B.C. (1901) 5th Edition.*

## MARITIME BANK of GREECE

**AUTHORISED CAPITAL FULLY PAID DR. 10,000,000.**

Founder—A. P. PALIOS.

**Head Office: PIRÆUS, GREECE.**

Cable Address: "Maritime Bank."

Codes Used.

Scott's 1906—10th Edition. A.B.C. 1901—5th Edition. Palios 1919

*Branches and Agents in the Principal Cities of Greece and the Levant.*

*The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business, and by reason of its connections, throughout Greece and the Levant, is in a position to offer to the trade exceptional facilities.*

**Advances and Collections of B/Ls., Shipowners' Remittances and Disbursements to and from all parts of the World, by cable or mail. Loans on Vessels and other bulk. Bills of Exchange Negotiated. Letters of Credit and Drafts issued on the Principal Cities of Greece and Foreign Countries. Confirmed Credits at Home and Abroad. Loans on Government and other Securities. Loans on Goods and Warrants of Bonded Stores.**

AGENTS AND CORRESPONDENTS:—

For the U.K.—LONDON COUNTY & WESTMINSTER & PARR'S BANK, London. BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO, London.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 494.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

On the foundation laid by M. Benes, Czecho-Slovak Foreign Minister, M. Take Jonescu is now endeavouring to erect a substantial edifice which may materially alter the political appearance of Europe. The Little Entente is essentially an emergency effort, and the Roumanian Foreign Minister, recognising its possibilities, has set himself to create out of it a formidable and lasting instrument of peace. Both in Paris and in London he has found a cordial welcome awaiting his scheme, which could not fail to commend the support of all who are interested in maintaining the peace of Europe. If comment on the subject were invited, it could only take the form of a suggestion that the cult of peace, to secure its real end, must be based on general goodwill. The theory of the balance of power sooner or later leads to conflict.

M. Take Jonescu has been quick to realise this point in the course of his journeyings westwards. In Paris he received the assurances of the French Government that no secret understanding existed between France and Hungary. As the allegation regarding such an agreement was meant to emphasise the intensity of the Magyar danger, it follows that without the agreement there is a proportionate diminution of this particular danger. The French Government will not have taken upon itself to urge that Hungary was above suspicion and did not require to be watched; but the purport of its communications must have been to the effect that possibly the Magyar peril was being overdone. In the same way in London, M. Take Jonescu, as a result of his visit coinciding with that of the Bulgarian Prime Minister, will have been reminded that the Powers of the Great Entente see no reason why they should not place implicit confidence in M. Stambolisky's assurances, and respond whole-heartedly to his efforts to direct a new Bulgaria along a path of peaceful progress. If, therefore, a meeting takes place in London between M. Take Jonescu and M. Stambolisky, the first step will almost certainly have been taken towards a further widening of the basis of the Little Entente.

Both Yugoslavia and Roumania afford Bulgaria an object-lesson in the disadvantages attending an unstable political situation. It is, accordingly, to the interests of the Bulgarians as well as of her neighbours and the rest of the Allied Powers to see M. Stambolisky's position at home strengthened. The significance of his success abroad will not be lost upon his fellow-countrymen; and if on his return he is able to apply to home politics the experience gained on his tour, Bulgaria ought to be assured an era of political stability. M. Stambolisky has already won the cordial approval of foreign interests in Bulgaria for the courageous manner in which he has recognised mistakes made in certain legislative proposals and has had the measures modified in accordance with enlightened opinion. If any cause for misgiving remains, it is to be found in the prosecution, amounting at times to persecution, of political opponents—a common failing in all Balkan countries, for which the West never feels inclined to make allowances. In the present instance there is reason to suppose that M. Stambolisky is not kept informed of all that is done in the name of his Government, and advantage may have been taken both of his preoccupations prior to his departure and of his absence. It will be well if, on his return, this practice, which has been in the past responsible for much of the unrest and intrigue in the Balkans, is sternly checked.

The reassuring reports issued when it was first announced that King Alexander of Greece had been bitten by a tame monkey in defending a dog have been tragically belied, and at the moment of writing, we deeply regret to learn, the young King's condition causes the gravest anxiety. The duration of his illness has compelled the Greek Government to discuss the question of a Regency. In these circumstances, it is inevitable that speculation should be rife regarding the future, in the event of the King's illness terminating fatally. But what may be the justifiable concern of the Greek Cabinet does not necessarily form a subject of profitable discussion in the public Press.

The occupation by Serbian troops of parts of the Klagenfurt plebiscite area, after the announcement that the voting has gone in favour of Austria, must be regretted, even if it evokes little surprise. No doubt the Yugoslav Government can point to the provocation of Fiume, and to action on all fours with its own elsewhere, in extenuation of the step; but, nevertheless, the occupation cannot be regarded as a contribution to the peace of Europe. It has been quickly followed by a decision of the Council of Ambassadors in Paris to demand the immediate withdrawal of the Serbian forces from the Klagenfurt area, as by the terms of the Treaty both the southern and the northern zone now go to Austria. It is to be hoped that Yugoslavia will recognise its responsibility to Europe in this matter after having set such a wonderful example of self-restraint in the matter of Fiume. The incident, however, should help to bring the Council of Ambassadors to a sense of its duty in terminating without further delay the Fiume nuisance.

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News from Mesopotamia during the past week has shown a further, and marked, improvement in the situation. Samawah and Kufa have both been relieved, the former on October 14, after some six weeks' investment, and the latter on October 17, after having been besieged since the end of July. The column which relieved Samawah was led by Brigadier-General F. E. Coningham, and on its advance from Nasiriyeh had encountered considerable opposition, notably at Khidr, where it had to fight a stiff little engagement; the Kufa relief column was commanded by Brigadier-General Greer, and it also had to clear its way of Arab bands and snipers as it advanced on the Hillah-Kifl road. Both the relieved garrisons are to be congratulated on having held out so well; and their endurance coupled with the success of their relief will help greatly in restoring our prestige, which, it is to be feared, has suffered rather severely on the Euphrates this year. Already leaders of the insurgents in the Kerbellah region have made formal submission to the O.C. in that area, and have been sent on to Baghdad to be dealt with by the High Commissioner; and on the Diala the principal sheikhs have entered into a formal agreement to remain peaceful, to pay taxes regularly, and to give compensation for damage done and property looted.

Sir Percy Cox would probably be the first person to deny that there was any connection between his arrival in Mesopotamia and the improvement in the situation there; and a lengthy statement issued last week by the War Office suggests several reasons for the welcome change. The passing of the hot weather, the advent of the sowing season, and the correct attitude of certain tribes who have refused to adopt an anti-British attitude, are all in favour of improvement, as the War Office suggests; yet, in spite of all this, it is not too fanciful to believe that the arrival of the High Commissioner may, in fact, have been a very important factor in bringing about the amelioration; for personality counts for much with the Arabs of Irak, and for "Cokkus" they have a very great respect. Thus, while Sir Percy, in a speech at Busreh, has deprecated the idea that he can perform any feat of conjuring, it would not be surprising to find that the country was so convinced to the contrary that he would, unconsciously, work wonders in it. In the speech referred to he emphasised the British determination to complete the task we have begun, "to help the people of the country to work out their salvation as a self-governing State," and added that the sooner the people of Irak realised this and set to work to co-operate with us, the better it will be for all. He has since repeated the same statements at Baghdad, and has made it clear that no real progress can be expected while the disturbances continue. Only on such lines can the country find its salvation, and Great Britain fulfil the pledges she has given.

Reports regarding the fighting between the Armenians and the Kemalists are not quite clear, but unfortunately it appears to be the case that the Armenians have had to abandon Igdir, Novoselim, Kagisman, and Ardahan. The last-named place is, however, reported to have been occupied by Georgian troops, who disarmed the local Turks. On the other side of the account may be set reports of Armenian successes against the Bolshevists at Nakhitchevan and Delijan. A speech made by Mustapha Kemal at the Angora Congress, reported in the *Yeni Giun*, the official organ of the Nationalists at Angora, and translated by the Armenian Bureau in London, throws some light on the origin of the Kemalist campaign. It represents that the Armenians were "aiming at the occupation of Erzeroum on the first opportunity," and that the (Nationalist) Turks thought it their right and duty, under the treaties of Batoum and Brest-Litovsk, to occupy the mountain passes of Sarikamish and Soghanli. Rather curiously, at this time, Chitcherin advised his "allies" not to take the offensive, and "on the intervention of a Russian agent" they were compelled to suspend their operations "for the time being." Subsequently, the Bolshevists having failed to crush the Armenians, and having been "compelled to exterminate the Mohammedan rebels in Elisavetpol," and the Armenians having begun operations in the Olti and Zangezour direction, the Kemalists plucked up courage to take the offensive themselves.

If correctly reported, this speech is very interesting, if only by reason of its reference to the Elisavetpol massacre and to the "rebellion organised against the Bolshevists" by Nuri Pasha, which is coupled with that outrage. These things appear to indicate that the co-operation between the Bolshevists and the Kemalists is not of a very cordial kind. That, of course, is exactly what might be expected; but, such being the situation, it is a thousand pities that the Allies cannot give the Armenians the little help which would, apparently, enable them to hold their own against their enemies. Our own Government was reported a week ago to have sanctioned the despatch of 1,000 tons of fuel oil for use on the Armenian railways, and that should be of great assistance to them if it can be delivered; but whether the appeal to the Entente Powers and Greece for war material will meet with success is not yet clear.

The report of the Esher Committee is a substantial volume, and in discussing the wider questions which it raises we had to pass over various topics which are in themselves both interesting and important, among them the machinery for what is officially described as "production and provision," or, in other words, the control of the ordnance and clothing factories, and the arrangement of contracts for the various needs of the Army. Following the drift of present-day opinion, the Committee agree that this is essentially civilian work, but the position of the civil controller has given rise to a dispute, the only one which is prominent in the report. Lord Esher himself proposes to have a Surveyor-General of Supply under the Commander-in-Chief, but the majority of the Committee go further and recommend an entirely separate department under a whole-time member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, thus reverting to the earlier phase of the Kitchener scheme, but with a civilian instead of a general, so that there may be no risk of divergent military advice being tendered to the Viceroy.

The arguments advanced in the report treat this question solely from the military standpoint, and, as the members are divided on it in the proportion of six to four, the man in the street is justified in concluding that "there is very little in it," and that, while neither plan is perfect, either of them might be expected to work tolerably well. The Committee were not, of course, called upon to determine whether there is room on the Viceroy's Council for a departmental passenger, but we trust that this aspect of the matter will be kept prominently in view when the final decision is taken. The new Viceroy, whoever he may be, will need statesmen rather than administrators at his table; it is, of course, conceivable that an expert in clothing and contracts might also possess the rare qualities required for a counsellor at an exceptionally difficult time, as the next few years will certainly be, but nobody is likely to argue that the combination is in itself probable, and, if the choice has to be made, the vacant seat should certainly be assigned to wisdom rather than to departmental efficiency.

The latest news from India shows that the unfortunate Moslems who were persuaded to emigrate to Afghanistan have had an even harder time than was anticipated. We do not altogether blame the Afghans for this, seeing that their country was not in a position to absorb a sudden influx of population, and that at an early stage in the movement they did what was possible to discourage it; the blame must fall on other shoulders. The emigrants are now trickling back to their Indian homes as quickly as their depleted funds and the scanty means of transport will permit, and the officers of the British Government, which they had abjured, are working overtime to provide them with subsistence for the moment, and resettle them on the land which they had abandoned. We cannot find that any share in this charitable work is being taken by the men who promoted

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the movement, most of whom seem to be bsusy at the other side of India; perhaps they are wise, for their dupes have returned full of bitterness, and a disillusioned Punjabi is apt to explain his feelings with a club, but, however that may be, the failure of the Hijrat is now placed beyond question.

Non-co-operation appears to be going the same way. Indians were adjured to lay down their titles, and ten of them have done so; they were urged to resign posts in Government service, and in all India 248 resignations have been received, mostly from policemen and office messengers, many of whom have since applied for reinstatement; while there is as yet no sign that the law courts are being inconvenienced by the proposed withdrawal of legal practitioners. Perhaps a just idea of the strength of the movement can be formed from two paragraphs regarding a certain politician which have gone the round of the Indian Press. The first states that the gentleman in question has returned his Coronation medal, and resigned his seat in the Provincial Legislature; the second, that "it is understood" that he will shortly retire from practice at the bar. The medal in question does not take high rank in India, and the Legislature is on the verge of dissolution; the practice, on the other hand, is believed to be tolerably lucrative, and the difference in wording may fairly be taken at its face value, or a little more.

# THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

**The Coal Strike.**

To the astonishment of everybody—and not least, apparently, of Mr. Smillie and the miners' leaders—the ballots for acceptance of the Government's offer showed a huge adverse majority, and the coal strike began on Saturday. On that day naturally the weather suddenly turned much colder.

There can rarely have been a more unpopular strike than this, which seems calculated to cause the maximum of inconvenience and suffering for the minimum both of reason and of profitable result. It was practically certain after the Government's offer that the miners would get increased wages, so long as they did not produce less coal—the weak point in the miners' case is that each successive increase of wages has meant decreased output of coal. The amount of the increase depended on the award of an impartial court; and to refuse to submit the case to such a tribunal can only put the miners wrong with the public by making it appear that they are not sure of the justice of their claim, and are determined to extort by force what they cannot claim by reason. The ostensible reason for rejecting the inquiry is the fear that it would not in fact be impartial. But that is absurd. The dockers, who submitted their claim for an advance some months ago to a precisely similar court, have never even suggested that they did not get fair play; and Mr. Smillie himself can have had no doubts of the impartiality of the proposed tribunal, since he advised the miners to accept it.

Speaking personally, from close observation of these industrial questions, I should say that the time has definitely gone by for the employee to sandbag his employer or the public in the miners' way, but that it has by no means gone by for friendly negotiations between the parties for a periodical readjustment of wages and the costs of living. Practically every recent strike has failed—only this week a prolonged strike among Nottingham lace-workers has collapsed—but demands that have been followed by friendly negotiations have generally obtained at least partial success—provided, of course, there has been any case to go upon. Nor is the trade handicapped by lost time while the negotiations are going on.

The objection to such methods of negotiation comes from the extremists who want a fight for the sake of fighting. They say, truly enough, that the upshot of negotiations is almost invariably a compromise, and that neither side wins all that it thinks itself entitled to. But it probably gets all it is really entitled to, and that without any of the losses entailed by a strike; and on that ground alone reasonable men on both sides of the capital and labour hedge seem likely to employ the round table method increasingly in future.

On the actual coal issue by far the most sensible remark has been made by Mr. J. H. Thomas, that "a fight to a finish between capital and labour might be the finish of the country." Both Mr. Thomas and Mr. Clynes, who are more and more clearly taking the lead as the real statesmen of Labour, are appealing for further negotiations, but it is too soon yet to say whether their advice will be listened to.

Beyond this they, and several other Labour leaders, are doing their best to prevent the conflict spreading. We shall have to do with fewer trains in a day or two, but the railwaymen as a whole clearly do not want to strike. There is some talk of the Road Transport Workers—the third party to the Triple Alliance—going on strike on Saturday; theirs in an old-standing dispute, and they may choose this time to bring the trouble to a head. But it is still hoped that moderate counsels will prevail.

In any event, thousands will be thrown out of employment, particularly in the industrial North and Midlands, and the strike will add to the difficulties of industry and reconstruction at a time when those difficulties were already sufficiently great. It is also likely to check the recent tendency to a fall of prices before it had actually spread from the wholesaler to the consumer.

**Parliament Re-opens.**

The strike has naturally taken some of the political interest out of the re-opening of Parliament to-morrow, although it has revived the talk of an early general election in the clubs. Ireland and finance would have been the main topics of the autumn session in the ordinary course, but in the circumstances both topics, although urgent, will be rather roughly shouldered aside by the industrial trouble. Unfortunately, everybody is conscious that whereas the worst shock of a railway strike comes immediately, and its ill-effects cease within a day or two of the resumption of work, a coal strike is not felt for the first week or two, but its results are not overcome for months. The one is like apoplexy, the other like slow paralysis.

**A Club Subscription.**

An extremely difficult problem faces the Liberal Party. The National Liberal Club, like other clubs, is faced with the alternative of raising the subscription or re-imposing the entrance fee, which was taken off some time ago; and the discussion as to the relative merits of the two suggestions is loud and hot. The N.L.C. will shortly be returning to its old home opposite the Embankment, which has been unkindly com-

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pared to an underground railway station by wicked Tories; the more evil-minded political opponents of the party used to declare that the forks were chained to the tables and the soap to the wash-basins at one period of the club's history, "to prevent misunderstandings." But I am assured by an old and respected member that the story is an exaggeration; it is not considered necessary even to number the coffee-pots.

It is believed that when the N.L.C. moves back to its old premises from the Westminster Palace Hotel, where it has kept house for the past three or four years, the hotel itself may be taken over as a club by the Labour Party. It is convenient enough for Parliament, but rather a stuffy and unattractive place in the ordinary way. But Labour needs a club rather badly in London, and particularly one with several billiard-rooms, that being the one redeeming vice of the new model.

**Marrying the Prince.**

The Prince of Wales had hardly reached home when the newspapers began discussing the question of his marriage. It must be a little embarrassing for the Royal Family, and not perhaps in the best of taste; nor is there in fact any immediate hurry. But Fleet Street has kindly assured the Prince that if he chooses to marry an English girl instead of a foreign Princess it will not raise any objection, presumably, to reporting the wedding in the usual ecstatic strain; and leader-writers, with a sentimental sob in their fountain pens, have asked him to choose the girl of his heart and the whole nation will ratify the choice. I will confess that this particular kind of slobber afflicts me with nausea.

To the old constitutional axiom that the King can do no wrong it may shortly be necessary to add that the Prince of Wales can do without impertinent advice.

**Railway Fares Again.**

The railways, who are rapidly qualifying for the position of a national Mrs. Gummidge, are in trouble again. Even with the recent increase of fares they are not happy, and last week the first steps were taken towards asking for another 5 per cent. The recent increase of railway and omnibus fares has not brought in the anticipated increase, as any child could have told the traffic managers; and a further increase would clearly reduce the number of travellers still more.

**The Week's Books.**

The third and fourth volumes of "The Natural History of South Africa" (Longmans), by Mr. F. W. Fitzsimmons, are now published. From a casual glance at the text and the many illustrations, they seem no less worthy of commendation than the previous volumes, which I mentioned some months ago.

Two books of the personal type that have recently come out need little more than mention. Sir Henry Lucy's "Diary of a Journalist" (Murray) is as good as its predecessors from the same source, which is saying a great deal; it contains some new stories of Gladstone, which will be welcome. And in "Our Family Affairs" (Cassell), by E. F. Benson, we get another view of the inexhaustible Archbishop's domestic circle. He appears to have been as stern a parent as he notoriously was a headmaster; but I am amazed to read that the Archbishop's wife frequently indulged in a cigarette, and once smoked a pipe—needless to say without the knowledge of the Primate. They were not all so conventional, those Victorians!

Mr. Edward Clodd is a hale and vigorous veteran, the last survivor of the old agnostic school. In "Magic in Names" (Chapman and Hall) a great deal of sound anthropological learning is combined with an occasional sneer at religion.

According to Mr. Gwynne, of the *Morning Post*, who contributes an introduction to an anonymous book, "The Cause of World Unrest" (Grant Richards) is the Jew. One would have thought there were a few other reasons, but the Jew appears to be the *primum mobile*, as Aristotle would have said, of the trouble, as set forth here.

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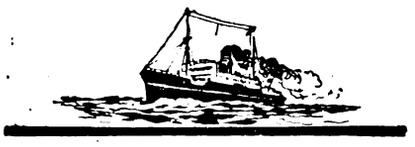

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, October 9.

**Election Activities.**

In view of the forthcoming general elections, all politicians are very active in the constituencies, and it is interesting to note how minor differences are being smoothed over. Dr. Joseph Smodlaka, leader of the Non-Party group, who, it will be remembered, worked so hard in the spring to bring about a Coalition Government and finish the crisis, and Dr. Trumbitch have called upon all sound elements in Dalmatia to go to the ballot as one party in the interests of national unity. From Zagreb it is reported that the Narodny Club is trying to effect a similar union of Croats, whose programme is the national unity of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes upon a federal basis. This is the policy of Dr. Lorkovitch, leader of the party in the Skupshtina, but Dr. Petrichitch, a former minister, and Dr. Iv. Kovachevitch, Minister of Mines and Forests, disapprove, and it is thought probable that they will withdraw from the party. It is believed that they have actually begun negotiations with the Frankovsist and Raditch's party, who are frankly separatist, in the hopes of persuading them to recognise a *fait accompli*, and bringing them into the fold. Unfortunately, there is no news of a *rapprochement* between the Narodny Club and the Democrats. Neither will Dr. Koroshets join them. He is carrying on a campaign in Croatia, Slovenia, and Srem in the hopes of winning the Catholic vote, for he is a Papist, and has declared that he is out for the independence of Slovenia. He has a big following among the peasants in his own district, but in the towns the Democrats are stronger, and fully realise that Slovenia cannot think of standing alone.

**The Adriatic Question.**

The Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Belgrade, M. Galanti, has assured the Press that the Adriatic question will shortly be settled, both Governments being desirous of coming to a decision. He has also expressed a desire that delegates from all the provinces of Yugoslavia should take part in the negotiations that he is opening. It would be interesting to know by what right he makes the suggestion, for Yugoslavia naturally claims entire freedom in managing her own affairs. If M. Galanti really voiced the opinion of Italy he might surely employ his time more profitably than embarking on negotiations that can lead nowhere.

**Zionism and Serbia.**

The Zionist Movement is having a curious reaction in Serbia. There recently called upon Dr. Trumbitch, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Landmann, General Secretary of the Zionist organisation in London. Dr. Landmann's object was to arrange for the passage through Yugoslavia of Jews who are proceeding to Palestine to settle; considerable numbers are wending their way, or propose to wend their way, from Poland, Eastern Galicia, and Hungary, and under present circumstances their best route is through Belgrade. Dr. Trumbitch promised to have facilities given them and many of the present difficulties in the way of their passage removed.

**Good-bye Summer.**

The weather has broken, and on October 4 the first real autumn gale blew with devastating effect; the streets of Belgrade emptied promptly, and nobody who was not obliged to do so ventured out into the clouds of dust and the chilly gale that made life miserable.

**Crowded Belgrade.**

The work of reconstruction here is proceeding as rapidly as can be expected in the circumstances existing to-day, but is much hampered by various causes, among which is an inadequate supply of water. What is available may have sufficed for Belgrade before the war, but now, with its rapidly growing population, the city urgently requires further supplies. As things are, half Belgrade is waterless during the day, and gets a supply only at night, with consequences that need not be described.

The city is very full, owing to the influx of many people from the country and elsewhere for the winter, and rents are terribly high, as much as 4,000 dinars a month being asked for a five-roomed unfurnished house. As a result, an English lady who has just started an English school here finds it almost impossible to secure such premises as she desires, and has to be content with a small number of pupils as a beginning. This is a pity, as the school would certainly seem to supply a long-felt want.

**An English Hospital.**

Dr. McPhail has acquired a new hospital, her work having grown so rapidly that her present premises have become too small. Dr. McPhail established a small hospital after the retreat, and has done wonderful work since then. This is the first children's hospital to be established in Serbia, and she and a small party of English nurses have done splendid work in relieving the sufferings of Serbian children.

**Railway Work.**

Negotiations are being pushed on for the resumption of the direct train service between Budapest and Trieste.

The director of railway construction has obtained a credit of 40,000,000 dinars for the repair of the Belgrade-Liubliana-Salonika line.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, October 7.

**Administrative Reform Bill.**

At the last meeting of the Parliamentary Committee which is working on the Administrative Reform Bill, under the direction of the Minister of the Interior, M. Argetoianu, this measure was discussed in all its bearings, and it was decided that the principle of local government and decentralisation should be adopted throughout the country. It is thought that this system will be more adaptable than the present one of the whole State coming under the jurisdiction of Bucharest, since the newly-joined provinces have been used to a quite different administration from the one existing in the old kingdom.

In view of the complaints and general dissatisfaction at present prevailing in Bessarabia, a parliamentary committee has been sent to investigate the matter on the spot, and has received an enthusiastic welcome from the inhabitants.

**Prince Carol.**

After his seven months' world tour, Prince Carol has now returned to Roumania. He was received in state all along the line from the frontier, and went straight to Sinaia, where he has joined the Royal Family. He was accompanied from Paris by Prince George of Greece and his two sisters, and the arrival of these three visitors has given rise to some interesting rumours regarding matrimonial alliances, and, it may be added, to some embarrassment in certain diplomatic circles.

**Court-Martial of Ex-Prisoners from Krefeld Camp.**

After a long series of preparations and examinations, lasting two years, a number of officers of the Roumanian army, who were interned at Krefeld, in Germany, during the war, have been brought before a court-martial in Bucharest, to answer charges of having assisted the notorious Colonel Sturza in his traitorous dealings with the enemy. The officer in question was at one time thought to be one of the ablest men in the Roumanian Army, and after the retreat into Moldavia, he was put in command of a brigade at a vital point in the line. During the crisis which occurred at that time he went over to the Germans, and placed himself and his command at their disposal. He was sent by the Germans to the camp at Krefeld, where all captured Roumanian officers were interned, to spread anti-Roumanian propaganda among them and to prepare an army in the occupied territory of Roumania to fight against Russia, and, in consequence, against the Roumanians. The ultimate object was to bring Roumania

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under the control of the Central Powers and to break her connection with Russia. The plan did not materialise, and out of the 320 officers who were brought from the Camp at Krefeld, only sixty have been found guilty of traitorous acts, and of accepting appointments under German administration. The remainder have been found "less guilty," as they were not directly useful to the enemy, and have been sent before a disciplinary committee to answer charges of having failed in military honour, by accepting bribes and consenting to being sent into the country as enemy agents.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, October 3.

**The Stadium Celebrations.**

Never before, not even during the Olympic Games in 1896 or 1906, was such a huge crowd seen at the Stadium as that assembled there last Monday, the first day of the Victory celebrations. Although the sitting accommodation in this magnificent marble structure is only sufficient for 60,000 persons, it is estimated that over 100,000 succeeded in gaining admission, while at least another 40,000 who had been unable to secure tickets had, from the early hours of the afternoon, taken up every available space in the Zappeion Park waiting patiently in the blazing sun to catch a glimpse of the procession on its way to the Stadium. The anti-Venizelist Press, maintaining that these celebrations—undoubtedly purely national—were nothing less than a Venizelist demonstration, advised their followers to abstain from participating. Whether this advice was acted upon or not one cannot say, but the fact alone remains that the vast amphitheatre was full to overflowing.

At 3.30 p.m. the gates of the Stadium were closed, and the various officials commenced entering into the arena by the Propylæ. The first to appear were the Mayors and Presidents of Communities of about 2,200 towns and villages in Greece. Amongst these one could distinguish four or five Turkish mayors from Thrace wearing their red fezzes.

The next to arrive were Admiral Coundouriotis and the Commander-in-Chief, General Paraskevopoulos. Both received a very enthusiastic ovation from the crowd. But the greatest reception was reserved for the Prime Minister, who appeared a few minutes later, accompanied by the members of the Cabinet. Everyone present stood up, and cries of "Long live Venizelos" rang from one end to the other of the Stadium. The pandemonium of cheers was renewed soon afterwards when H.M. King Alexander, attired in an Admiral's uniform, entered the Stadium while the bands struck up the Royal Anthem. Suddenly the bugles sounded "Attention," and the colours of all the regiments which fought during the war were borne in. Preceded by two military bands and escorted by guards of honour, the glorious colours, pierced by enemy bullets, torn and discoloured, advanced amidst deafening cheers and lined up at the far end of the cenotaph, which had been erected in the centre of the arena. Then came the Bishops, grave and grey-haired, in their gorgeous multi-coloured robes, wearing their golden mitres adorned with precious jewels, who took up the positions allotted them on each side of the cenotaph. The King then, advancing amidst a deathlike silence, placed a wreath of laurel leaves on the cenotaph. A solemn requiem for the fallen followed, and the bugles sounded the "Last Post." The ceremony was concluded by a thanksgiving service for the victory of the Greek arms.

October 9.

**An Accident to the King.**

Just over a week ago King Alexander met with a mishap which has since cast a gloom over the country. While strolling in his estate at Tatoi followed by his favourite wolfhound, Fritz, His Majesty approached a female monkey belonging to one of the members of his household, chained to a tree. Fritz, noticing the animal, attacked it, and a terrible struggle ensued. The King, realising that the monkey was unable, owing to its being chained up, either to defend itself or run away, and was getting rather badly knocked about, rushed to its assistance and endeavoured to liberate the unfortunate beast from the strong grip of the wolfhound. The male monkey, however, sitting on a tree near by, noticing that his mate was in danger, descended in all haste to offer a helping hand. Mistaking the King for one of the aggressors, the male monkey bit him first in the leg and then in the hand. The former wound caused blood poisoning, and at the moment of writing the King's life is still in danger.

The last bulletins show a slight improvement in His Majesty's condition, and his medical advisers are hopeful, provided that no complications arise.

The culprit monkey was shot a few hours later by order of the doctors, who wished to ascertain whether there were any signs of hydrophobia.

**A Demonstration of the Socialists.**

A demonstration of the Socialist-Communists was held in Athens last Sunday. The demonstrators assembled at five o'clock in the afternoon in the Square of the Municipal Theatre, and speeches were delivered by several of the Socialist candidates for Parliament. The Socialists, then numbering about 6,000, preceded by red flags and banners with various inscriptions, passed through the principal streets of the city with cries of, "Down with the war" and "Down with the rich." The authorities had taken extraordinary measures to ensure public order during the demonstration, and even two fire-engines had been placed outside the House of Parliament in readiness to turn their hose pipes on the crowd in case of any disturbances. With the exception of one incident, which occurred in the early part of the meeting, when a couple of revolver shots were fired, and a workman dangerously wounded, the demonstration was very orderly, and the crowd dispersed quietly on reaching the Socialist Club Headquarters.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, October 5.

**A Double Anniversary.**

Yesterday was solemnly celebrated as the twelfth anniversary of the proclamation of Bulgaria's Independence and the second anniversary of the accession to the throne of King Boris. The streets and houses were decorated with flags, and a "Te Deum" was sung at the Cathedral, the Archbishop of Sofia officiating, assisted by the Cathedral clergy. The King attended this service, as did all the Cabinet Ministers, deputies, high State officials and military officers, and an immense crowd of citizens. After the service the King was most enthusiastically acclaimed by the troops and the public.

## TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, October 5.

**The Heir-Apparent Again.**

The sensation of the week has been provided by Prince Abdul Mejid Effendi, who was said to have attempted to commit suicide on the night of September 30. Not a word in contradiction or confirmation of the report has been allowed to appear in the Press, but it is now said that the trouble was not due to sublimate of mercury, but to an overdose of calomel. According to another story, one of the Prince's attendants saw him pour a few drops of some liquid into a glass of water, and dashed forward just in time to prevent his august master from

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swallowing the presumably deadly potion. All that now remains is for the Nationalists to advertise the latest dastardly deed of the British. Why the Heir-Apparent should poison himself is not at all clear, except upon the assumption that two or three months' confinement in a very roomy palace, pleasantly situated withal, has affected his mind. Prince Abdul Mejid Effendi, however, is a decidedly intelligent prince, and there must be more in the matter than mere boredom. Heirs-Apparent in Turkey have been confined in much worse quarters for a much greater length of time before they have proceeded to such lengths, and in spite of much stronger inducements. However, if Prince Abdul Mejid regains his liberty, he will doubtless have gained his immediate object, for he is very fond of shooting and riding, and it is rather hard luck to be shut up, even in a palace, just when quails are so plentiful. Naturally, His Highness will have to give some strong guarantee that he will not run away to Angora, and precautions will doubtless be taken to prevent him from breaking his word, but, when all is said and done, the Prince is really a very gifted artist, and he ought to realise that his position as a sham Khalif in the hands of Mustapha Kemal and his Bolshevist friends would be the reverse of artistic.

**The Cabinet.**

It was not until September 28 that the nomination of a successor to Mustapha Sabri Effendi as the Sheikh ul-Islam was announced. The newly appointed Minister, Nuri Effendi, was formerly Kadi of Egypt and a Kazasker, as the Supreme Judges of Anatolia and Rumelia are called. He is an old man, and does not seem to have played a very prominent part in politics, but will doubtless serve his purpose quite satisfactorily, for never was there a time when men with axes to grind were less required in Turkey than at present. Mustapha Sabri Effendi apparently became enamoured of the office of Grand Vizier when he acted as *locum tenens* during the absence of Damad Ferid Pasha in Paris, and conceived a desire to fill the post permanently. There was a time when the office of Grand Vizier was like that of the priest of Nemi—

". . . who slew the slayer,
And shall himself be slain,"

as Macaulay put it. If that rule held good to-day, there would probably be fewer competitors for the position, and perhaps a speedy end to the Nationalist rebellion. Damad Ferid Pasha is accused by his enemies of being a reactionary of a Hamidian bent, and of being desirous of restoring the old despotic form of government. This is undoubtedly untrue, but there is probably more than a little truth in the theory that the veteran statesman is no lover of the system of government which made it possible for a clique of irresponsible and unscrupulous individuals to seize the reins of power and drive the unhappy country from one catastrophe to another with bewildering despatch. In spite of surface appearances in Constantinople, the Turkish nation is Asiatic and not European, which means that although many a Turk may be quite at home in London, Paris, or Berlin, neither British, French, nor German institutions can be successfully adopted without modification.

**The Pillage of Yildiz.**

It was possibly with some such feelings that Damad Ferid Pasha caused the court-martial to prosecute a large number of persons who played prominent parts in the revolution of 1908, when Abdul Hamid was dethroned and sent away a prisoner and an exile to Salonika. A number of the most prominent generals in the Turkish Army have been sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, and the heirs of others who have died in the interval are to be forced to make restitution for what is said to have been removed from Yildiz Palace by the army of "liberation." The most interesting part of the judgment delivered by the Court, however, was the conclusion, wherein it was affirmed that the famous counter-revolution of April, 1908, was not instigated by Sultan Abdul Hamid, and that both he and his household were subjected to insult and brutality from which his position should have rendered him immune. This singular document can only be regarded as an attempt to vindicate a monarch who has always been held up to universal opprobrium as a bloody-minded tyrant. Whatever may have been the state of public opinion with regard to the "Red" Sultan some years ago, it is certain that it is believed on all sides to-day that had he remained on the throne, Turkey would never have come to the pass that it finds itself in to-day, and that the little finger of Enver was thicker than Abdul Hamid's loins. To that extent, the findings of the court-martial reflect public opinion, but it is very doubtful whether the moment was well chosen for condemning men like Shevket Torgud Pasha to penal servitude, even though the sentence has been commuted to exile and degradation. It looks too much like spite.

**Anatolia.**

According to the latest reports from the interior, matters are developing along the lines that were to be foreseen. The Nationalists seem to have irrevocably committed themselves to Bolshevism, and there is reason to believe that the number of Russians in Angora is steadily increasing. The administration is being modified to fit the new ideas, although there is nothing like a "Soviet" form of government established as yet. There is no reason why even this improbability should not come to pass, however, if only the Bolshevists can get a strong enough hold upon the country; and there is little doubt that there are occult forces at work within the country itself to bring it about. The military force of the Nationalists is of little account, but the extent and nature of the country would make its subjugation a task of no little difficulty—and expense. Matters seem to have reached a deadlock; to go forward involves great difficulties, to retreat is impossible. The only remedy seems to be to leave matters as they are, and let the Turks themselves try to clear up the mess on the lines suggested by Damad Ferid Pasha himself. By their announcement that they intend to retire from Adana and Tarsus the French are showing that they have no more settled policy than ourselves, for it was only the other day that they proclaimed completely contrary intentions. The presence of an Italian mission in Angora is a sufficient indication—if any were needed—of the direction of Italian policy; and as there are no British forces left in Anatolia, the Nationalists are right when they maintain that they have only the Hellenic army to deal with. That they hope to dispose of with Bolshevist assistance. Whether their hopes are well founded or not is open to discussion, but that there is long and serious trouble ahead is hardly a subject for doubt.

**The Baku Congress.**

The congress of Asiatic peoples held at Baku under Bolshevist auspices appears to have been somewhat of a farce; but although it was a failure from the strictly Bolshevist point of view—after all, that was to have been foreseen by anyone but a Bolshevist—it does not follow that it was altogether a failure from every point of view, and particularly from that of the Pan-Islamic and other agitators who foregathered from all quarters of Asia. The mere fact of such an assembly has a significance full of dangerous potentialities, and must have been encouraging for those fugitive criminals, like Enver and Talaat, who hope, like Turkish firemen, to gain something by a widespread conflagration. The Bolshevists will doubtless be less confident as to the aptness of the Orient for their communistic doctrines; but they will hardly abandon their schemes for the destruction of British power and prestige in Asia. However comical may have been some of the incidents at the Baku Congress, therefore, it would be better not to laugh too heartily just yet.

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## CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, September 22.

### The Situation.

Even the most strenuous of the Greek advocates of "union" have now realised that little has been gained by means of the last mission to London, and that the outlook is precisely what it was before it started. Two pronouncements stand out; first, that of M. Venizelos, that Cyprus affairs cannot be discussed pending the settlement of more important outstanding problems; and, second, that of the British Government that nothing will be determined regarding the future of Cyprus before the matter has been before the House of Commons. It is clear, therefore, that the petition presented by a body of Greek Cypriots must wait its turn, and that nothing can be gained by impatience. The town politicians now await the verbal explanation of the Deputation concerning the rather cryptic message which announced their decision to return. The Press is adopting a much less jubilant tone, but continues to express unabated confidence that a favourable decision will be arrived at "after two or three months." Several papers now discuss the coming Egyptian settlement, and find in the British attitude towards Egypt an encouragement as regards their own claims. Meanwhile the bulk of the population are, as always, fully engaged in their various occupations without troubling their heads over any political dreams.

The Greek papers devote much space to Hellenic politics, but, like Greeks elsewhere, pass lightly over the fact that Greece has obtained—thanks entirely to M. Venizelos—far more than her most ardent supporters could have ventured to hope for; and hence, it might well be said, the acquisition of Cyprus by Greece is in reality quite beyond the range of reasonable aspirations in the present disturbed state of the Near East. They do, however, now generally recognise that a political change, should it be contemplated in any coming settlements, would certainly be conditional, and that an absolute annexation of the Island by Greece can hardly be expected to come about in any very near future.

The new territories hold out fresh prospects of employment to well-educated Cypriots. The Greek Consul, M. Artemis, has been in Athens, and appears to have come to arrangements regarding judicial and scholastic appointments of Cypriots in Thrace. Lists are to be forthwith submitted, and the Consul has been authorised to pay the passages of those whose appointments will be notified by telegraph.

### New Legislation.

The Legislative Council was summoned to meet on September 11, to consider several draft laws affecting Customs and two new education measures. In connection with the latter the proposed increases in taxation relate to tobacco of different classes and cigarettes, as well as a raising of the property tax of 4 per thousand in town and 2½ per thousand in villages, besides the doubling of the sheep, goat, and pig taxes.

### General News.

Colonel Tompkins has been appointed a Commissioner, and will probably take charge of the Kyrenia district.

The persistent rumours that British troops will be sent to Cyprus, and that the camp at Polemidia, near Limassol, will be reoccupied, would appear to be well founded.

## PALESTINE.

JERUSALEM, September 27.

### An Immigration Ordinance.

As nothing could be worse for Palestine than an unrestricted indux of undesirables, a measure to regulate the entry into this country of persons who desire to reside there permanently or temporarily has been an obvious need. An ordinance passed at the end of August, which came into force this month, is a welcome enactment; and it would be well if its provisions were as widely known as possible in all countries from which any exodus to the Promised Land may be expected. Under its provisions the High Commissioner will regulate such influx according to the conditions and needs of the country. He may appoint a Director of Immigration, and officers "to control the entry of all persons into Palestine." Those who desire to come "by sea, or land, or air" must possess valid passports or papers of identity, and (except in the case of Moslem women) photographs of the holders. They must obtain the authority of the Director or of an officer authorised by him, who may enter any vessel or railway train. Every immigrant must have the means of sup-


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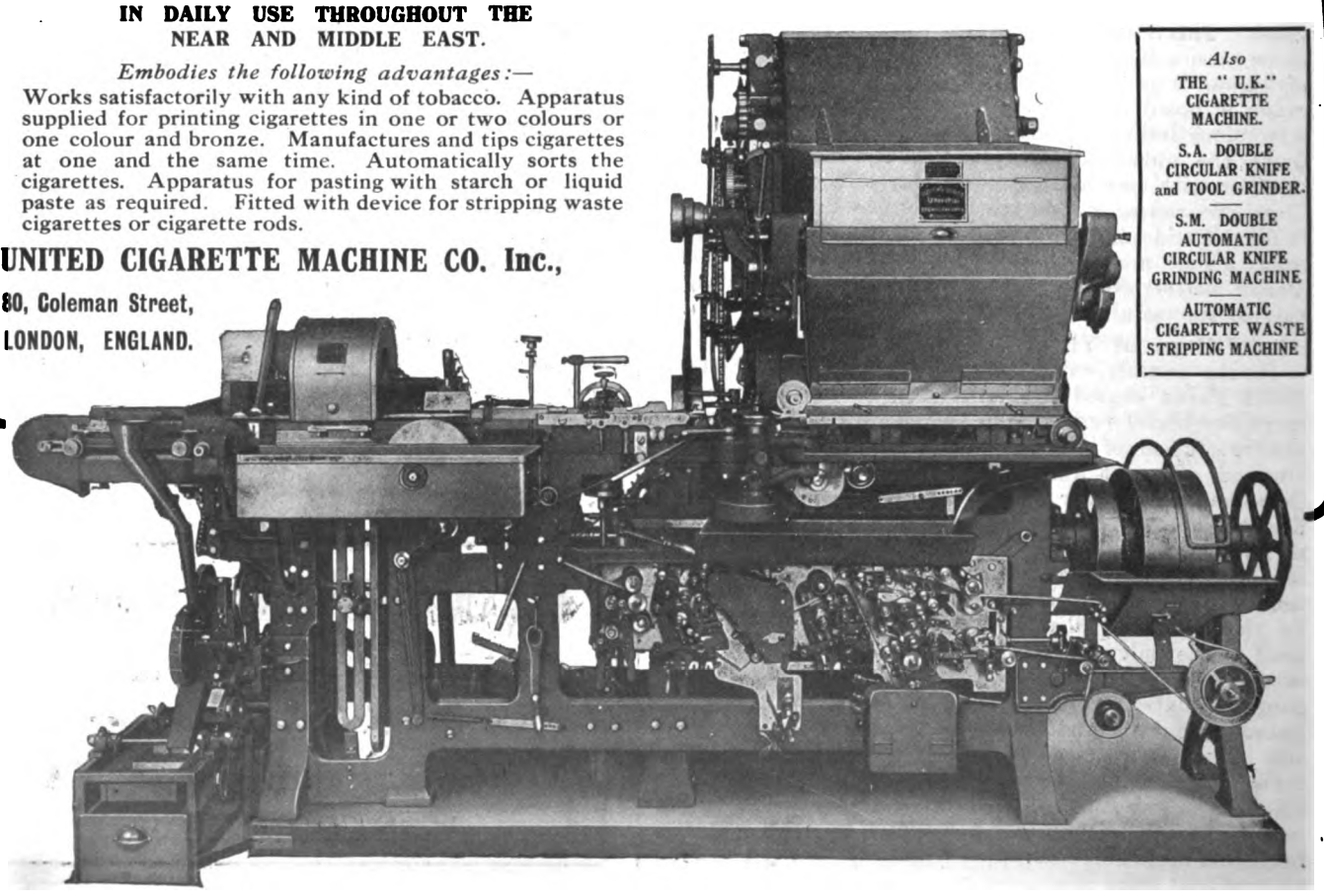

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porting himself and his dependants. Provision is made for medical inspection, the detention of persons to whom permission is refused, and their removal from Palestine. Persons allowed to enter must register within fifteen days at the police headquarters of their district; but this does not apply to *bona fide* travellers or persons in transit to other countries.

The High Commissioner may, under certain circumstances, or should he consider such order conducive to the public good, make an order for deportation, within five years of entry, of any person. Any person who aids and abets or harbours any person who has acted in contravention of the ordinance is liable to severe penalties. The Director of Immigration may, with the High Commissioner's approval, issue from time to time orders or regulations for the better control of immigration into Palestine.

There has been a considerable influx of returned residents, as well as newcomers. More than 100 Jews have recently arrived, and over 400 Germans have sought old abodes in the German quarter.

### Unauthorised Communications.

Another ordinance, which also comes into force this month, aims at preventing the communication of information by any person in an official position to a person not in the service of the Government. The penalty, which is imprisonment up to one year or a fine of £100, or both, may be extended to three years, should the communication be contrary to the interests of the Government. Any paper or periodical publishing such information is liable to a fine not exceeding £100.

### General News.

Sir Herbert Samuel has been making several tours. To the south he has visited Gaza, *via* Ludd, Medjel and Askalon, where he camped and viewed the ruins. He has been for a tour in the Galilee District, visiting Nazareth, Tiberias (Tabarieh) and Safed, where many Sheikhs and notables expressed their warm appreciation of British rule. He dined with the Mufti, and was received everywhere with great cordiality by all communities.

In Jerusalem there have been many social functions. Coming improvements include the widening of several main streets. A service of motor omnibuses is to be established, and will be greatly welcomed.

Much work is needed on the railways, *e.g.*, on the Ludd-Jaffa line. The boundary between Palestine and Egypt is at Rafa.

Land Registries are to be opened in all districts in October.

## NEW TURKISH MINISTRY.

Telegrams from Constantinople dated October 18 announce that Damad Ferid Pasha, the Grand Vizier, has resigned for reasons of health, and that Tewfik Pasha has agreed to form a Ministry on condition that he may choose his colleagues himself. It is thought that the change may facilitate negotiations with the Nationalists, who dislike Damad Ferid Pasha intensely.

## ANGLICAN AND EASTERN CHURCHES.

To celebrate the fourteenth anniversary of the Anglican and Eastern Churches Association, on October 28—the day of the Feast of S.S. Simon and Jude, Apostles—a Solemn Eucharist, with procession and sermon, in the Church of St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, will be held at 11 a.m.; at 7 p.m., in the hall of Sion College, Victoria Embankment, the annual general meeting will be held; and this will be followed by a public meeting at 7.30 p.m., at which speeches will be delivered on the subject of "The Lambeth Conference and the Eastern Churches." There will be a collection for the association and Serbian Church Aid funds.

## SCHOOLS IN TANGIER

According to the *Depeche Marocaine* of August 14, the sum of 4,700,000 frs. of the new Moroccan loan is to be devoted to educational purposes in Tangier. The following are the works on which it is proposed to spend the money:—The completion of the boys' school, 200,000 frs.; the building of a girls' school, 2,000,000 frs.; the construction of two "groupes scolaires," 1,500,000 frs.; the construction of a Franco-Moorish school, 500,000 frs.; and the building of a Jewish school 500,000 frs.

The following information has been received by the Secretary of State for India from the Government of India in regard to the riots which occurred towards the end of September in the tea gardens in the Lakhimpur district of Assam, and of which reports have appeared in the Press. Coolies of eight gardens within a six mile radius of Dum-Duma went on strike for higher wages. They looted the local market and Marwari shops, assaulted an assistant manager and garden officers, and damaged officers' bungalows. Superintendent of Police Furze went to the spot with police, but he and the constables were assaulted. A few platoons of the Assam Rifles were despatched, and order was restored. No further disturbance has occurred.

## THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FLORENCE.

British and Italian interests meet in the Balkans, and this fact justifies a reference in these pages to a British institution in Italy which has for its object the promotion of intellectual relations between Great Britain and Italy. The British Institute of Florence was founded in February, 1918, by His Majesty's Government, and was formally opened in June of the same year by the British Ambassador to the Italian Court. The Institute was intended to create in Italy a wider knowledge of the English language and of British life, literature and institutions; it was also hoped that it would serve as a meeting ground for English and Italian men of letters. Premises were taken in the Via dei Conti, Florence, which included two lecture halls, a reading-room, several rooms for the library, four class-rooms, and other rooms for offices. Special attention has been given to the training of Italians who are to teach English in the middle schools of Italy; the Institute also publishes six times a year a review, *La Vita Britannica*. In the first year of its existence the Institute, under the direction of Mr. A. F. Spender, had two hundred and fifty pupils. Unfortunately, like many other creations of the war, the Florence enterprise has reached the period when the financial support of the British Treasury can no longer be counted upon. A final grant, considerably reduced, it is understood, has been made for the current year, but the Institute has been fortunate enough through the generosity of an Englishman resident in Italy to obtain the balance of the funds required. No establishment, however, can achieve maximum efficiency if it is forced to live a hand-to-mouth existence, and the British Institute of Florence deserves to be placed on a footing which will enable it, without the recurrence of yearly anxiety, to plan far-reaching programmes of usefulness for the future.

Many of those who have been to Italy or are accustomed to visit the country, will be glad to know of a practical way in which they can help to spread the knowledge of their language, ideas, and culture for the betterment of the relations between Great Britain and Italy.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, Mrs. Snowden, and Mr. Tom Shaw, M.P., British delegates, M. Renaudel, French delegate, and M. Vandervelde, Belgian delegate, have concluded their mission to Georgia, where they met members of the Government and representatives of the working classes. The British delegation has returned to London, and Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, since his return, has had an interview with a representative of the Georgian Legation.

## ENQUIRY BUREAU.

*Readers abroad desirous of getting in'o touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.*

*Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."*

*ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.*

*No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.*

### Agents Wanted Abroad.

*ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, 'The Near East,' 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2," when they will be redirected to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.*

101. A correspondent in Lagos, Nigeria, wishes to get into touch with manufacturers of Arab red fez caps.

102. A stamp collector wishes to purchase used Austrian stamps prior to the 1882 issue. Stamp dealers in the liberated provinces of Austria are asked to send bulk packages of such stamps to the care of the Editor of THE NEAR EAST, with the price in kronen of each stamp or price per dozen, per 100, etc., of each kind. All stamps required will be paid for at the price indicated and the rest returned. Newspaper stamps are not required, but rare postmarks should be included.

103. An Athens firm invites publishers of periodicals dealing with yarns (reports on local markets and world output) and cottons to send specimen copies with a view to its becoming a permanent subscriber.

104. A Greek firm is establishing an electric light station in Macedonia, and wishes to get into touch with firms dealing in the necessary machinery.

105. Engineering and general contractor in Mosul, Mesopotamia, wishes to get into touch with manufacturers in Great Britain.

106. Old-established English trading company with branches in Mesopotamia and Persia is willing to accept agencies there for manufacturers, etc.

107. Old established Turkish firm handling general stores situated in Smyrna and having branches in the interior invites exporters to quote prices for groceries. The firm also acts as agents for articles of general consumption in Asia Minor.

108. Hemp manufacturer in Croatia wishes to get into touch with rope manufacturers who would purchase hemp.

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## M. TAKE JONESCU'S VISIT.

A luncheon was given by the British Government at the Carlton Hotel on October 15 in honour of M. Take Jonescu, Roumanian Foreign Minister. Lord Curzon presided, and among those present were: M. Titulesco (Roumanian Minister of Finance), Lord Crawford, Lord Bessborough, Lord Burnham, Mr. Ian Macpherson, M.P., Sir Eyre Crowe, M. Boerescu, M. Stoicescu, Lieutenant-General Sir J. Hanbury-Williams, Rear-Admiral Sir C. Lambert, Sir H. Creedy, Sir A. Hardinge, Sir Charles Stewart-Wilson, Lieutenant-General Sir G. Macdonogh, Sir M. Hankey, Sir J. Tilley, Sir W. Grey-Wilson, Sir A. Stern, Sir W. Tyrrell, the Lord Mayor of London, the Dean of Westminster, Sir A. Rollit, Colonel R. Rosetti, Rear-Admiral E. F. Bruen, the Hon. A. Nicholson, M. Vladesco, M. Nano, Mr. R. H. Campbell, Mr. J. Conway-Davies, Mr. H. Wickham Steed, Mr. J. A. Spender, Mr. H. T. Montague Bell, Mr. F. W. Emett, and Mr. A. Leeper.

Earl Curzon, in proposing "Our Guest," said that M. Jonescu was known throughout Europe as a man who had devoted himself to the study of foreign affairs, not merely in his own country, but in their international aspect. There was no statesman in Europe who, because of his knowledge and experience, stood in greater respect or carried higher esteem than his Excellency. M. Jonescu was specially endeared not only to the English, but to all the great Powers that had fought and won the war. From the earliest days he had been the devoted friend and adherent of the Allied cause. In good report and ill he had never wavered for one moment. In the anxious days of six years ago, when some men took one side and some another, and even his own countrymen took different sides, this illustrious statesman never wavered. He gave his advice to his countrymen, and they wisely followed it. M. Jonescu had been a great deal in this country, and was familiar with the characteristic institutions of our time and the liberal ideas that prevailed in the world at large. It was with great pleasure that they saw him for the second time Minister for Foreign Affairs in his country, and they hoped that his term of service might be prolonged to the advantage not only of his own country, but of the Allies. Roumania had a great and vivid interest for Englishmen. Her Sovereigns were well known here. The Queen of Roumania, a very able woman, was an English Princess, and we felt drawn to the ruling family of Roumania by domestic as well as international ties. Roumania suffered terribly in the war; no one of the Allied States suffered more. With a cruel enemy in possession of her capital and a great part of her country, she experienced not only the rigours of warfare in fighting, but all the hardships incidental to a long occupation of her territories. Through all these dire events the spirit of her Sovereign, statesmen, and people never faltered, and now, at the end, she emerged a great State, the outpost of civilisation and culture in the East, with a powerful present and an assured future. As a recompense for her sacrifices six millions of Roumanians, previously torn from her, had been added to her national stock. He was very glad to have borne a humble part in that reunion, and congratulated their guest upon the attainment of his national wishes. When all these matters were cleared up they would find Roumania, numbering sixteen millions of people, a very powerful and closely consolidated State, whose influence on the populations and countries in Eastern Europe must be very great. At present Roumania required peace, not an evanescent and ephemeral, but a permanent peace with her neighbours, and nothing gave him greater pleasure than to read in the papers how the mind of Eastern Europe was moving in the direction of close alliance and co-operation among the Eastern States, in which Roumania must play an important and prominent part. He warmly sympathised with his Excellency's object in his journey for the extension and consolidation of these States. M. Jonescu had come to this country to obtain assistance—financial and otherwise—and if he could settle external affairs and if Roumania, partly by her own efforts and partly by foreign assistance, could build up her internal resources, great would be his achievement and honourable his fame.

M. Take Jonescu, who spoke in English, said that he knew that it was only for Roumania's sake that they had exaggerated his merits. Reference had been made to the two years during which Roumania remained neutral and to when she drew the sword on the side of the Allied cause. If he was proud of one thing it was that he had never said to his people that he promised them victory. He never said that a nation should fight only when it was certain of success, or that it should fight only for national unity, which was a matter of the greatest necessity to them. There was something even greater than that. This had not been a war, like others, between Governments and nations, but, as they hoped, the last struggle between right and might, civilisation and barbarism. They had only done in a small way what England had done on a large scale, but what they did was for the sake of civilisation. Although their services were as nothing compared with what England had given, they had achieved their dreams of more than a thousand years, and were now in a position to show whether or not they were worthy of the sacrifices that had been made for them. They would feel gratitude for ever, and would do what they could to show it. They had already secured social order by the largest agricultural reform ever carried out in any country without revolution, and had now to face only economic and financial difficulties, which were much easier than social difficulties. For external politics they only wanted peace. The British Empire had always been the most pacific, though the most heroic, of nations. War was such a calamity that if we had a new general war the social fabric of all countries would be broken for ever, and the time for little wars and little combinations had gone. The endeavour was to create such a feeling of union between those who had emerged from the war happy and victorious that nobody could oppose them without the knowledge that the price would be so heavy that they could not succeed. Roumania would always be the friend and ally of the British Empire, where liberal institutions were born, and of the British people, who had set an example to all civilised peoples.

On Saturday, October 16, Monsieur and Madame Take Jonescu were the guests of Monsieur Michel Boerescu, Minister Plenipotentiary and Chargé d'Affaires, at a luncheon at Claridge's Hotel. The gathering recalled one of the main objects of the Roumanian Foreign Minister's visit to London, as it was essentially an embodiment of the Little Entente scheme expanded to the limits proposed by M. Take Jonescu himself, for there were present the Ministers in London of Czecho-Slovakia, Yugoslavia, and Greece. The Minister for Poland would also have been there if he had not been compelled to leave for Paris the previous day. The large company of guests included M. Titulesco and M. Stoicescu, Lord Burnham, Sir A. Hansell, Colonel Rosetti, and many ladies.

The Roumanian Minister entertained a further company to dinner at Claridge's Hotel on October 18, when Monsieur and Madame Take Jonescu were again the chief guests.

## M. STAMBOLISKY.

The first week of the Bulgarian Prime Minister's visit to England was concluded on Saturday; he has had few leisure moments since his arrival. On October 13 a busy day was spent at Bedford; the following morning he left early by car for Cambridge, and it was past ten o'clock at night before he returned to London. On the way to Cambridge a visit was paid to Letchworth Garden City. Arrived at the University, M. Stambolisky was entertained to luncheon by Mr. James Bourchier at King's College. Among those who were present to meet his Excellency were the Vice-Chancellor, the Master of Emmanuel, the University Librarian, Mr. Jenkinson, the Vice-Provost of King's, Mr. John Walter, Colonel Villiers-Stuart, Mr. Noel Buxton, Sir Clifford Allbutt, Mr. H. A. Roberts, and Mr. de Beaumont. The Bulgarian members of the party were M. Madjaroff, Charge d'Affaires, of Bulgaria; M. Stancioff, Minister Plenipotentiary; Mdlles. Stancioff and Popoff; M. Kissimoff and MM. Radkoff and Mamartcheff, Secretaries of Legation. The Foreign Office was represented by Captain Heard, British Commercial Secretary in Bulgaria, and the Ministry of Agriculture by Mr. D. Stuart. In the afternoon M. Stambolisky inspected the School of Agriculture and the University Experimental Farm, and subsequently visited King's Chapel, Trinity College, and the University Library.

Friday, the 15th, was no less strenuous a day; after a series of interviews in the morning he lunched with the London Chamber of Commerce, and subsequently addressed a meeting of that body. His speech will be found on another page in this issue. Later in the afternoon M. Stambolisky was present at a reception given in his honour by Sir Edward and Lady Grogan, and afterwards dined with Mr. and Mrs. Noel Buxton. On Saturday, accompanied by his Bulgarian suite, he visited the printing works of Messrs. Waterlow, near Watford, and was entertained to lunch at Harrow by Sir W. A. Waterlow. The party then proceeded to Highclere Castle, Newbury, as the guests of the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon. Among those assembled at Highclere were Lady Victoria Herbert, Mr. and Mrs. Leland Buxton, Sir W. E. Garstin, Sir Marshall Reid, Mr. D. G. Hogarth, Mr. J. D. Bourchier, and General Keyes. On Sunday afternoon M. Stambolisky and the Bulgarian party left for Birmingham.

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

## "THE EGYPTIAN PROBLEM."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I can assert that not a few persons who know Egypt, and have studied the situation in the country, consider that it would contribute towards a happy solution of the problem now under consideration, if educated Egyptians who do not know English could peruse in their own language what is written by leading Englishmen. Indeed, every week shows that the lack of a healthy propaganda in Eastern countries is still a weak point requiring attention. I would refer especially to Sir Valentine Chirol's work, "The Egyptian Problem."

Many thousands of Egyptians would be glad to read this book, if translated into Arabic. They would realise the fairness with which the subject is handled. It shows that the British occupation, while it has brought inestimable benefits to Egypt, has in reality done nothing to deprive Egyptians of progress towards independence. It admits grievances and a share of British responsibilty in respect of circumstances that led to the anarchical deadlock of 1919. It presents a well-considered sketch of Egyptian nationalism, and would help native readers to reflect wisely on the difficult task which lies before their leaders, and on the need of a friendly British alliance and guidance, in view of the lack of experience in administration, and of any foundations of native growth upon which they could build in the coming experimental period of self-government.

There could be found, I believe, in London, persons thoroughly competent to carry out a faithful translation, and, if so, I would urge that one should be taken in hand as soon as possible, and that help, if needed, should be given in the right quarter, or quarters, towards so desirable an undertaking.—I am, etc.,

October 18. ROLAND L. N. MICHELL.

## AN APPEAL TO YUGOSLAVIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—May I ask you to publish the following appeal?—I am, etc., KENNETH K. LEDWARD, Lt.R.G.A., F.R.G.S.

October 1, 1920.

To the people of Yugoslavia!

When, six years ago, Turkey blindly followed her German mentors and plunged into the war on behalf of the oppressors, the writer addressed an appeal to the people of Bulgaria not to follow her example, but to form a United Balkan Confederation on the Entente side in order that each State might reach, as a reward of victory, its full ethnical boundaries. Unhappily, the weak-kneed diplomacy of the Western Powers and the duplicity of the Bulgarian "Tsar" and his Prime Minister, M. Radoslavoff, brought that country in on the wrong side against the will of the Bulgarian people, whose wishes were never consulted, and who were tricked by their rulers. As a result, your unhappy country was overrun on all sides, and those Serbs who escaped death or slavery had to taste the bitterness of exile.

Those clouds are now happily dispersed: the dauntless valour of the reborn Serbian Army at Dobrepolye brought the Allies from Salonika and Bitolj to Skopje, Nish, and Belgrade. Your country was freed of foreign oppressors; nay, more, by the break-up of the Hapsburg Empire your national unity was well-nigh achieved by the union of Bosnia, Dalmatia, Croatia, and Slovenia with the mother land. Bright is the future of the new Yugoslav Empire, and there are few in this country who do not rejoice at it and wish you well. Yet a word of advice will not, I hope, be deemed impertinent from one who strove in the pages of the Press to keep Bulgaria neutral in 1915, and who subsequently was proud to shed blood for a cause in which the unification of the Southern Slavs was one of the most cherished principles.

In this appeal a friend of your race invites you, for the sake of future peace, not as a "Bulgarophil," to be moderate in your hour of triumph and generous to your late enemies, however bitter may have been your feelings towards them.

The Treaty of Neuilly allowed you a rectification of frontier for "strategical reasons," which will give you the purely Bulgarian towns of Tsaribrod and Basilograd. To Bulgarian Central Macedonia you would add yet other Bulgarian districts. From the declarations of M. Stambolisky, Bulgaria's Premier, who himself suffered imprisonment for opposing Ferdinand's attack on you, you will see that Bulgaria is eager and willing to cultivate friendly relations with you. Forget the past, or, if you must remember 1915, Ferdinand's conduct was no worse than that of Milan in 1885, when there was no Treaty of Bucharest to leave the Balkans in a ferment.

Forbear in your wisdom to occupy these regions that the treaty allows you. Let this be the earnest of your resolves in the direction of Balkan peace. If you fear the disbanded army of Bulgaria, you have your allies, Hellas and Roumania, at your back; if you have no confidence in them, seek others. Even if the friendship of Bulgaria mean nothing to you now, it cannot be denied that they *are* nearer to you in blood than your present allies, and blood *is* thicker than treaty ink. Did not Michael Obrenovitch in 1867 plan a Yugoslav Confederacy that should include the Bulgars also? With Bulgarian friendship you need have no fear of Arnaouts, of Magyars seeking for revenge, of Italian encroachments in Illyria. With Bulgaria further dismembered, her shrunken kingdom filled with exiles full of resentment, you will be well-nigh surrounded by foes.

What will be the consequences of the acquisition of Tsaribrod and Basilograd—your "pound of flesh"?

Like Uskub and other Macedonian towns, the inhabitants would probably vote Communist in protest. The number of refugees in Bulgaria from Thrace, Macedonia, the Dobruja, and "White" Russia would be augmented, and it is by no means certain that the moderate "Agrarian" Ministry of M. Stambolisky might not be overthrown and a Communistic system take its place.

An act of generosity on your part, on the other hand, would act incalculably to your advantage. It would be an expression of goodwill more potent than mere diplomatic phrases that would leave your Eastern frontier quite secure. With Bulgarian goodwill your legitimate national aspirations in Slovenia and Dalmatia are far more likely of accomplishment, and the poet bandit's ephemeral sway at Rieka would be sooner ended. Your internal difficulties, which in a new state are only natural, would be greatly relieved by this act of magnanimity, and would show the world that the prospects of a "League of Nations" are not merely visionary.

You have your friendships with Czecho-Slovakia, Hellas, Poland, and Roumania. The Little Entente alone is an insurance against Bulgarian malevolence. Besides, the clique that wrought your ruin in 1915 is proscribed by their own fellow-countrymen and in exile and prison. Brighter days are dawning for the Balkan Peninsula. Let the first proof of international comity come from Serbia, whose losses in the war exceeded those of any other state in proportion. If you should listen to this appeal from a sincere friend and admirer of your race, one cannot help feeling that the cause of peace will have been infinitely advanced.

## A TURKISH DISH.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—None of your correspondents appear to be correct in their versions as to the origin of the name of the dish known as "Imam Baildi," a delicacy which is very much appreciated by "gourmets" and all who have lived in Constantinople. You may take it that the following is the correct version:—

On the eve of the great festival of the Bairam a certain Imam brought into his house a supply of olive oil, which he intended to use that night in lighting the oil lamps in the mosque over which he presided. Meanwhile, his good wife, wishing to please her husband on this festive occasion, decided to prepare a special dish of "Patlijan" (not "badinjan"), which is prepared by the goodly use of garlic, onions, tomatoes, and a profuse quantity of oil. Finding that she had not got a sufficient quantity of oil in the house, she used up the supply her husband had brought in After partaking of a hearty meal, which the Imam pronounced to be delicious, he observed to his wife that he had better proceed with the lighting of the lamps in the mosque, but to his dismay he found that his wife had used up the supply of oil to prepare the dish of Patlijan. This so much upset him that he fainted away.

I think your correspondent, "M. N. B.," cannot cite his authority for stating that Mohammed ordered his followers not to eat garlic and onions. Whilst on this point, it may interest "M. N. B." as well as some of your readers to know that garlic is very much used in the Near East for medicinal purposes, and I can positively state that an English doctor (now deceased) often recommended the consumption of a clove or two of garlic on rising in the morning, preferably to taking a dose of salts.

Another Turkish dish which is prepared with the "Patlijan" is that known as 'Hunkiar Beyendi" or "Sovereign's Delight."

—I am, etc., ALFRED C. SILLEY.

October 16, 1920.


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# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

### The Middle East.

Upon the important speech which Lord Curzon recently delivered before the Central Asian Society, *The Times*, of October 14, builds a leading article, in which it states that "the alarming policy advocated by the Foreign Secretary will bring not peace but a sword." It proceeds in the same critical vein:—

What sort of an "islet" has this policy made in Mesopotamia? Instead of keeping order, the very presence of a large army of occupation and of hundreds of unwanted British officials has provoked a rising. Lord Curzon says that he has sincerely advocated the setting up of "an Arab form of administration" in Mesopotamia, but three or four months ago he was telling the House of Lords that competent Arab administrators were unobtainable. The reason generally assigned for these experimental adventures in the Orient is that the security of India demands that we should poke a stick into every hornet's nest between the Bosphorus and the Hindu Kush. As a matter of fact, it is imperatively necessary, in the interests of the security of India, that the Army of India should once more be concentrated within her borders. We are imperilling the stability of British rule in India by the superfluous responsibilities we are assuming elsewhere in Asia. Does the policy advocated by Lord Curzon commend itself to a single sagacious soldier? Is it sound from the military point of view to dump down isolated garrisons over a great area, with instructions to make "peaceful spaces in the chaos," like the putting-greens on a rough golf course? We have seen one British force in Meshed, another in the Elburz mountains, another in the Bakhtiari wilds, and yet others in the Kurdistan hills. This is the "islet" policy in practice, and in the end it means either permanent expansion or disaster. There is no halfway house in these international police enterprises. They invariably reach a point at which a choice must be made between complete occupation or evacuation. We have now arrived at this point in Mesopotamia, and it is time to put into practice Lord Curzon's dictum, in which we entirely concur, that the British Empire "in Central Asia" cannot be further expanded.

### The Little Entente.

The main article of the *New Europe* of October 14 consists of a careful and complete survey of the "Little Entente." It is written by Dr. Seton-Watson, and bears all his enthusiasm for new nationalities. Speaking of Czecho-Slovakia, "her main need," he says, "is peace and internal consolidation, based upon intimate relations with the West and with any 'possible' Russia, upon scrupulously correct relations with her former enemies, and upon co-operation with her colleagues in the 'Austrian succession.'" But, he points out, "the success of such a policy depends upon acceptance of the new *status quo* by all the neighbouring States." And he proceeds to discuss the various intrigues which, he states, are being carried on against the Little Entente. He concludes with a suggestion of an extension of the Little Entente, noting, incidentally, the difficulties of the admission of Poland—desired by M. Jonescu—into terms of intimacy with Prague, Bucharest, and Belgrade.

The inclusion of Greece presents fewer difficulties, though her friends are haunted by the fear lest the great statesman who conducts her affairs may leave no successors equal to the strenuous task which he has set them. In Belgrade true statesmanship, while steadfastly friendly to the Greece of Mr. Venizelos, will realise that the cruel memories of an all-too-recent past must not be allowed to stand in the way of a new era of co-operation in the Balkan Peninsula. Bulgaria, after a period of sullen intrigue against the victors, has fallen into new and vigorous hands; and her peasant Premier, Mr. Stambuliski, is not afraid to repudiate the crimes of past régimes, to weed out the old elements in the army and the bureaucracy, and to proclaim openly his belief in Bulgaria as part of a Jugoslav confederation. The reconciliation of Bulgar and Serb is a task worthy of the highest statesmanship; and President Masaryk, whose efforts at mediation before the Great War were thwarted by the deliberate policy of Vienna, should not find it beyond his powers under the altered circumstances of to-day, and with so able a helper as Dr. Benes. Clearly it is an eminent interest of Czecho-Slovakia that her chief ally, Jugoslavia, should not be weakened by the presence of a hostile kinsman at her elbow. But though old animosities die hard, and there is much to forgive, it is reassuring to note that both in Belgrade and in Bucharest their idea of reconciliation is steadily gaining ground. It still remains to be seen whether Bulgaria will be ready to accept the essential preliminary to any arrangement and to pledge herself to respect the new Greek frontiers as laid down by the Paris treaties. This would, it is to be hoped, lead to concessions by Roumania in the Dobrodgea, and to Serbia's restoration of Tsaribrod, which at present serves no purpose save that of envenoming the old feud.

Even more desirable, in our opinion, is the inclusion of Austria, who, despite more than one cause of friction, has essentially the same interests as the three confederates in checking Hungary and preventing a monarchist reaction, and who has neither the desire nor the capacity for renewed aggression. It is open to argument whether any measures can arrest the process which urges the hapless Austrian torso towards union with Germany: but it is at least certain that the sole possible alternative is its prompt inclusion in the Little Entente, and the extension of commercial facilities by each of the other three States. But the position of Austria requires separate and more detailed treatment.

The whole preceding argument rests on the assumption that Hungary is the last State to be invited or included. This follows logically from the fact that Hungary is the main centre of reactionary intrigue in Europe to-day, and has allied herself with every element which desires the overthrow of the new order. Those who are at present in power at Budapest have learnt nothing from the war, and really cordial relations between them and the four neighbouring States are well-nigh impossible. All that can be hoped for is that close co-operation on the part of the four will at length convince the Magyar people of the hopelessness of restoring the old "Millenary" State of Hungary, and that new classes of the population will assert their control. Only then shall we see the final stage in that process of consolidation on the Middle and Lower Danube of which the Little Entente in its present form is the prelude.

The Little Entente is, necessarily, the enemy of adventure and aggression, because each of its members is (to use the vile but expressive phrase of Count Aehrenthal) nationally "saturated," and, above all, interested in maintaining the *status quo*. It has every interest in furthering the ideas of disarmament and of the League of Nations, just as its enemies are chiefly concerned to challenge the new order and perpetuate disorder. So far from resting upon a Balance of Power, it is a bold attempt to emancipate South-Eastern Europe from the tyranny of that idea, and to substitute a grouping which will be irresistible just because its basis is realism and its main aims accord fairly with the democratic ideals of the age. For these and many other reasons it represents a political development which can hardly fail to win the sympathy and active support of British statesmanship.

### Articles to Note.

"The Mandate for Armenia I.," by Major-General James G. Harbord in *World's Work* (September).

"Mesopotamia and Persia," by Robert Machray, in the *Fortnightly Review* (October).

"Great Britain, Palestine, and the Jews," by the Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., in the *Nineteenth Century* (October).

## HOARDINGS IN PALESTINE.

The *Palestine Weekly* states that timely measures have been taken in Palestine to prevent the country from being disfigured by unsightly advertisements. The Government has issued an ordinance regulating the exhibition of advertisements and the use of hoardings. The ordinance allows a District Governor or municipality to set up special hoardings, on which all public and general notices and advertisements may be exhibited. Advertisements may be exhibited on trader's premises, but power is taken to regulate the form and size of such displays. The erection of private hoardings and the affixing of advertisements in any place except the actual premises in which the business, calling, or entertainment advertised is carried on, is prohibited.

The October *Quarterly Statement* of the Palestine Exploration Fund contains an article by Dr. E. W. G. Masterman on "The Water Supply of Damascus," and one on "The Red Sea (*Yam Suph*)," by the late Joseph Offord. Professor Garstang contributes a short but interesting note on "The Walls of Gaza," concluding with the statement that it seems to be established that "the town Gaza really occupies the site of the historical fenced city of antiquity." Mr. L. M. Angus has an article, illustrated with a plan and photographs, on "Roman Remains at Deir-el-Kala, Lebanon," and the Rev. Professor George Buchanan Gray writes on "Crocodiles in Palestine," reaching the conclusion—satisfactory or the reverse, according to one's point of view—that we may yet obtain evidence that crocodiles do still exist in the country.

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# MUSICAL NOTES.

### Signor Giorgio Corrado.

The passport to popularity with the English public can probably be obtained more easily by an Italian singer than by an artist of any other nationality. He has only to have a voice, and the stock in trade of his race will do the rest. Now Signor Corrado, who sprang at a bound into popularity here last season, has a magnificent baritone voice, and, whatever he does with it, there are always many, merely on account of its volume, to applaud him. But at the Æolian Hall on October 11 he was a great disappointment to me. Two arie from Verdi's "Rigoletto" he sang with great fervour and intensity; and in a monologue from Ponchielli's "La Gioconda" his dramatic sense was fully proved. In the vivid and the passionate there is no doubt that he excels, but if any part of singing is less important than another it is the passionate. When Signor Corrado sang some songs in English, a language which he pronounces adequately but the subtleties of which he scarcely appreciates, his interpretative gifts were at a discount, for his three songs—a setting of Stevenson's "Requiem" (the wreck of countless song-writers) by Harold Craxton, a minor setting by John Ireland of some minor verse by T. L. Beddoes, and Coleridge-Taylor's sentimental "Life and Death"—were quite unworthy of his fine voice. Of his Danish songs only one —"Hvis du har varme Tanker" by Borresen—succeeded: the others, very Northern products, were treated in the warm, Southern way. He ended with Federigo Corrado's wearying "Serenata," and a rendering, in which clearness by no means dominated, of Rossini's "Largo al Factotum." Signor Corrado's reputation was not enhanced by this recital. That he can do better than this I do not doubt; but to preserve his fame he must improve in his choice of songs and in his interpretation, as distinct from his mere singing, of them.

### A Manchester Pianist.

London is often derided by the de-capitalised as being devoid of musical taste, and such scoffers, who yet maintain that England has a real love of music, always point to Manchester as the town in which all good things are done. But it is often true that when artists go from London to Manchester they overcome it, and that when they reverse the route they find the return journey a little tedious. Now Mr. Frank Merrick, who gave a pianoforte recital at the Wigmore Hall on October 12, is regarded as a prophet in his own town of Manchester; and one may say at once that this regard has not been ill-bestowed. He has been known for years as an exponent, or an incurable disciple (whichever you will), of Max Reger, and in a fury of enthusiasm he lashed out at the beginning of his recital into the "Introduction, Passacaglia and Fugue for Two Pianofortes" of the little Bach. He was assisted in this by Mrs. Hope Squire—a careful, happy, and quite merciful combination. I heard only part of the Passacaglia and the Fugue, and, though I was intensely interested, it was enough. It was well played, if rather academically; and, apart from its enormous length which necessitated very considerable and curious headwork from the audience, justified its interpreters in their obvious love for it. But Mr. Merrick takes only the long view of things, for, not sparing his listeners, he proceeded to play *five* extracts from "Goyescas" of Granados. Two of these would have been sufficient, and as a matter of fact only two were worth playing: the others, simply steeped in Spanish rhythm, were too seducing altogether. John Ireland's new Sonata, which was introduced by Lamond last season, was the last thing of the programme. It is not a highly appreciated work, but after Reger and Granados I liked it much. The first movement is particularly good. Mr. Merrick seemed to play the sonata too neatly: he lightened its heavy harmonic colouring, and smoothed over its rough edges. Ireland is like the later Sibelius in his strong, honest, uncouthness, and, whether you consider it a strength or a weakness, it cannot be removed from him without a weakening of his personality. Mr. Merrick, whose chief virtue is clarity, under-estimated the real obscurity of this sonata, and made Ireland appear as an apostle of light.

### British Song.

There have been two recitals of British song this week, both at the Æolian Hall, on October 14 and 15 respectively. At the first, Mr. John Buckley's, most of the songs were well known, and the majority well chosen. Out of twenty-four songs, seventeen good songs are as many as anyone can expect. Mr. Buckley is an intelligent singer, who would be much better than he is but for the fact that he often gives more importance to the words than to the music. This fault was most prominent in his folk-songs—songs in which the conservation of the rhythm is the first and last thing to remember—for by illustrating vocally the worth of each word and phase he outraged the unity of the whole design. But in more modern songs a sensitive use of word-painting was made with good effect: it was present in such good songs as "An Evening Confession," by H. Rhodes; "The Recruiting Sergeant," by Julius Harrison (a very fine song); and Peter Warlock's "My Gostly Fader." Mr. Buckley has possibilities, but his style is developing on popular lines, and if he, with such good enunciation and intelligence, becomes merely a successful ballad-singer, it will be a great pity.

Singers of English songs may be divided into two groups—those who sing them because of the difficulties of overcoming an English pronunciation of other languages, and those who whole-heartedly love them and believe in their future. To this second class belongs Miss Ursula Greville, who, with Signor Giorgio Corrado, gave a recital of songs published by Messrs. Curwen on October 15. Unfortunately for the aim of this concert—the popularisation of new British songs—there was between Miss Greville's singing and Signor Corrado's no comparison. Not only were Miss Greville's songs better in themselves, but they were infinitely better sung. Of her fourteen songs three were excellent, and perfectly sung: "Immanence" by Rutland Boughton, "An Inconsequent Ballad" by J. G. Williams, and "She comes not when Noon is on the Roses" by Julius Harrison. Others of less value but very delightful were Paul Edmonds' setting of Padraic Colum's "Mantle of Blue," W. G. Whittaker's "Dream Song," and songs by Martin Shaw and John Ireland. Miss Greville sang beautifully and very sensitively; she has a liking for light songs—I mean things about fairies, and children, and love—in fact, about all such credible nonsense, but her interpretations of songs of deeper and of more spiritual import are equally convincing and finished. She is one of those rare sopranos whose technical efficiency is the least of her claims to the regard of the musical; and at the present time there is no young singer in London who is as enterprising and as interesting as she.

Of Signor Corrado's part in the concert it is scarcely fair to say much. As I have noted above, his voice has not mastered the rhythmic beauties and properties of English verse. His singing was a compliment to British song, but it was not a conquest. He was unlucky, too, in his choice of songs; for it was not his deficiencies that made the immortality of such names as E. Roy Thompson and F. Bennicke Hart appear uncertain.

But this concert did achieve three things. It proved, first, the courageous enterprise of at least one English musical publishing firm, Messrs. Curwen, who are as determined that the English song-writer has a future and shall have his chance as they are convinced that he deserves it; it proved, secondly, that Miss Greville is a most worthy populariser of this new enterprise; and it proved, finally, what I should have mentioned before, the existence of a very skilful accompanist, Mr. Owen Mase. There was only one song—Boughton's "Immanence"—the atmosphere of which he did not quite suggest. He deserved much more praise than I have given him.

### The British Symphony Orchestra.

The best orchestra in England at the present time is probably the London Symphony Orchestra, but a new band, under Mr. Adrian Boult, the British Symphony Orchestra, which appeared at the Quinlan concert given at the Kingsway Hall on October 16, is going to rival it. This orchestra, composed wholly, I believe, of ex-Service men, is extraordinarily good in its strings, and under Mr. Boult, the ablest of our young conductors, and a stern disciplinarian, whose readings, nevertheless, are full of insight, will surely become an excellent body. Their playing of Bach's third Brandenburg concerto, apart from a certain brilliant hardness in the quality of the violins equalled that of any orchestra I have heard; and in accompanying M. Vladimir Rosing, the Russian tenor, in some extracts from Tchaikowsky and Rimsky-Korsakoff, they played with beautiful discretion. Their performance of Tchaikowsky's fifth Symphony was broad and finished; but it showed the weakness of their brass, and the absolute necessity for improving their horns, which really bubbled with errors.

M. Rosing, who sang mostly in Russian, was in his intensest mood. In Russian song I know of no one to equal him; with all his posing, his hysterical attitudes and sounds, his vain effects, there is no one to approach him in Russian music. To hear him in Lensky's Farewell (Tchaikowsky's "Eugene Oniegin") or in Leoko's Air from Rimsky-Korsakoff's "Night of May," is really to know something of the soul of the Slav. He is a great artist and often a great singer as well.

Mlle. René Chemet, the French violinist, who was the other "star" turn at this concert (this series of Quinlan concerts is to be a return to the "star" system of singers and instrumentalists), played only in Lalo's Concerto in F minor. It is not a great work, though the first movement in particular is ingeniously and often beautifully scored. Mlle. Chemet is, of course, an exceedingly fine player, full of resource and originality, but never sacrificing anything to the spirit of the whole. Her performance was practically perfect.

ANDANTE.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"EX-KING CONSTANTINE AND THE WAR." By Major G.M. Melas. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 12s. 6d.)

II.—"THE DEATH OF CLEOPATRA." By James A. Mackereth. (London: Longmans Green and Co. 3s. 6d. net.)

## I.—EX-KING CONSTANTINE.

The world is a little tired of ex-King Constantine, and a reader might be forgiven for taking up somewhat wearily Major George Melas' book, quite apart from the doubtful taste of a private secretary's "revelations." But it is impossible to read it through without being convinced, if one has the least acquaintance of the position in Greece to-day, that the author has done some service to his country by making public the facts within his knowledge. Major Melas was for many years Private Secretary and a close personal friend of King Constantine, and those who know him or of him will confirm the impression given by the book itself that it has gone against the grain to unmask so completely the man whom he had served so faithfully. He had given orders that, in the event of his death during the war, nothing that he had written should be published until twenty-five years later. He has been moved to cancel his intention himself mainly as a result of the "recent odious plot" against M. Venizelos and the nation. A true friend of Greece cannot fail to regret the present cleavage in the country, and to many a foreigner it would seem at first sight, and without any profound knowledge of the facts, a simple solution to adopt a policy of letting bygones be bygones, and of recommending a reconciliation between the ex-King and M. Venizelos. Major Melas' book proves not only the impossibility of such a course, but also its undesirability. His portraiture of the ex-King is convincing in itself, and it is entirely borne out by the latter's actions in exile. So much has happened since King Constantine left Greece that a broader-minded man, and one with a genuine affection for or interest in Greece, would have found ample opportunity to put himself right with the country, and in particular with M. Venizelos. But hatred of "the Cretan" is so deep-seated, and the ex-King seems to be so devoid of any pretensions to nobility of character, that he must have disappointed many of those who so firmly believed in him. That he still has followers—and devoted followers—in Greece is true; the mediæval conception that a King can do no wrong dies hard, and it is not difficult for keen politicians in opposition to convince themselves that any state of affairs is better than the government of their opponents. Few, however, we believe, will be able to read Major Melas' volume without having their faith in the ex-King more than a little shaken. King Constantine, no doubt, was placed in an awkward position; Major Melas does not refrain from trouncing the Entente Powers for their gross mishandling of the Greek situation; but the King came to grief through his own foolish actions, which were the outcome of a weak character and sheer ineptitude.

By no means the least interesting chapter in the book is the one that gives brief sketches of the Entente representatives in Athens. King Constantine was at heart what is known in common parlance as "a good sort." He was essentially of a sociable nature, and his predilections were towards the British rather than towards the Germans. But at the most critical period, as Major Melas points out, he was practically cut off from intercourse with the British Legation by the diffidence of our representative. As Crown Prince, twenty years previously, he had often been given in the same building what he would probably have described as the time of his life—certainly the best dinners he ever had in Greece in those days. Often the invitation was a verbal one. At the time when similar relations between the Palace and the Legation would have been invaluable the British Minister, we learn from Major Melas, was "shy and a very silent man," and the Legation had to be pressed by a Court official to extend hospitality to a King who liked nothing better than being invited out. The French representative was even worse: "He detested Courts. He was at such small pains to hide his aversion for kings in general, that he rendered his relations with the Court, even though official, very difficult." Fortunately, Great Britain could not be better represented in Greece than she is to-day; but the lesson afforded by Athens and Sofia before the war suggests that something more than efficiency, according to Foreign Office text-books, is required of those who represent Great Britain in foreign capitals.

To those who want to understand in part the position in Greece to-day we may commend the private letters which the author wrote when at the front. In one occurs the following passage: "For my part, I shall not return to Athens until I am sure that the heads of traitors will fall and that their worthy furies will be horsewhipped in the market place." It is an evil day when a nation is divided into two factions nursing such sentiments towards one another. That this spirit still prevails is proved by the recent death of Jean Dragoumis, to whom Major Melas refers in terms that are altogether at variance with the tribute paid to his memory by M. Venizelos.

## II.—CLEOPATRA.

In an introduction to his small book of verse the author explains the nature of the Cleopatra of his imagination—"to her, a pagan queen, power was law to itself, it could dispense with all conventions and gratify every impulse with impunity, flattered the while by the smile of sycophants, and superficially approved by the humble acquiescence of slaves. . . . It was the persistent and complex femininity of the woman which attracted me." The poem itself describes convincingly enough the external might and outlook of Cleopatra, but it scarcely succeeds in its attempt to present the queen as an example of complex psychology. It consists of a dialogue between Cleopatra and her woman, Charmian, which shows the irrevocable and insatiable love of the queen for Antonius, who at the end is made to enter her room soon after she has poisoned herself. (The author attributes the putting of an adder to the breast to Charmian, who slavishly follows her queen to death.)

There is a certain impulse about the verse; it moves all the time, and preserves throughout an undeniable dignity. But much of the language (blank verse) in which Cleopatra speaks is derivative, and some of the songs which Charmian is bidden to sing are made on a rather effete pattern. Reading of Shakespeare surely created such lines as these:—

> If there be powers that in this secret world
> Move and remember and have need o. men,
> Oh, touch me from the dark if the dead live!
> And if the living languish speak to me!—
> Out of the eerie silence speak!

And would not Tennyson smile if he could read of "Fountain-voices feebly falling," or the "Liquid lisp of loitering waters"? We had thought that alliteration as a device was dead for this generation at any rate.

The second half of the book contains some poems written more or less in the style of Barham, Burns, and Wordsworth, and one feels that the author in choosing models which certainly are good enough has been prompted rather to imitation than inspiration. But his verse makes pleasant, if not moving, reading.

F. H. S.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Colloquial Arabic: Shuwa Dialect of Bornu, Nigeria, and of the Region of Lake Chad." By G. J. Lethem, M.A., LL.B. (London: Published for the Government of Nigeria by the Crown Agents for the Colonies.)

"The Cause of World Unrest." With an Introduction by the Editor of the *Morning Post*. (London: Grant Richards. 10s. 6d. net).

"The Golden Treasury of the Greeks." Rendered in English by Alexander Lothian, M.A. (Oxford: B. Blackwell. 5s. net.)

"The Garden of Bright Waters." By E. Powys Mathers. (Oxford: B. Blackwell. 6s. net.)

"When the Blood Burns." By E. W. Savi. (London: G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

"Aftermath: A Geographical Study of the Peace Terms." (Edinburgh: W. and A. K. Johnston, Ltd.)

"The Golden Apple." By Kathlyn Rhodes. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 8s. 6d. net.)

"The War and Its Lessons." By Annie Besant. (London: The Theosophical Publishing House. Cloth, 4s.; wrapper, 2s. 6d.)

"The Rising Tide of Colour Against White World-Supremacy." By Lothrop Stoddard. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Reminiscences of a Stowaway." By C. E. Gouldsbury. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd. 15s. net.)

"The Bagging of Baghdad." By Ernest Betts. With Frontispiece and a Map. (London: John Lane. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Bengal Fairy Tales." By F. B. Bradley-Birt. (London: John Lane. 15s. net.)

"Poems." By Sir Cecil Arthur Spring Rice, G.C.M.G., P.C. With Photogravure Portrait. Edited, with a short Biography, by Bernard Holland. (London: Longmans Green and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Round About Egypt and Other Things." By A. Beresford Horsley. (London: Selwyn and Blount, Ltd. 5s. net.)

"'Absalem' and Other Plays and Poems." By Torahiko Khori. (London: Selwyn and Blount. 5s. net.)

"Faenza Rest Camp: A Story of the L. of C." By Lieut.-Colonel H. S. Scott-Harden. With illustrations from photos and drawings. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 6s. net.)

"Hittite Seals." By D. G. Hogarth. (Oxford University Press. £3 13s. 6d. net.)

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## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**TO-DAY.**

October 21 (New Style).
October 8, 1920 (Old Style).
Safar 9, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Marheshwan 9, 5681, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Logie Watson leaves England for India to-day.

Sir Valentine Chirol left London on October 15 for India.

Admiral Sir E. Troubridge is expected to arrive at Prague on October 23.

General Bridges and the British Military Mission have left Smyrna.

M. Gugushvili, First Secretary to the Georgian Legation, returned to London on October 15 from The Hague.

M. Alexander Broz, specially attached to the Czecho-Slovak Legation, has returned to London from Prague.

The latest bulletins available as we go to press state that the condition of King Alexander of Greece is very grave.

Mr. Bonar Law will unveil a memorial window given by India to the Highlanders' Memorial Church, Glasgow, to-day.

An Anglo-Czech service will be held in Christ Church, Westminster Bridge Road, S.E.1, at 3.30 p.m. on October 24.

Mrs. Blanche Tufnell, who is Secretary of the Anglo-Czech Society of Great Britain, is paying her first visit to Prague.

Lady Helen Brocklehurst left London on October 17 for Italy on her way to Egypt, where she will remain for four months.

The Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes has bestowed upon the Lord Mayor the Order of St. Sava (1st Class).

It is understood that Cambridge University is to confer the degree of LL.D. *honoris causa* upon Sir George Abraham Grierson, K.C.I.E

Dr. Dusan Resetar, Secretary to the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, has returned to London.

The Rev. W. Plant, vicar of Potterspury, is resigning the benefice in November to take up the incumbency of the Old Mission Church, Calcutta.

M. G. Roussos, the Greek Ambassador at Washington, and recently appointed High Commissioner at Paris, passed through Paris on September 28, *en route* for Athens.

The King has given unrestricted permission to Temp. Capt. H. C. de J. du Vallon, W. Yorks R., to wear the decoration of the Order of the White Eagle (Serbia), 5th Class.

Prince Firouz, until lately Minister for Foreign Affairs in Persia, has arrived in London for a few days on private business. He will return to Persia on the Narkunda, sailing on October 29.

The *Progrès* of October 6 announces the nomination of M. Nicolas B. Cantacuzène as Roumanian Minister at Vienna, and of M. Constantin G. Nano as Roumanian Minister at Berlin.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (October 9):—The British Military Attaché and his wife, Brig.-General Hoare-Nairne and Mrs. Hoare-Nairne have arrived in Belgrade from Athens.

General Lyautey has made a solemn entry into Wazzan, where he was received enthusiastically by the population. It has since been announced that the Government has promoted him to be a Marshal of France.

The Portuguese Minister has been awarded by the Prince Regent of Serbia the Grand Cross, First Class, of St. Sava. The Serbian Minister personally handed the insignia to Senhor Texeira Gomes at the Portuguese Legation.

Lord Sinha, Governor-designate of Bihar and Orissa, has selected as his private secretary Mr. P. J. Patrick, of the India Office, who was recently serving him in the same capacity during his Under-Secretaryship for India.

Lord Inchcape consented to preside at the luncheon given to Sir William Meyer, India's first High Commissioner, by the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League at the Connaught Rooms on October 20.

Dr. V. Mastny, the new Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Czecho-Slovak Republic to the Court of St. James, with Madame Mastny, arrived in London on October 15 from Prague.

Major Somerset, formerly chief assistant to Colonel Lawrence, has arrived, says the *Zionist Bulletin*, in Irbid Ajlun, to meet some of the chief Sheikhs. He will serve there as local adviser, receiving instructions from the central Government in Jerusalem.

One hundred and seventy members of the United Service Club gave a farewell banquet at Simla, on October 15, to the Viceroy, Lord Chelmsford. The Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, Sir E. D. Maclagan, and General Sir Charles Munro, the Commander-in-Chief, were among the guests.

An engagement is announced, and the marriage will take place early in the spring, between John Scott, M.B., Ch.B., Department of Public Health, Egyptian Civil Service, and Flores, youngest daughter of the late Howard Chatfeild Clarke, F.R.I.B.A. (P.P.), and Mrs. Howard Chatfeild Clarke (formerly of Inverness Terrace, W.), South Kensington Hotel, Queen's Gate Terrace, S.W.7.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes:—
Mrs. MacGrath has returned with her children.
Mr. André Gasner has arrived for a few days.
Mr. Hwyfa Wyndham-Jones has left for London.
Dr. Momchilo Ninchitch, Minister of Commerce, and formerly of Finance, will replace M. Pashitch as Delegate with Dr. Trumbitch in the direct negotiations with Italy.

The first of a series of lectures arranged by the Egypt Exploration Society will be given by Professor Newberry on Thursday, October 28, at 8.30 p.m. The subject will be "Tell el-Amarna, the Predecessors of Akhenaten and the Influence of Thebes and Heliopolis on the Art and Religion of the Heretic City." Tickets can be obtained gratis (if stamps are enclosed for postage) on application to the Secretary, Egypt Exploration Society, 13, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

Monsieur Take Jonescu was entertained to luncheon at the Thatched House Club by a number of friends on Tuesday, Oct. 19. The company included Monsieur Titulesco, Roumanian Minister of Finance; Monsieur Borescu, Minister Plenipotentiary and Chargé d'Affaires; Monsieur Stoicescu, Roumanian Minister in Paris; Sir Charles Stewart-Wilson, Sir Robert Waley Cohen, Sir Albert Stern, Sir Frederick Black, Mr. C. T. Allen, Mr. A. G. M. Dickson, Mr. E. W. H. Barry, and Mr. H. T. Montague Bell.

The King has given unrestricted permission to wear the following decorations and medals awarded to the British Forces for distinguished services rendered during the course of the campaign:—

Order of the White Eagle, with Swords (Serbia).—1st Class.—F.-M. Sir H. H. Wilson, Bt., G.C.B., D.S.O. 2nd Class: Lt.-Gen. Sir F. J. Davies, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O.; Maj.-Gen. Sir G. P. T. Feilding, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., C.M.G., D.S.O.; Col. H. Gordon, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.; Maj.-Gen. Sir C. H. Harington, K.C.B., D.S.O.; Maj.-Gen. Sir A. L. Lynden-Bell, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.; Maj.-Gen. Sir P. P. de B. Radcliffe, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.; Maj.-Gen. Sir W. Thwaites, K.C.M.G., C.B.

In addition to the above names, there is a long list of those who have gained the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Classes of the Order of the White Eagle, with Swords (Serbia), the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Classes of the Order of the White Eagle (Serbia), and the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Classes of the Order of St. Sava (Serbia).

Eight Canadian nursing sisters, all of whom served in the Great War (says *Canada*) will sail from Montreal on November 5 for hospital and nursing school duty in Roumania. The Mission has been arranged by Madame Pantazzi (formerly Miss Ethel Greening), who is herself a Canadian. At its head is Miss Dorothy Cotton of Mon-

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treal, a daughter of the late General Cotton and one of the Canadian nurses who served on the staff of Lady Paget's Anglo-Russian Hospital at Petrograd during the early years of the war. She will be accompanied by Miss Jean Graham, superintendent of the Davisville Hospital; Miss Margaret Killmaster, of Brantford; Miss Irene Savage, formerly masseuse at the Christie Street Hospital, Toronto; Miss C. Carter, Port Calborne; Miss Olive Fitzgibbon, of Montreal; Miss Garfield McKay, of Halifax, and Miss Helen Kendall, of Winnipeg.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. Tusar, the Czecho-Slovak ex-Premier, has been appointed Czech Minister to Berlin.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Philip Lindsay Buckland, barrister-at-law, to be a Puisne Judge of the Calcutta High Court in succession to Sir Ernest Fletcher, who is retiring from the Bench in November.

His Majesty has also approved the appointment of Diwan Bahadur Cheruvari Krishnan, barrister-at-law, and Mr. Vepa Ramesam Pantulu, to be Puisne Judges of the Madras High Court in succession to Mr. Justice Bakewell and Mr. Justice Seshagiri Ayyar respectively.

The King has approved the appointment of Sir Horace Rumbold, at present Minister at Warsaw, to be High Commissioner at Constantinople. On the resumption of diplomatic relations with Turkey, Sir Horace Rumbold will become Ambassador to the Sublime Porte.

## OBITUARY.

The Rev. Edward James Hubbard, senior chaplain, Bengal Ecclesiastical Establishment, died at Nice on October 13 in his ninety-fourth year. He took his degree from St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1851, and worked in India for twenty-five years.

The death at Cettigne of Mitrofan Ban, who was for many years the Metropolitan of Montenegro, is announced in a message from the *Morning Post* Rome correspondent. Since Prince Danilo in 1852 abolished the theocratic system by which the Prince of Montenegro was also its Bishop, Montenegrin rulers have carefully chosen their Metropolitans outside the leading local families. The main object of this was to avoid having two "Kings of Brentford" on the throne. Mitrofan Ban, however, was more of a personality than his predecessor. His age was seventy-six.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

Two thousand eight hundred Russian soldiers have arrived at Odessa from France.

Nasib Bey el Bakri, a native of Damascus, has been proposed by his party as a candidate for the Syrian princehood.

Military, economic, financial, commercial, and railway agreements have been concluded between the Azerbaijan Republic and Soviet Russia.

Mr. "Pussyfoot" Johnson, when addressing a meeting at Edinburgh recently, announced that he would be leaving for India next month.

Cicurel's, the largest haberdashers' stores in Cairo, has been completely gutted by fire, the damage being estimated at from £250,000 to £500,000.

M. Clemenceau has arrived at Colombo, and has gone on a combined motoring and big game shooting expedition in the southern province of Ceylon.

Despatches received from General Gouraud, French High Commissioner in Syria, report that the situation in Syria is excellent, while the situation in Cilicia is improving.

Moscow reports that M. Tchitcherin, the Bolshevist Foreign Commissar, has received a wireless message from the Roumanian Premier, in which he states that Roumania is prepared to negotiate for peace.

Nationalist Turks are reported to have confined a large number of Greek refugees and prisoners upon an island in Lake Egerdir, and the American Red Cross has been asked to assist them.

Mr. Vijaraghava Charya, of Madras, an ex-member of the Indian Imperial Legislative Council and a Nationalist, who opposed non-co-operation at the Calcutta Congress, has been elected President of the National Congress to be held at Nagpur in December.


## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

# WHERE TO STAY.

**For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—**

**"EASTAPROX. LONDON. TWENTIETH MATLOCK TWO**

**(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."**

**which would indicate that two rooms were required at Matlock on the 20th of the month.**

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# THE NEAR EAST.

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*Telephone No.: 618 London Wall.*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1920.


## THE EVOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST.

Within a few short years the war has changed Central Asia from a region of mystery and adventurous travel to a land of acute political problems. The experience of the two countries that deliberately adopted a hermit policy towards the world at large does not suggest that Great Britain would find the same attitude, if it could conceivably be adopted in regard to this region, any more successful. But when a British organ that once led public opinion solemnly declares that "we are imperilling the stability of British rule in India by the superfluous responsibilities we are assuming elsewhere in Asia," it may not be out of place to examine the implied policy of retiring within our Indian frontiers and leaving the inhabitants of Central Asia to settle unaided their political problems. In this matter the Bolshevists can at once supply all the information we need. An apt analysis of the present situation in Central Asia was given in the correspondence between Lord Curzon and the Soviet Government; it mentioned the despatch of Bolshevist troops to Persia, the support of a military conspiracy in Asia Minor, the invasion of Khorassan, the marshalling at Tashkent of forces intended for an attack upon British territory or British interests, the organisation of a revolution in Bokhara, and intrigues in Afghanistan aimed at inciting tribal risings on the Indian frontier. Great Britain, like Tibet and Korea, might affect to care for none of these things, and for a time, no doubt, she could remain indifferent, whether in India or at Busreh, which the new body of Little Englanders would still allow her, under protest, to hold. But could it be doubted for a moment that the last state of this vast territory would be infinitely worse than the first, even though the collapse of Bolshevism in Europe removed one active agent of unrest? Russia herself has offered an impressive object-lesson of the folly—whatever be the high-sounding principles that inspired the action—of refusing help to the moderate elements of a State in the initial stages of their conflict with the forces of disintegration. It suited the war-pressed Allies at the time to delegate their responsibilities to a handful of Czecho-Slovak troops; but will anyone question to-day that the effort required then to cope with Bolshevism could have imposed no strain comparable with that entailed in coping with the disasters which the Bolshevists have since inflicted upon the world?

The fatal delay in the settlement of the terms of the Turkish Treaty, for which the responsibility rests with the United States, has involved the British Army of Occupation in Mesopotamia in a brief guerilla campaign with the Arabs. For this reason, apparently, it is being urged in some quarters that a general policy of scuttle must at once be adopted, regardless of the harm, amounting in most cases to havoc, which such action must inevitably occasion. It would have been as logical and as justifiable to denounce the despatch of British troops during the war to Italy and to Salonika as designs upon the integrity of the countries in question as to impute imperialistic designs to Great Britain to-day because it has been found necessary to keep British posts at Kazvin and Meshed. There is no ground for challenging the accuracy of the policy attributed to the British Government by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs when he declared that the expansion of the British Empire in Central Asia was at an end, and rightly at an end. Our function in future, he added, was not to absorb territory, but to give security, and to arrange that the evolution to a different and a higher state of things should be easy. Fifty years ago, perhaps, no other method of giving security apart from military occupation would have occurred to anyone. In passing, let it be recalled that the military occupation of India with its three hundred millions entailed a white garrison of sixty-five thousand men, and let us wonder at the mentality of those who would horrify us to-day with the prospect of the financial burden imposed by the necessity of giving security, in the same proportion, to a population of less than twenty millions. But there is to be no question of holding these regions for the British Empire. We are concerned to encompass the defeat of Bolshevism, because it represents in a different guise and sphere as grave a menace as Prussianism; but thereafter the security to be given will be the product of British advice and of the efforts of the peoples themselves, and Great Britain's part will be determined solely by the factor that she alone is on the spot to advise and to help. It is surely a curious moment to select for Britons to be uncertain of themselves, to be doubtful of the teaching of their own consciences, and to shrink from obvious obligations when we are witnessing the consummation of our monumental work in India and in Egypt,

Bolshevism apart, there would seem to be little reason to be appalled even though Central Asia be "seething with agitation." By this time we have become familiar with the disease, and its treatment should not be beyond our capacities. If we have been welcomed as friends in Tibet, we have no need to despair of any other part of Asia. Our success there Lord Curzon attributes largely to the personality of one man; and if the same care in choosing other representatives and officials be exercised, similar results will be attained. But it is essential that British foreign policy in the Middle East should proceed on definite and consistent lines, and not be subjected to the ignorant opportunism that has characterised Great Britain's handling of the Near Eastern problem. Outside of circles where any weapon is used in the service of a vendetta against the present Government no exception will be taken to Lord Curzon's diagnosis of the position, and it will be hoped that nothing will prevent a wise choice of men to whom the task of giving effect to the Government's policy will be entrusted. Persia, in spite of the Anglo-Persian Agreement, continues to be *difficile*: but she has received abundant assurances of Great Britain's desire, now that the old Russian incubus has been removed, to devote herself to the promotion of Persian interests, and to help in the creation of a sovereign and independent State, capable of retaining its independent existence in the world and sustaining the traditions of its past. Afghanistan, having acquired something like independence, has presented a special attraction to Bolshevism; but the danger from that quarter promises to satisfy her that Afghan and British interests still remain identical. As for Mesopotamia, the more immediate object of Little England's attention, Lord Curzon points out that no one could really imagine that any British Government could have any particular interest in spending scores of millions of money, or of keeping a garrison, in that country. What is desired is to fill the gap which has been left by the destruction of the existing form of Government during the war, and which had to be filled by Great Britain because there was no one else to fill it. "It was not a question of painting Mesopotamia red, but of making a stable spot there and of redeeming the country from anarchy."

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# SCIENCE AND ADVENTURE IN THE NEAR EAST.

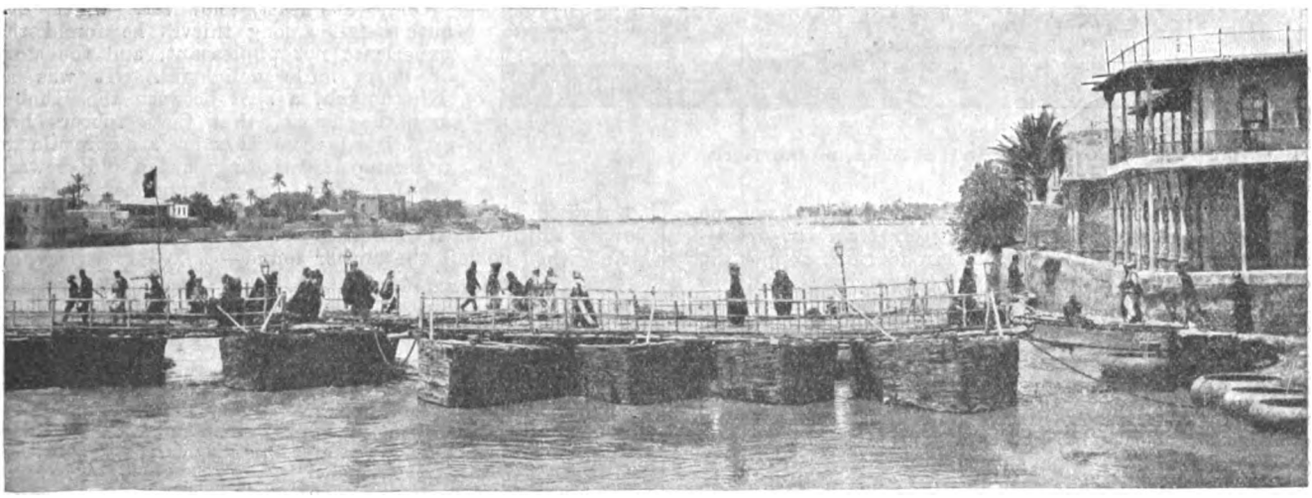
The work of deciphering Egyptian papyri or Babylonian cuneiform tablets is full of interest to those who follow it, and although the popular idea of an Egyptologist or an Assyriologist appears to be that he is a mummified, spectacled old gentleman almost devoid of human emotion, he no doubt gets as many thrills of excitement from this work as does, say, the average "City man." And when to his work in the study the 'ologist adds work in the field as an excavator he is likely to get his full share of adventure; indeed, it is sometimes so very full of it that the "City man" aforesaid would probably be well content to be spared from experiencing it. Sir Wallis Budge, Keeper of the Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities in the British Museum, is a scholar with an almost terrifying record of work accomplished to his credit, and with an experience of excavating and travel in the countries in which his interests lie that his brother 'ologists might—and do!—envy him. Since neither Egyptology nor Assyriology tends to weaken the power of the Green-eyed Monster over those who follow it, it is not surprising that other excavators and scholars sometimes say hard things of the official keeper of the great treasure house in Bloomsbury—or of that part of it which interests them; and their criticisms of his conclusions are not always favourable; but if they fail to enjoy these two volumes* they must be hard indeed to please. One reader at least who has seen something of excavating work both by Nile and by Tigris, and has been privileged to meet some of the leading "diggers" of several countries, and not a few of the other characters mentioned by Sir Wallis Budge, has found it extraordinarily interesting from start to finish. Here and there, it is true, there are passages that we should prefer to see omitted—pages 300-318 in Volume II., for instance—and the spelling of proper names is frequently exasperating, though it may be perfectly defensible. But the enjoyment afforded by the two volumes is very great, and we look forward to dipping into them again and again.

The book is chiefly concerned with a series of missions undertaken by its author, on behalf of the British Museum, to Egypt and Mesopotamia for the purpose of adding to the collections in the Museum. The first part, however, and by no means the least interesting, gives us some of his recollections of his early days, when he met many of the pioneers of Assyriology. There are, too, a number of excellent stories which will be enjoyed by readers without any taste for either of the 'ologies, such as that of Professor William Wright's parrot, which, in a company consisting of Professors of Divinity and other University bigwigs, used language quite unprofessorial, and finished up by "damning the Minor Prophets." The author adds:—

> This expression by the parrot of his opinion of the Minor Prophets was followed by shouts of laughter, in which the parrot joined. When these had subsided somewhat, Wright, who was one of the Committee of the Revisers of the Bible, who were then actually at work on the Minor Prophets, began hastily to explain that the parrot must have picked up this profane remark from the lad who worked in the garden. . . . But I could never find out that any of his guests on that memorable evening were prepared to accept that explanation unreservedly.

Incidentally, the author shows himself a lover of animals, especially of dogs, and the possessor of a well-developed sense of humour. He is, too, a pleasing writer, with a knack of hitting on a vivid phrase, as, for instance, when he describes (p. 134, vol. ii.) a storm in the Persian Gulf:—"... the storm broke upon us, and there seemed to be nothing in the world except the ship and lightning and thunder"; or, again (p. 248, vol. i.) in describing a night in a khan: "At rare intervals the shrill tones of women's voices sounded above the din, which ceased entirely when a mullah with a very fine voice ascended the end wall of the Khân, and proclaimed to the night and the desert and to us the Majesty of God. And the smells in the Khân were myriad, like the sounds."

By land, by river, and by sea the author has had his share of adventures; he has met many interesting people, civilised and the reverse; and in writing of them he contrives to make them all—or nearly all—interesting to us. In his early pages we read of Rawlinson and Layard, George Smith, Gardner, Wilkinson, Sayce, Oppert, Delitzsch—who here shows himself insufferably conceited—and many others whom the author met in his young days at the British Museum. Most interesting and most lovable of all, surely, is Dr. Birch, of whom we have a portrait for which we are truly grateful. Justice also is done to Hamdi Bey, of the Constantinople Museum; and several of the author's Oriental friends and travelling acquaintances win our liking. Among the men famous in other lines than his own whom the author writes of are: Lord Cromer, Lord Kitchener, General Sir John Maxwell, Sir John Gorst and Field Marshal Lord Grenfell. Regarding the first named he is not enthusiastic, for Sir Evelyn Baring (as Lord Cromer then was) seems to have been constantly fearful that British archæologists would be likely to "complicate political relationships"; and it was, apparently, only through General Grenfell's powerful help that our author was able to get permission to excavate. With Lord Kitchener, on the other hand, his relations were very happy, as they were with General Sir John Maxwell—"whose departure from Egypt was," in



THE BRIDGE OF BOATS AT BAGHDAD.

* "By Nile and Tigris: A Narrative of Journeys in Egypt and Mesopotamia on behalf of the British Museum between the years 1888 and 1913." By Sir E. Wallis Budge. 2 volumes. (John Murray. £3 3s. net.)

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

HEART TONIC.

DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.

By Appointment to

KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN.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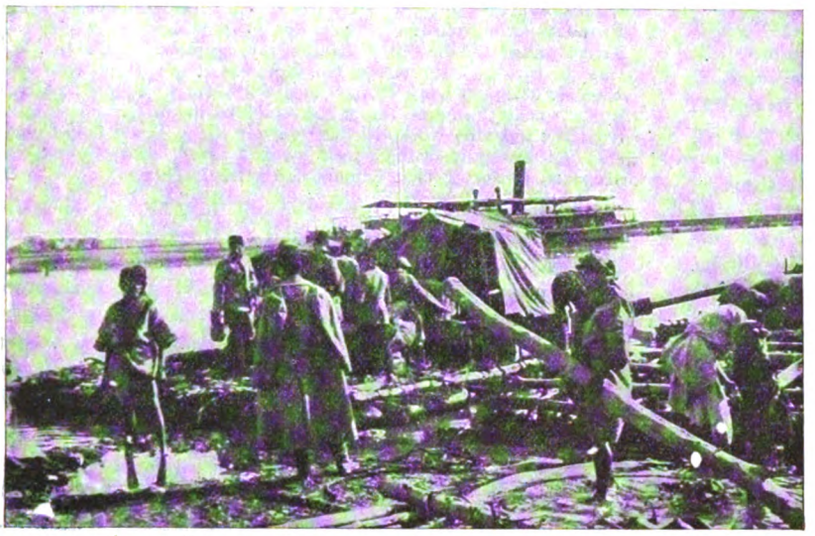
the author's opinion, "a calamity, the results of which cannot yet be told."

The author has at times a good deal to say on what we may call professional topics, but he makes it all so interesting that the veriest tyro in Assyriology or Egyptology will scorn to "skip," and, indeed, will have no inclination to do so. He differs entirely from Dr. Koldeway regarding the famous Birs Nimroud ruin, supporting the old theory of the stage tower of glazed bricks; and in view of all the evidence it seems impossible to reject the theory. He is very severe—and justly so, we feel—regarding the treatment of excavators and archæologists by the British Museum authorities in the eighties; and he is so frank about his own smuggling of antiquities, and so clearly makes out a good defence of it, that we cannot even pretend to feel shocked about it. The account of the securing of the Tel el Amarna tablets is positively exciting, and the stories of ingenuity displayed by the natives (both in Egypt and in Turkey) in outwitting the Government officials are among the best things in the book. Unfortunately they are all too long for reproduction. What ridiculous situations often arose owing to the prohibition of the export of antiquities is well illustrated in the account of the "First Mission," when our author had to ship "heads of mummies" out of the country as manure, because a Customs officer at Alexandria declined to believe that anybody could possibly want them for scientific purposes! The true story of the smuggling out from Mesopotamia of the antiquities acquired by the author on his first mission to that country is here told in detail, and any unprejudiced person reading it will surely agree that it redounds to the credit of Dr. Budge and all who assisted him; and that the foolish and malicious stories of the incident that were spread by his enemies serve only to show how far jealousy can drive some people. It must also be acknowledged that luck was certainly with the "smugglers" throughout the incident. The story will be found on pp. 236-238 of vol. i. Luck, indeed, often stood by Dr. Budge in a wonderful way, an instance of it being his discovery of a missing fragment of an Aristotle papyrus in Egypt (p. 154, vol ii.).



**A Kelek, or Raft of Skins, on the Tigris.**

Shipwreck, brought about by a tidal wave, at Gwadur, is among his adventures here chronicled by the author; and another water adventure was an attempt to wreck his raft on the Tigris, for the purpose of robbing him and his companions. One of his most annoying experiences in travelling on land must have been the robbing of his caravan by a band of Shammar Arabs, the story of which comes at the end of the first volume. Even to one who knows something of the ways of the Shammar it is rather startling to read of two of the robbers returning to the party after the main body had gone off and asking for *baksheesh* and scarcely less surprising to read of their being then engaged to escort the plundered party to its next halting-place. But that is what actually took place, and the two robbers honourably fulfilled their part of the contract and received the *baksheesh*, in the form of an Arab sheep skin apiece, on leaving their victim-employers. In connection with this subject we may note what is written elsewhere (p. 256, vol. ii.) about the Arab view on brigandage and brigands. It was in regard to the attempted robbery of the raft, alluded to above, and the raftsmen, we read:—

> . . . told me that they heard in Tekrit that an attempt would be made to steal the indigo, and when I asked them why they had not warned me, the elder man said, "We wanted the thieves to come so that you might kill them; the Arab people shoot for *fantasiyah* (*i.e.*, show, amusement), but the English shoot to kill. These thieves have robbed rafts for many years: may their souls be in Jahannum!"

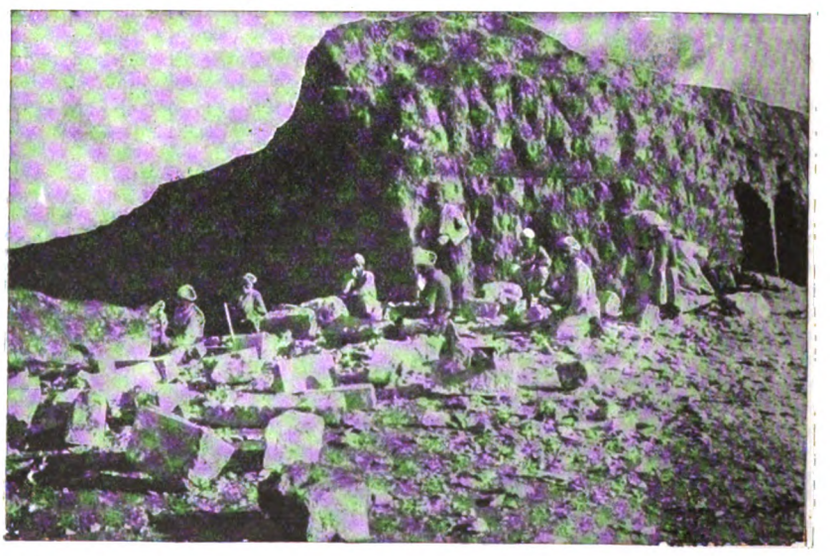
The thief who was swimming to the raft, carrying a knife to cut the skins which supported it, was "accounted for" by one of the passengers, while the author devoted his attention to the robbers waiting on the bank, two of whom "fell down"—but whether as far as Jahannum is not stated.

Once at least, however, when our author fell among thieves he found the experience not unpleasant, and the story of it is quite delightful. It was at Khâtûnîyah, a spot between the Khabur and the Tigris, that these robbers had established themselves on a peninsula in a swamp (reminding us of "Hereward the Wake," of course), and here they entertained the travellers in their troglodytic dwellings, which defied detection by the Turkish authorities. And when he left the author found—

> . . . not a man, old or young, would accept a gift from me; when I pressed them each said it would be a shame (*êb*), and the shekh refused even tobacco. Just as we were going to mount the shekh came up to me and said, "Knowest thou to write?" I said, "Yes." "Then," said he, "take thy pen and write in thy book this: 'I and my camels nighted (*i.e.*, passed the night) in the house of Sulêmân ibn Khidr, Shêkh of the thieves and bandits of Khâtûnîyah, and when I rose up and left him at daybreak of all my possessions I had lost nothing except the service of Sulêmân ibn Khidr, the bandit.'"

Of the generosity of the Arab of the better class, Sir Wallis Budge writes feelingly, and though he does not admire the Turk as an administrator he does not regard him as unfavourably as it is now fashionable to do. We suspect, however, that he much prefers the "Old" Turk to the "Young." At the relations existing between Turk and Arab (in the eighties) he gives us many an interesting glance, notably at pages 50 to 60 of vol. ii., when we read of the Shammar defying the Vali of Mosul and all his forces, and humiliating the troops sent out against them in a most surprising fashion.

We should like to reproduce many of the good stories in the book—of justice as practised in Egypt, not by the brutal English but by the gentle native (pp. 106, 107, vol. i.); of the "fine free fight" between Turkish soldiers and Russian sailors on a Russian steamer (pp. 364-366, *et seq.*, vol ii.); of the Polish doctor who gave evidence of a strange character (p. 49, vol. ii.); or even of the



**Excavation of stones from the foundations of Sennacherib's wall between Kuyûnjik and Nabi Yunus.**

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"Christian" mule which behaved in such a way as "no Muslim mule would ever have behaved." But space forbids; and we can only recommend all who like tales of the kind to read these two fascinating volumes. The illustrations are excellent, the map (at the end of volume ii., but not indicated in the "Contents") quite good, and the Index very serviceable. The publisher has done his share of the work in the style which we expect from the house of John Murray—and that is to give it the highest of praise.

*(Our illustrations are reproduced from Sir Wallis Budge's book, by kind permission of Mr. John Murray, C.V.O.)*

## TWO TURKISH TALES.

The late Sir William Whittall, a descendant of a well-known English family long resident and doing an extended business in the Levant, gathered many an interesting tale of his journeyings in Asia Minor. He knew the people of Turkey, as his forebears had known them before him—knew their languages, their strength and their weaknesses, and was sympathetic in his attitude toward them. For this reason he was greatly trusted and respected by them, as are a number of his descendants there to-day, and was able to be of much help to them, and of use to his own country, at various critical moments in the history of that oft-disturbed land. Sir William's memory for Near Eastern anecdote was as unfailing as his interest in the history and in the events that took place in his day in all that region. The following tales, together with many others, were told by him in a Pera drawing-room, before a little Fortnightly Club that in more peaceful days than these used to hold gatherings and enjoy listening to those who not only knew the history, but the more intimate lore of the land.

In the old days of estrangement between Turkey and Russia, Sir William was once talking over the political situation with some Turkish gentlemen. One of them who was an Anglophile said: "If the English would only help us, we could carry all before us and do to Russia what the Mollahs did to the body of the villager."

"What was that?" said Sir William.

The Turk replied: "Two mollahs once entered a strange village where they were greeted with enthusiasm, for the leading man of the village had died the night before and there were no mollahs to watch by the body and to say the intercessory prayers. The inhabitants made haste to engage these two for this purpose. The mollahs seeing their necessity (for a man's soul cannot rest without such prayers), asked a large sum of money; which was promised them. Then they went into the mosque and watched by the body of the dead villager as it lay on the bier covered only by a cloth. In the night they were horribly frightened by a wailing voice that cried: 'Shall I arise? Shall I arise?' (*Kalkajami?*). The two cowards shivered and shook in the darkness, fearing all sorts of horrible things. In the morning they saw the corpse had come to life, and thinking himself at home, had sat up on his bier and was enquiring whether he should get up. 'No, you shall not!' cried the mollahs, infuriated at having received such a fright. 'You shall never arise!' and they beat him until this time he was really dead."

"So," added the narrator, "the Russians are always rising again after they have been crushed, but this time we ought to beat them until they are quite dead."

A second Turk, who was not an Anglophile, said:—

"Oh, you Western nations, you do us no good, you are like the *shaitan* (devil) in the story."

"Tell me the story," demanded Sir William.

"Once a group of people were wondering what shaitan was like, fancying him with horns and cloven hoofs and a tail, as has been wont for who knows how many past ages. As they talked he entered the room, and to their astonishment he was a handsome, smiling man dressed in the height of fashion. Immediately they all clustered about him.

"'O Shaitan, *effendi*,' 'how are you, *effendim?*' 'but how you surprise us; we thought you would be a monster!'

"'Oh, no, replied Shaitan airily, 'I am not bad at all, I never do anything worse than this,' and dipping his finger in a honey pot, he smeared the cage of a valuable bird in the room with the honey. Flies gathered to sip the honey, and the bird, attempting to reach the flies, got her head through the bars of the cage. A cat chanced to be below, and springing up snapped off the head of the bird. The owner of the bird in anger threw a billet of wood at the cat and killed it. Then the owner of the cat hurled a stone at him, but the stone flew through the window and struck a neighbour, who joined in the scrimmage. Soon the whole village was in an uproar and many lives were lost, while Shaitan leaned back in an elegant attitude and smiled.

"So it is with you Western Powers. You offer us the honey of 'reform' and 'civilisation,' and all the time you are setting our house about our ears and doing us no end of harm."

M. A. P.

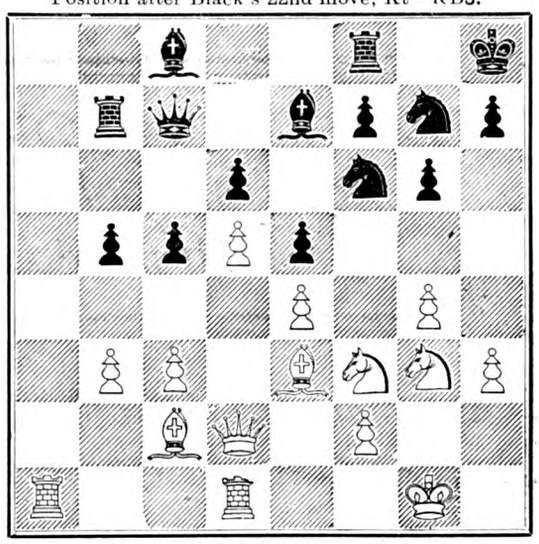
## CHESS.

This week saw the opening of the usual winter tournament of the City of London Chess Club. There has been a splendid entry for all the tournaments, especially the championship, in which Sir G. A. Thomas, Mr. R. H. V. Scott, Mr. R. P. Michell, Mr. R. C. J. Walker, and many other well-known experts are playing, and which would seem to promise an unusually keen and interesting contest.

The season of the City Club opened about two weeks ago with a series of consultation games, in which the veteran master, Mr. J. H. Blackburn, Mr. T. F. Lawrence, Sir G. A. Thomas, Mr. W. Ward, and others took part. Each of the leading players had one or more in consultation with him, and some very lively games resulted from the afternoon's play. Mr. J. H. Blackburn played his favourite Scotch opening against Mr. T. F. Lawrence, but the attack went wrong at a critical point, and eventually the latter player won in the end game. I hope to give this game in due course.

The following was the game between Sir G. A. Thomas and Mr. R. P. Michell in the British Championship, the only game lost by the former player:—

Position after Black's 22nd move, Kt—KB3.



RUY LOPEZ.

| | White. | Black. | | White. | Black. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | P—K4 | P—K4 | 26 | B—Kt5 | K—Kt2 |
| 2 | Kt—KB3 | Kt—QB3 | 27 | Q—Q2 | Kt x B |
| 3 | B—Kt5 | P—QR3 | 28 | Q x Kt | P—R3 |
| 4 | B—R4 | Kt—B3 | 29 | Q—K3 | B—K3 |
| 5 | 0—0 | B—K2 | 30 | R—Q2 | R—Kt3 |
| 6 | R—K | P—QKt4 | 31 | P—B3 | R—Q3 |
| 7 | B—Kt3 | P—Q3 | 32 | R—Kt2 | R—KR |
| 8 | P—B3 | Kt—QR4 | 33 | K—R2 | P—R4 |
| 9 | B—B2 | P—B4 | 34 | Kt—B5 (ch) | B x Kt |
| 10 | P—Q4 | Q—B2 | 35 | KtP x Kt | Kt—Q2 |
| 11 | QKt—Q2 | Kt—B3 | 36 | QR—KKt | K—R2 |
| 12 | P—Q5 (1) | Kt—Kt | 37 | P x P (ch) | P x P |
| 13 | P—QR4 | R—R2 | 38 | Q—Kt5 | R—KB3 |
| 14 | Kt—B | 0—0 | 39 | P—KB4 | Q—Q3 (4) |
| 15 | P—R3 | Kt—K | 40 | P—B5 | Kt—B |
| 16 | P—KKt4 (2) | Kt—Q2 | 41 | B—Q | K—Kt2 |
| 17 | B—K3 | R—Kt2 | 42 | B x P | Q—Q6 |
| 18 | P x P | P x P | 43 | R—QR | Q—Q2 |
| 19 | P—Kt3 | K—R | 44 | R—Q | Q—KB2 |
| 20 | Kt—Kt3 | P—Kt3 | 45 | R—Q5 | Q—K2 |
| 21 | Q—Q2 | Kt—Kt2 | 46 | B x P | Kt x B |
| 22 | KR—Q | Kt—KB3 (3) | 47 | Q—Q2 | Q—K |
| 23 | Kt x P | P x Kt | 48 | R—Q7 (ch) | K—B |
| 24 | P—Q6 | B x P | 49 | P x Kt | Resigns |
| 25 | Q x B | Kt—K3 | | | |

(1) This game affords a most illuminating example of the efficacy of this move, if, as in the present case, promptly followed up by P—KKt4.

(2) Now White has a splendid game.

(3) A mistake. It is difficult, however, to find a really satisfactory continuation for Black in this position.

(4) If 39 . . . . P x P; 40 P—K5, Q x P; 41 B x P (ch), and the game is over.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The comprehensive Blue Book on the finances, administration, and condition of Egypt and the Sudan, covering the years 1914-19, which has just been issued, will be dealt with at length in these columns in due course, and I will, therefore, only make it the subject of a brief reference on the present occasion. The period saw the development, as the result of war conditions, of various factors calculated to cause considerable disquiet, but a general survey of the report suggests that, speaking broadly, the country has made good progress in reorganisation after the war, and financially the country is in a position of considerable strength owing to the accumulations of money during and since the war. But the value of this wealth, it is pointed out, will depend on the use that is made of it. "If," says the report, "it is employed in the repayment of debt and in productive expenditure, the economic well-being of the country will be enhanced, the country will be in a position to withstand the effects on its revenues of a future fall in the price of cotton, and it will be in a fair way of achieving financial independence."

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The necessity for the grant of credits and a solution to the grave problem of the exchanges is emphasised by M. Titulescu, the Roumanian Finance Minister, who has come to England for the purpose of discussing with the British authorities the financial and economic reconstruction of Roumania, in an interview published in a contemporary this week. M. Titulescu points out that the reconstruction of Roumania ceases to be a purely Roumanian question when it is regarded from the point of view of world-production. He illustrates this by a most forcible comparison with Great Britain. While the United Kingdom produces only a portion of her wheat requirements, Roumania has been in the worst years in a position to export abundant supplies of corn. On the other hand, Roumania has suffered from the lack of manufactured articles. To enable the resumption of trade, obviously, as M. Titulescu says, an arrangement is required which will assure to the country lacking corn all or part of its requirements, and at the same time all or part of the credits for the manufactures pending the arrival of the grain.

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A return has been issued by the Department of Overseas Trade of the credits granted under the Overseas Trade (Credits and Insurance Act) during the three months ended September. Applications were sanctioned during that period for £68,774, but the credits granted (*i.e.*, the actual payments made) only amounted to £27,395. These credits were granted in connection with exports to Roumania and Czecho-Slovakia. The figures make it clear that as yet the scheme is not fulfilling the hopes based upon it. As a matter of fact, out of the amount of £26,000,000 allocated to the scheme, only a comparatively small total has so far been utilised, and that despite the crying need for some such medium to enable the resumption of trade with countries which are at present suffering from adverse exchanges.

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The scheme has been the subject of an important letter from the Federation of British Industries to the President of the Board of Trade in which various amendments are suggested with a view to making the scheme of greater use to the business community. In the first place, it is suggested that provision should be made for advances to approved firms of 100 per cent. of the cost value instead of 80 per cent. as at present, as it is pointed out that bankers are exceedingly reluctant to advance the balance of 20 per cent. when there are many outlets for their funds in much shorter dated securities at reasonable rates. It is further suggested that as regards the extension of the scheme to Governments of the countries to which it is applicable the provision of alternative forms of security might be allowed to these Governments instead of restricting them to the regulations applying to private dealings. Both suggestions seem eminently practical, and I hope it will be found possible to adopt them.

***

Recently arrangements were made for the payment of the overdue coupons on the Roumanian Four and a Half per Cent. Gold Loan of 1913, which have been in arrears since October, 1918. It is now announced that a remittance has been received from the Roumanian Government to meet the current and overdue coupons on British-owned bonds of the London issue. The coupons will be met provided that the coupons falling due in the years 1914-18 were duly presented and paid in London during that period.

***

M. Stambolisky, Bulgaria's Prime Minister, could scarcely have hoped for a more auspicious commencement to his tour in the United Kingdom than his reception at the London Chamber of Commerce last week. The hall was crowded, and the interest with which the speeches were listened to, and the animated discussion which followed, showed that there is not likely to be much ground for the complaint in the future of apathy in regard to the Balkan markets. In a spirited speech, M. Stambolisky outlined the policy of his Government for the reconstruction of Bulgaria. The economic plans include the improvement of the agricultural production, the development of railways and mines, and the encouragement of the young industries of the country. He emphasised the point that whatever measures are projected cannot achieve the desired results without the aid of foreign capital and enterprise. "My mission to England," he said, "is to promote the development of commerce between Great Britain and Bulgaria. I am appealing to British finance and British commerce to come to Bulgaria, where they will find a ready market for their goods and a wide field for enterprise." Judging by this meeting he is not likely to be dissatisfied with the answer to his appeal.

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Our Yugoslav Correspondent, in a message which will be found on another page, states that henceforward the allocation of Yugoslav Government contracts is to be centralised in one authority. It may be hoped that one result of the change will be an extension of time limits to enable our manufacturers to compete, for in the last few weeks I have received two or three Yugoslav tenders, but was unable to give them publicity simply because only two or three days would have been left after this journal appeared.

***

After a sharp upward movement the rupee exchange has again declined to the neighbourhood of 1s. 7d., at which it was when I wrote on the subject last week. These fluctuations are naturally causing considerable anxiety to merchants in India. A Reuter message from Bombay states that, following the lead of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, which telegraphed to the Government of India urging the resumption of the sales of reverse councils, similar representations have been made by the Karachi Chamber of Commerce. Resolutions have also been passed by other bodies urging the stabilisation of the rupee. That, as I have several times had occasion to point out, is absolutely essential if trade is to be developed. At the present time merchants in India are adopting an attitude of "wait and see" because they are afraid that if they give orders for goods fluctuations in the exchange will convert a potential profit into a loss.

COMMENTATOR.


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# Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

## ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, October 7.

### Taxes and Imports.

The Minister of Finance has given instructions to all Customs Houses throughout the country that, beginning from October 1, the two per cent. import tax, together with the super-tax (which were reckoned on the invoice value at the official rate of 48.65 lei to the pound), will henceforth be calculated at the current rate of the day. This is at present about 180 lei to the pound. The result of this will be a proportionate increase in the price of imported goods.

### The Coal Problem.

M. Ilescu-Branceni, the General Secretary of the Ministry of Industry, has made the following statement on the coal position:—

1. Production.—The production of coal in the old kingdom is now about 60-70 wagons per day, whereas before the war it was 80-90. However, in Petrosanti, Transylvania, the yield is 300 wagons per day, and for other mines about 20 wagons per day. To this we may add some 10 wagons per day from the Banat, so that there is a total production throughout the whole country of 400 wagons.

2. Consumption.—The consumption of coal is at present greater than the production. The railways require 350 wagons per day, and private industries about 220. To this must be added 20 wagons daily for engines and 20 for heating purposes, which brings the internal consumption to the figure of 610 wagons. As the total production is only 400 wagons per day, there is thus a considerable deficit.

3. Reasons for Deficit.—Before the war the daily supply from the Petrosanti mine was from 700-750 wagons, and from the Banat 40 wagons. Adding the 80 wagons produced in the old kingdom to this amount, an output would be reached sufficient for the present needs of the country. The following are the reasons why we have not got the same production to-day: In the first place the lack of material, especially wire ropes, machinery, and safety-lamps. The question of material has less importance as regards coal than it has in the case of petroleum, as the cost of material only represents about 12 per cent. of the cost of the production of coal. A second reason is the haphazard and careless exploitation of the mines by the Hungarians during the war. Lavish quantities were used without thought for the needs of the future. The shortage of labour is another important factor in the small production of coal. The working hours in the mines in Petrosanti have been reduced from twelve to eight, and there are now three working shifts instead of two. Finally there is the transport question. This is so acute that the railways are hardly able to transport the coal necessary for their own consumption, and they have delayed in removing some 2,000 wagons of coal from Petrosanti, and are holding up the further exploitation in that area in consequence. The principal debtor to the coal mines is the State, which owes some 100 million lei to this industry. The payment of this debt is long delayed.

4. The Outlook.—The authorities are realising the great importance of getting the coal industry into running order again as soon as possible, and have begun to obtain large quantities of the materials necessary for exploitation. It is hoped that the State will soon settle its debts, and that the transport question will improve with the arrival of new locomotives. The labour question is difficult to solve, as with the shortening of working hours from twelve to eight the production is lessened by 30 per cent. Sixty thousand workmen would have to be trained in coal-mining before the production is again normal, and this is almost impossible at the present time, as there is no means of accommodating such a large number of people. To cover the deficit of coal the quantity lacking must be imported, but the Government finds itself in a difficult position from this point of view, as the price of American coal is 14,000 lei per wagon, c.i.f. Constanza, while the price of coal from Roumania is only 3-4,000 lei per wagon.

### Trading in Gold Prohibited.

The Roumanian Government has forbidden trading in gold throughout the country, owing to the danger of smuggling, etc., and as a result the gold companies have advised the Government that they will be compelled to close down. The companies suggested offering the gold to the National Bank of Roumania, which is the only bank having a right to issue bank notes; but the price offered was only 4,000 French francs per kilo, and is the standard rate for gold in Europe. The offer has been refused by the companies, as they could not afford to sell at this figure. The Government will have to come to the assistance of this industry, and are now deliberating on the question. An arrangement may be made for the National Bank, together with the State, to buy part of the gold existing to be used, instead of Treasury Bonds, for payment of foreign loans, etc. The remainder will be allowed to be exported.

### Locomotives from America.

Fifteen of the fifty locomotives ordered in America will shortly arrive at a Roumanian port. The locomotives have four coupled axles and one free axle, two cylinders, their fuel capacity being five tons, and they will carry 26 cubic metres of water. They will have a maximum speed of 90 kilometres per hour, and they are specially designed for heavy traction. Ten more are being loaded in America, and are expected to arrive with the twenty-five locomotives that are now being built at Lock Works, Montreal, by November 10. With the ten from America a consignment of tools for workshops will be included. The locomotives will cost 2,000,000 lei each, as against the pre-war price of 300,000 lei, and payment will be made by means of petroleum products. The acquisition of these engines is a very important matter for the Roumanian railways, as only 500 are running at the present time, and 3,000 are required to alleviate the situation. A further order for 300 locomotives has been placed with the Lock Works by the Roumanian Railway Commission now in America, subject to the approval of the Roumanian Government.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, October 9.

### Trade Restrictions.

Hitherto merchants and others paying for goods, etc., in foreign currency have been obliged to exchange such currency with the Government for dinars. This decision has


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just been revoked, and one-third of the money may now be allowed to be retained, the rest being exchanged for dinars.

Merchants are discontented with the sudden taxes imposed on them by the Government; having paid a tax on imports they sell to another merchant, who has to pay the same tax. and even the retailer has in turn to pay. Thus the same tax is paid over and over again.

**Commercial Treaty with Austria.**

A commercial treaty of great importance to Yugoslavia has just been signed between this country and Austria. In exchange for agricultural produce Yugoslavia is to receive textiles and manufactured goods of all kinds, etc.

**Foreign Capital Desired.**

The Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Velizar Jankovitch, one of the Yugoslav delegates to the Financial Congress at Brussels, has declared to a representative of the *Etoile Belge* that the country would welcome foreign, and especially Belgian, capital. Unfortunately this does not agree with the experience of foreign investors who have visited Belgrade. They find obstacles thrown in the way of foreign capital, and even discouragement. It is the declared policy of the Government that foreign capital may not participate to the extent of more than 50 per cent. in any proposition for the development of native resources, and this is scarcely encouraging to foreign capitalists. Perhaps Dr. Jankovitch's statement foreshadows a revision of this policy.

**Government Contracts.**

Foreign manufacturers and merchants desirous of tendering for Government supplies have been handicapped by the short notice usually given, which practically excludes non-residents, and by the decentralisation of some of the ministries. The War Office, for instance, advertises for tenders for oil, benzine, and paraffin four times a year, and then often by departments. It is now reported that Government buying will in future be centralised in a special committee, which will buy for all the ministries jointly. This will have advantages both to buyers and sellers, and is a welcome change. Native firms will always have prior consideration.

The placing of contracts for flour and clothing for the army, and for benzine, coal, and firewood for all the ministries combined, has also been discussed. It is anticipated that shortly tenders will be open for large quantities of these commodities.

**Miscellaneous.**

The dinar at to-day's exchange is 107 to the £, and it is rumoured that it will go lower, having fallen rapidly the last few days.

Negotiations are being pushed ahead for the re-establishment of a direct train service between Budapest and Trieste.

The director of railway construction has obtained a credit of 40,000,000 dinars for the repair of the Belgrade-Ljoubljana, Salonika line.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, October 5.

**The Budget.**

On Thursday M. Tourlakoff, the Minister of Finance, introduced the Budget of 1920-21 in the Chamber. He began his statement on the financial position of Bulgaria by saying that his efforts to balance revenue and expenditure had failed, and pointed out that during the last ten years Bulgaria had had a deficit on her Budgets. For 1910 the deficit was 42,404,223 levas, for 1911 9,898,697, for 1912 133,331,085, for 1913 181,178,648, for 1914 68,620,760, for 1915 141,396,433, for 1916 316,496,116, for 1917 779,825,206, for 1918 1,117,593,497, for 1919 2,197,598,916. The total deficit for these years amounted to 4,998,397,590 levas.

The foreign consolidated loans amount to 550,117,713.17 French francs, while the non-consolidated loans amount to 1,008,266,122.71 French francs. The State owes the Oriental Railways Company 24,967,047.27 gold francs. Finally the debt for reparation, according to the Treaty of Neuilly, amounts to 2,250,000,000 French francs, or 10,025,000,000 levas.

The internal debts are as follows:—Consolidated 81,612,800 levas, non-consolidated 3,082,914,783 levas, while the pensions for the disabled capitalised amount in round figures to 2,000,000,000 levas.

The total amount of the State's debts is 22,164,212,444 levas for a population of 4,337,515, or 5,120 levas per head, which is a crushing burden. The revenue for ten years amounted to 3,071,704,094 levas, while the expenditure was 8,070,101,684 levas.

**Excellent Harvest.**

The harvest has been very good. The statistics of production are as follows:—Wheat, 1,120,000 tons; maize, 1,007,000 tons; rye, 353,000 tons; barley, 272,000 tons; oats, 141,000 tons. Deducting from the total the amount required for internal consumption and sowing there will remain for export 936,950 tons.

## PALESTINE.

JERUSALEM, September 27.

**Restrictions on Trade Removed.**

The High Commissioner is continuing the wise policy of sweeping away various minor but harassing imposts and vexatious restrictions on trade which were so characteristic a feature of Turkish misrule. A tax of 20 per cent. on all sales of fish has hitherto annoyed the public, and increased the price of an article of food none too plentiful. This has been abolished from September 15, nominally for a period of five years. Municipal fees and octroi dues levied on sales of fish and the fishing industry remain in force; but it will be well when these and some other dues, now often evaded, are also abolished.

**The Harvest.**

Winnowing of the cereal harvest has been completed, and ploughing has begun in many places. The almond crop has been gathered. The output of oranges is disappointing. Petitions have been sent to the manager of the Railways protesting against an increase in transport rates. The olive crop is satisfactory, and exportation of the old crop is now permitted, provided that the district governors are satisfied on the subject. Amongst the coming agricultural reforms there should be a large increase of olive cultivation.

**General News.**

The re-afforestation of Mount Carmel is proceeding. A Pro-Carmel Society has been formed at the suggestion of Professor P. Geddes, similar to the Pro-Jerusalem Society. Haifa holds its own among the more progressive centres of agricultural development.

A branch office of commerce and industry has been established at Jerusalem, in the old city, and is for the present located in the St. John's Hotel.

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# BRITISH TRADE WITH INDIA.

## JAPANESE AND AMERICAN COMPETITION.

Mr. T. M. Ainscough, O.B.E., H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in India and Ceylon, in the course of a paper on "British Trade with India," read at a meeting of the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts on October 15, dealt with the growth of competition in India as the result of conditions arising since 1914.

India, he pointed out, turned in the first place to Japan as a source of supply of materials whose source was cut off owing to the exigencies of war. The history of Japanese trade with India during the past five years was a remarkable one, alike for the phenomenal progress made during the years of war, and for the equally striking, but nevertheless inevitable, collapse during the past eighteen months. Japan had now receded from second to third place in India's foreign trade, and had been overtaken in the race for position by the United States. Japanese manufacturers had had an opportunity for expansion during the war which was without parallel in industrial history. Although Japanese shipments during the war increased in value nearly eight-fold, and although Japanese goods were now to be found in every bazaar in the country, the experience of the past year or so went to show that Japan had not made the most of an unique opportunity. Although Japan was at present experiencing a severe check in the Indian market, and her overseas trade was, at the moment, dislocated owing to the inevitable domestic crisis following the inflation caused by the war, there was little doubt but that she would continue to be an important factor in Indian trade. Japanese goods, consisting in the main of cheap, showy articles for the bazaar trade, had replaced the German and Austrian articles of similar type, and it was likely that they would continue to hold the market, as the cost of production in the Central countries was bound to increase, and the articles in question were peculiarly suited to Japanese conditions of industry. As regards cotton piece goods and yarns, Lancashire exporters would be well advised not to lose sight of the possibilities of future competition on account of the present disorganised state of Japan's trade. It was true that there has been a very great falling off in Japanese shipments of cotton textiles during the past eighteen months, and it was probable that Japan would never again reach the position attained in the year 1918-19, when she supplied no less than 35½ per cent. of India's imports of grey goods. The entry of Japanese bleached, dyed, printed and coloured woven goods into the market on a fair scale was an earnest of the competition which might be felt in later years when the extensions to the machinery and plant in Japan, which were at present either planned or in execution, became operative. The whole question was one of relative costs of production.

### Japanese Activities.

More important, perhaps, than the question of the competition of Japanese manufactured goods was that of the competition of Japanese merchants, banks and shipping companies with corresponding British institutions in India. He doubted whether the British merchants in India realised the formidable nature of the competition which they might have to meet in the future. It was in the sphere of shipping that Japan had probably made the greatest and most permanent advance. Before the war, Japanese shipping activities were mainly restricted to the carriage of goods between India and Japan, together with such subsidiary services as could conveniently be worked in support of the main traffic. High freights and the shortage of tonnage, particularly during the last two years of war, gave Japanese shipowners a wonderful opportunity, and regular sailings were established from Indian and Ceylon ports to both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of North and South America, to the Cape, to Java and elsewhere.

The growth of American competition presented a much more serious problem for the British manufacturer. As in the case of Japan, the position gained by the United States in Indian trade was almost entirely due to the disabilities experienced by British producers owing to the war. On the other hand, whereas Japanese trade had fallen away very considerably since it had been possible to secure the goods from this country, that of the United States had made its greatest strides since the Armistice, and now held the second place. There was no doubt whatever that American competition in India had come to stay. The main factors which were contributing to American success at present were two in number, viz., competitive prices and deliveries and improved service. The ability of American manufacturers to quote lower prices and earlier deliveries in certain important lines of iron and steel, machinery, tools and hardware was largely due to the favourable economic position in which the United States found herself at the close of the war. The question of delivery had also had an important bearing on American success in India since the Armistice. During the early part of 1919, quotations for very early shipment were made by American makers, and although much longer delivery dates were now required, a very material advantage had been secured and considerable orders had been placed for India. In contrast to this, British makers of steel and steel products had frequently been unable to quote firm prices and give hard-and-fast deliveries owing to the constant rise in price of the materials, and also owing to a succession of labour troubles. It was practically impossible at the present time to make any forecast as to whether they would be in a position to undersell American makers in the near future. Both countries were passing through a transitional period of acute dislocation in industry, and it would be some time before the post-war position of equilibrium was reached.

The provision of an efficient service was all important in a market like India. Before the war American manufactured goods were hardly known in the country. There were no American merchant importers of high standing and the facilities for trade between the United States and India were not particularly good. The war, however, had awakened American manufacturers and exporters to the fact that, owing to the value of their home market, they had neglected the possibilities of foreign trade in the past. Several firms of American merchants were now established in India and were doing a considerable business. Improved shipping facilities between both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and India had materially contributed to the expansion of trade. Greater financial facilities were being given by American banks to the export traffic. It must be admitted that although, hitherto, American manufacturers and merchants had had little experience of overseas trade, and had the reputation of being most conservative in their terms and methods, they had recently adapted themselves to the requirements of the Indian market in a most remarkable way. For example, in the motor-car trade, the policy of standardisation of cars and spare parts, the personal attention given to importers by representatives and mechanics, and the allowances for advertising and general propaganda work had had a most favourable effect on sales. American makers were often more generous than British houses in the commission and facilities accorded to their agents, and as a result of this, they had built up in India among British merchant importers during the past few years a powerful vested interest in American goods, which our manufacturers were finding to be a powerful factor against them in their efforts to re-enter the market.

### British Shippers' Difficulties.

A further result of American activities in India of late years was the growing feeling among certain sections of the Indian public that the United States was the only country which could economically produce certain types of plant, machinery and tools. This was not to be wondered at, as British manufacturers in many cases had not been able to ship to India or even take orders for some years, during which time their American rivals had been most active, not only in promoting the sale of their goods, but in carrying out general propaganda. The fact that the British manufacturer had been engaged in supplying the sinews of war for five years and had had to sacrifice his normal business to more fortunate rivals received little recognition among Indian buyers, and it was only by a campaign of active representation and salesmanship in India that the position could be regained.

He considered that American competition, particularly in iron, steel, machinery, tools, hardware, electrical supplies and motor vehicles, would continue to be severe and might grow in intensity. It would be a fair, straightforward rivalry, and the result would entirely depend upon the ability of our manufacturers and distributors to provide as suitable goods at a lower price. Assuming that our industrialists were in a position to quote competitive qualities, prices and deliveries, the only way successfully to meet American competition was to be actively represented by a trained staff in India, whether by the maintenance of the exporters' own branches and distributing organisation, or by the employment of energetic agents aided by salesmen and experts from the home works.


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# BULGARIA'S RECONSTRUCTION.

## OPENING FOR BRITISH CAPITAL AND ENTERPRISE.

M. Stambolisky, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, visited the London Chamber of Commerce on October 15, and addressed a large gathering of the members of the Chamber on the objects of his mission to England. His aim, he emphasised, was the development of commercial relations between Great Britain and Bulgaria, and he appealed for the support of British finance and commerce.

Sir James Martin, J.P., chairman of the Council of the Chamber, who presided, in welcoming M. Stambolisky, said that in M. Stambolisky they believed that Bulgaria possessed a Prime Minister whose courage, ability and honesty of purpose were above and beyond question. Under these circumstances it was natural that the London Chamber of Commerce, with the assent of the Government, desired to resume inter-commercial relations for the investment of British capital and the export of British goods to the Bulgarian market. Statistics showed that trade with Bulgaria was capable of great development. In 1912 British exports to Bulgaria amounted to £1,048,626, and imports from Bulgaria to £491,484. In 1913 British exports to Bulgaria fell to £502,029, and imports from that country to £40,782. He understood this was due to the second Balkan war, and for the same reason Bulgaria was compelled to reduce its purchase of our manufactured articles, which accounted for nine-tenths of our exports. If the figures were looked at in another way in the bigger of the two years (1913) Bulgaria only took from us by way of British goods less than 5s. per head of her population, and British exports represented only about 15 per cent. of Bulgaria's total imports. Trade, of course, must be mutual and not one-sided, and we on our part were capable of taking a much larger quantity of the produce of Bulgaria in exchange for our manufactures.

M. Stambolisky, in his reply which was read by M. Mamartcheff, said:—"After the late war and the signing of the Treaty of Neuilly, the aim of the Bulgarian Government has been and will be in the future to take all possible measures for the rapid consolidation of Bulgaria's position in all its branches. Following this policy the Bulgarian Government considers it necessary: First, to be on good terms with all neighbouring States, this being essential to assure to Bulgaria a peaceful period of time for intensive work; second, to create lasting friendly bonds with the great Entente Powers; third, to consolidate the internal situation of the country and to make Bulgaria safe from any internal troubles against the order of society; and fourth, to improve the economic and financial conditions of the country.

"With this purpose in view the Bulgarian Government realises the great necessity for the improvement of its agricultural production, the development of its railways and mines, and the increase of its attention to the young Bulgarian industries. The Law of Labour, recently voted by the Bulgarian Parliament, which makes it compulsory for all the Bulgarian males to render their services to the State during a period of one year, will enable the Government to develop and cultivate large areas of valuable land, which—for the want of labour—was never touched in the past; to build up roads between towns and villages; to help in undertaking large State enterprises, which the country was not able to do in the past with its limited resources; and in general to do all possible to help to cure the war wounds of the country.

"One of the very first needs of the country is the development of its railways. The railways being State property private enterprise was prohibited in the past. Recently a law was passed through Parliament giving the right to any county, community or private person to build broad or narrow-gauge railways for their own needs. Special privileges are given which are prescribed for in the law referred to.

"The existing law of encouragement of local industries gives privileges for the development of industry in general. This law is in force until 1925. The excellent results obtained up to the present by the application of this law are so enormous that, in my opinion, there will be no Bulgarian Government which would desire to suspend or amend it. Nature has gifted Bulgaria abundantly with mineral wealth, which already has been discovered, but not yet exploited, and utilised for the industry, this being due to the want of modern technical appliances and the necessary large amount of capital.

"Whatever measures may be taken on the part of the Bulgarian Government to develop the country's resources those will not be sufficient to bring about the desired results without the help of foreign capital and enterprise. Foreign capital will always remain an important factor in our organisation to achieve the various aims of reconstruction, so very necessary for the development of the country. The Bulgarian Government therefore has the intention of giving all the possible facilities to foreign capital and foreign industries in Bulgaria. It is with great pleasure that the Bulgarian Government recognises the generous sympathetic treatment received from the British Government by allotting a certain credit to Bulgaria, thus enabling the purchase of the most necessary materials which are indispensable for the reorganisation and development of the country."

Concluding, His Excellency said:—"I am extremely pleased to have the honour of meeting to-day so many distinguished representatives of British finance, commerce and industries at this great institution, the London Chamber of Commerce. We all know that it is commerce that has made England so great as she is to-day. It is my desire that commerce may make Bulgaria what she hopes to be in the future. My mission to England is to promote the development of commerce between Great Britain and Bulgaria. I am appealing to British finance and British commerce to come to Bulgaria where they will find a ready market for their goods and a wide field for enterprise. On behalf of the Bulgarian Government I wish to emphasise our great desire to enter into closer relations with your great nation, and to achieve a complete understanding in the future. For this it is necessary to increase the commercial bonds between the two countries."

## ROUMANIAN DEBT SERVICE.

Messrs. J. Henry Schroder and Co. announce that they have received a remittance from the Roumanian Government with instructions to pay the current and overdue coupons of British-owned bonds of the London issue of the Roumanian Four and a-Half per Cent. Gold Loan of 1913, provided that the relative coupons due in the years 1914-1918 were duly presented and paid in London during that period. Coupons may now be presented for payment at the counting-house of Messrs. J. Henry Schroder and Co., 145, Leadenhall Street, E.C.3.


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# ENGINEERING.

## British Steel.

There are signs of a possibility of the British iron and steel trade participating to some extent in a slump which is so confidently—but, I feel, so mistakenly—prophesied in connection with British industry. The situation is at the moment largely in the hands of organised labour, and if the workmen in the industry can be brought to see that their prosperity depends on continued and increased output all will be well; if not, and the present ca' canny attitude is maintained, it will only be a matter of time before this particular branch of our industry drops to a very low place and unemployment will be rife. As an authority recently said, there can be no dispute as to facts, and these may be summarised as follows:—

The whole world is short of steel and iron, and the British industry is not at present threatened with any severe competition. The present output of Germany, which was our chief pre-war rival, is only about one-tenth of that of 1913, and French, Italian, and Spanish firms not only have not absorbed the balance, they are together only doing 25 per cent. of it, so that when everything is taken into consideration only 35 per cent. of Germany's pre-war steel and iron production is coming on the market to-day. The output in the United States is immense, but is little more than equal to the home consumption of that country; and, to put the matter in a nutshell, all the steel-producing countries of the world bulked together are barely turning out 10 million tons of export steel per annum in place of the 20 million tons they turned out before the war.

There is no country in the world which is so favourably situated as Great Britain in regard to possible steel production. We have iron and coal mines, blast furnaces, coke ovens, steel works, engineering shops, and shipping ports all clustered together in the North of the country, and, unlike our Continental competitors, any damage we have suffered in the industry through the war has been indirect and not direct; we have had no coal mines flooded or blown up, or iron or steel works gutted, as have so many of our Continental competitors. Our railways, though congested, are undamaged, and the shortage of shipping under which we suffered so severely during the latter stages of the war is not now apparent. Owing to the changed conditions of production brought about by the war, we can produce over 50 per cent. more iron and steel than we could in 1914, and actually, were we to work our resources to something like our full capacity, we could to-day turn out as much iron and steel as the whole of the world, including ourselves, is turning out at the present time for export. There is only one reason why we are not doing this trade. The raw materials are at our disposal, the plant is equipped and ready, the markets are waiting for British iron and steel.

The only obstacle in the way is organised labour, the rank and file of which, from an engineering point of view, are misled by those whom they have chosen to order their actions. The crass stupidity of those who have impressed on the iron and steel workers the advisability of restricting output has had a terrible effect on the industry, and it is to be hoped that engineers throughout the country will do their utmost to show the fallacies which underlie that doctrine to all with whom they come in contact. It should be made clear that by restriction of output not only is the iron and steel trade hampered by lack of supplies of ore and fuel; furnaces are not and cannot be worked to anything like their capacity, and the slow working of the transport services adds to the difficulties of the situation. The results are that not only are prices high for every commodity, but forward contracts have to be refused and customers turned away and driven to purchase from American ironmasters, and so directly benefit American workmen. Were our Labour situation settled in the iron, steel, and engineering trades, foreign competition, which is now comparatively serious, would be a negligible quantity by reason of our tremendous potentialities.

## General Purpose Lorries.

I have recently had an opportunity of examining what is termed a dairyman's general purpose lorry, which possesses several features of interest to engineers. It is fitted with a sliding hand crane, which not only enables the goods to be lifted on and off the vehicle, but by travelling along an overhead rail permits of their being placed in any desired position. This rail, of course, extends beyond the body of the vehicle when in use. It is fitted to the top of the driver's cab, and thus serves an additional purpose in strengthening the cover supports. An innovation is the provision of a full-length door on each side of the driver's cab, allowing easy and free admission or exit in any position, and the cab itself is so designed as to give adequate protection against all weathers. This Vulcan lorry, which is of the 30 cwt. size, has the sides and rear of its body work consisting of detachable gates, by which it is possible for the vehicle to be used for a variety of purposes, and I may add that it is fitted with an up-to-date electric lighting system.

Another Vulcan wagon I have seen recently is of the tipping type. The lorry body is of steel, measuring 8 ft. 4 in. by 5 ft., by 21 in., and it is specially designed for carrying coal, bricks, sand, and any other products that can be tipped. The tipping gear is driven by oil and is operated by a sliding handle. A feature of the body work is that it is of specially strong construction, supported at the sides by angle and U-shaped irons running the full length of the body underneath. The rear door is hinged and pinned at the top and bottom, so that it can be opened either upwards or downwards, as desired. Here, again, the cab is soundly and substantially built, with full-length doors and windows, so as to afford protection against even the worst weather. These windows can be lowered and a wind-screen raised if desired. In this model, also, electric lighting is provided, and the engine fitted is specially built to give heavy and lengthy service.

## Driving Chains.

One of the few disadvantages—perhaps the only real disadvantage—possessed by driving chains is that they cannot be crossed, and consequently can only be used for driving between parallel shafts which are required to rotate in the same direction. It is, however, possible, with drives of moderate speed and under conditions that are suitable for what is known as bush roller chain, to obtain a reverse of the direction of rotation by the use of three wheels. Another drawback is that right-angle drives are altogether out of the question, and, as Mr. Hildage pointed out some time ago, the limitation of the centre distance must for the present be regarded as precluding the use of chain-gearing for the driving of line shafts from engines in large works. It is quite possible to drive from a steam engine to one or two of the line shafts in a textile factory or machine shop or a general works, and from these to the remainder by chain gear. Further, it is easy and convenient in the case of electrically driven tools or machines to use a chain drive, which, it must be remembered, is not only positive and incapable of slipping, but is also quite sufficiently flexible. In many cases it is possible and advantageous to substitute a chain drive for many of the smaller belt drives at present in use, and the only alteration that need be made to the equipment in the event of such a change-over would be the substitution of a clutch for the present fast and loose pulley.

## Cooling Towers.

The chief development of the water-cooling tower has been in connection with power plant practice, especially in situations where available water for boiler supply is unobtainable except at great expense, or where its quality is unsuitable. Towers are of two types, open and closed, and whilst in both cases the cooling of water to allow of its re-use in condenser operation is the object of its installation the types are very different, as in the open the cooling is effected by air supplied by natural process, and in the latter by an artificial draught. The open type depends on atmospheric agencies to carry out its work, whilst the closed type has its supply of air regulated by means of fans, which can be speeded-up or slowed down as required to meet the conditions. In that way the performance of the plant can be kept constant, independent of the weather, and for that reason alone a number of engineers regard this type of tower as being the most suitable. It may be men-

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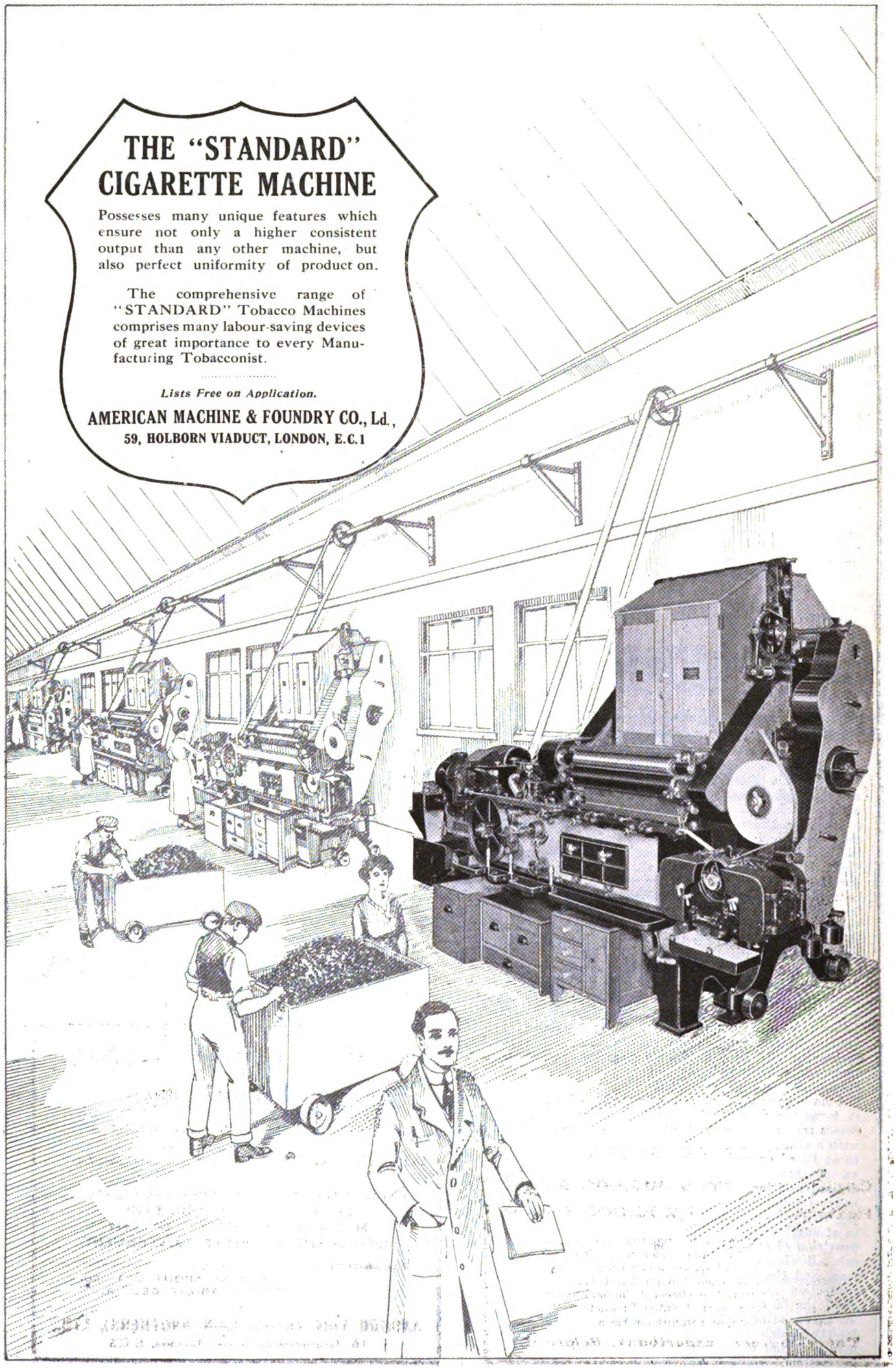


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tioned also that when a strong wind is blowing the open type tower may be a source of annoyance to others and a damage to surrounding property by reason of the spray blown away from it. On the other hand, the open tower is fairly efficient, cheap, and can be easily erected. It costs, however, rather more for maintenance than would a tower of the closed type.

**A Road Guide.**

A new edition of the Automobile Association's Handbook for the use of members, which contains a considerable amount of information useful to motorists, has just been issued. An important section is that in which the duties of the A.A. road patrols, the roads patrolled, the situations of the A.A. roadside telephones and fuel stations are indicated. The hotels' and agents' section covers the names and addresses and useful details concerning nearly 2,700 appointed hotels and garages, most of which are classified on a star basis, according to accommodation and facilities provided. In addition, touring information is given regarding market days, posting times, and distances from various places; whilst another useful feature is an A.B.C. guide to the motor laws. In this connection it may be mentioned that the membership of this organisation has now passed the 150,000 mark.

**Engineers and Aviation.**

At present there is little inducement for engineers to devote any of their time or attention to matters affecting aviation and airship and aeroplane construction. This country came out of the war with a magnificent fleet of both heavier- and lighter-than-air machines, and with a staff of the finest pilots the world has seen. Our works were equipped for the production of any number of aeroplanes, and we had a little army of engineers and designers who were keen on the development of aviation. The prospects for British aviation were remarkably bright, but since the Armistice cold water has been thrown on the matter by the authorities. Government assistance, encouragement, or even approval has been lacking. The result is known to every engineer, and indeed to everyone interested in flying. Now it would seem that the powers that be have suddenly awakened to the fact that the aircraft industry is in a somewhat parlous state, although, in view of the Government's declared attitude towards subsidies in industrial matters, it would seem to be idle to base any great hopes on a subsidy for commercial aviation. But cold water, however ably thrown, cannot stop the development of this latest branch of progress, and not only engineers, but the nation as a whole owe a great debt of gratitude to such firms as Handley Page, Ltd., which have kept steadily on with their plans, and—as one of the great financial papers recently pointed out—as an example of what can be done by unaided private enterprise in this matter a study of the last report issued by that company is well worth study. During their last completed financial year this company made a profit of £51,285, of which the preference dividend absorbed £22,084, leaving £29,201 to be carried forward.

**Wave Transmission.**

Engineers generally are greatly interested in the latest developments in connection with the transmission of power. The invention of such transmission by waves through liquids is fully covered by patents, and it is now in its commercial stage. Until recently the transmission of power has been confined to steam, electricity, water used directly, compressed air, and by various mechanical methods. In the new form use is made of wave motions or pulsations set up in an enclosed column of liquid, the energy being transmitted by periodic changes of pressure and volume in a longitudinal direction. To go over ground which may be familiar to some of my readers, it may be recalled that this invention was made use of during the latter stages of the war to some extent in applying wave transmission to the control gear for firing guns mounted on aeroplanes. By the use of this invention it was possible to fire over a thousand bullets per minute between the blades of a rapidly rotating propeller with such precision that no damage was done to the machine or any of its parts.

Hydraulic transmission as we have hitherto known it, and wave transmission must not be confused, although in both use is made of liquids. They differ widely in principle, for whilst in the former a continuous flow of the liquid takes place, in the latter there is no direct flow, as the particles of liquid merely pulsate backwards and forwards in a perfect rhythm. At present a certain amount of use is being made of wave transmission for rock drilling, and it would seem that its advantages are such that by its means an extended use of rock drills, coal cutters, and other underground machinery is rendered possible. Compressed air has hitherto been used to a considerable extent for this and similar work, but it is claimed that either by itself or in conjunction with electrical methods wave transmission is more efficient, economical, and convenient. There are engineers who go so far as to express the opinion that the new method will supersede the use of compressed air for almost all mining purposes, especially in connection with rock drills.

## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

**Forthcoming Sailings.**

The Cunard Line s.s. Sea Glory, for Gibraltar, Corfu, Piræus, Salonika, Constantinople, Galatz and Braila, will close for cargo in London on October 30.

The Cunard Line s.s. Cypria, for Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza and Sulina, will close for cargo in Liverpool on November 13.

The Johnston Line s.s. Wingate, for Piræus, Volo Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on November 8.

The Ellerman Lines s.s. Asturian, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 23.

The Ellerman Lines s.s. Austrian, for Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 23.

The Papayanni Line (Ellerman Lines, Ltd.) s.s. Dido, for Malta and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 30.

The Byron Steamship Co.'s Meandros, for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila, will close for cargo at Swansea on October 29, and at Liverpool on November 12.

The Anchor Line s.s. Massilia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Glasgow on October 27, and at Liverpool on November 8.

The Bibby Line s.s. Gloucestershire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on November 3.

The Henderson Line s.s. Mandulay, for Port Said and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on October 27.

The Clan Line s.s. Clan Stuart, for Bombay and Persian Gulf, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on October 29.

The Johnston Line s.s. Cranmore, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 30.

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**POPULATION. About 17,400,000.**

**IMPORTS (1915). £8,533,234.**

United Kingdom, £848,997; Austria-Hungary, £3,718,182; Belgium, £43,230; Germany, £3,575,159; France, £660,287; Turkey, £558,238; Italy, £762,023.

**EXPORTS (1915). £21,742,379.**

United Kingdom, £2,238; Austria-Hungary, £13,576,255; Belgium, £2,343; Germany, £7,044,803; Turkey, £443,325; Italy, £37,838.

[NOTE.—In 1914 the Imports from the U.K. amounted to £2,231,773, and the Exports to it to £1,433,535.]

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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## TURKISH FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows under date October 4:—In our preceding report, issued on September 1, we dealt mainly with the prospects of the opening season as they presented themselves at the time. The past month has witnessed considerable activity, and the following figures recording the movement of supplies, shipments, etc., with the comparative figures of last year, will be of interest.

Sultanas.—Total arrivals to September 30, 56,200 bags, against 96,700 bags in 1919; sales to September 30 51,200 bags, against 89,700 bags; stock about 5,000 bags, against 7,000 bags.

SHIPMENTS.

| | Steamers. | Date of Sailing. | Bales. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Sept. | | |
| To London | Southgate | 1 | 12,896 | |
| | Venetian | 9 | 69,665 | |
| | City of Smyrna | 18 | 49,877 | |
| | Sea Glory | 18 | 7,500 | |
| | | | | 139,938 |
| To Liverpool | Austrian | 1 | 29,100 | |
| | Assiout | 16 | 40,625 | |
| | | Oct. | | |
| | Cypria | 2 | 61,296 | |
| | | Sept. | | 131,031 |
| To Bristol | Venetian | 9 | 23,157 | |
| To Glasgow | Izmir | 18 | 18,906 | |
| | | | | 42,063 |
| | | | Total | 313,032 |
| Estimated shipment per s.s. Roumelian loading for London ... ... ... about | | | | 60,000 |
| Estimated total shipments to date | | | | 373,032 |

Equal to about 4,700 tons net weight.

Shipments to London, Liverpool and outports to same time last year amounted to 147,776 bales and 639,798 bags, or about 10,500 tons net weight.

The above do not include shipments from the port of Vourla. About 1,500 tons sultanas have been exported from that port exclusively to the Continent. To summarise the statistical movement:—Total supplies available to date Smyrna and Vourla, about 8,700 tons. Shipments effected to the U. K., 4,700 tons; shipments effected to the Continent and U.S.A., 3,200 tons—7,900 tons, thus leaving a stock of some 800 tons on dealers' hands at Smyrna and Vourla.

Arrivals from the interior continue on a small scale. An estimate of the yield is now generally accepted at about 15,000 tons. Leading native dealers assert that at Magnesia, the principal producing district, about 50 per cent. of the yield has already been disposed of. In all other districts the proportion of fruit remaining is under 50 per cent.

Farmers are now in funds, and are not disposed to sell with any freedom or to accept lower prices. Total shipments to the United Kingdom last season amounted to about 14,500 tons. It is doubtful whether half this quantity, during the twelvemonth ending July, 1921, will be available for the British market. Shipments henceforward will be on a small scale.

Business in prospect is mainly for Continental and American account. The market is steady. Inferior grades are quiet at a decline of 2s. to 3s. on the past fortnight, but choice qualities are becoming scarce, and prices are well maintained. News has just been received that the s.s. City of Smyrna has put into Algiers owing to a fire having broken out in the holds. Some of her cargo is reported damaged and being discharged.

Figs.—Total arrivals to September 30 amount to 42,000 loads, against 15,000 loads in 1919. Prices have ruled at a much lower level than last season. With steady and continuous supplies available during the month business has been active, and all supplies have been marketed without much difficulty. The tendency of market throughout the month has been towards a gradual decline. Shipments to the United Kingdom to date amount to 184,965 bags, 5,282 sk/tons c/s; estimated per s.s. Roumelian 70,000 bags 1,500 sk/tons c/s; 254,965 bags, 6,782 sk/tons c/s, equal to about 4,500 tons.

Total shipments last year during the whole season amounted to 344,864 bags, or about 4,500 tons. The fruit was under the control of the Food Ministry, and no packed figs in cases were imported into the U.K. It is estimated that some 35,000 loads are still available in the Meander Valley. Packing houses close down during the next fortnight, and it is more than probable that with lessening demand, supplies from the country will diminish. We have maintained all along that the supply of figs this season was likely to prove in excess of consumptive wants, and we are still of opinion that later on in the year prices will decline to a level sufficiently attractive to induce new business. Among all dried fruits, figs this season are the cheapest. Qualities are remarkably sound, and lower prices will doubtless stimulate demand after present shipments have gone into consumption.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—Business is still restricted in most varieties, but as more supplies are coming to hand, a revival may be looked for in the near future.

Sugar.—The free market has been quiet. West Indian crystallised has been done at 99s. to 101s. and American granulated at 111s. to 112s. There has been a good demand for home refined at the official prices.

Coffee.—Business has been fairly steady. Mocha has been done round about 165s., while Costa Rica is quoted at 135s. The futures market has been irregular. Quotations are: December 54s., March 51s. 6d., and May 53s.

Oilseeds.—The tone has been very dull. Indian linseed has been done at 36s., while La Plata has come to business at 31s. Rapeseed has declined, Toria being 34s., bold Ferozepore 33s., and brown Cawnpore 30s. Cottonseed is quiet. Indian has been done at 13s. and Egyptian at 17s. 10d.

Oilcakes.—Business is brisk. Linseed cake has been done at about 23s. 6d. to 24s. per cwt., cottonseed cake at 11s. 6d. to 14s., and arachis cake at 14s. to 14s. 6d. Coconut cake has been done at 16s. to 18s.

Seed Oils.—Oils are very dull. Linseed oil has been done at 68s., while refined rape oil has come to business at 84s. and the crude variety at 70s. Turpentine is quieter at 123s.

## LANCASHIRE COTTON

### Effect of the Coal Strike.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

Cotton spinners and manufacturers in Lancashire have had to contend with numerous difficulties during the last few months, and on top of these many trials there is now the coal strike, which promises to disorganise the industry from one end of the county to the other. The immediate effects upon production can scarcely be estimated. Numerous firms have plenty of fuel, and can continue running for several weeks. On the other hand, there are producers who are unable to store coal in large quantities, and they will have to stop very soon. This important event may be described as a bearish factor in raw cotton circles, but in manufactured articles the effect may have bullish influences if the output of yarn and cloth is considerably reduced. Scarcely any new feature can be recorded with regard to Egyptian cotton. There is some talk of financial interests coming to the help of growers in order to keep up values, but action of this kind is not probable. Rates in Liverpool have continued to decline. No improvement can be recorded in the offtake in yarns made from Egyptian cotton. Complaints from spinners tend to increase. Cloth merchants with connections in the Near East report rather better advices from the other side, and in certain quarters clearances are on a freer scale. Isolated inquiries have been reported, but very little fresh business in Manchester has resulted. Dealers in India continue to ask for prices, but they are slow in making definite offers, and business still drags. There has not been any trade movement for China. Demand for South America has been generally quiet. Manufacturers as a body continue in a wretched position, and no definite relief is in sight. American yarns for home consumption have been decidedly weaker in price during the last few days. Business has been of retail dimensions and producers have steadily lost ground. Some special lines have been put through in extra hard yarns for the Levant, but the trade has not been of much weight.

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Paid-up Capital - - - - - „ 5,000,000
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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

STAMBOUL, October 2.

There has been something of a revival in imports, especially as regards eatables and agricultural products. Prices in general show a tendency to fall.

The position as regards manufactures is unchanged. There is complete stagnation as regards the principal outlets, but some sales for Roumania, which are, however, diminishing, on account of the fall in the lei.

The new arrivals from Manchester mark a progressive fall in the prices of cotton; prices of manufactures are, in consequence, weak.

Sugar.—The fall continues in producing centres. Prices quoted at Constantinople are considerably above those in the countries of origin. Disposable is quoted £98 per ton, afloat £90, and in Customs £T51 per 100 kilos.

Coffee.—The rise in countries of production previously referred to has come to an end, and prices have given way in the principal markets, where great stocks are accumulated. Rio is quoted Ps. 42-45 per oke and Santos Ps.48-52 (in transit).

Rice.—The demand is weaker, and prices have rapidly fallen away.

The prices of all products are in general weak, with a tendency to fall. Some transactions have been carried out during the week in mohair and opium, holders having accepted reduced prices.

MERSINA, September 4.

The report for August states:—The general depression which was the dominant factor in the commercial position here in July reached its culminating point during the first week in August. Subsequently, there was a progressive improvement to the extent of giving towards the end of the month a fleeting impression of the desired trade recovery.

The principal cause of this small recovery is, without doubt, the opening of the port of Karadache, situated 40 kilometres south of Adana.

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The India Office reports: Indian Treasury bills outstanding on March 31, 1920, Rs.52,96,60,000; issued from April 1 to October 9, 1920, Rs.84,89,70,000; total, Rs.1,37,86,30,000; discharged from April 1 to October 9, 1920, Rs.43,40,10,000; outstanding on October 9, 1920, Rs.94,46,20,000.

The directors of the Bank of Athens announce an interim dividend for the first half of the current year of 5 drachmæ per share on the Ordinary shares, payable, less tax, October 18.


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Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

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Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.
Assistant Manager: W. P. SHEPPARD.

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**(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)**

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

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

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.


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## COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

### Nizam's State Railways

The report of the H.E.H. The Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways Company for the year ended March 31 states that the net earnings, after deducting £32,221 payable to the Government of India on account of the Bezwada Extension, amounted to £372,915. The sum required to meet the charges for the year in respect of debentures and income tax adjustments, together with 5 per cent. on the capital stock, amounts to £222,443, leaving a surplus of £149.800 divisible between the Government of H.E.H. the Nizam and the company, the balance of £672 representing profit on exchange on remittance of the company's moiety. Final dividend on the capital stock for the year at the rate of 2½ per cent., plus a bonus of 2 per cent. less tax, making 7 per cent. for the year.

### Bengal Iron.

The report of the Bengal Iron Company for the six months ended March 31 states that the net profit is £260.345. Deducting transfer to taxation reserve, £86.000; general reserve, being proportion of profit from October 1, 1919, to date of incorporation, £54.272; depreciation and colliery sinking fund, £19,135; interest on debenture stock of the Bengal Iron and Steel Company to date of redemption, £2.412; and preference share dividend paid, £9,365, leaves a net balance of £89,159, which the directors recommend be applied in payment of an actual 5 per cent. dividend on the ordinary shares, carrying forward £10,458, subject to commission to the directors. The transfer of property and leases from the Bengal Iron and Steel Company is in progress, but has not yet been quite completed. As the Bengal Iron Company was not incorporated until December 5, 1919—although it acquired the business as from October 1, 1919—the proportion of the net profits for the half-year relating to this period up to December 5, 1919, is not available for distribution as dividend, and has therefore been transferred to reserve account as above; the preliminary expenses incurred to date have been written off against this amount. The directors propose to pay the dividend on October 27, the distribution being for a period of rather less than four months' actual working. Owing to developments in India, the directors have under consideration the transfer of this company to an Indian company, as the other companies in the iron and steel trade in India are Indian companies with Indian shareholders, and it is thought that the best interests of this company would be served by nationalising it as an Indian company, as the tendency in India is to give preference to Indian organisations.

## TENDERS INVITED.

**Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—**

### Egypt.

Steamer.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of an inspection steamer for the Upper White Nile Division. Specification P.T. 25. December 1.

Construction Works.—The Director of Technical Services, Department of Municipalities and Local Committees, Ministry of the Interior, invites tenders for the construction of works necessary for the water supply of Fayoum-Sennourès. Specification L.E. 2. November 15.

### India.

Springs.—The Burma Railways Co. invites tenders for the supply of 700 helical springs.

### Turkey.

Railway Material.—The Anatolian Railway Administration, Constantinople, is urgently in need of glasses for point lanterns, paints for bridges, augers for bridge work, boiler-tube ferrules, lamp wicks, firebricks, fireclays for fire-boxes, etc. The schedule, etc., can be inspected at the Enquiry Room, Department of Overseas Trade. Quotations should be submitted direct to the Director of Railways, Constantinople.

## ON 'CHANGE.

### Continued Depression.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

It is not obvious why trade and political conditions in England should affect the price of Egyptian and other Near Eastern stocks, but the market has responded sympathetically to what is happening here, and, no doubt, this is one reason at any rate why the decline we have recorded for some weeks past still goes on.

In Government Stocks, Egyptian Unifieds have gone off half a point to 64½, Greek 1881 has lost 1½ points at 53, Rentes have lost a point at 53, the 1890 Loan has dropped half a point at 42, the Funding has lost 2 points at 52, the 1910 Loan has lost a point at 44, and the 1914 Loan has also a point at 57½.

Banks are in no better case. Agriculturals have gone off ⅛ at 4, and the 3½ and Guaranteed Bonds have each dropped 2 points at 59 and 61 respectively. Bank of Athens has eased ¼ at 3½, and Ionian Banks have lost ⅛ at 4⅝. Among Railways, Delta Lights have dropped ⅛ at 5.

In the Land shares, Béhéras shows an improvement of 1¾ points at 14, but everywhere else there is a decline Egyptian Consols have lost 3d. at 2s. 3d., Delta Lands have lost 6d. at 13s. 3d., Gharbieh Lands ¼ at 2⅞, Sidi Salems 1s. 6d. at 31s., and Union Foncières ¼ at 4 9-16.

Among the Miscellaneous Group, Abyssinian Corporation has declined from 5-16 to 9-32, and Salt and Sodas from 42s. 6d. to 42s. There is an improvement of 3d. in Markets at 21s.

Among Oils, Roumanian Consolidateds have fallen from 20s. 9d. to 18s.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

This week's Indian cable states:—During the week ending October 2 beneficial rain has fallen. Prospects of standing crops generally good, but more rain badly wanted in the Punjab, North-West Frontier Provinces, the Central Provinces, and the unirrigated areas of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, where crops are withering, and in parts of West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Central India, Gujrat, and Hyderabad. During week ending October 9 rainfall confined to Burma, North-Eastern India, and Southern India. Bombay cotton ready market quiet. Fine M.G. Oomra number three Rs.285 spot rate. Piece-goods market further depressed by declining prices, owing to exchange and scarcity of demand. Calcutta jute market quiet, with small business; Hessians dull, with declining prices; Heavy goods quiet, with easier prices. No change is expected in jute market generally till after Puja holidays. No change in Bank rates.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97½ |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 34·65-35·50 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 117-119 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·7-1·7½ |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 200-205 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·7-1·7½ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 419-437 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅜ | 3·43½-3·45½ |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 52·80-53·30 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 247½ |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 30 |


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*London Manager*, P. C. WEST. *Secretary*, G. DE B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation is prepared to assist in the development of the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and offers exceptional financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their export and import trade.

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Every description of Banking business transacted.

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

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*General Manager:* D. LOVERDO.

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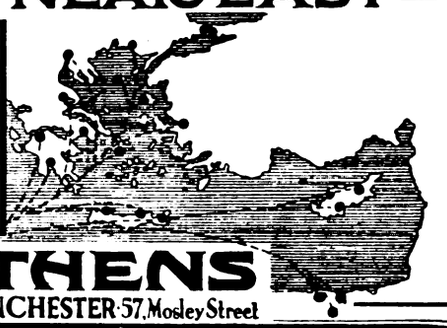
WITH its offices in all the principal towns in **Greece**, in **Egypt, Cyprus, Crete, Constantinople**, and in **Smyrna**, **the Bank extends exceptional Facilities for Export and Import Trade between Great Britain and the Near East generally**, and invites enquiries and correspondence relating thereto.



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HEAD OFFICE: ATHENS.

LONDON 22, Fenchurch Street E.C.3. MANCHESTER 57, Mosley Street

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

## GREECE.

Area 43,522 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,746,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 296,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

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

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

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

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

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

**COINAGE.**—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 36 Drachmæ to £1.

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

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

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*Cable Address—Navigation Palios.*

*Codes used—Scott's (1906) 10th Edition; A.B.C. (1901) 5th Edition.*

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Founder—A. P. PALIOS.

**Head Office: PIRÆUS, GREECE.**

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Codes Used.
Scott's 1906—10th Edition. A.B.C. 1901—5th Edition. Palios 1919

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*The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business, and by reason of its connections, throughout Greece and the Levant, is in a position to offer to the trade exceptional facilities.*

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 495.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of King Alexander of Greece. The tragedy of a young life cut short has been enhanced in his case by the peculiar circumstances attending his end. A lonely walk in the royal grounds at Tatoi reflected something of the loneliness of his position in Greece, cut off from all family ties, and with his relations with his subjects not yet fully readjusted after a secret morganatic marriage. King Alexander had a difficult part to play; but his attitude towards his royal office, at first one of good-humoured and tolerant accommodation, and then gradually one of growing interest in his duties and responsibilities, had been helpful to the Greek Government, and he had already begun to show promise of becoming a successful monarch. His death is at once a blow and an embarrassment to his country, as it adds another problem to the many that await solution at a time when Greece is in special need of a period of quiet development free from political complications. The British public and all their Allies in the late war will extend to the Greeks their sympathy at this moment, with complete confidence that the wisdom of the people, under the able direction of their Prime Minister, and the patriotism of the Hellenic race will rise superior to all their difficulties.

Monsieur Take Jonescu, the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has concluded his visit to London, and has left for Prague and Warsaw. In the course of his conversations with Mr. Lloyd George and Lord Curzon he was able to satisfy himself that the British Government could only welcome any understanding between the States of South-Eastern Europe which had for its object the maintenance of peace. If in its extended form, with Greece and Poland included, the Little Entente admitted of no change in its original purpose, the stronger it became the better. On the other hand, M. Take Jonescu would be the first to recognise that up to the present the new Polish State has not impressed the chancelleries of Europe with either its sagacity or its stability. It would be unfortunate, therefore, if not disastrous, if the inclusion of Poland committed the Little Entente to any policy of adventure that might find favour with the Poles. In Warsaw, the Roumanian Foreign Minister will be better able to judge of the situation in Poland, and he may arrive at the conclusion that close association with other States will have the steadying effect on Polish policy that it seems to need so badly.

The Bulgarian Prime Minister has stated that his object in coming to England was to convince the British Government and public that a new Bulgaria had come into existence since the Armistice, and to bespeak for it British interest and goodwill. After his stay in London and his visits to Birmingham, Manchester, and Glasgow he can have little reason to be dissatisfied with the results of his mission. Simultaneously with his cordial reception in England he has had the gratification of finding that the attitude of all the Allied countries has been considerably modified in Bulgaria's favour. It was unfortunate that the programme of his tour in the provinces and Scotland did not enable him to meet M. Take Jonescu before the latter left London; but he has still to visit Bucharest and Belgrade, as well as other Allied capitals, before he returns to Sofia, and there can be no doubt that his own record as well as his personality will confirm the good impression that his Government has already made on the Allied Powers, including the immediate neighbours of Bulgaria.

The composition of the new Turkish Cabinet has now been made known, and for Turkey's sake it is to be hoped that the new Ministers have already settled down to work. The resignation of Damad Ferid Pasha will undoubtedly make possible negotiations with Mustapha Kemal and the other Nationalist leaders, if that is the policy to be followed; and with Turkey in the state to which it has been reduced, it almost looks as if that is in fact the only way open. Never in the worst days of the "Old" Turks were the fortunes of the country at such low ebb, or its finances in a more desperate condition. It is possible that even the Allies have realised by now that the maintenance in power of a Government which, however friendly towards them, however honest, had no support from the nation at large was a fatal mistake, since such a Government simply could not enforce the fulfilment of the Treaty of Sèvres, though it might honestly desire to do so.

Ferid Pasha deserved well of the Allies, but the Nationalists, it seems, were so hostile to him that they would never have consented to negotiate with him or his Cabinet. Whether they will do so with Tewfik Pasha we may hope to learn in the near future. Upon their decision hinges the possibility of Turkey carrying out the terms of the Treaty; and it would be well for both Constantinople and the Allies to recognise the fact frankly. If the new Cabinet is able to show that it has reasonable hopes of executing the Treaty terms, and that it really intends to do so, it should surely be helped to make the effort; if it cannot hold out any reasonable prospect of redeeming the pledges given on Turkey's behalf, then Turkey may have to pay the

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penalty, in the form of losing Constantinople. It is not improbable that Angora realises this as clearly, or nearly as clearly, as does Constantinople; but it is by no means certain that Mustapha Kemal is his own master now. How far is he committed to the Bolshevists? If he has gone too far to draw back, it is indeed a black outlook for Turkey; if not, and if he would work with Constantinople, he might yet do his country good service. It would be interesting to know what view of the situation is taken by the Sultan, who has always been at least as strongly anti-Nationalist as Damad Ferid Pasha.

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Greece is reported to have responded to the Armenian appeal for assistance by despatching a military mission and some war material, and, even if this help be small, the promptness with which it has been given will doubtless have a valuable effect in heartening the sorely tried Armenians. For the time being the latter appear to be holding their own against both the Turkish Nationalists and the Russian Bolshevists. That there is some kind of agreement between their enemies is tolerably certain; but, as already suggested in these columns, it is probably of a very loose kind; and it does not seem to have led to any very successful result so far. The opportunity of detaching the Turks from the Bolshevists is, therefore, still open; and since, with all their faults, they do not appear to be badly infected by the Red fever, the experiment is worth trying. Meanwhile the Armenians are reported to have received an ultimatum from Moscow, and to have rejected it.

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The war interrupted the issue of the annual reports on Egypt and the Sudan by the British representatives in those countries. In the days of Lord Cromer, Sir Eldon Gorst, and Lord Kitchener, these reports usually told a tale uneventful, if satisfactory, of progress along a well-defined track, and in the days of the first and last-named Agents much of their interest depended on the personality of those who presented them. Lord Allenby's Reports for the period 1914-19 have now been issued; and though they make it very clear that Egypt, like the rest of the world, felt the effects of the great upheaval, and at first staggered under the shock, they tell upon the whole a story with which those responsible for the administration of the two countries may feel well satisfied. Egypt, as the Reports remind us, was when the war broke out still feeling the effects of the economic crisis of 1907, and the outbreak of trouble brought about a situation of considerable anxiety, "a situation which, had it continued, would have been fraught with very serious consequences for the economic future of the country"; very soon, too, British officials in nearly every department began to drift away to the war, so that the difficulties of the situation had to be coped with by a much reduced staff. It is probable that some of the unrest that has troubled Egypt in the last two years may be traced to these causes; but the men who stayed behind did wonders in the way of work, and Egypt and, even more so, the Sudan suffered far less than might have been expected.

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A War Office *communiqué* issued last week announces that our casualties in Mesopotamia during the four months ending on September 30 amounted to 416 killed or dead, 1,119 wounded, 159 prisoners in Arab hands, and 473 missing. This is a large casualty list, but not a surprisingly large one for operations such as we have been carrying on in Mesopotamia, which are described as having brought about "the re-establishment of some form of order" in a wide area. It is interesting to learn that the casualties to the Kufa garrison during the siege amounted to nine killed or died, seventeen wounded, and three missing; and (from unofficial sources) that the relieving column had eleven casualties. Nejef, like Kerbellah, has formally submitted to our forces. It is unfortunate that these two cities, which are held in such veneration by all good Shiahs, should have vacillated shockingly since the beginning of the war, but nobody acquainted with them and their history is likely to be very surprised by their changes of attitude.

Evidently no time is to be lost in introducing the reforms proposed by the Esher Committee in the internal organisation of the army in India, and since a change in the commands was to come, it is well that it should be made at the beginning of the training season, so that General Birdwood and the other Commanders-in-Chief may be able to set to work with a definite knowledge of the task which lies before them. There can be no doubt that the congestion at headquarters will be lessened when it has to deal with four administrative units instead of a much larger number of divisions, and to that extent decentralisation will be real, but experience alone can show how the change will work in the lower branches of the organisation. It is conceivable that brigadiers and regimental officers might find themselves more closely trammelled under the new system than under the old, but the records of the Commanders-in-Chief afford some guarantee against unnecessary interference in matters of detail, and on the whole we anticipate an increase in genuine efficiency from the change.

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India, however, is not at the moment thinking much about army reform. The political situation becomes more and more interesting as the elections draw near, and it is rather unfortunate that the "news" regarding it which reaches this country should consist so largely of the personal opinions of various correspondents. Among the few facts they tell us, the most striking incident just now seems to be the attack of the Extremists on the United Provinces, where the original propaganda in favour of non-co-operation fell absolutely flat. The leading agitators have scored what we suppose they regard as a success by bringing the students of the Aligarh College out on strike against its conversion into a great Moslem university, thus creating a situation which will require careful handling by the large body of trustees who control the institution. We hope they will not allow the scheme of a Moslem university to be wrecked, but it is their affair, and at the moment our strongest feeling is one of sympathy for Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, the Principal of the College, and one of the most devoted and successful educationists to be found in India.

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As regards the strictly political situation, the authors of the cables appear to take most interest in the supply of candidates for seats in the Legislatures, and we are told that there is no lack of aspirants, but that what is conveniently termed social pressure will be vigorously exerted to make them withdraw before the polling-day. If that forecast be verified, the political capacity of India will be put to a crucial test at the very outset, for "social pressure" implies threats of trouble in many worlds besides this, threats which would be punishable under the electoral law, but which are scarcely likely to be brought before the courts, and it is asking a great deal of men unfamiliar with public life to expect them to face a campaign of intimidation and abuse. Face it, however, they must, if India is to get forward on the road to responsible government; we shall not attempt to prophesy regarding the outcome, but the men who have worked hardest for the political advancement of the country will watch the cables during the next few weeks, to see whether their efforts are being rewarded by the development of political courage and capacity.

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Meanwhile the items of fashionable intelligence in the papers warn us that distinguished visitors are setting out for India, in order, we suppose, to be present at the birth of a new democracy. As we recorded last week, Mr. "Pussyfoot" Johnson is to be among the number, and, though prohibition is not at the moment a live issue, he will find ample scope for his abilities if he will only lead a campaign against the peculiar form of intemperance from which India is suffering most, intemperance of mis-statement, innuendo and abuse. He might even aim higher and attack the more dangerous vice of intemperance of mental arrogance, and his time would be well spent if he could convince Mr. Gandhi, for instance, of the possibility that his judgment may on occasion be at fault. India has always welcomed apostles, but it is some centuries now since the gospel of reverent diffidence was preached on her coasts.

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# THE WEEK AT HOME.

**Coal Conversations.**

The coal strike is not yet over, but the air is a good deal clearer than it was a week ago, and we know more precisely where we are. A debate in the House of Commons last Tuesday showed that both sides were firm, but that each appreciated the other's position; and it was quite evident that although neither party intended to run away, both are equally determined to go on living, if necessary to fight another day. In other words, the dispute is not to be fought out to the death if a reasonable arrangement can be reached.

Since that time informal conversations have been held, and are still being held, in Downing Street, with the object of finding a way out. The Government will not give the increased wage without an undertaking as as to increased output; the miners will not contemplate increased output without first getting the increased wage. The horse is there, and the cart is there, the question is how to get them together, when the horse refuses to back into the shafts, and the cart refuses to be pushed further towards the horse. That is the problem which faces Mr. Lloyd George and the miners. The Press and the public are hopeful that a settlement will be arrived at this week.

**Sympathetic Strikes.**

But there was a dangerous moment last week when the Transport Workers—who include omnibus, tram, and traction drivers—sent an ultimatum threatening to come out on Saturday; and the National Union of Railwaymen, after expressing sympathy with the miners, announced their decision to call a railway strike at Sunday midnight if negotiations were not reopened. As a matter of fact, informal negotiations were reopened on Sunday morning; but before that time the Transport Workers had postponed the execution of their ultimatum, and the Railwaymen had postponed their strike.

As to the latter, it became quite evident on Friday and Saturday that even if a strike were called it would only be partial. The engine-drivers, who belong to another union, openly said they would have none of it; "It was the miners' fight, so let them fight it," said the Assistant Secretary of the Locomotive Union. Other branches of the railway service were less definite, but it is known that many resolutions of protest and refusal to strike were received. Mr. Thomas had all along made it clear that he was opposed to a strike, but he was overborne by Mr. Cramp, the Joint Secretary, who is usually for extreme action; but the majority for the decision to strike was a very narrow one, and in the end Mr. Thomas had the last word, for he refused to sign the strike papers.

These would apparently not have been generally obeyed, even had he done so; but the public and the railwaymen owe him a deep debt of gratitude for his courageous stand. The decision to strike would have made, as it was intended to make, matters infinitely worse; it would have led to an industrial crisis of the first order, and an economic anarchy from which recovery would have been extremely difficult. The miners, or at least the miners' leaders, who were already seeking a solution of their own dispute, were embarrassed by the railwaymen's decision to strike, and were plainly glad when the threat was withdrawn. The whole business has clearly been a rebuff to the extremists, and a proof of the strength and usefulness of the constitutional elements in the Trade Union ranks. When the smoke and dust of the present conflict are over it will be found that Mr. Thomas, by risking his whole future in opposing a hasty decision, and thereby showing himself a leader instead of a mere delegate, has enormously strengthened his position with the country. Whatever nominal leaders Labour may elect in Parliament, Mr. Thomas will speak with an authoritative voice that will be heard with interest far beyond the ranks of his party. In the history of Mr. Thomas we are watching the gradual evolution of the statesman from the ordinary trade unionist who has taken to politics, and there are those who already suggest him as the next Prime Minister.

**Ireland.**

The Government had all the best of the debate on Ireland last week. Mr. Asquith was ineffective, and had that odd note which has been too frequent with him of late, as though he had not convinced himself of the justice of his own case; Sir Hamar Greenwood, Chief Secretary for Ireland, spoke above his own level. He made it clear that the Government intend to put down murder and terrorism in Ireland, and that they are, in fact, putting it down.

But the death of the Lord Mayor of Cork in Brixton Prison on Monday morning will more than undo the effect of these speeches. His prolonged hunger-strike of over seventy days had been received with incredulity, and however mistaken the man's motives or conduct, there is no doubt that death is the most effective form of political propaganda.

Calmly regarded, it was no more than suicide for an idea, and suicide, even for an idea, is still suicide. But nations are not always logical when their emotions are aroused, and Ireland is never logical. It is understood that the Roman Catholic Church are in some difficulty over the case, and their casuists are likely to argue it long; actually it is suicide, or self-murder, which is mortal sin, and some Catholics have spoken strongly on the subject of giving a suicide extreme unction and the last offices of the Church; but in practice it is unlikely that Rome will condemn his action altogether. In any event, it is said that a final decision on the subject will not be given for years, as it leads to difficult and disputed questions of ethics.

**Unemployment.**

The unemployment figures, which were growing, but not yet serious, a fortnight ago, are progressing daily with the prolongation of the coal strike; and a serious position will soon arise in London and other industrial towns. Last Monday in London there was rather an ugly riot in Whitehall, which was caused, not so much by the unemployed as by a hooligan element that hung on to the tail of an unemployed procession; they gave themselves out as ex-soldiers, but as an onlooker I am bound to say that those who had the unmistakable bearing of soldiers bore themselves with quiet dignity in the procession, while the actual rioters had a very unmilitary look.

Remedial efforts are to be put in hand to check unemployment at once; arterial roads in the East of London and elsewhere are to be constructed. These will be useful, but it is doubtful if they will really have much effect on the disease, which is of deeper origin.

The plain fact is that the public, after its madly extravagant fit of last year, now finds itself unable to spend so much at the present high prices, and it is convinced that if it waits long enough and refuses to buy anything beyond immediate necessaries, prices will come down. The public is probably right, but its enforced decision means that distributors and manufacturers are loaded up with stock, and are having to turn away superfluous hands.

At this moment one hears of a threatened strike among the employees of the large West End shops. I know nothing of the justice or otherwise of their demands; but as these great establishments at the moment contain more assistants than purchasers, one would imagine that the moment for a strike was unpropitious.

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**The Church Congress.**

Southend, which has fully recovered from its war-time difficulties, housed, and entertained this year's Church Congress. The Bishop of Chelmsford, in whose diocese Southend lies, delivered a courageous and noteworthy presidential address; as a Low Churchman at the head of a county of Low Churchmen, he emphasised the need of tolerance and co-operation with the Anglo-Catholics or High Churchmen. From the published reports of his speech, he does not appear to have said anything about the Broad Churchmen or Modernists, who have been rather less conspicuous of late years than the Ritualists; but I understand that the Broadmen are a growing force; their recent conference at Oxford seems by all accounts to have been most successful, and to have been very well attended. It is claimed that they appeal more particularly to the younger and more thoughtful, as distinguished from the more active section of the priesthood, and that their members are such that in a few years they will wield considerable influence.

The remaining papers at the Church Congress dealt with the question of women in the Church—a subject which naturally agitates the clergy, who are probably more used to petticoat government at home than the rest of us, and who, naturally, do not want Mrs. Proudies in the pulpit, as well as in the drawing-room—and of spiritualism, on which the usual conflicting opinions were uttered as to the validity and worth of the evidence. The Archbishop of Canterbury, in discussing the vexed question of re-union, reiterated his plea for hastening slowly.

**The Newest Liberalism.**

A brave attempt is being made to revive the decaying fortunes of the British Liberal party, which has never recovered from the enfeebling of its constitution in the 1910 Parliament and the war operations, which still further reduced its vitality. Most of the political surgeons consider the patient to be *in extremis*, but Professor Ramsay Muir and other Manchester men, who were recently called in, seem to have discovered some slight indications of consciousness in the prostrate party; and they have now prescribed a cure in the shape of a book of new principles.

The new programme advocates a levy on capital as the only alternative to continued high taxation; it believes in the taxation of excessive industrial profits as an alternative to the Excess Profits Duty; it will advocate "a fairly adjusted co-operation or partnership of all the factors in industry—organising ability, labour, capital, consumer and community—no one factor to possess exclusive mastery, but all to receive a just share of product and control." The profits of capital are to be limited, except in the case of new undertakings, where the risk of total loss is very great and the rewards should consequently be greater; while "unemployment, the solution of which lies at the root of the whole problem of industrial reorganisation, would be one of the subjects of consideration by the trade boards." Broadly speaking, the principle to be maintained is that each industry is to maintain its own unemployed. On the question of nationalisation there has obviously been a compromise, but the new Liberalism commits itself to the principle of nationalisation in any industry which is (*a*) a monopoly, (*b*) the conduct of which directly and immediately affects all citizens, (*c*) which is necessarily in any case brought to a large extent under the control of Government, (*d*) in which unified control would demonstrably lead to definite improvements or economies, and (*e*) which is so well developed that its success does not primarily depend on the constant expenditure of individual ingenuity and inventiveness or upon the working out of new processes. The report therefore contemplates the nationalisation of railways and mines, and possibly other industries. It is evident that this is a great departure from the principles hitherto held by Mr. Asquith, whose position might become difficult if these reforms were insisted on.

But it is clear that if these principles are adopted, the Liberal Party will take its place between the Coalition and Labour, since it shares the moderate views of both. It will probably detach votes from both, if efficiently led; but middle parties seldom attract great leaders or attain prolonged power. There is something a little discouraging to the best intentioned in being kicked on both sides at once, which is the usual fate of middle parties.

**Current Literature.**

The leading book of the week should be "Reflections on the World-War" (Thornton Butterworth), by Count von Bethmann-Hollweg. But the ex-Chancellor is a little disappointing. His thesis is that Germany did not do it; the wicked Entente began the encirclement policy, from which came war into the world, and all their woe. Unfortunately for his argument, the encirclement policy was the consequence of Germany's policy of challenging France, Russia, and Britain in turn, and his account of the events of July-August, 1914, has already been proved inaccurate and incomplete by Herr Karl Kautsky, whose "Guilt of William Hohenzollern" quotes German official documents which Bethmann-Hollweg ignores. The defence therefore falls to the ground—or else the German Chancellor was himself deceived by his master.

A very curious series of portraits is given in "The Mirrors of Downing Street" (Mills and Boon) by a writer who calls himself A Gentleman with a Duster. His views are not flattering. Mr. Balfour is "the most egotistical of men, who would make almost any sacrifice to remain in office—he knows there's been one Ice Age and he thinks there's going to be another." The author's limitation of vision is shown by his emphasising "vulgarity of mind" as his outstanding characteristic, and by regarding the Prime Minister as "an illustration of the value and perils of emotionalism." Of Lord Kitchener it is said that "he lacked almost every grace of the spirit. Very few men liked him a great deal, and none, I should say, loved him. I do not think he was brutal by nature, although his nature was not refined; but he cultivated a brutal manner." Mr. Asquith, he thinks, was spoilt by his marriage. "If he had followed his star, if he had rigorously pursued the path marked out for him by tradition and his own earliest propensities, he might have been an unpleasant person for a young ladies' tea-party and an unsympathetic person to a gathering of decadent artists; he might indeed have become as heavy as Cromwell and as inhuman as Milton; but he would never have fallen from Olympus with the lightness of thistledown." These extracts sufficiently describe a book which is likely to make some noise; it should be added that, of all improbable people, the author chooses Lord Haldane for his hero.

The publishing season is upon us with a rush, and the booksellers bear testimony to the fact that books are not only published and reviewed, but even bought.

One work which is assured of popularity is "The Life of Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson" (Chatto and Windus), by her sister, Mrs. Sanchez. It was news to me that the wife played so great a part in her husband's literary work; she appears to have been a severe critic, although she understood and appreciated his genius as much as anybody. The first draft of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" was committed to the flames on her advice.

"The Private Letters of Sir Robert Peel" (John Murray) are now given belated publication. Peel is little more than a name to the present day—*sic transit gloria mundi*—but the letters, which reveal a new side of Peel's character—cold and reserved in public, he was passionately devoted to his wife and children—and they do succeed in making a little more human that incredible world in which our grandfathers lived, and even appear to have enjoyed themselves.

The collected verse of Mr. Walter de la Mare, under the title of "Poems, 1901 to 1918" (Constable) marks a completed stage in the career of a writer who has influenced our younger poets probably more than anybody else of his time. It is not given to all to appreciate every kind of poetry, and unluckily, although I can admire Galsworthy and Masefield, the undoubted beauty of Mr. de la Mare eludes me. But his title to fame is already secure.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, October 4.
(Delayed in transmission).

**Departure of the Egyptian Delegation.**

The seven members of the Egyptian Delegation left Alexandria on Friday last by the Lotus, and had a very fine send-off. They proceeded on the Thursday by special train to Alexandria, where a magnificent reception had been prepared for them, among those at the station being a representative of Prince Omar Toussoun and a detachment of Boy Scouts, who are being run under the patronage of his Highness. That afternoon a great representative meeting of Alexandria notables was held, at which "the four" explained various points in the draft agreement which had been criticised, and at the conclusion of which a resolution was passed accepting the draft as basis of agreement, and expressing full confidence in the Delegation. This was followed in the evening by a large banquet at San Stefano, at which enthusiastic speeches were delivered. The departure of the Lotus the following afternoon was a very pretty sight, the huge steamer which had hoisted the Egyptian flag alongside the French tricolour being accompanied out of the harbour by a double line of steam launches and beflagged sailing boats thronged with excited Egyptians of all classes.

Before their departure the Delegation issued a statement in which they declared that their mission had been a great success, that they were gratified at the reassurance of the confidence placed in them, and that their visit had enabled them clearly to understand the views and desires of the nation, for which they will do their best to obtain satisfaction. As mentioned last week, the delegation will report that the country is in favour of, and that they are prepared to support, an agreement on the proposed basis.

**The Conspiracy Case.**

The Cairo conspiracy case came to an end yesterday, when the Judge Advocate concluded his summing up. After Mr. Mitchell Innes's final address for the defence, it was felt in Egyptian circles that the existence of the notorious Vengeance Society had been disproved, and that his client, Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy would get off; but this opinion changed considerably in the course of the speech made by the prosecutor, Mr. Maxwell, who with great dexterity demolished Mr. Mitchell Innes's arguments one by one, and brought out and drove home points which visibly impressed the Court, and obviously took counsel for the defence by surprise. Judge Thorp's summing-up was a brilliant effort. He had a most difficult task to perform, in view of the mass of evidence produced and the contradiction of several of the witnesses, but he cleverly sifted the corn from the chaff, laid bare the real issues which the Court will have to decide, and dealt with the points in favour of either side with an impartiality that has tremendously impressed the public with the sense of justice which actuates an English Court of Justice.

**The Mecca Pilgrimage.**

The Holy Carpet returned safely to Cairo this week, and the ceremony attendant thereon was presided over by the Prime Minister, Mohammed Tewfik Nessim Pasha, on behalf of the Sultan. The pilgrimage this year has been quite successful, but owing to the prevalence of plague the pilgrims have been forced to do three weeks' quarantine at Tor.

**Cairo's Little Earthquake.**

On Friday morning, at a little after 4 a.m., we were all awakened out of our sleep by ominous rumblings, by very violent swaying and shaking of our beds, by the banging of shutters, and the shrill cries of birds. The disturbance lasted only a very short time, but was sufficient to disturb practically the whole city. From the report of the Helouan Observatory, it appears that this was an earthquake, which the seisemograph showed as having taken place at 4.11 a.m., and that it was the severest shock that the observatory has recorded since its foundation in 1903. The authorities are of opinion that it was a purely local earthquake, especially as the instrument gave no previous warning, and swung at once to maximum. Certainly, as far as Egypt was concerned, the earthquake, which lasted about half a minute, was confined to an area not farther north of Cairo than Tanta or farther south than Bedrashein; nevertheless, while it lasted, it was, to say the least, unpleasant. Strange to relate, considering the jerry-built nature of most of the buildings in Cairo, scarcely any damage was done, and yet in 1911, when an earthquake of much less severity took place, quite a number of houses fell down or showed ominous cracks.

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CAIRO, October 11.

**Sultan's Accession Day.**

Saturday was the third anniversary of the accession of Sultan Fuad I., and a big reception was held at Ras El Tin Palace in the morning; while in the evening Mohammed Tewfik Nessim Pasha, the Prime Minister, gave a banquet at San Stefano Casino in honour of the occasion.

Field-Marshal Lord Allenby is expected back in Egypt towards the end of the month, by which time the Residency will have returned to Cairo. It is not expected, however, that the seat of the Government will be moved back until late in November, owing to the Sultan having to remain in Alexandria until the constructional work at Abdin Palace has been completed.

**The Conspiracy Trial.**

The Military Court reassembled last Tuesday, and at once released four of the accused, including Kyriakos Mikhail, the Coptic journalist. As regards the remaining twenty-three prisoners, who, of course, include Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy, the Court asked whether they or their counsel had any statement to make in mitigation of punishment, and it is interesting to note that almost without exception they declared that they relied upon the feelings of mercy and the sense of justice which always actuate the British Courts of justice. The sentences of the Court will not be known until the Commander-in-Chief has approved of them, and it is not expected that their promulgation will take place for another week or so. In the meantime people are asking themselves what action Zaghloul Pasha and his colleagues of the Egyptian Delegation are going to take now that the Secretary of their Cairo Committee has been convicted of conspiracy. As Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy's counsel pointed out in arguing that his client was innocent, he still holds the position of secretary, and without some statement to the contrary from the Egyptian Delegation he will undergo his punishment in that capacity.

**The Kantara Bridge.**

Negotiations have been proceeding for some little time between the Suez Canal Company and the Egyptian Government with regard to the facilities granted by the company to the military authorities during the war within the zone belonging to it under its concession. As various erroneous or misleading versions have appeared in the local Press, it may be as well to give the actual facts of the case. When war broke out, and it was obvious that the Eastern frontier would become one of the important war fronts, the Suez Canal Company readily granted the military authorities permission to make use of whatever sites on either bank of the canal might facilitate their work, and at the same time it gave permission for the erection at Kantara of a bridge of boats, which was subsequently replaced by an iron railway bridge. The company states that these facilities were granted on the strict understanding that when war was over, and the requirements of the military situation could no longer be considered as taking precedence over those of steam navigation, the sites occupied should be evacuated and the bridge pulled down. As far as can be ascertained, this was the understanding, but it appears that little or anything had

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been done until recently to carry out the post-war part of the agreement.

The company has latterly made representations on the matter to the Egyptian Government, emphasising the fact that the existence of the bridge constitutes a great hindrance to navigation on the canal, and, in fact, in view of the large size of the steamers nowadays, traversing the canal, it is fast becoming a great menace to navigation. I understand that negotiations have latterly been going on between the British Government and the company through Paris, and that an understanding has been come to whereby the land occupied is to be evacuated as quickly as possible, the bridge removed by the end of the year and a scheme studied for some means of connecting the Egyptian and Palestine railway systems. In the latter connection I understand that the Egyptian State Railways have sent one of their engineers to the United States to study the question, and that he is expected back early next month, when a meeting will be held in Paris to go into the whole question. I would add, that at present there is an alternative proposal either to cut a tunnel under the canal, or to erect a bridge specially constructed, so that it will under no circumstances interfere with navigation.

**Gas Strike.**

The threatened strike of gas and electric light workers has taken place, and both Cairo and Alexandria have had the unpleasant experience of having to go for one day without any lights, and for three days on what one might call rations. In Alexandria, the strike has now come to an end, but not so in Cairo, where thanks to the assistance rendered by the Royal Engineers we have been able to have a restricted supply of electric light in the houses and shops. It has, however, been found impossible to light the streets, and the danger to public security while this condition of affairs lasts has become very serious. Meanwhile, there are rumours of trouble [illegible] the train workers.

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PORT SAID, October 14.

**A Coal Muddle.**

With the menace of the coal strike still unremoved, I cannot help again reverting in these notes to the utter disorganisation of the world's coal supplies, of which we are constantly having examples in this place. A Norwegian ship recently brought seven thousand tons of coal from Norfolk, U.S.A., to Italy. From there she is proceeding in ballast through the Canal to Newcastle, N.S.W. On her way out, while not earning a single penny, she will consume in her furnaces 650 tons of oil and 1,100 tons of coal, to say nothing of paying £1,200 as Canal dues. At Newcastle she will load coal for Norway, and in getting there she will burn 700 tons of oil and 1,100 tons of coal. When will this sort of thing end?

**More Communications Troubles.**

Great complaints are made even yet as to the means of communication between Egypt and Palestine. Letters take anything from one to three days, and telegrams frequently take longer. The Custom House procedure at Kantara is execrable, and the truculence and incivility of the officials recall the bad old days of trans-Continental travel. One gentleman who was taking three pound packets of butter to Palestine had the interior of each packet thoroughly searched by the Customs official with the long iron spike with which they search for contraband in sacks of grain. Presumably he was doing his duty in looking for concealed rifles, but the butter was afterwards useless as human food. Another case known to your correspondent was of a lady in whose bag a Kantara Customs official found a tea-spoon tea-infuser, which he tried to confiscate, as he said it was an "antika." Altogether travellers are put to the maximum of trouble possible. No doubt this is meant to discourage would-be visitors to Palestine, but the net result is that only the desirable class of visitor is discouraged, and the undesirable class, who know the custom of the country, get through with a minimum of trouble, and no expense beyond the custom of the country.

**Postal Eccentricities.**

A book might be compiled about the humours of the Post Office here. A lady recently wished to send three heads of Indian corn to England as a curio. The postal officials refused to accept it without a Customs permit for the export of foodstuffs. So this little parcel had to be taken to the Customs House to get the sanction of the official there for this export! However, this is put in the shade by an experience of a man who wished to make a payment in Ceylon. The banks would not quote a price for a draft, as they did not know the rate of exchange, so the man bought Ceylon paper money here, intending to send it by post. He then purchased a special linen-lined registered envelope from the post office, put his money and letter inside, and took it to the post office. However, to his intense surprise and indignation, the officials would not accept it, as they said the envelope was constructed in such a way that it could not be sealed sufficiently to stop thefts by the employees. So he had to cut the envelope open and put the money into an ordinary commercial paper envelope, which the official then accepted. Thinking about it afterwards, one can see the humorous side, but to the busy business man the humour is apt to be attenuated.

**An Electricians' Strike.**

Messrs. Worms and Co.'s electricians are on strike, and consequently there is no one to attend the searchlights which they put on board the ships for night navigation in the Canal. As a result many ships are only able to transit in daylight, and are delayed considerably. I hear that the question is not one of wages, but of sending one or two men in charge of a searchlight when the ship supplies her own power, and from the men's point of view their request seems reasonable enough. It is feared that if the strike is not quickly settled it may spread, as there is considerable sympathy with the electricians amongst other classes of employees in the town.

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## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, October 19.

**The Klagenfurt Plebiscite.**

The results of the plebiscite at Celovac (Klagenfurt) are received with mingled disappointment and bitterness. The *Politika* has come out with a leading article upbraiding the Slovenes for allowing themselves to be thus Germanised, and preferring their stomachs to their freedom, concluding with the fervid hope that the day will yet come when they will be liberated in spite of themselves.

Immediately after the plebiscite information came in that the Austrians were venting their wrath on the Slovenes who had voted against them, burning their houses, flogging men, and actually killing the brother of a prominent schoolmaster. The Serbian commandant, General Maister, came at once to Belgrade to confer with the Government, and a Cabinet Council was urgently summoned. Dr. Brettz, President of the Provincial Government, requested Dr. Trumbitch to call at Liubliana on his way to Italy to satisfy himself that the Allied authorities had not maintained absolute fairplay, since the Italians, who are notoriously an interested party, were represented, and abused their position to favour the German element. Meanwhile, there were demonstrations at Liubliana, the excited crowds urging the military authorities to expel the Austrians and Italians from the district in question and protect the Slovenes who had voted for union with Yugoslavia. General Maister pressed for authority to occupy the district at least as far as the Drave, where most of the population had voted for S.H.S. and were now exposed to the retaliation of the victorious Austrians. The Government telegraphed a protest to Vienna. Finally is was decided to send a contingent of troops as an emergency measure to protect the minority and maintain order until things settle down. This is an unfortunate necessity, as Rome will certainly make capital out of it to blacken Yugoslavia in the eyes of the Powers; but it is the Powers' own fault for taking no steps to ensure order other than sending a small con-

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mission of Allied officers, who, with the best intentions in the world, could not police the district without men, and who included at least one Italian in their body. If at the eleventh hour they decide to send Italian troops, the fat will be in the fire, for the Slavs could not tolerate that. Meanwhile, for the period of interregnum, no authorities were present to keep order, and the hooligans had it all their own way till this contingent of Serbs arrived to protect life and property.

**Politicians' Activities.**

It is again reported that the Narodny Club will vote in one block with the separatist Frankovist party and the Raditch group. Raditch has been in prison for high treason for a long time, and it was his group that organised the recent unfortunate disturbances in Croatia, with the definite object of provoking revolution. The Serbs, however, are not much perturbed by this threat, for the two main parties, Radicals and Democrats, are agreed upon the essential national policy of a single State, a single sovereign power, and that the provincial governments shall have no legislative powers and shall not be responsible to the provincial diets.

This attempt at forming a single party in Dalmatia has failed. Dr. Trumbitch and Dr. Smodlaka will lead the "non-party party," and the Democrats and Radicals conduct their own campaign. Dr. Liuba Jovanovitch, a prominent Radical, who was Minister of the Interior in the Salonika Government, himself a native of Cattaro, will lead the Radicals in Dalmatia.

All the politicians are busy. M. Jasha Prodanovitch, leader of the little Republican party, will stand for Vranja. The followers of Dr. Bogdan Medakovitch, who call themselves Dissident Democrats, being landowners, are opposed to the Democratic programme of Agrarian Reform, and will vote with the Radicals. M. Pashitch is busy electioneering at Novi Sad, and is then going to Bosnia and Dalmatia. M. Sv. Pubitchevitch is at work in the Lika district.

**The Adriatic Negotiations.**

The composition of the delegation to negotiate directly with Italy on the Adriatic Question is now announced. The Prime Minister will be accompanied by his secretary, M. N. Ilitch; Dr. Trumbitch by his *chef de cabinet*, M. St. Pavlovitch, and secretary, M. Tsintsar-Markovitch; M. Kosha Stojanovitch, Minister of Finance, by his *chef de cabinet*, M. Bratislav Stojanovitch.

**Serbian War Victims.**

During the three years' exile a large number of Serbs, not only sick and wounded soldiers, but civilians, died abroad, in Algeria, France, Switzerland, and Italy. The Government is now approaching the countries in question with the request that they will give facilities to relatives to transport the remains of their dead to Serbia, and to excuse them Customs and other frontier charges. Facilities will also be given to relatives to exchange money at the official rates, which privilege should relieve the financial burden.

## TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, October 17.

**The Cabinet.**

Although not a word indicative of a further crisis is allowed to appear in the local Press, there is no doubt that the political situation has become such that a radical change is inevitable. It is now two months since the Turkish plenipotentiaries signed the Treaty of Sèvres, and during that time not the slightest progress has been made with the all-important task of applying the Treaty conditions. The punitive expedition which the Government proposed to send to Anatolia has not got beyond the paper stage. This for two very good reasons: first, the Treasury is absolutely empty, and next the mass of the nation is with Mustapha Kemal, rather than with Damad Ferid Pasha. Every Turk, no matter what may be his political creed, resents the cession to Greece of Smyrna, and it is not surprising, therefore, that men will not volunteer to fight Mustapha Kemal, whose main object is said to be to drive the Greeks from Anatolia. The plans for the punitive expedition included the formation of four divisions, but not one-sixth of the necessary number of volunteers has been obtained for one division; and even these are not properly armed and equipped. At this rate it will take one year to get one division together; and as the conditions of the Treaty must be applied within six months, it is clear that there must be a radical alteration in the administration. Damad Ferid Pasha is pledged to extreme measures; he has outlawed the rebel leaders and condemned them to death. It is therefore impossible for him to climb down and attempt a reconciliation, even if he could bring himself to do it. There has been some talk of a "pacification" mission proceeding to Angora under the auspices of Lutfi Fikri Bey, formerly deputy for Dersim, and a politician with a most honourable reputation. The mission was to have an entirely unofficial character, and it appears that the matter has not been entirely dropped, but it is certain that it can accomplish nothing whatever under the present circumstances.

As matters stand, the Grand Vizier has no alternative to coercion other than resignation. It is also not at all improbable that the fall of Damad Ferid Pasha may involve something more than a mere change of Cabinet; for the Sultan himself is involved to the same degree as the Grand Vizier in the policy of extreme measures. It is difficult to see how the Sultan could possibly consent to treat with those whom his own decrees had outlawed and condemned to death. In view of the apparent impossibility of the Nationalist movement being suppressed by force, there remains the alternative of attempting to bring about a reconciliation, and this attempt could only be made if a Cabinet of moderate Nationalist tendencies were in power. This appears to be what will come about in the near future; and if one might hazard a guess, Tewfik Pasha may be Damad Ferid Pasha's successor, with Ahmed Izzet Pasha as Minister of War, and the real master of the situation.

**Anatolia.**

The situation in eastern Anatolia is of absorbing interest at the present moment, on account of the offensive launched by Kiazim Karabekir's army against the Armenians, at the same time as an attack from the other side by the Bolshevists. The Armenian papers are putting a brave face upon the matter, but there is reason to believe that things are going hard with the unfortunate Erivan Republic. So far as can be judged, the Turko-Bolshevist armies are aiming at the severance of the Tiflis-Erivan railway, which would make them masters of the whole of the country to the west of that line. The Turks are, of course, after the "three sanjaks" of Kars, Ardahan, and Batum, which were ceded to them by the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, and to which they have never renounced their claims, in spite of the armistice of Mudros. If the scheme succeeds, it remains to be seen whether the Russians will fall in with the views of their "allies," as the Turks call themselves, although comrade Apfelbaum hinted to the contrary at the recent Baku Congress. It also remains to be seen whether, having re-established the old Russian frontiers in the Caucasus, the Russians will be content. There is every indication that they will not; for it is reported that there are considerable numbers of Russians in Anatolia already, and there is certainly a Russian mission at Angora. The Turks, with the gambling spirit that seems to have taken possession of them ever since the Committee of Union and Progress dethroned the cautious and wily Abdul Hamid, are probably relying upon the speedy downfall of Bolshevism to save them from the Muscovite embrace; but that downfall may not make the difference that they expect.

**Cilicia.**

Such are the conflicting reports with regard to the Cilician situation that it is impossible to obtain a clear view of matters. The only thing that seems tolerably clear is that the French have once again switched off at a tangent to their policy of assisting the Armenians, and have given that unfortunate people further reasons for complaint. The French authorities are said to be deporting all Armenians who have entered the country since the Armistice, and who cannot be regarded as natives of Cilicia. At the same time relief has been stopped for the thousands of refugees who have flocked to Adana and elsewhere during the last few months.

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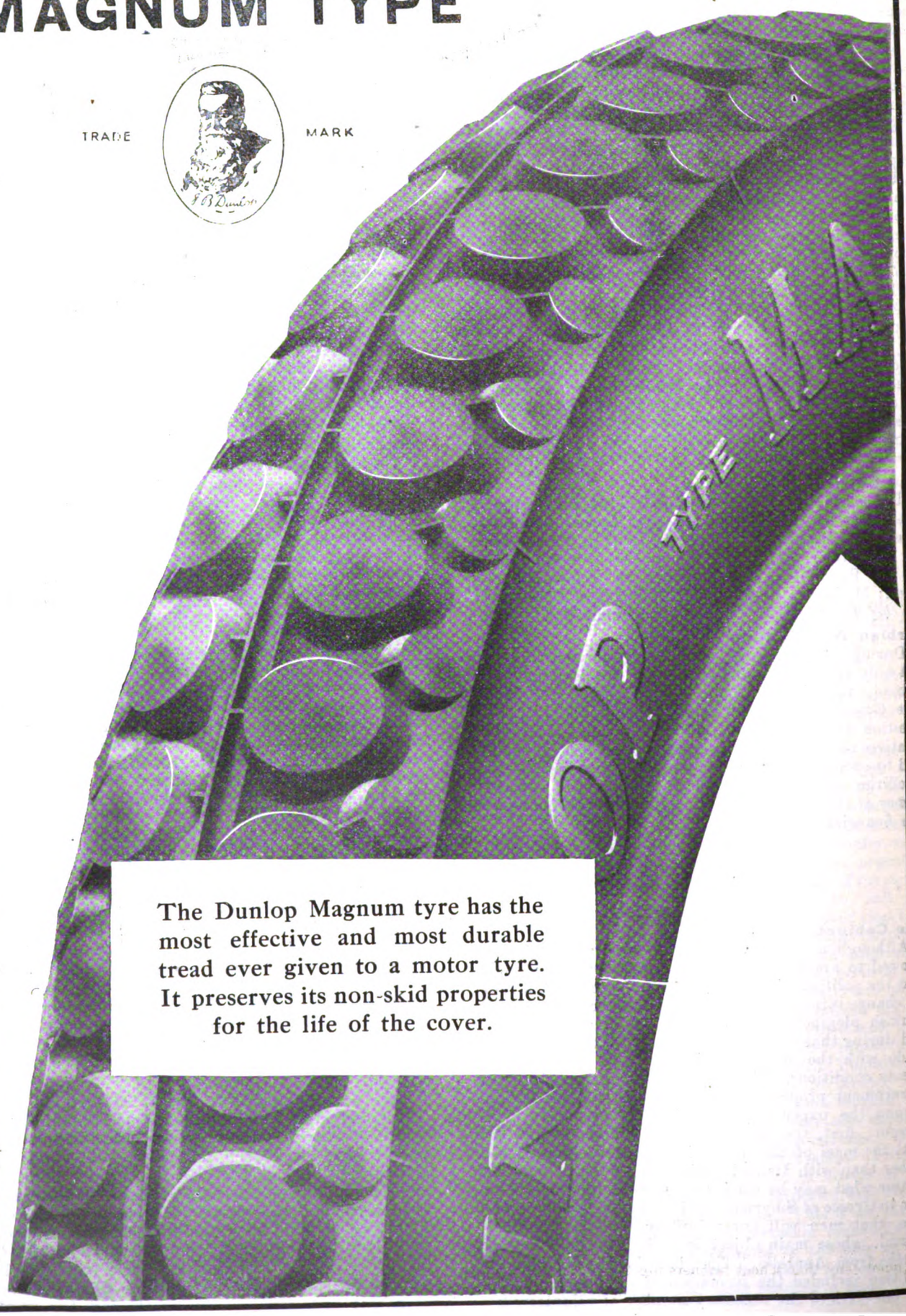

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Following the announcement of the French intention to restore Turkish rule in Adana, these circumstances render it hardly a matter for surprise that the Armenians should conclude that the French desire their complete extermination from Cilicia. More successful methods to such an end could hardly have been devised.

## BULGARIA.

Sofia, October 10.

### A Frontier Incident.

An unfortunate incident occurred on September 30 on the Greco-Bulgarian frontier, five miles north of Ortakeui. Early in the morning a Greek soldier was killed on Bulgarian territory in circumstances which have not yet been established. On the Bulgarian side an inquiry into the incident was at once ordered; while on the Greek side a request was made for the immediate handing over of the body, which was refused by the Bulgarians until the necessary judicial investigation had been made. According to information received here, at daybreak on October 2, Greek troops crossed the Bulgarian frontier, and captured and set on fire the Bulgarian post, No. 8, on the left bank of the Arda. A few hours later they opened fire on post No. 7, on the right bank of the river. Bulgarian troops shortly afterwards reoccupied post No. 8, finding that one of the occupants had been killed, but discovering no trace of the other three.

Representations made by the Bulgarian Government to the Greek Minister in Sofia have led to the evacuation of Bulgarian territory by the Greek troops, and a mixed commission has been appointed to inquire into the whole incident. The Bulgarian Government records its grateful recognition of the friendly attitude adopted in the matter by M. Panourias, the Greek Chargé d'Affaires.

## CYPRUS.

Undated.

### The Situation.

Letters from a London correspondent, extracts from which are published in a Greek paper, *Eleutheria* (Liberty), state that the latest news is not favourable to the "Unionist" cause, but that the Cypriot people should be told the truth. At a recent meeting of British Ministers it was, it states, decided that Cyprus should be retained: but as M. Venizelos is expected in England in November, matters may yet take another turn. Another extract states that Mr. T. P. O'Connor informed a member of the deputation that he had been told by Mr. Amery that nothing had been positively decided, which accords with the promise that the House of Commons would have a voice in the matter. There were matters of great importance regarding which it was desirable that the deputies should communicate with their compatriots verbally on their return to Cyprus.

Great interest continues to be taken in the course of Italo-Hellenic negotiations, the papers now stating that a definite agreement has been come to that Italy should keep Rhodes and Castellorizzo, and that should Britain cede Cyprus, the fate of Rhodes will be put to the vote of the Rhodians; but that Italy would in any case retain Rhodes for fifteen years.

### The Legislative Council.

The Draft Education Bill, upon which much time and care have been bestowed, came before the special meeting of the Council, but has been dropped as far as regards the Greek community, owing to the opposition of Greek members. The pretexts given have been that some members were absent (*i.e.*, on the deputation), that the time was not opportune, and that the new taxes were open to objection. They desire that there should be a special fund, similar to the Locust Fund. The real reasons were that they fear any extension of Government control, which is, of course, indispensable if Government is to pay the greatly enlarged cost of salaries out of increaed taxation. They dislike the proposed appointment of schoolmasters by the High Commissioner. They have, indeed, always been restive under the inspection of schools by a Government official, although there is also a Greek inspector. The truth is that the Greek authorities desire to employ the schoolmasters as political agents. M. Theodotou, who, by the way, is a member of the deputation still with the Archbishop in London, and is "one of the most prominent and certainly one of the ablest Greeks in Cyprus," stated candidly to Messrs. Cape and Talbot (who reported on education in Cyprus in 1913), "we cannot deny that school teachers are factors in the country, socially and politically. . . . They have helped to bring about the reduction of the tribute to Turkey. . . . They have educated the people in fighting for their political rights. They are in our hands a weapon difficult to fight against, and we do not want to hand them over to the Government." The Press approves their action and calls the bill a "gift that is no gift." The Government finally agreed that the law should apply to Moslem schools only. The Moslems are quite content that the appointment and dismissal of teachers should be in Government hands, and Irfan Bey, Turkish member, expressed the gratitude of the community for the benefits which the new law brings.

### Salaries of Officials.

The increase of salaries takes effect from April 1 last. There is an increase of 25 per cent. for those whose salaries are less than £400 a year and of 20 per cent. for those whose emoluments are higher. One paper, the *Herald* (Kiryx), has the courage to take up strongly what is called "the greatest injustice," viz., the case of retired officials in receipt of pensions, and whose allowances should in justice be increased even more than those of officials. There are some who bore the burden of the early years, when to say that they roughed it would be a mild expression. For many years these officials worked daily up to 7 and 8 p.m., Sundays included, often going many years without leave, in a roadless, feverish island. "Is this," the paper concludes, "the just reward of those who spent the whole of their active life in sincerely and conscientiously serving the Government?" It is high time that their case should be taken up. So far they have only been granted this year a paltry "temporary bonus."

### Crime.

Crime maintains its level. An atrocious murder has been committed in a village. A Turk named Hassan Emir Mustafa was betrothed to a girl, Aysheh Halil. The engagement was broken off. In the absence of the girl's father Hassan went to her house and asked the mother to allow her to go with him. On the mother refusing, he cut her throat, and on the daughter crying out he stabbed her to death and cut out her tongue.

An Armenian has been caught endeavouring to smuggle out of the island £616 sterling and £T181 in gold in hampers of grapes.

### General News.

The High Commissioner is proceeding to England on leave in October.

Two earthquake shocks were felt at Limassol about midnight on September 20, and also at other places. At Limassol there was considerable alarm.

Lieut.-Colonel Longhurst, R.A.M.C., who was in Cyprus some years ago as P.M.O., is in the island.

Among the flying rumours, probably traceable to some Zionist visitors, is one that Cyprus is to be placed under the Palestine administration.

## THE MESOPOTAMIAN PROBLEM.

On October 21, before the Central Asian Society, Captain Shepperd delivered a lecture on "Some Military Aspects of the Mesopotamian Problem." In 1915, said the lecturer, we sent a division to Mesopotamia to secure our interests in oil in the Persian Gulf, and to police the country. Up to the time of the Armistice our prestige was high, but subsequently we lost our hold, owing chiefly to anti-British propaganda and the sudden rise of the new-rich, a class not confined to European countries. Our policy in the East must now be to safeguard that heel of Achilles of the British Empire—India. We were menaced by the danger of an attack by Russia on India by way of the Persian Gulf. We could not leave Mesopotamia to become lawless, nor Persia to be overrun by Bolshevists. If we adopted a policy of conciliation and showed generosity and magnanimity, we should solve the very acute danger of the invasion of India by Bolshevist Russia.

## INDIA'S NEW CHARTER.

At the luncheon given at the Connaught Rooms by the Overseas Club and Patriotic League, Sir William Meyer, the first High Commissioner for India, said that the recent Act, which gave India a new charter, was only a temporary half-way house towards complete autonomy. In ten years hence the whole position had to be reviewed by a Royal Commission with a view to seeing how much more India could receive. One hoped that the feeling which now prevailed between the moderates and the extremists would subside, and he looked forward with great confidence to the visit of the Prince of Wales next year to pour oil on the troubled waters. The position was full of difficulty, but we had to go on as we had started. We had to trust that the people of India would gradually become more and more fitted for self-government, and that they would remain absolutely loyal to the Empire.

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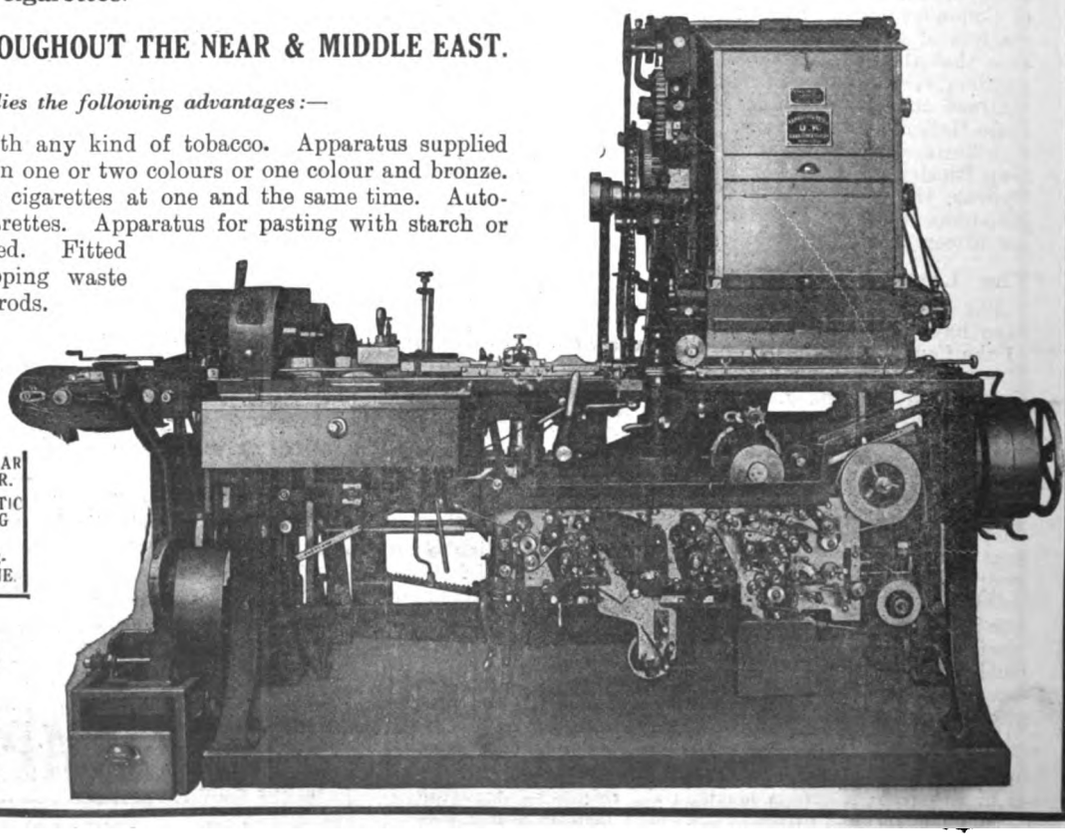

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

## MESOPOTAMIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—You have just quoted in your issue of the 21st the criticism passed by *The Times* in its leader of October 14 on the very important speech which Lord Curzon made at the Central Asian Society's dinner of October 12, at which he presided. This subject was yesterday treated by one who has come fresh from Mesopotamia, and who gave us his views formed on the spot and biassed by no politics. He showed us precisely what Lord Curzon contended, viz., that the interest which we have in peace and security of tenure in those countries which have long been known as "Buffer States" centres finally in India. It is for the security of India from invasion from the North-west that we have for more than a century striven, and to-day still strive to maintain an impassable barrier from the Pamirs to the Persian Gulf. That means an Afghanistan and Persia allied and sharing mutual interests with us, a Trans-Caucasian—or rather, from the point of view of India, a cis-Caucasian—barrier against aggression from the Caucasus, and such a co-operation between British and French in Upper Mesopotamia, Cilicia, and Syria, backed by the independent Arab, as will at once thwart any Turkish designs and assist and aid the Trans-Caucasian Republics, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, in maintaining their independence. This we cannot do if we evacuate Mesopotamia *instanter*. His Majesty's Government has now openly stated that the independence of the Arab is the keynote of its policy, and to carry out that policy Sir Percy Cox is at Baghdad. So far the policy of France in Syria has been conspicuous by its determination to counter Arab independence. France has most unquestionably trenched upon rights claimed by the Emir Faisal, and in order to conciliate the French has disappointed the Arab. In gratitude for this Pierre Loti pours out his woes on the decadence of France in the East in a volume which, as far as a brief perusal enabled me to judge, attributed the responsibility for this to the country which spent thousands of millions and hundreds of thousands of men to save France from Prussia. It is just about two years since Britain and France issued a joint proclamation stating in the clearest terms their policy in the land of the Arabs. In fulfilling the terms of that proclamation we are most distinctly entitled to the thorough support of the French, and that the more so, seeing that France claims 25 per cent. of the oil-wealth of Mesopotamia. It is not so long since an Englishman, the record of whose travels in Asia Minor has made him well known, wrote to me and gave it as his opinion that the aspirations of certain Continental Powers in the Near and Middle East would have but a short life. Time would prove to those Powers that they had bitten off more than they could chew.

I have been greatly interested by Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah's proposal that a very influential member of the Sharifian family at Mecca, who for years has been a political prisoner at Constantinople, should be brought forth from his seclusion on the Bosphorus and sent to Baghdad to be trained to assume the government of Mesopotamia. We presume that Sir Percy Cox would be his mentor. It is to be noted that Professor Kay, of St. Andrew's, who knows what he is writing about, has strongly endorsed what Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah recommends. Both the originator and endorser of this proposal are members of the Central Asian Society, and serve to emphasise the truth of Lord Curzon's statement, made at the dinner on the 12th, that not only had that society a great work before it, but also the power and prestige needed to carry out that work.

I must refrain here from even giving an outline of the great future of the Aegeo-Euxine Straits, the Black Sea, with the ports of Trebizond and Batoum, and of the railways of Persia and Central Asia as one of the great trade-routes between East and West. You will remember that the astute German, once he realised that the Baghdad Railway was lost to him, conceived the exploitation of this very route, which the Entente, if they are wise, will develop, and which the League of Nations should protect. This is a theme which Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah, when he lectures to the C.A.S. on November 10 on "Central Asia," may well handle. His lecture should, in a measure, be a complement of that which Captain Sheppard gave us with such excellent results yesterday.—Your obedient servant,

A. C. YATE, Lieut.-Col.
(Hon. Sec., Central Asian Society.)

The Athenæum, October 22, 1920.

## A TURKISH DISH.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—As regards the dish, "Imam bayildi," the explanation given by Corsair is, I have no doubt, the correct one—viz.: that the Imam fainted from excess of joy: as I believe most Turks would agree. Three other explanations have been offered by your correspondents, one being that the mythical Imam was so fatigued in dispensing the popular dish that he fainted from the exertion. Another is that he swooned on discovering that the dish contained garlic and onions, against which it is alleged (on what authority?) that the Prophet was prejudiced. Your correspondent, A. C. Silley, offers one which certainly cannot be accepted. He is, I think, introducing what is "another story." "Imam bayildi" is undoubtedly composed of "bedinjan" (egg-plant, or aubergine), which Mr. Silley would eliminate. The vegetable is cooked in a variety of ways by Near East cooks. I am acquainted with about ten recipes, and should be glad to give Mr. Silley that of the Imam connoisseur, as prepared by the best Turkish cooks, should he wish for it. Bedinjans, not particularly good, cost in London at present 10d. and 1s. apiece, and the dish cannot be recommended as an economical one!

R. L. N. MICHELL.

22, Lansdowne Crescent, W.11, October 25.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—May I, in my turn, give a slightly different version of the story concerning the origin of the above. Your readers will pardon me if, the incident being a purely Turkish one, some little explanation of a Turkish expression becomes necessary to render the narrative comprehensible.

The Imam had, as Silley Bey remarks, brought home some olive oil for the lamps of the mosque, but what followed differs from his version. The wife of the Imam, not having sufficient oil herself to prepare the dish of "patlijan," etc., asked her husband if she might take a little of his. The Imam suffered from stuttering, and, meaning to stop the pouring out of the oil after she had taken what he considered sufficient, tried to say "koyma"—The "ma" in Turkish turning the word "koy," meaning "put" or "pour," into "do *not* put" or "stop pouring." What he succeeded in saying was "koy-koy-koy-koy-koy-" and his wife, thinking he meant her to continue to pour out, went on gaily till the poor Imam at last, seeing his precious oil all gone before he had succeeded in getting out the "koyma," fainted away from despair.

That, I think I am correct in stating, is the true Turkish story of the origin of the dish "Imam baildi"—the Imam fainted—which is prepared with a very liberal amount of olive oil.

I am, etc.,
October 21, 1920. A. P. TULLY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In reply to the letter of Mr. A. C. Silley, I must point out that I wrote "Mohammed advised," and not "ordered." If your correspondent would care to find a copy of "Sahih-ul-Bahari"—which has been published in Cairo, with commentaries, in twelve volumes, and is considered to be the best authority upon the quotations of the Prophet—and look up "Ehadith," under the title of "El-Ma'kulet," there he will not fail to notice that on a certain occasion Mohammed said: "The angels of God cannot be near to those persons who eat garlic and onion."

"Imam Baildi" is neither a delicacy nor a much-appreciated dish. It is rarely cooked in the houses of the high-class people of the Near East, including Constantinople. His story is not so happy. An Imam occupies the highest position in the Mohammedan religious rites, and does not concern himself with the lamps of the mosque. This is the special business of the attendant of the mosque, who is called "Kayim." It is a proverbial fact that Imams do not eat garlic, especially on the eve of a great religious festival, and rarely taste onion.

It may be of interest for the people of the West to know that in the Near East garlic is used as the only effective medicine against snakes. Experience has taught that even adders avoid its smell, and do not approach places where a few bulbs of garlic are kept for some time.—I am, etc.,

October 23, 1920. M. N. BODAMIALISADE.

## PALESTINE FOR TOURISTS.

Active measures are now being taken by the Government of Palestine for an anticipated influx of tourists next spring. According to the *Palestine Daily Mail* (published in Jerusalem) the Government has appointed a Commission under the presidency of Mr. Wyndham Deedes to consider what steps should be taken to provide sufficient hotel accommodation for the tourists expected in 1921, the improvement of transit facilities and the development of general trade conditions. The first meeting of the Commission has already been held.

The British Government has given permission to the Germans who were expelled from Palestine and Egypt to return to those countries.

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# LORD ALLENBY'S REPORT ON EGYPT.

The "Reports of H.M. High Commissioner on the Finances, Administration, and Condition of Egypt and the Soudan for the Period 1914-1919" [Cmd. 957] was issued recently. Owing to the long period covered and the conditions brought about by the war, it differs greatly from pre-war reports, but, as usual, it contains much valuable information.

In the section dealing with the Ministry of Finance, mention of the premature death of Lord Edward Cecil calls forth a tribute to his devotion and foresight, which were "especially valuable in the difficult circumstances attending the early years of the war." After reference to the good work of Sir William Brunyate and the country's fortune in obtaining the services of Sir Paul Harvey again, the report continues:—

Important changes have been made in the organisation of the Ministry of Finance. Hitherto several departments have been subordinated to the Ministry of Finance which are not directly concerned with the primary functions of such a Ministry. It has seemed desirable to detach these departments from the Ministry of Finance, and the recent creation of a Ministry of Communications has already permitted the transfer of the Postal Administration and the Ports and Lights Administration to that Ministry. The Central Administration of the Ministry of Finance has also been reorganised. The important group of services included under the State Accounts Department has been redistributed; and the general control of Government accounts, pensions, etc., has been entrusted to a Controller of Government Accounts, while a Controller of Budget and Establishment has been appointed to undertake the preparation of the annual Budget and to deal with modifications of budgetary grants and general questions relating to departmental establishments. A consulting office has been formed under the Financial Secretary, which is intended to carry out research and to provide information and advice on economic and financial subjects. New posts of Controller-General of Administration and Controller of Government Purchases have been created: the former official is charged with supervising the general administrative work of the Ministry and other important matters, while the latter will co-ordinate the purchase of Government supplies: all supplies of a similar nature will be bought through the department which is most competent, and it is hoped that considerable economies will thus be effected. The duties of the Controller of Printing have been extended to include control over all Government printing executed in Egypt, an arrangement which will economise labour and material.

Under the heading "Education," we read that the educational outlook at the time of the Armistice seemed most hopeful. "It is greatly to be regretted that these brightened prospects should have been suddenly obliterated, at least temporarily, by the schools throughout the country throwing themselves, or being thrown, into a turmoil of strikes and demonstrations." As a result of these strikes:—

The Ministry of Education had no alternative but to postpone indefinitely the annual examinations which are usually held in May and June, and the colleges and schools were closed for the summer vacation at an abnormally early date. In the primary schools, however, an extra session was held during the month of August to make up for lost time, and in order to give the pupils a chance of passing the entrance examination to secondary schools. The postponed secondary education certificate examination was held in September, but the number of candidates was small. In a spirit of conciliation, and so as to avoid the loss of a year to the students and pupils generally, the Council of Ministers decided on August 11, 1919, to hold the promotion and diploma examinations of the higher colleges and a second session for the secondary examination in January, 1920.

The injury done to education by these disturbances is emphasised, but the Egyptian Government will not be deterred from its educational programme, but will increase opportunities of elementary education, and will extend and improve facilities for the higher branch of study.

There is ample room for reform in the educational system of Egypt, which is in particular excessively dominated by examinations both as an end in themselves and as providing a qualification for posts in the Government service. It is to be hoped that in the future the function of education as a training for life and citizenship will be kept clearly in view, and every encouragement given to the desire for knowledge and the cultivation of general intelligence. There is a keen demand for education throughout the country. I trust that the coming years will see a sustained effort on the part of the Ministry of Education, backed by a more liberal allocation of funds than it has hitherto been usual to provide, not only to meet the amount of the demand, but to instil true educational ideals into the minds of the people and of those who are responsible under the central authority for educating them.

Among points noted in this section of the report are the following:—

During the first years of the war there was a falling off in the numbers in the boys' primary schools, but since 1918 the numbers have notably increased, and several of the Government schools are now full, and even overcrowded. The attendance is now 8,609 as compared with 6,407 in 1914 and 6,197 in 1915. Since 1914 the number of Government secondary schools has increased from six to seven; but the attendance has fallen from 2,637 to 2,525. The number of private secondary schools under the inspection of the Ministry of Education rose from six in 1914, with an attendance of 1,508 pupils, to thirty-three in 1919, with 4,588 pupils enrolled. Only ten of these schools, however, were eligible for a grant-in-aid, as the remainder provided only half of the recognised secondary course. In consequence of the increased cost of maintenance, the Ministry has found it necessary to double its usual grants.

Among the many changes which have taken place in Egypt during the last few years none is more striking than the awakening interest of a certain section of Egyptian women in affairs outside the immediate circle of the home. This, the report remarks, is largely the result of education, and will influence, in its turn, the progress of education in the future. A few years ago it was rare to find a mother taking a direct personal interest in the welfare of her daughter at school, but during the last few years these conditions have changed in the larger towns, where mothers now visit the schools to discuss their daughters' progress with the head mistress. The Ministry maintains five higher elementary schools for girls, which have an attendance of 464 pupils; while in the two elementary training colleges maintained by the Ministry there are now 447 students. The Sania Training College, which trains teachers for the primary schools and elementary training colleges, has now eighty-two students, as compared with forty-eight in 1914.

On the subject of a State University, the report says:—

Educational developments have now reached a stage which makes it possible, and very desirable, to consider as a practical question the establishment of a State University. . . . The existing colleges furnish no opportunity for students, after completing their secondary course, to secure a liberal education apart from a professional career; the complete separation of the courses makes the present organisation of higher education inelastic, leaving little opportunity for optional studies or for different combinations of courses, and insufficient provision and incentive exist for post-graduate studies or original research. In short, the present organisation insufficiently sets forth high ideals, has developed no academic traditions, and is too exclusively utilitarian. It tends to foster the belief that the obtaining of a diploma is the one and only purpose to be kept in view, and fails to evoke the true spirit of culture—the pursuit of learning for its own sake. . . .

While there is need for the expansion of the existing professional colleges, an effort should be made at the same time to meet the requirements of those . . . who wish to pursue a higher course of study for the sake of general culture, without reference to any particular profession or career. Further, the long and varied history of Egypt, as well as its geographical situation and its position in the Moslem world, clearly point to the appropriateness of Cairo as a seat for a college of Oriental studies. At present Egypt, in spite of incomparable advantages, provides no opportunities (such as exist in the most important European universities) for acquiring a literary knowledge of the languages that are cognate with Arabic and of the comparative philology of the Semitic languages, or of the languages of Ancient Egypt, or for the investigation of the many literary, archæological, historical, and philosophical questions on which these studies throw light. The time has come for the creation of higher courses of study of the true university type. . . .

A commission was appointed by Sir Adly Yeghen Pasha in 1917 to consider this question. In 1918 it presented a preliminary report, but no effective steps were taken thereupon. The question is now being pressed forward with a view to early effect being given to the proposals.

As was to be expected, "the effect of war conditions was particularly pronounced in the sphere of the Ministry of the Interior:—

Thus the Public Security Department became, for certain purposes, a local branch of the Intelligence Section of the General Staff; members of the Egyptian Police were regarded as the executive of the Commander-in-Chief for the enforcement of the provisions of proclamations and orders issued under martial law; and the provincial machinery of the Ministry of the Interior was for considerable periods very largely occupied by recruiting for the Egyptian Labour Corps and obtaining supplies for the army.

The reorganisation of the provincial police has been the subject of a special inquiry, a report on the question has been presented to the Ministry, and "it is hoped gradually to develop some of the suggestions made therein." The City Police have been sorely tried by the conditions brought about by the war, but they merit, and receive, praise for their efficiency, good discipline, and restraint.

At the end of 1919 there were 16,978 prisoners, compared with 13,310 at the close of 1918, the daily average (15,411) showing an increase of 1,026 on the 1914 figures.

The following paragraphs from the section dealing with the Health Department are interesting:—

The political excitement in the spring, culminating in demonstrations, disturbances, and strikes, resulted in a serious setback to public health work in 1919. Owing to the desertion of the non-technical staff, and to the difficulty of supply, isolation hospitals and camps and infectious disease treatment centres had of necessity to be closed down, so that isolated *foci* of in-

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fection in out-districts and villages, usually easily dealt with, could not be taken in hand, and were perforce left to smoulder and to flare up subsequently in epidemic virulence. Not only the lower-grade personnel quitted their posts and work at out-stations, but even the clerical staffs at Mudiria towns and headquarters became so infected with the general excitement that it is to be feared statistical tables and figures suffered, and will fail to give reliable statements of the work of the different sections and departments of the administration.

Although the great majority of the Egyptian medical staff participated in the national movement and aspirations, to their credit be it said that their sense of public duty, respect for humanitarian principles, and for professional ethics, led them to report their assurance of the continuity of service at hospitals, dispensaries, laboratories, and public health offices at a moment when practically every other branch of the service had stopped work as a sign of public protest.

It is satisfactory to learn that steps have been taken to reopen the campaign against ankylostomiasis and bilharziasis, which cause so much suffering and loss of efficiency amongst the population of Egypt, especially the fellaheen. An Anglo-Egyptian committee has the matter in hand, and is drawing up a comprehensive scheme, including the organisation of an experimental district in the province of Qaliubia (Lower Egypt), which is considered to be a suitable field, in order to test the practicability of various proposals put forward.

The number of persons admitted into the lunatic asylums, says the report, averages somewhat over 1,000 a year. The death-rate in the asylums rose from 12.25 per cent. in 1913 to 21 per cent. in 1918, but fell rapidly during 1919. Pellagra remains the chief cause of insanity in Egypt.

## M. STAMBOLISKY'S TOUR.

The Bulgarian Prime Minister returned to London on October 24. In the course of the week's tour he had visited Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool and Glasgow, as the guest of the British Government, accompanied by Messieurs D. Stancioff, Kissimoff, Karakacheff, and Milosheff; M. Madjaroff. Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires, Mlle. N. Stancioff, Mlle. Popoff, and MM. Mamarcheff and Radkoff. Mr. L. N. Barker, of the Department of Overseas Trade, was attached to the party, and was mainly responsible for the smooth working of all the arrangements.

At each city the programme followed the same general lines; M. Stambolisky was met at the station by the Lord Mayor and the members of the Chamber of Commerce, a luncheon was given in his honour, and visits were paid to local factories and workshops.

Summing up his impressions, the Bulgarian Prime Minister said that he was an Anglophil before he came to Great Britain, but he had become still more so after becoming personally acquainted with the country and the people. He hoped that his visit would not only ensure Great Britain's goodwill for Bulgaria, but would also lead to closer commercial ties between the two countries.

Considerations of space prevent reference to all the speeches delivered on the tour, but the following is a summary of those made at the luncheon given by the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. F. C. Gardiner, President of the Chamber of Commerce, in proposing M. Stambolisky's health, referred to the courageous stand that he had made against King Ferdinand's war policy:—

M. Stambolisky, and those who had come with him, he added, had as the main object of their visit the promotion of commercial intercourse between their country and ours. It was plain there was great opportunity for commerce, because what we produced they required, and what they produced we required. In the past there had been little commercial intercourse between this country and Bulgaria, and the Central Powers of Europe had had the trade of Bulgaria very largely in their hands. That arose in part from the proximity of those Powers to the markets of Bulgaria, and also because it was the practice of the German merchants to give longer terms of credit than were usual in this country. From what he had been able to gather the people of Bulgaria were strongly predisposed to do business with this country. We must explore its markets, ascertain the possibilities of development—which in the matter of its mines was by no means small—we must put ourselves in direct communication with its people if we were to take our proper place in its trade. Unhappily, they had come at a time when our own country was rent with dissension. On that matter he would only say that if the blind leaders of the blind continued their present policy they would discover what was plain to anyone who had studied the facts—that at least half of our trade was dependent upon our foreign business, and if we failed to produce for export we should be face to face with such a crisis as this country had never seen before. He believed that this people would rally itself and be ready to play its part, and its part was a large one in the restoration of the devastated countries.

M. Stambolisky, in reply, thanked his hosts for their kind reception, and remarked that during his visit the climate of Great Britain had belied its sunless reputation. Bulgaria, he continued, was in need of British products, and was anxious to work with Great Britain. The Bulgarians would have been able in 1915 to oppose King Ferdinand's policy if the diplomacy of the Entente Powers had been a little more wise, but, unfortunately, the diplomacy of the Entente submitted itself to the control of Russian diplomacy, which was not of the best, and was well known in the world for its foolish faults. One day history would prove that the entire Bulgarian nation was against Bulgaria fighting on the side of the Central Powers. Tsar Ferdinand deceived the Bulgarian nation. His audience would perhaps be astonished to hear that the whole Bulgarian nation was very pleased with the victory of the Entente Powers, because that was the sole way to rid them for ever of their bad Sovereign and of the results of German plots and intrigues. The influence of a victorious Germany or of a victorious Russia would have been equally harmful. The conviction lay deep in the heart of every Bulgarian that the interests of Britain could never be against the interests of Bulgaria. During the war their great fault was to have been on the side of Great Britain's enemies, and for the faults of King Ferdinand the whole Bulgarian nation was punished. The cruel lesson they had learnt, the penalty they had suffered, had made them more clever. They got rid of their bad Sovereign, and they would only tolerate one who would conduct himself and act in the way the British Sovereign did. They were convinced that their friend of yesterday, to-day, and always was Great Britain. "We ask you who have brought culture and civilisation to the farthest parts of the world," he said, "to extend a friendly hand to Bulgaria." They had need of British capital to work their mines and mineral riches, to re-establish their small industries on a firmer basis and reconstruct their railways, to study the question of their rivers and irrigation, and cultivate their forests for better results. They had great need of all British productions, against which they could give wheat and other cereals, hides, wood, cotton, and other products. The Bulgarians had a proverb that a nation could die, but a debt could never die, and the Bulgarians did not know what it was not to pay. Concluding, he again expressed thanks for the welcome he had received, and said that, in spite of our internal difficulties, he was firmly convinced we would be able to extend a friendly hand to Bulgaria.

## DR. STANCIOFF'S APPOINTMENT.

The appointment is announced of Dr. Dimitri Stancioff as Bulgarian Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James.

M. Stancioff was born at Sistova in Bulgaria in 1865, and at an early age went to the Imperial Academy at Vienna. After graduating as Doctor of Law he returned to Sofia and entered the Foreign Office. He was for a time the head of King Ferdinand's political Cabinet, and occupied successively the post of Bulgarian Minister in Bucharest, Vienna and Petrograd. In 1905 he became Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Petkoff Cabinet, but subsequently took charge of the London and Paris Legations. A few months later the two posts were separated, and M. Stancioff became Minister in Paris. When Bulgaria entered the war M. Stancioff was sent to the Bulgarian Legation in Rome, but his well-known sympathies with the Entente made him suspect with King Ferdinand, and after a last appeal to the latter that Bulgaria should throw in her lot with the Entente Powers, he resigned his post and joined the army, in which he was a Reserve Officer. King Ferdinand had him sent to the Front, but he was subsequently given a post in Philippopolis, where, as Inspector of Hospitals, he was able to do something for the amelioration of the lot of the Allied prisoners of war.

Dr. Stancioff married the Comtesse de Grenaud, who was not allowed to reside in Sofia during the war on account of her French extraction. His eldest daughter, Mademoiselle Nadejda Stancioff, is accompanying M. Stambolisky on his tour to England as private secretary and interpreter.

## SERBIAN WOMEN.

A meeting of those interested in the welfare of Serbia was held at the Mansion House on October 21, in support of the Society for Training Serbian Women. In the course of speeches by the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, the formation of the Society in 1917 by English and Serbian women was recounted, and it was stated that the cost of educating each of the twelve girls under the care of the Society was only £50 per annum.

Miss Wylie said they wanted to get a system of education which the Serbian women desired, to act as an antidote to the influence which had been used by Germans, Austrians, and the Turks. The Serbians' own desire was that the education of their women should be carried on along British lines.

The Czecho-Slovak Legation announces that to-day (October 28) has been proclaimed as Official Czecho-Slovak Independence Day. All friends of Czecho-Slovakia will be welcome at the Czecho-Slovak Legation, 9, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1, this afternoon, between 4 and 6 p.m.

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# MUSICAL NOTES.

### A Yugoslavian Violinist.

It is always disappointing when a foreign artist chooses an indifferent programme, for in this country a high standard is set, and often, possibly too often, the foreigner is judged by what he performs, not how he performs it. Now, M. Miro Shlik, the famous Yugoslav fiddler, who made his first appearance in London at the Wigmore Hall on October 22, played only Tartini's sonata in G Minor, Wieniawski's purely technical concerto in F sharp minor, and pieces by Dvorak, Suk, and Sarasate; it is difficult, therefore, accurately to appreciate his ability. The properties obvious in his playing were a very fluent though not infallible technique, a very warm and often beautiful wealth of feeling, and—uncertain intonation. This fault may or may not have been due to nervousness—I hope it was. M. Shlik's potential resources are vast; if he were always to play with such poetry and keen insight as he displayed, for instance, in Dvorak's Slavian Dance in E minor, he could be a great violinist. He has most abundant temperament, which serves him well in things that matter, but is rather wasted in merely technical pieces.

### A "Sackbut" Concert.

The *Sackbut* is a monthly musical journal. In the first few months of its existence it achieved notoriety, not so much through its views as through its expression of them. It has a very definite, or rather decided, standard of what is good and what is bad in music, and with the laudable purpose of publicly demonstrating that standard it has started a series of concerts at the Mortimer Hall. The first of these was given on October 18. The things performed at this concert were three fantasias by Henry Purcell for String Quartet, duets for two voices by Dowland and Robert Jones, canzonettas for two voices by Morley, and last and (I think) least, Bernard Van Dieren's String Quartet (1917). The three fantasias have not yet been published, but as soon as they are they will be extremely popular, and for bringing them forward the zealous organisers of this concert are greatly to be thanked; even the fact that the leader of the Pennington String Quartet was excessively directorial could not take away their charm. In Dowland's "Lachrymæ," the accompanist at the pianoforte evidently thought he was in the Albert Hall; and the tears which he caused did not mingle well with Dowland's. Of the two singers Mr. John Goss was excellent, and obviously knew what he was doing in this small hall, but with his voice Miss Ffrangcon Davies' did not blend at all, and hers, moreover, though sweet, is colourless. Van Dieren, who, the *Sackbut* says, is one of the finest minds in contemporary music, did not justify this ranking in his quartet. Its first movement was extremely difficult to understand; its second irritating in its almost exclusive use of *pizzicato;* its third very good, with a purpose achieved (it was excellently played); and the fourth like the first. It will, I hope, be played again. The promoters of this concert are cultural revolutionaries whose initial lonely failure should not deter them from a continuance of the series.

### The Flonzaley Quartet.

During the intervals between the movements of the Van Dieren work the thought fortunately descended on me that I might still be in time to hear the Flonzaley Quartet, who were playing at the Wigmore Hall on the same night. The gods were very kind, and I heard them play the whole of Schumann's glorious quartet in A major, Op. 41, No. 3. Everything good about the Flonzaleys has already been said in all parts of the world, and I can only say that no praise is extravagant. In beauty of tone they are matchless, and in the combination of sound they are unique. To hear them play the *adagio* of the Schumann was a transport; it stirred such emotions as only absolute (but traditional) masters can create. The fourth movement (*allegro molto vivace*) they took at a much slower pace than that to which most string quartets have accustomed us, but—it did not matter. . . . One imagines that in future generations musicians will awfully speak of the divine right of the Flonzaleys, for truly they can do no wrong.

### A Chamber Concert.

At the present time there appears to be a very wide passion among amateurs for chamber music, and it is good even for the hardened critic, who is inclined to think only in terms of orchestral concerts or "star" artists, occasionally to listen to evidence of this passion. Now, it was probably more zeal than judgment that prompted the actions of those performing in the concert given at the Mortimer Hall on October 20. If Miss Grace Burrows and Miss Gertrude Hopkins really think John Ireland's first Violin Sonata worth playing in public, there is no more to be said, except that (1) they played it with commendable zeal and skill, and (2) they are wrong in so thinking. But when these two ladies proceeded, with Mr. Frank Dyson, a flautist whose top and loud notes were rather unhappily situated, to play Beethoven's Serenade, Opus 25, they really did unto us what Beethoven and we did not deserve. It is a dull, dull work, and though it need not be allowed to perish while drawing-rooms still exist, those, and not concert platforms, are its proper place. At this concert Miss Gladys Newberry, a light soprano with a pure and pleasing voice, sang excellently chosen songs in German, French, and English, yet why her enunciation should have been best in German it is hard to understand. But really this was a quite enjoyable concert, for there was an atmosphere of intimate sincerity about it.

### M. Siloti.

M. Siloti gave another recital at the Wigmore Hall on October 23, but I do not think he enhanced his reputation. That, of course, is secure enough, for his past services and achievements in the cause of music appear to have been tremendous. But he is not a greatly moving player. There are not many good things that he cannot do on the pianoforte, but he does not often choose to do them. For instance, why should he make Balakireff's "Islamey" chiefly a matter of noise; clear noise, admittedly, and wonderfully made, but why not music? And why should a great man like this inflict on us, with never a vapidity missed, Liszt's execrable "Bénédiction de Dieu dans la Solitude"; and, again, the practically worthless puerilities of the variations upon Mozart's "Ah! vous dirais-je, maman"? Yet all could be forgiven him in Scriabin's beautiful second sonata; when he was playing its first movement we knew him for the master he must have been. We knew him again in the slow movement from Beethoven's "Hammerclavier"; and he must have convinced anybody in his own transcriptions of some Bach preludes. It is true that he had a poor instrument to play on, but the hard shock of his playing made it appear more vile than it really was. Of all great players, M. Siloti, from his pedalling to his left-hand octaves, is the most curiously unequal player I have ever heard.

### M. Jascha Heifetz.

Last season a great *furore* was caused by, and a great discussion arose over, the playing of the young Russian violinist, M. Jascha Heifetz. By some he was acclaimed as the greatest violinist in the world, and others found him to be only a supreme technician. He gave a recital at the Queen's Hall on October 20, and it was the second view of him that impressed itself as being nearer the truth. His technique is truly amazing; there is literally not a hint of an error, not a ghost of a chance of a mistake. But while we gaze in admiration at this wonderful mechanism, we do not see the engine move. It does, indeed, thrill you to hear such things as Fiocco's "Allegro," Sarasate's "Tarantelle," or Wieniawski's "Polonaise in D major" done perfectly; in all pure mastery of whatever instrument there is something to make one gasp; but this sort of stuff is not the highest form of music. It is rather by Handel's Sonata in E major, Bruch's Concerto in G minor, and the two movements from Bach's third sonata (unaccompanied), which he played, that M. Heifetz must be judged; and in these he did not penetrate deeply into the meaning of the music. He was best, probably, in the Handel, using a fine tone and superbly finished phrasing. But I hope to have further opportunities of commenting upon his playing.

### M. Josef Hofmann.

Probably the greatest artist who has come to us since the war from America is M. Josef Hofmann, the Polish pianist, who last played in England in 1903. He, like M. Heifetz, is a perfect master of technique, but he has unusual powers of interpretation as well. At his recital at the Queen's Hall on October 21 I heard some of the most wonderful playing I have listened to since Busoni's recitals. By the time this is in print I shall have heard him again, and will write more fully on him next week. But his performance of Beethoven's last sonata (Op. 111.) must be mentioned; it was exquisite. This is a strange method and word to use in connection with Beethoven, but M. Hofmann's was a strange interpretation. No clamour, no brusqueness such as Lamond indulges in, no ruthless analysis, such as that with which Busoni treats Beethoven, was in M. Hofmann's rendering, but reserve, colour, and polish were the dominant qualities. To me it was completely satisfying. He was again superb in the Beethoven-Rubinstein March from "The Ruins of Athens," in some Chopin waltzes, and in a transcription by Godowsky of Johannn Strauss' "The Bat." On what he did in some Chopin nocturnes and a polonaise, and on two of his own compositions I will write next week.

ANDANTE.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"WOMEN OF INDIA." By Otto Rothfeld, I.C.S. Illustrated by M. V. Durandhar. (London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent and Co. 1920. Price, 30s. net.)

II.—"SWEET ALOES." By Elizabeth Stirling (Lady Stirling of Glorat). (London: Stanley Paul and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

III.—"YARNS OF THE NEAR EAST." By Basil Mathews. (United Council for Missionary Education. 1s. net.)

## I.—TYPES OF INDIAN WOMANHOOD.

Goethe's "Eternal Feminine" applies in its fullest sense to India. There, as elsewhere, women play an overwhelming part in the drama of human society, and some knowledge of their characteristics, inherited or acquired, is essential for all who desire to follow the trend of evolution. But the *purdah*, or veil, which shrouds an Indian woman of the upper class from profane gaze, is an effectual barrier: a European may spend half his life in India without setting eyes on one. Mr. Otto Rothfeld, of the Indian Civil Service, has endeavoured, with a great measure of success, to lift a corner of the ubiquitous *purdah*. In a sumptuous volume, illustrated by portraits in colour, depicting every type of womanhood, he tells us how the fair sex in our great dependency live, think, and act. He discusses the sequestration of women at considerable length. The shastras, or sacred writings of the Hindus, offer abundant evidence that princesses, at least, once moved freely in society, and later history records that the *purdah*, in its strictest form, dates from the Mohammedan conquest. It has no warrant in the Quran. Mohammed enjoined women to cover their faces in the street, lest they should excite unholy desire in believers; he did not condemn them to lifelong imprisonment. A fierce controversy rages round the *purdah*. Enlightened Hindus and Moslems charge each other with having introduced a custom which they instinctively feel is a drag on the wheels of progress. It is probable that the Mohammedan invaders of the 10th century behaved as ruthlessly as the modern Huns a millennium later; and that the custom of secluding women began with the proud Rajputs and spread over India. Snobbery is quite as rife there as in Western Europe; and disabilities which flatter the self-esteem of wealthy women are felt as an intolerable burden by their sisters of lower degree. But facilities for travel and pilgrimage are proving fatal to the *purdah*. Nor does it prevent women from wielding immense, if occult, influence; the deftest political schemes are apt to "gang agley" by reason of zenana intrigues. In India, as elsewhere, women are the pillars of organised religion. Of the Indian wife Mr. Rothfeld writes:—

> Her every thought and act is moulded from childhood to the day of death by the present reality of religion. Her childhood is an adoration, marriage a sacrament, wifehood an oblation: in motherhood she finds at once sacrifice and worship; while life and death alike are a quest and a resignation.

Marriage is scarcely more than an episode in man's career; for his helpmeet it heralds the dawn of a new life. And she undertakes tremendous responsibilities which are not of her own seeking. "Marriages of convenience," as the French say, are universal throughout India, where a woman's connubial fate is settled for weal or woe in infancy. If a husband predeceases his wife the fact is ascribed to her evil *karma*. In times within living memory she atoned for it by sharing his funeral pyre; and Hindu widows are still condemned to lifelong penance for the sins of a previous existence. Here, again, signs are not wanting that India has entered on a higher stage of social evolution; the remarriage of child-widows often occurs without exciting adverse criticism. Moreover, girls of the upper class are no longer denied the education which inspires a sense of citizenship, albeit that much remains to be done in this respect. In Mr. Rothfeld's words:—

> Such an education as one foresees would teach a girl to know more clearly and with scientific truth how to be at once a pleasing and happy wife, and a good mother. She, and through her the children whom she trains, would learn the evils of premature or too constantly recurring childbirth, and how to avoid them easily. She would also know how to protect her family from uncleanly surroundings and unwholesome habits. She would not unlearn, but, rather, be better taught, the necessary arts of cooking and sewing, the latter nowadays in many cases almost unknown. But, in addition, she would learn to appreciate the beauties of language and craftsmanship, to hear and understand great poetry, and to feel her whole being thrill to a more glorious harmony in response to the call of the fine arts.

The value of this remarkable book is enhanced by Mr. Durandhar's gallery of portraits. The types which he displays have all the grace of Tanagra figurines, and European women may learn many a useful lesson from the costume of their Indian sisters.

F. H. S.

## II.—THE ANGLO-INDIAN TYPE.

In this novel we meet all the familiar types of the Anglo-Indian story. Certainly, these types might well be found in the Indian Military Station which Lady Elizabeth Stirling describes, but they are little more than types, and do not convince us of their real individual existence. Colonel and Mrs. Gascoigne, the two exceptions, who have really come to life, only make the rest seem more machine-made than ever.

Meg Meadows is a straightforward, unaffected girl, who has been brought up in India, and lives at Mangalore with her eccentric father. She is a splendid horsewoman, and the "pet of the station." "Nailer" Hatherop, a captain in the Cavalry regiment, stationed at Mangalore, really loves Meg, but thinks it would be wiser from a worldly point of view to marry Colonel Gascoigne's pretty daughter, just out from home. There is also a self-effacing, devoted subaltern, who wins Meg in the end after Hatherop has been shot by her father. All the misunderstandings and coincidences which make up the plot are commonplace and conventional in the extreme. What saves the book from being merely a pleasantly written little tale, which might help to pass an idle hour, is the real skill which is put into the delineation of Mrs. Gascoigne, whose beauty and hope have gradually been worn away by the unreasonable selfishness of her domineering husband, and the constant struggle against poverty. Both she and the Colonel are sketched in vividly, and the chapter in which she nearly decides to seek rest from the monotonous misery of her existence is really moving. There is grim irony shown in the opinion of the other residents in the station, who consider Colonel Gascoigne a thoroughly good fellow, much handicapped by a tiresome, dowdy wife.

## III.—OLD YARNS RESPUN.

This booklet is one of a series designed for use by workers among boys, and is likely to make a very strong appeal to that class of reader. The yarns concern characters so different as those of St. Paul and Mohammed; as Abdallah and Sabat, Sons of the Desert, and Martyn and Forder, missionaries. The author tells his stories vividly, and—though it is probable that a Turkish or Arab Moslem would find this hard to believe—with an obvious desire to be fair to those who do not share his views. Detailed criticism of the "yarns" would be out of place here, but we may be allowed to express a doubt whether the omission of one of them—the one referring to Miss Bushman's work—would not help the book in a boy's esteem. The appeal in it is less direct than in the other "yarns," and boys who think for themselves may be tempted to ask how, if the Turks are such fanatics as they are represented, they allowed the lady to continue her work.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Twenty Years of Balkan Tangle." By M. Edith Durham. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 16s. net.)

"The Stranger." By Arthur Bullard. (London: Macmillan and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Eye of Zeitoon." By Talbot Mundy. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 8s. 6d. net.)

"Polish Fairy Tales." Translated from A. J. Glinski by Maude Ashurst Biggs. Illustrated by Cecile Walton. (London: The Bodley Head. 16s. net.)


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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**TO-DAY.**
October 28 (New Style).
October 15 (Old Style).
Safar 16, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Markeshwan 16, 5681, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Basil Zaharoff has returned to London from Paris.

Bishop Gwynne sailed on October 20 in the Caledonia for Alexandria.

General Townshend, the hero of Kut, has resigned from the Army.

An Athens telegram announces that the Crown Prince of Sweden has arrived in Athens incognito.

M. Beza, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, returned to London on October 21 from Bucharest.

R. V. Saville Pasha, Governor of Darfur Province, Sudan, is expected in England very shortly, on leave.

Earl Winterton, M.P., who returned to London on October 18 from South Africa, left last week for Horsham.

Colonel Rosetti, formerly Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, left London on October 21 for Bucharest.

The High Commissioner for India, Sir William S. Meyer, has been appointed a member of the Indian Committee of the Royal Society of Arts.

Mr. Peckitt, chief mechanical engineer of the Egyptian State Railways, was attacked and badly wounded by a native at Cairo Station on October 20.

At the Congregation of Cambridge University on the 29th inst. a Grace will be offered to confer the degree of Doctor of Law, honoris causa, upon Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby.

At a special audience on October 17, states a Sofia telegram, the newly-appointed British Minister Plenipotentiary in Sofia, Sir Arthur Peel, presented his credentials to King Boris III.

Signor Nogara, representing Italy, and Sir Adam Block, representing Great Britain, have been appointed members of the Financial Commission at Constantinople, says a telegram from that city.

Commander H. C. Luke, R.N.V.R., who has been serving since April last as British Chief Commissioner in Transcaucasia, has left Tiflis in order to take up his new appointment as Assistant-Governor of Jerusalem.

Sir Lee and Lady Stack were among the passengers on the P. and O. ss. Caledonia, which left Plymouth on October 20. Sir Paul and Lady Harvey will join the boat at Marseilles.

Lady (Herbert) Samuel and family left London on October 25 to join the High Commissioner for Palestine at Government House, Jerusalem. They expect to arrive about November 2.

Captain the Hon. D. E. F. O'Brien has been obliged, owing to ill-health, to relinquish the appointment of A.D.C. to H.E. the Viceroy of India, and returns home on sick leave at the end of October.

The engagement is announced between Alexander A. Pallis, son of General and Mrs. Pallis, of Athens, and Calliope (Poppie), elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. Metaxa, of 98, Westbourne Terrace, London.

It is stated that M. Vesnitch, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes; M. Trumbitch, Minister for Foreign Affairs; and M. Costastojanovitch, Minister of Finance, have been appointed delegates to discuss with Signor Giolitti, the Italian Premier, and Count Sforza, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Adriatic question.

It is announced that Sir Thomas Royden, Bart., C.H., M.P., deputy-chairman of the Cunard Line, has been appointed by the French Government a Commander of the Legion of Honour. Sir Percy E. Bates, Bart., G.B.E., also a director of the Cunard Line, has been appointed an officer of the Legion of Honour. Both gentlemen rendered great services during the war.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major H. Goldie, late of the Arab Bureau, Cairo, and Clare Salvin, second daughter of the late Henry Thomas Thornton Salvin, of Croxdale Hall, Co. Durham.

The King has granted permission to Mr. J. H. Gorvin, C.B.E., to wear the decoration of the Order of St. Sava conferred on him for services as Chief of the British Transport Commission for the Relief of Devastated Countries.

An engagement is announced between Lieutenant Douglas Grant, R.N., elder son of Vice-Admiral Alfred Grant and Mrs. Grant, of Sydenham, and Juanita, younger daughter of Admiral Sir Richard Peirse, K.C.B., and Lady Peirse, of Fiesole, Bath.

General Sir William Birdwood, former General Officer Commanding the Australian Imperial Forces, has completed his inspection of the Australian War Memorials in France, and has left Marseilles for India, where he will take over the Northern Military Command.

On his arrival home from India, General Sir Charles Monro will be appointed colonel of his old regiment, the Queen's Royal West Surrey, vice Major-General E. O. F. Hamilton, who is resigning that appointment.

The Georgian Foreign Minister, Mr. Gueguechkori, who is on a visit to this country, was received at the Foreign Office on October 20 by Earl Curzon of Kedleston. Mr. Gueguechkori was accompanied by Mr. Cambashidze, representing the Georgian Government in this country. On October 25 he was entertained at luncheon at the House of Commons by members of Parliament.

The delegates from India to the forthcoming Assembly of the League of Nations at Geneva will be Lieutenant-Colonel his Highness the Maharaja Jam Sahib of Nawanagar, G.B.E., K.C.S.I.; Sir William Meyer, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., High Commissioner for India; and Sir Saiyid Ali Iman, K.C.S.I.

The betrothal of Prince George of Greece, the eldest son of ex-King Constantine, and Princess Elizabeth, daughter of the King and Queen of Roumania, and granddaughter of the late Duke of Edinburgh, is officially announced. The Roumanian Government announces that the pending marriage has nothing of a political character.

General Lord Rawlinson, who will leave this country to take up the Commandership-in-Chief in India on November 5, has appointed as A.D.C.'s Major Otto Lund, R.F.A. (who will travel with him), Major J. R. C. Gannon (Indian Army), and Major F. A. Macartney, M.C., 53rd Sikhs, who is now serving General Sir Charles Monro in that capacity.

The marriage is arranged, and will take place early in December, between Edward Casamayor Farquharson, younger son of the late Major James C. Farquharson, 2nd Bombay Light Cavalry, and Governor of H.M. Convict Prison, Portsmouth, and Hilda Frances Blyth, widow of Horace Vernon Blyth, of Hatch Hill House, Churt, Surrey.

M. Take Jonescu, the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has concluded his mission to London, and, accompanied by Mme. Take Jonescu, M. Stoïcesco and Mme. Stoïcesco, left Victoria on October 24 for Paris on their way to Prague, where they were expected yesterday. M. Titulesco, the Minister for Finance, is remaining here a few days longer.

### FAREWELL TO SIMLA.

A Reuter's message sent off from Simla on October 20 says:—The Viceroy and Lady Chelmsford said farewell to Simla this morning. Their departure was public, and a large number of officials, both civil and military, attended in full dress. The 69th Punjabis and Boy Scouts formed guards of honour. The Viceroy will visit the Central Provinces and Assam before going on to Delhi.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The exequatur empowering Mr. Harold Baerlein to act as Consul for Serbia in Manchester has received the King's signature.

M. Nosek has been appointed First Secretary to the Czecho-Slovak Legation in Stockholm. M. Nosek acted for a time as Chargé d'Affaires in London.

Colonel C. R. M. Green, M.B., F.R.C.S., and Colonel J. Garvie, M.B., of the Indian Medical Service, have been appointed Honorary Surgeons to the King, states the *Gazette*.

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## OBITUARY.

Mrs. B. M. Croker, the well-known Anglo-Indian novelist, died in London on October 20. She was the widow of Colonel John Croker, with whom she spent many years in the East.

The death has occurred of Sir Arthur Charles Trevor, K.C.S.I. He was, says *The Times*, the last remaining direct link of this generation with the first Afghan War of 1838-42.

Sir Ralph Sillery Benson, a former Judge of the High Court of Madras, died at Roebuck Grove, Donnybrook, Dublin, on October 19, aged 69. He entered the Indian Civil Service in 1873, and fourteen years later was called to the Bar, was appointed Under-Secretary to the Madras Government in 1837, and in the following year became Secretary to the Board of Revenue. From 1888 to 1895 he served as District and Sessions Judge, and in 1896 was appointed Puisne Judge of the High Court, Madras. A Knighthood was conferred on him in 1906.

## DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENT.

**BIRTH.**

SILLEY.—On October 20, at Bradley, Bilston, Staffordshire, the wife of Herbert H. Silley, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of a daughter.

## ROUMANIANS AND EDITH CAVELL.

It is stated that some Roumanians who decided to render homage to the people of Great Britain, with whom they were allied in the war, have opened a subscription to raise a monument at Bucharest to Edith Cavell, who, in their opinion, symbolises so well the qualities of the race. The first day that the subscription list was opened a sum of 150,000 lei (about £750) was received in a few minutes. M. Titulesco, the Roumanian Finance Minister, was asked to become president of the committee which has been formed, and he has accepted the post.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Alexandria Flower Show in 1921 will be held on April 22, 23, and 24.

It is announced that the Greek headquarters staff has left Athens for Smyrna.

Yugoslav troops evacuated the plébiscite region of Carinthia on October 23, says an Exchange message.

General Savoff, the new Bulgarian Minister to France, presented his credentials to President Millerand on October 22.

The *Nizam* learns that Adly Pasha Yeghen, who is at present staying in Paris, will return to Egypt on the s.s. Sphynx, which leaves Marseilles on November 4.

The Georgian Government has informed the leaders of the Turkish Nationalists that it will regard the violation of its territory by Turkish troops as a *casus belli*.

M. Ulrich Hauscher, the Social Democrat, and former Press Chief of the Berlin Foreign Office, has been appointed German Ambassador to the Republic of Georgia.

Sir Herbert Samuel, High Commissioner of Palestine, has held the first meeting of the Advisory Council, which is composed of ten officers and nine members locally elected.

The *Morning Post's* Malta correspondent states that orders have been given for the return to Malta of the 2nd Battalion Essex Regiment, at present at Constantinople.

Conversations between Italy and Yugoslavia with regard to the settlement of the Adriatic question will take place at Isola Bella, near Pallanza, on Lake Maggiore, in the villa of Prince Borromeo, says the *Tribuna*.

Sixty coolies have been arrested on suspicion of complicity in the removal of rails on the Madras-Bangalore Railway on October 7, when the mail train was wrecked near Arkonam, and thirteen passengers killed.

A library of 1,000 books was lately despatched by the Universities Committee of the Y.M.C.A. for the use of British troops on the North-West Frontier of India. The books have arrived safely, and are to form the nucleus of a permanent Garrison Library at Landi Kotal, where the 2nd Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) are at present quartered. "Landi Kotal is at the head of the Khyber Pass," writes the Brigadier General, "four miles from the Afghan frontier, and I don't suppose there is a battalion in India with fewer social 'amenities.'"

## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses. Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

ENGLISHMAN, age 33, at present in England, who has had 16 years' commercial experience in Egypt, and who can speak Arabic, Italian and French, desires appointment in the Near East. Reply E. A. D., c/o THE NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.


# WHERE TO STAY.

**For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—**

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**(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."**

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# THE NEAR EAST.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1920.


## THE ADRIATIC TANGLE.

Further negotiations are about to be opened between the Italian and Yugoslav Governments with a view to arriving at a settlement of the Adriatic question. There is no reason to doubt the sincerity of both countries in wishing to discover a *modus vivendi*, but the least acquaintance with the subject, which has defied previous attempts at solution during the last two years, does not justify much hope in regard to the meeting due to take place on the Isola Bella, in Lake Maggiore. The claims of Italy and Yugoslavia are too directly in conflict, according to the interpretation placed by each on the national interests involved, to admit of a settlement apart from the intervention of some overriding factor. Whether such a factor can be evolved in the domestic affairs of one or other of the States concerned remains to be seen; it is far more probable that it is to be found only outside the two rival parties, in the form of the *force majeure* of foreign arbitration. Two years ago a compromise was possible, involving arrangements which were at least theoretically sound, and which could have been accepted with some chance of proving workable. To-day the passions that have been roused on either side hold out little hope that any agreement depending on the mutual goodwill of Italians and Yugoslavs will have any prospect of being carried into effect satisfactorily. Fiume remains the chief crux. In the Italian view it is the key to the future commercial prosperity of Trieste. With the two ports under one and the same jurisdiction, which has also control over the railway system connecting them with the interior, it is possible to promote the welfare of both; but with Fiume, the interior and the railway system Yugoslav, there can be little hope for Trieste in the future. The Yugoslavs, on the strength of their commanding position, might be content to see the town of Fiume in the hands of Italy, provided that they could rely upon correct treatment for their goods in transit and for their nationals under Italian jurisdiction, and if they had their unchallengeable claims in other directions recognised by Italy. The history of d'Annunzio's seizure of Fiume proves that the Italian Government has hitherto shrunk from acting in opposition to chauvinistic feeling and will hesitate to make any compromise of its own volition. A Yugoslav Cabinet may well be equally subservient to popular opinion at home. But the way to an agreement would be made much smoother for both if they could point to some compelling force which imposed a settlement that fell short of the extreme demands of each country alike.

In occupying Klagenfurt, in opposition to the verdict of the plebiscite, the Yugoslav Government has shown that its thoughts in connection with the Adriatic settlement are running on the probability of a bargain. There is an equally important matter in regard to which a bargain might be struck in the interests of both Italy and Yugoslavia; but here again, as in the case of Klagenfurt, it is obvious that the Governments of Great Britain and France could use the matter more effectively than could Italy alone. The policy adopted by Serbia (as distinct from Yugoslavia) towards Montenegro is on the point of breaking down; no Balkan country can be successfully dragooned for all time, and Montenegro least of all. The Serbian authorities have had time to realise that a mistake has been made in regard to Montenegro. It may have been made with the best of intentions, but it remains a mistake. The Serbians were anxious to avoid dynastic complications in the new State of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, and they knew that not one of the sons of King Nicolas promised to be a worthy successor to his father. It was, perhaps, natural to jump at the opportunity offered by a small clique in Montenegro, which undertook for a consideration to eliminate the dynasty and to bring their country within the Serbian kingdom; but both the Montenegrin renegades and the Serbian authorities reckoned without the spirit of the Montenegrins, although it was precisely the spirit which Serbians and the rest of the Balkan peoples would have displayed in similar circumstances. Events in Montenegro have come to such a pass that they can no longer be ignored either by Croatians and Slovenes or by the Allied Powers. Moreover, Serbia in her own interest cannot afford to have a centre of permanent unrest so near home. A solution of the difficulty must be found, and the subject is one in which Italy is directly interested owing to the Montenegrin origin of her Queen. Only in the direction of Montenegro, and Albania, which also awaits a settlement, has the Yugoslav Government failed to disavow the aggressive policy associated with the name of M. Pashitch, and it should not be difficult to do so now, even at this late hour. When the Yugoslav National Council in Zagreb came into existence, it acknowledged a Montenegro distinct from Serbia, for it referred in its appeal for recognition to "our national States of Serbia and Montenegro" as having been "the most loyal Allies of the Entente." M. Pashitch was no less explicit in according recognition to that Council. "The Royal Serbian Government," he wrote in November, 1918, "with special satisfaction takes cognisance of the declaration whereby the National Council in Zagreb states it to be its aim to liberate the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes of the late Austro-Hungarian monarchy from all foreign domination and to establish their union *with the brother kingdoms of Serbia and Montenegro* in one sole and independent State." A few weeks later the fatal mistake was made of attempting to force the pace in Montenegro; a so-called National Assembly was summoned to meet in Podgoritza in circumstances that could deceive no one of ordinary intelligence, and the Serbian Government was ill-advised enough to persuade the Prince Regent to receive a deputation from Montenegro which claimed authority to announce the incorporation of Montenegro in Serbia under the Karageorgevitch dynasty. As was to be expected, the legality of the Podgoritza Assembly has not been recognised by any Allied Power, and the Serbian Government has only been able to carry through the union of Montenegro by driving a considerable portion of the inhabitants into the mountains. No Allied Government, as far as is known, has taken up the attitude that King Nicolas is to be forced upon the Montenegrins regardless of their wishes; but all the Allied Powers are concerned to see that common justice and ordinary decency are observed in regulating the affairs of Montenegro.

The situation in regard to the Adriatic controversy, therefore, is that on the one hand Italy wants a guarantee that Trieste is not to become "a pale memory of past prosperity," and that the eastern coast of the Adriatic will not be utilised to menace the future security of Italy. Yugoslavia, on the other hand, wants at Fiume a port for the untrammelled transit of goods, as free in every respect as though it were wholly Yugoslav, and at the same time she is concerned in a settlement of the Montenegrin question which will avoid dynastic complications and seal the peaceful incorporation of Montenegro in the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. Italy can undoubtedly help Yugoslavia in regard to the latter point; but it is difficult to see how she can move of her own accord in the matter. At the request of the British and French Governments, however, she could easily obtain for Yugoslavia all the guarantees that the latter requires, and give the necessary pledges concerning the future administration of Fiume in return for the undertakings required from the Yugoslavs. Everything, therefore, points to a satisfactory solution of the Adriatic tangle, if Great Britain and France take a vigorous hand in the settlement; but if they stand aloof the impending negotiations may prove as barren as all those that have preceded them during the last four years.

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## THE FALL OF BOKHARA.

**By Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah, M.R.A.S., F.R.G.S.**

The recent invasion of the Khanate of Bokhara by the Bolshevist armies provides a remarkable illustration of the lack of sincerity which characterises the diplomacy of "Red" Russia. In order to indicate clearly the treacherous nature of the act by which Bolshevism has robbed the Bokharan people of their freedom, and the callous disregard it has displayed for the principles of self-determination, we must consider for a moment the status of Bokhara in the days before the war.

Three Central Asian States, Bokhara, Khiva, and Khokand, were dependent upon Tsarist Russia. On the downfall of the Tsarist régime these States were given all rights of freedom by the Bolshevist Government, and were informed that in return for this they would be expected to further Bolshevist propaganda in the East. The Reds installed their headquarters at Tashkent about the beginning of 1917, and from this centre they began to disseminate literature of a propagandist nature. Taking advantage of the railway systems, they actually instituted propagandist trains, which carried glib-tongued lecturers, trained for their work at the Eastern Institute in Moscow, and armed with thousands of pamphlets, the contents of which can only be described as a travesty of the principles of freedom. This propaganda soon began to justify its existence. By means of it the people of Persia became disaffected, Afghanistan was penetrated, and even Indian opinion was tainted. But the Ameer of Bokhara, a ruler of great natural shrewdness, quickly realised the mischievous nature of the doctrines which had their origin in Moscow, and took steps to put a period to the Bolshevist propaganda. The Reds replied by threats, and gave him to understand that his status depended entirely on the goodwill of the Soviets. Over-awed, he countermanded the orders he had given for the suppression of Bolshevist ideas, and maintained a superficial friendliness with the Soviets. His worst fears regarding the independence of his country were soon realised; for the Reds seized upon his province of Ferghana, and the Valley of Zar-afshan, one of the most fertile in Central Asia, and rich in oil wells and cotton, was regarded as an emporium out of which the wants of the Soviet armies might be supplied. A hypocritical assurance was given to the Ameer that the supplies seized would be paid for; but needless to say this promise was not carried out.

But the demands of the Bolshevists did not stop here. They insisted that the Usbeks should provide so many men from each village to be enrolled in the ranks of the Soviet Army. They then proceeded to mobilise the labour of the whole Khanate for their own purposes. The disillusioned Usbeks protested violently, but without effect. Usbek priests were bribed to advocate the doctrines of Communism from the pulpit and to justify them as a modernised form of Islam. The nobility were also heavily bribed into hostility against the Ameer. Disturbance of every kind was fomented, and nothing was left undone to render the Ameer as unpopular as possible.

When disaffection had been smouldering for some months matters elsewhere in Central Asia had become scarcely less ominous. In Georgia, Persia, and Azerbaijan a party calling itself the "Refined Usbek Party" was organised by the Bolshevists, and this society established branches in Bokhara, where in the public squares of the city the rule of the Ameer was denounced. Meanwhile, the Soviets expressed a desire to lease a region in the south-eastern portion of the Khanate, which is rich in mines, and the limits of which they fixed from Karshi in the west to Hissar in the east and Shari-ziabs in the north to Derbent in the south. This area lies to the south of Samarkand, and is the most fertile in the whole of the Khanate. Within its boundaries, indeed, the soil has been found to yield as much as a hundred-fold more cotton than in India or America; and lead and coal mines have also been located there. The Ameer was, naturally, most unwilling to give up this region to Bolshevist exploitation; for he had already had occasion to test Bolshevist promises as regards financial obligations. But a meeting of the Ameer with the Soviet representatives was arranged. When the Ameer entered the Russian camp, however, it was significant that he was received by the firing of a less number of guns in his honour than is customary in the case of an independent king. He resented this warmly, but when he protested he was informed that the Soviets had not found his behaviour satisfactory, and therefore could not place him on the same level with other independent monarchs. Later, an attempt was made on his life, and he had to flee the capital. The "Refined Usbek Party" was dispersed amid the sneers of the Reds, as it had exhibited certain patriotic tendencies, and the government of Bokhara is now being conducted by Soviet officials. The Ameer is now at Kabul, and is in close touch with the Ameer of Afghanistan, with the object of forming a Central Asian alliance against further Bolshevist aggression. Such an alliance was once outlined by the late Ameer of Afghanistan, who saw clearly that the necessity for it would arise.

The behaviour of the Bolshevists in Turcomania—a territory which they have also occupied—has been of the most brutal kind, and the Turcomans live in dread of the callous officials whom the Soviets have placed over them. In a word, the peoples of Central Asia now recognise the true nature of the doctrines which they at first embraced with such fervour and of the brutal and ignorant fanatics who advocate them. It is much to be desired that the British Government should intervene on behalf of the Ameer of Bokhara, and should restore him to his natural right. By so doing they would greatly strengthen the barrier between Bolshevism and India, which is at present represented by Afghanistan alone.

## THE LATE KING ALEXANDER OF GREECE.

After an illness lasting a little over three weeks, Alexander, King of the Hellenes, died on October 25 from the results of a monkey bite. On October 2 he was walking in the grounds of the Royal Palace at Tatoi, near Athens, accompanied by a dog. The animal started to worry a chained monkey, and while the King was trying to separate them he was bitten on the legs and body by a second monkey. Five days later King Alexander's health became seriously affected, in addition to blood-poisoning, jaundice, pneumonia and dysentery ensued, and towards the end the royal patient became delirious.

King Alexander, the second son of ex-King Constantine and Queen Sophie, was born in 1893. His choice as successor to the throne in June, 1917, when his father was deposed, was facilitated by the fact that he had played no prominent part in the public life of Greece, had not particularly identified himself with the ex-King's policy, and was, in fact, more independent of Court influences than either of his brothers. The early days of his reign could hardly have proved happy, but he played his part with a somewhat cynical ability, realising that he could do nothing more than accommodate himself to the rôle mapped out for him by M. Venizelos. In a short time, however, he began to take a more active interest in the country's affairs, and showed promise of inheriting some of his grandfather's talent for successful occupation of the Greek throne. His secret marriage with Mlle. Aspasia Manos in November, 1919, resuscitated some of the early difficulties of his position, but the official recognition of the marriage as a morganatic one was accepted by all parties as the natural solution. In his brief reign of three years King Alexander had had no real opportunity of proving himself, nor Greece of proving him; but he had contrived to win the sympathy and esteem of his people.

According to the Constitution the throne passes to Prince Paul, the third son of ex-King Constantine. M. Venizelos has made it clear that the Greek Government will impose conditions upon the new King entailing recognition of the present settlement of the Crown in Greece by ex-King Constantine and the ex-Crown Prince.

In course of an illustrated pamphlet which Major David Davies, M.P., is distributing to every President and Prime Minister whose country is a member of the League of Nations, he considers the advantages of Constantinople as the headquarters of the League. Major Davies gives eight reasons in favour of Constantinople

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# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

## Socialism and Greece.

In the *Socialist Review* for December there is a useful article upon "The Socialist Movement in Greece." After giving particulars of the Socialist Labour Party (Communist), it concludes with two comments upon the attitude of the Government and the future of the movement:—

Since 1910, with the exception of a short time between 1915 and 1917, Mr. Venizelos has been in power. His attitude towards the Labour movement has been much the same as that of Mr. Lloyd George. At the outset of his career he was a revolutionary radical. He was born in the working class, and owed his position to the revolution of 1910. He was even dubbed Socialist by many of the opposition, while among his Ministers are several who have dabbled in Socialism of a respectable kind. Pre-war Labour legislation was certainly progressive in intention, and included provisions for an eight-hour day, factory inspection, prohibition of child labour, etc. Unfortunately most of these laws are a dead letter, as Mr. Venizelos's absorption in foreign politics has left their administration to less sympathetic colleagues and officials. Since the revolution of 1918 Mr. Venizelos has gravitated towards the right. He declares himself, in Georgian terms, "a true friend of the worker, but an enemy of that insidious exploiter of the worker, the Socialist agitator." He wishes to save Greece from the horrible fate which has overtaken Russia. The Labour Law of 1919 is certainly an attack on trade union liberties which would be impossible in England. In other directions, too, he has taken a leaf out of the book of his Western friends. The general strike of July, 1919, though supported by the S.L.P., was a purely economic movement begun by a strike of bank clerks, but its leader, Benarova, was arrested under martial law, accused of receiving large sums of money from Italy (not Russia!), and exiled. Again, in Eastern Macedonia, some fifty members of the S.L.P., including the president of the Tobacco Workers' Union, were arrested as agents of the Turkish Nationalists! Such persecution is undoubtedly due to over-zealous officials, for Mr. Venizelos himself has been absent at Paris for nearly two years, and is far too clever a politician to give such an opportunity to his opponents. But, nevertheless, there is no alternative for him as for Mr. Lloyd George or Mr. Nitti—a swing to the right is inevitable, but it is to be hoped that he will avoid Terrorist tactics.

Considering its extreme youth, the Socialist movement in Greece has made astonishing progress. All the essential elements for a rapid advance are present—a strong industrial movement and a militant Socialist nucleus, industrial development and centralisation of capital, rising prices, and the satisfaction of the more legitimate national aspirations. The nearness of Russia has already influenced the course of events in Greece, while the militant attitude and growing power of the Socialists of Bulgaria, Serbia, and Roumania are a constant incentive to revolutionary progress. Greece has a great revolutionary tradition behind her—four times since 1827 has she risen against an attempt to impose a tyranny upon her dawning liberties. The Greek people are intelligent and unusually quick to assimilate new ideas. If they can overcome their own internal difficulties, especially the problem of permeating the agricultural population with Socialist ideals, if they can throw aside personal jealousies and unite on a broad but definitely Socialist programme, the Socialists of Greece have a great work before them. For on them and the Socialists of the Near Eastern countries depends the future of the Balkans. Capitalism and Nationalism can never hope to keep peace in the Balkans; in a federation of Socialist Republics from the Danube to the Ægean lies the real hope of peace in the Near East.

## The Armenian Question.

The *Moslem World* for October contains a sound historical sketch of the Armenian Question by Dr. Johannes Lepsius. He states that this "question" was created through the Russian-Turkish war and the Treaty of San Stefano, 1878, and proceeds to recount its history down to the European War. How far the Young Turks led their country astray is shown by the following extract:—

During the first few months of the war it was impossible for outsiders to know that the Young Turks were after the destruction of the Armenian nation. Any other government would have made it its duty to embrace all elements of its population in a united defence of the Fatherland had it been entangled in a war such as Turkey was, with all its fronts exposed to assaults by land and sea. In their national drunkenness the Young Turks put themselves against the most elementary conditions of possible victory. Simultaneously with the fight for the Dardanelles against the fleets of the Western Powers and with the defence of the Caucasus front against the Russian Armies, the Young Turks took up the fight for nationality in their own country. The Arabian part of the Empire was driven under the most brutal measures by Djemal Pasha into the arms of the Entente. Armenians, Greeks, and Syrians, in spite of their willingness to serve the Fatherland, were robbed of the honour of military duty. The Christian population was pillaged without any consideration, the proclamation of the "Holy War" was a failure, for the rest of the Mohammedan world hardly paid any attention to it. But upon the Proclaimer it exercised a fatal influence. Instead of counting on the strength of the Ottoman Empire and calling together all nationalities for the defence of the joint Fatherland, they leered at the Tartarian population of the Caucasus and the Russian and Indian Mohammedans. They expected a magic power from the old idea of the "Jihad," which would create in this fight with British and Slavic world powers a Mohammedan "Imperium" reaching from China to the Atlantic Ocean and from Adrianople to Calcutta. Enver told tales about forty millions of Turks, even though the Ottoman Empire counts hardly more than six millions. Only an unchecked nationalistic imagination could dictate measures which had as an aim the extermination of all Christians and the making of all Osmanic races a Turkish nation. This same political method of the Young Turks brought the loss of the African and European parts of the Empire. That a continuation of these policies would mean the entire collapse of Asiatic Turkey they did not seem to see, but further pursued the Utopian idea of an Islamic, Pan-Turkish world power. Only the conclusion of this adventure could teach them that the Young Turks only had one historical mission, viz., the liquidation of Turkey.

Dr. Lepsius proceeds to exempt the Germans from all responsibility in the Armenian massacres, and concludes his article thus:—

This forcing of Armenians to become Mohammedans was by no means the outcome of religious fanaticism. Such feelings surely were strange to the Young Turk. But to be a good patriot of the Ottoman Empire meant to become converted to Islam. The history of the Ottoman Empire proves from the beginning to the end that the confession of faith and nationality are identical. The reciprocal official and non-official assurances, with quotations from the Koran, belong to the conventional phrases which have been used ever since the era of reform movements to confute the European idea regarding the toleration of Islam and the Osmanlis. The opinions of the German Ministers regarding the reports of the religious persecutions coincide with the belief that the leading motive is not religious fanaticism but the desire to amalgamate the Armenians with the Mohammedan population of the Empire. This opinion is just. But one must not forget that religious persecution of pure culture never existed. The religious persecutions of the Roman Empire were dictated by "Staatsraison" (State reason); the persecution of the Jews in the Middle Ages and now in Russia through covetousness. Even the programmes which Mohammed prepared had entirely to do with covetousness. The religious persecutions of the Young Turks, the greatest of all time, follows the same motives: "Staatsraison" and covetousness.

## Articles to Note.

"Present Discontents in the Near and Middle East," by Commander D. G. Hogarth; and "Transcaucasia, Past and Present," by W. E. D. Allen, in the *Quarterly Review* (October).

"Baku and the Caspian," by Lt.-Col. A. C. Yate, F.R.G.S., in the *Scottish Geographical Magazine* (October).

"The Reconstruction of Europe" (being the Presidential Address to the Geographical Section of the British Association, August 24 1920), by John McFarlane, M.A.; and "Baku and the Caspian," by Lt.-Col. A. C. Yate, F.R.G.S., in the *Scottish Geographical Magazine* (October).

"The Anglo-Egyptian Sudan," by G. A. Sowash, in the *Moslem World* (October).

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The Emperor of Japan has ratified the Peace Treaty with Austria, and also the Treaties with Czecho-Slovakia, the Serb-Croat-Slovene State, and Roumania.

It is stated that in Bokhara the greater part of the Emir's wealth has been found and taken to the People's Bank. This includes gold in ingots, Russian silver money, and goods to the value of many milliards of roubles.

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## THE CARAVANSERAI.

An Egyptian, a resident of Giza, and his son were lately tried on a charge of coining 2-piastre and 5-piastre pieces. They admitted the offence, but urged that they only manufactured the money that they actually required. I suppose they felt that by abstaining from supplying their friends and neighbours they were practising commendable virtue. But their ingenuity was coldly regarded by the authorities, and they are now in a position to reflect on the unprogressive spirit of the Law.

***

I am delighted to learn that there is a chance—and apparently a pretty good one—of the *Yashmak* making its appearance in London this winter. For how often have I lost my heart to a fair wearer of the fascinating gauzy strip which is so much more "fetching" than the ordinary British veil? If it really does appear in London, I shall inevitably get run over while looking at some dear daughter of Eve; and that would make a change in a life that is singularly free from incident and romance in these days. Indeed, who would resent being run over, in a small way—say, by a runaway doll's pram—for the sake of a Yashmaked houri, whether of the Occident or the Orient? Seriously, if the London ladies fail to adopt the fashion, I shall be disappointed and surprised. Anything more coquettish, I, for one, cannot imagine. A Yashmak will make a very ordinary young woman look charming; so what *would* it do for our London girls?

***

I am more than a little tired of the subject of strikes, for, rightly or wrongly, I have come to the conclusion that, in spite of all the fine talk—by both sides—there is just one thing behind all the skirmishing and manœuvring, and that is selfishness, pure and simple. But even this sordid subject has its humorous side, as a strike of tramway employees serves to show. For I read in the message of a Bombay correspondent to *The Times* that "four hundred men demanded further pay and leave and *immunity for cheating* (my italics), and struck when their demands were refused." For sheer effrontery that would take a good deal of beating, I fancy. No: it seems to me that Eastern soil is not favourable to strikes, and I suspect that when our own strike organisers read of this amazing candour on the part of the Bombay strikers they will share my view.

***

The story about Muley Hafid, ex-Sultan of Morocco, sending his great egg-shaped diamond to New York for sale, because now that he is no longer a sultan with a throne it is not necessary for him to wear such a gorgeous stone, should at least serve as a first-class advertisement for the stone. I suspect a good many of America's multi-millionaires are feeling a bit anxious about things just now, and telling their wives that they never *did* care to see a woman wearing much jewellery; while, on the other hand, a few extra choice brand profiteers may be looking up ties well calculated to show off a really handsome scarfpin. But all that is by the way. What I set out to remark was that the story may yet give rise to a new profession. For it is reported that when the former Sultan was asked by the American lady why he had entrusted her husband and herself with this wonderful stone he replied: "You had good faces." It seems to me that if "good faces" can inspire such confidence as *that*, there should be an opening for a school—correspondence or otherwise—that would teach would-be jewel-thieves and others how to acquire the "good" look. At present it is mostly merely good-looking people who get the jewels—or so I understand.

CORSAIR.


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## CHESS.

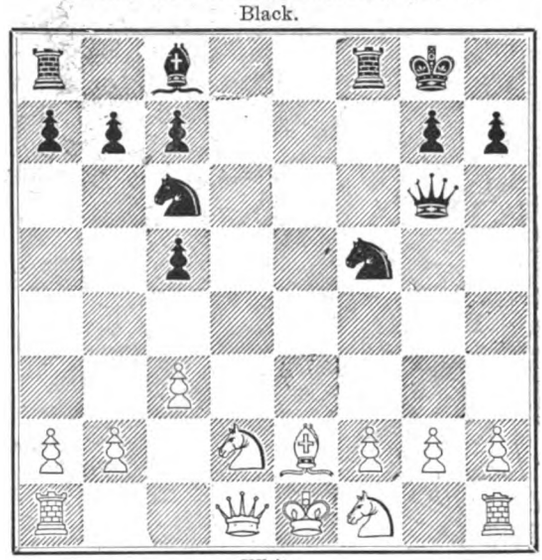
The Hastings Chess Club, which has long enjoyed a reputation for enterprise second to no other organisation, has arranged a notable Christmas programme from December 30 to January 5. There are to be two tournaments, the principal event being a double round champions' competition, in which Mr. H. E. Atkins, Mr. R. C. Griffith, Mr. F. D. Yates, and Mr. R. H. V. Scott will participate. The second tournament is limited to members of the Hastings Club, and the players will include Mr. H. G. Cole and Mr. H. S. Stephenson.

The Metropolitan Chess Club opens its season on November 4 with its first league match. Its tournaments are to begin on November 13, and I understand that the indications are that a record entry will be received.

I said last week that I proposed to give the consultation game played at the City of London Chess Club between Mr. J. H. Blackburne and Mr. T. F. Lawrence. It ran as follows:—

Position after White's 13th move, QKt—B.

Black.



White.

SCOTCH GAMBIT.

| J. H. Blackburne, etc. White. | T. F. Lawrence, etc. Black. | J. H. Blackburne, etc. White. | T. F. Lawrence, etc. Black. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 P—K4 | P—K4 | 20 P—R4 | Kt—B5 |
| 2 Kt—KB3 | Kt—QB3 | 21 P—B4 | R—K |
| 3 P—Q4 | P x P | 22 B—B | R—Q |
| 4 Kt x P | B—B4 | 23 P—R5 | Kt—Q6 (ch) |
| 5 B—K3 | Q—B3 | 24 B x Kt | R x B |
| 6 P—QB3 | KKt—K2 | 25 R—R4 | R—Q5 |
| 7 Kt—B2 (1) | P—Q3 | 26 R x R | P x R |
| 8 Kt—Q2 | 0—0 | 27 Kt—B2 | B x P |
| 9 B—K2 | Q—Kt3 | 28 Kt x P | K—B2 |
| 10 B x B (2) | P x B | 29 K—Q2 | K—B3 |
| 11 Kt—K3 | P—B4 | 30 K—K3 | P—B4 |
| 12 P x P | Kt x P | 31 Kt—B3 | B—Q4 |
| 13 QKt—B (3) | B—K3 | 32 Kt—K | K—Kt4 |
| 14 Q—B2 | QR—Q | 33 P—B3 | K x P |
| 15 R—Q | K—K4 | 34 Kt—Q3 | K—R5 |
| 16 R x R | R x R | 35 Kt x P | K—Kt6 |
| 17 Q—K4 | Kt x Kt | 36 Kt—Q3 | P—K Kt4 |
| 18 Q x Q | Kt x Q | 37 Kt—K | B—B3 |
| 19 Kt x Kt | B x P | 38 Resigns. | |

(1) Mr. Blackburne has frequently adopted this move with success.

(2) This was not a good move, for the open file was bound to have a hampering effect on White's game.

(3) White never recovered from the effects of this move, which ultimately led to the loss of a pawn and the game.

CARO-KANN.

Mr. Spoor, M.P., is attending the annual meeting of the Indian National Congress in Madras on Christmas Day as delegate of the Labour Party, and Colonel Wedgwood, M.P., as representative of the British Committee of the Congress.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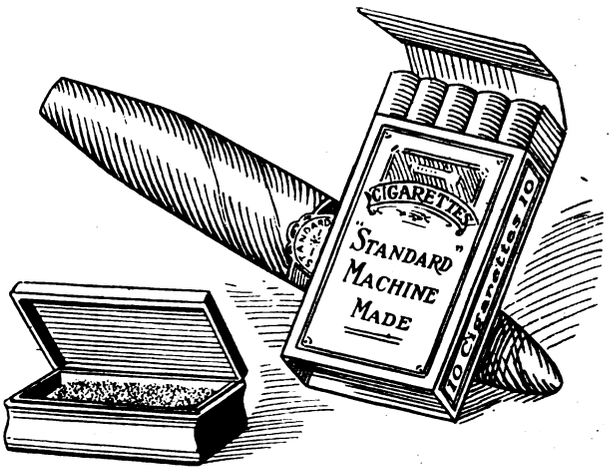

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

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The representations made by the Federation of British Industries with reference to the export credits scheme have quickly had tangible results. The main proposal made by the Federation was that the percentage of the cost of goods to be advanced to the exporter should be increased, and in the House of Commons on October 25 it was announced that the Board of Trade had been in communication with the Treasury in respect of this proposal, and that sanction had been given for an increase in the advances from 80 to 100 per cent., subject to recourse remaining as before against the exporter in respect of 20 per cent. This decision removes one of the main drawbacks to the scheme, for it has been increasingly difficult to persuade bankers to furnish the requisite accommodation when they have ready to hand such a variety of remunerative and short-dated investments.

***

That the scheme had to be amended was obvious. During the last month or so there has been a slightly greater tendency for exporters to take advantage of it, but at the rate at which the advances have been increasing, the scheme could not possibly have realised expectations. It is stated that altogether the advances sanctioned down to the end of last month amounted to under half a million; and that not much more than £50,000 had been actually advanced! The scheme is not intended as a means of financing hazardous transactions, and this fact does not improve the appearance of these figures.

***

At the general meeting of Harrisons and Crosfield, Ltd., the chairman, Mr. C. H. Clark, gave an extremely interesting review of the position in the rubber and tea industries. Until a few months ago the outlook for rubber companies appeared most promising, but a decline set in, and to-day the price in London is lower than at any previous period, while most of the shares have fallen below the level obtaining a year ago. The cause of the present situation, Mr. Clark points out, is not that the consumption of rubber has declined—the available evidence pointing, on the contrary, to an increase—but that the increase in the production of rubber is at present greater than the increase in consumption. As soon as the various European countries are able to enter the market as before the war the position will be transformed, and that again depends on the internal economic conditions of the countries concerned. Mr. Clark fears that no great expansion in the demand for rubber is to be looked for immediately. "Meanwhile," he remarks, "the price of rubber has fallen to a figure at which many estates can only produce at a loss, and which is probably little, if at all, above the average cost to the whole plantation industry. If this situation is allowed to develop further without interference, it will be likely seriously to impair the productive efficiency of the industry for the future. This is being increasingly recognised by those connected with the plantation industry, and a favourable response to the proposals of the Rubber Growers' Association for the necessary restriction of output of both British and Dutch plantations, whether controlled in Europe or in the East, now appears to be assured."

***

The tea industry is perhaps faced with an even more critical situation. A year ago common Indian tea realised 1s. 6½d. at the London sales. Since then there have been heavy imports of tea owing to the improvement in shipping facilities, and while at the end of September, 1919, stocks in bond in the United Kingdom amounted to 143 million lb., the total for the corresponding date this year was 220¾ million lb. The result of the increasing stocks has been the continual fall in prices, common Indian tea, for instance, declining to something like 4½d., while the average price of all Indian tea declined from 1s. 9¾d. in November, 1919, to 10½d. last month. On the other hand, the average cost of Indian and Ceylon teas in London is about 1s. 2d. "Again," says Mr. Clark, "we are faced with a position in which, if the future producing capacity of the tea industry is to be preserved, some united action on the part of those interested has become absolutely essential. It appears likely that proposals may be agreed to generally, by which Indian and Ceylon producers will join together in reducing the output to the extent of approximately 20 per cent., and it is to be hoped that this will prove successful and cause prices to be maintained on a level which will at any rate cover the cost of production."

***

While the tea industry is now faced with an unenviable situation, it is very certain that its future is assured as soon as the world's markets are normal again. Russia's absence from the ranks of consuming countries is one of the most important factors in the rubber outlook, but it may be said practically to dominate the tea position. Russia in 1913 imported 191 million lb. of tea, and it is obvious that once that country resumes buying on the pre-war scale, the problem of surplus stocks will largely cease to exist. Meanwhile, it is interesting to note the gradual growth of tea consumption in India, which has risen from 20 million lb. in 1913 to 50 million lb. If this tendency continues, as it may be assumed will be the case, we can look forward with certainty to a time when demand will have largely exceeded supply, and when the United Kingdom will have to pay considerably enhanced prices if it insists on having the supplies which it now utilises.

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In an article on "Ocean Salvage" in last week's issue of *Fairplay*, dealing with work in the Levant, I came across the surprising statement that the Turkish steamer Baghdad was "raised from the bottom of the Bosphorus at Haidar Pasha." Now strictly speaking, Haidar Pasha, the starting point of the Baghdad Railway, is not on the Bosphorus at all, but on the Asiatic shore of the Sea of Marmora, two to two and a-half miles from Constantinople. Admittedly that is a minor point, but what I do take exception to in the statement is that it may mislead people as to the possibilities for salvage work in the Bosphorus. The depth there is from 80 to 150 fathoms, and there are very strong currents which would practically preclude salvage operations. The raising of the Baghdad, it may be pointed out, was very simple. The steamer lay a few yards off the quay wall in about four fathoms, and the captain's bridge was well out of the water!

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Messages from Egypt make it clear that the country would be seriously affected by the continuance of the coal strike. Coal for the railways has for some time been ordered outside the United Kingdom, but the position is otherwise with regard to irrigation pumps and cotton ginning factories which have to be kept going. It is stated that a reduction of communications is impossible, as they were reduced to the absolute minimum early in the year, so that there is no hope in that direction. As it would appear that the strike is not going to last long—I should not be surprised if it were nominally over before these notes appear—Egypt is not likely, however, to suffer anything more than a temporary inconvenience. The experience will serve the useful purpose of illustrating the hopeless position in present labour conditions of countries dependent on others for articles of the first necessity, and will no doubt give an impetus to the use of engines which will burn the only fuel which Egypt herself can supply.

COMMENTATOR.


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# Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

## GREECE.

ATHENS, October 5.

### Estimated Consumption of Cereals.

It is anticipated that the consumption of cereals in Greece (excluding Thrace and Ionia) from August 1, 1920, to July 31, 1921, will amount to 592,000 tons of wheat, 26,000 tons of rye, 121,000 tons of barley, 46,000 tons of oats, and 200,000 tons of maize. The estimated production of wheat not being sufficient for the needs of the country, it will be necessary to import about 300,000 tons from abroad. None of the other cereals need be imported, as the local production is considered sufficient for the demands of consumption.

The official forecasts of the production of cereals in Greece during the current year are as follows:—Wheat, 211,935,238 okes; barley, 98,898.638 okes; oats, 37,629.145 okes; rye, 16,634,257 okes; and maize, 152,497,875 okes. These figures do not include the anticipated production for the provinces of Argolis, Corinth Attica, Bœotia, Salonika, and Chios, which are not yet to hand.

### Production of Salt.

According to the Ministry of National Economy, the production of salt in the Government salt pits will amount to 62,400 tons during 1920. It is estimated that this quantity will be sufficient for the needs of the country, and that it will not therefore be necessary to import any salt from abroad as hitherto.

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, October 4.

### The Economic and Industrial Situation.

There are indications of serious industrial trouble again in this country. This time it is the gas and electric light workers in Alexandria and Cairo who are responsible for the unrest. They claim further increases in pay and an improvement in general working conditions. The company have already conceded some points, but, despite the efforts of the Conciliation Committee, the workers will not abate their demands, and it looks very much as if the threatened strike in Cairo and Alexandria will take place.

Meanwhile, the Government has again intervened in the matter of rents. Action had already been taken last spring in this matter in regard to house rent, and the Government had issued a decree forbidding increases in these rents of more than 50 per cent. beyond the rents charged in July, 1914; but apparently this did not adequately meet the situation, and as this measure only applied to dwelling-houses there has ever since been considerable agitation among the tenants of shop and business premises for the extension of this decree to their case. The Government has at last appointed a strong committee to investigate the question of the rents of shop and business premises, as also the need for any amendment in the first decree, and the committee has been instructed to report without delay. As a protest against the arbitrary action of their landlords, the tenants of shops, cafés, etc., had arranged to close their premises for the day on the 6th instant, but in view of the appointment of this committee this closure has now been postponed.

October 11.

### No Restrictions on Cotton Cultivation.

At one of its last meetings the Council of Ministers issued a decision to the effect that there will be no restrictions on cotton cultivation during the coming year. As a matter of fact, there have been no such restrictions. Owing, however, to the threatened shortage of foodstuffs, the question of either limiting the cotton area or compelling cultivators to grow a minimum quantity of cereals had been under consideration, but as it had meanwhile been found possible to provide for the cereal needs of the country the question had been dropped. Cultivators were, however, somewhat uncertain as to what was going to be done, and so it was considered advisable to issue a notice definitely settling the question.

I understand that the Supplies Department has made contracts for more than sufficient flour and cereals to meet the requirements of the country during the next year, and that a large portion of these shipments has already arrived. These supplies are being put on the market at considerably below cost price to the Government, the loss being met out of the proceeds of the cotton tax recently imposed, but it is feared that the latter may in the end not prove sufficient to meet the deficit.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, October 19.

### Orient Express Delays.

Representatives of the International Sleeping Car Company have arrived in Belgrade to inquire into the cause of the constant lateness of the Simplon-Orient Express.

### Communications with Salonika.

The Greek railway authorities have issued orders that the Guevgueli-Salonika train shall no longer wait for the Belgrade-Skoplie-Guevgueli train if the latter is late, but shall start at the scheduled time. This is a grave inconvenience for travellers from Belgrade to Salonika, for owing to inferior coal and other traffic difficulties long-distance trains have the greatest difficulty in keeping to their time-tables. Besides, this interruption involves spending a night in Guevgueli, where there is very limited and inferior accommodation.

### Purchases of Cotton.

At a recent meeting the Reconstruction Committee resolved to buy large quantities of cotton in England. A provisional sum of 15 million dinars has been allotted for this purpose, with which it is hoped to secure from 18 to 20 truckloads. Three-quarters of this amount will be cotton yarns for the peasants and the remaining quarter raw cotton for the mills at Dugaresa and Karlovats. These works will deliver their products to the mills at Uzhitsa for spinning. Cotton waste will be consigned to the mattress makers. There will be double as much yellow or unbleached as bleached cotton. A special commission will proceed to Manchester, consisting of the Presidents of the Chamber


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of Commerce and the Union of Agricultural Associations, and a representative of the Ministry of Food and Reconstruction.

**General News.**

Yugoslavia is a large consumer of blue vitriol for spraying its numerous vineyards. The domestic output is far too small for its needs, and there has been difficulty in obtaining supplies from Italy and other countries during the past two summers. Arrangements are now being made for the manufacture of sulphate of copper at the Bor mines, and it is hoped that next year the country may be independent of imported vitriol.

Indignation has been caused by the report that the Inter-Allied Reparation Commission in Vienna is demanding the return to Austria of a substantial portion of the booty taken from them, that is to say, locomotives and rolling-stock. The injustice of this is keenly resented, for it is estimated that it would involve the expenditure of some 400 million dinars to replace the material, and that at a time when the communications in Yugoslavia are far from restored to the normal. Besides, it was the Serbian Army that took the booty, and once more they repeat the bitter complaint that what they lose is Serbian, but what they get belongs to the Allies.

## EGYPT'S ECONOMIC POSITION.

The long period which has elapsed since the appearance of the last report on Egypt and the Sudan has now been ended by the issue of the "Reports of H.M. High Commissioner on the Finances, Administration and Condition of Egypt and the Sudan for the period 1914-19." In the circumstances it is only natural that there should be a difference between the present Blue Book and its predecessors of pre-war days, and it is to some extent more of a summary than a survey, but there the contrast ends. These annual Blue Books have invariably proved a mine of invaluable information, and the present one is no exception, and in its record of the trend of events in Egypt during what, from the economic point of view, has been one of the most important periods of Egyptian history, it provides a fund of data on which to estimate probable developments in that country.

It would be difficult to imagine a deeper contrast than exists between the Egypt of 1914 and of to-day. The effects of the severe economic crisis of 1907 were still being felt to a considerable degree in 1914. Since that period the country has enjoyed an unequalled wave of prosperity, and it now has greater resources at its disposal than ever before. When the war began such a prospect seemed extremely remote; it appeared, in fact, much more probable that the previous crisis would be repeated to an even more disastrous degree. But while as elsewhere the war disturbed the established order of things, other factors speedily came into play which far more than restored the balance. What has happened can best be illustrated by pointing out that while the immediate consequence of the outbreak of war was a fall of at least one-third in the price of cotton, the 1918 crop was purchased by the British and Egyptian Governments at more than double the pre-war rate. Since then cotton has soared to previously unheard-of figures, and by April of the present year was in the neighbourhood of ten times the normal figure. This condition has been more or less maintained until within the last couple of months, since when there has been an exceedingly sharp fall in the price of cotton, and much of the previous rise has disappeared.

The effect of this development on Egypt's revenues will be obvious, and this lends a special interest to a consideration of the country's financial position. While this is undoubtedly good, it is not so satisfactory as it appears on paper. The country's foreign investments are estimated at not less than £E150,000,000. It is pointed out, however, that the large balance thus accumulated cannot be considered as consisting entirely of profits. It is due to some extent to the reduction of purchases of goods from abroad, to the use of paper currency, and to the postponement of the maintenance and renewal of works, and, finally, also to the inroads made on the country's resources for material for military purposes. "Heavy liabilities," it is stated, "have been accumulated in respect of many of these items which will have to be met in the near future. A further large portion of the accumulated surplus will no doubt be devoted to the purchase of more or less necessary commodities . . . of which the importation was restricted during the war, while, if free gold exports are again permitted from the United Kingdom, gold will be demanded to replace a great part of the notes in circulation." Emphasis is laid on the point that though Egypt is a creditor in respect of this large total, it does not balance the still larger amount for which she is a debtor to foreign countries. But while Egypt is still, in this sense, a debtor country, the debts, consisting chiefly of loans on mortgages and capital invested in industrial, transport and other companies, will not be repayable for many years, while, on the other hand, she is a creditor for an amount the bulk of which is repayable practically on demand.

Turning to public finances, the public debt of Egypt has been reduced by £902,900 since 1913, through the automatic amortisation of the Guaranteed Loan, and on December 31, 1919, stood at £93,299,640. Of this total the amount in the hands of the public represented £88,017,380. Of recent years no amortisation of the Privileged or Unified Debt has been effected. In so far, however, as the Budget surpluses are accumulated in the reserve fund and invested in securities, this process operates as a reduction of the Debt charge for the time being. One of the most hopeful features of the position is the continued development of the country's revenues. For 1914-15 the revenue was £E15,389,124, and there was a deficit for that year of about a million and a-half. The following year, with a rise in the revenue to £E17,759,418, the series of surpluses began with one of over a million, while for 1918-19, when the revenue had risen to £E27,661,289, there was a surplus of £E4,276,963. For the current year the revenue is estimated at £E40,271,000, the expenditure being placed at the same figure. Allowing for extra expenditure on construction and renewals, and for the loss on the sale of imported wheat and other items, it should not be too much to anticipate that once again the Government should find themselves in possession of a considerable surplus when the year ends to add to the already substantial reserve. *Prima facie*, it would certainly appear that Egypt has at its disposal resources sufficient to carry it through a number of lean years. "From the Egyptian point of view the position is of course, a satisfactory one," it is pointed out, "though the extent to which the accumulation of funds during the war will ultimately benefit the country will depend on the manner in which it is employed. . . If . . . it is employed in the repayment of debt and in productive expenditure, the economic well-being of the country will be enhanced, the country will be in a position to withstand the effects on its revenues of a future fall in the price of cotton, and it will be in a fair way of achieving financial independence."

## OPENING FOR TOBACCO MACHINERY IN TURKEY.

The tobacco-growing region of Anatolia tributary to the Samsoun market covers the districts of Samsoun, Baffra, and Alatcham, and Tashova, in all about 37,000 acres. From this region (says an American consular report) approximately 80 per cent. of the higher grades of filler leaf tobacco is shipped to the United States. The Samsoun district is subdivided into five districts, namely, Dere, Maden, Djanik, Evgaf, and Karagöl. The Baffra district, lying west of the town of Samsoun and situated on the Kizil Irakm River (the largest river in Anatolia), produces tobacco similar in quality to that of the Samsoun district, but a much larger leaf. The Alatcham district, lying west of Baffra, produces tobacco inferior in grade to that of the other two districts. Cultivation is carried on by old, primitive methods.

The Regie Co-Interesse des Tabacs de l'Empire Ottomane (now in French hands) has a monopoly of all tobaccos grown in the Ottoman Empire. No foreign leaf tobacco may be imported into the Empire, but export of the Turkish product is permitted. The purchase, transportation, storage, and shipment of leaf tobacco for export are subject to the control of conditions imposed by the above-named company.

This company, whose main office is in Constantinople, manufactures in its branch located at Samsoun some 200,000,000 cigarettes annually for local consumption, making use of six cigarette-making machines. Four of these are of German and two of Russian manufacture. The German machines have a capacity per hour of about 12,000 cigarettes and the Russian of about 5,000. A market is said to exist for up-to-date machines.

It is reported from Belgrade that the Yugoslav Government has decided to make oil and its by-products a monopoly.

Machinery and apparatus destined for the "Motoculture" exhibition, to be held at Tunis next March, may be imported duty free, and must be re-exported within two months of the closing of the exhibition.

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**POPULATION. About 17,400,000.**

**IMPORTS (1915). £8,533,234.**

United Kingdom, £848,997; Austria-Hungary, £3,718,182; Belgium, £43,230; Germany, £3,575,159; France, £660,287; Turkey, £558,238; Italy, £762,023.

**EXPORTS (1915). £21,742,379.**

United Kingdom, £2,238; Austria-Hungary, £13,576,255; Belgium, £2,343; Germany, £7,044,803; Turkey, £443,325; Italy, £37,838.

[NOTE.—In 1914 the Imports from the U.K. amounted to £2,231,773, and the Exports to it to £1,433,535.]

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# BRITISH CONSULAR REPORTS.

## V.—MOROCCO.

The Consular Report on the Trade, Industry, and Finance of Morocco, which has just been issued, covers the three sections into which Morocco is divided administratively—the French Protectorate, the zone of Tangier, and the Spanish Protectorate. Below we give some extracts from the report of Mr. Gerald H. Selous, Acting British Consul at Casablanca, on the position in the French zone:—

### The French Protectorate.

*Trade and Commerce.*—Trade was fairly brisk in 1919, thanks partly to increasing capacity in Europe to execute orders, and partly to the gradual removal of Moroccan export restrictions. At the same time considerable speculation was, and still is, rife, much merchandise passing from store to store instead of to the interior as the result of genuine sales. The purchasing power of the native population has been considerably reduced during the last five years owing to the fact that, though four of these years produced good crops, the bulk of the produce could, as a result of war regulations, find only one buyer—the Military Supplies Service—who bought far below the world price. Consequently, in face of the enormously enhanced price of imported commodities and cost of living, the Moor's purchasing power has diminished appreciably.

Between December, 1918, and March, 1919, liberty of export was restored in the case of vegetable fibre, hides, goatskins, wool, sheepskins, linseed, pigs, forage, hay and straw, field peas, canary seed, carob beans, and castor oil seed, whilst the export prohibition on beans, lentils, and bran was lifted towards the end of the year. Brisk trade was done with the United Kingdom and Spain in linseed, canary seed, beans, and chick peas, unexpectedly good profits being made owing to the steady drop in the franc exchange between the date of local purchase in francs and the date of payment for the goods in sterling or pesetas. For this reason the United Kingdom and Spanish markets were preferred.

Imports consisted chiefly of building materials, cottons, sugar, tea, candles, and soap. Business in cotton goods was very satisfactory. This was not the case as regards tea owing to the depreciation of the franc and a heavy sumptuary tax of 1.50 francs per kilogramme. This has meant either reduced consumption by the native population or sale at a loss, and severe losses have, in fact, been suffered over tea.

Sugar business has been brisk, the French Government having reserved for Morocco a quantity sufficient to give a ration per head of population considerably superior to that allowed in France or the United Kingdom. This is due to the particular partiality of Moors for the commodity in question and the desire to obviate the discontent which its scarcity would cause. Trade in building materials has likewise been keen, the Protectorate Government being engaged on a very extensive programme of public buildings and port works, such as a new Residency-General and Ministries, and port works at Rabat, law courts, hospitals, secondary schools, and port works at Casablanca, and port works at Saffi. Private building enterprise is also proceeding at full pressure.

*Openings for British Goods.*—The steady depreciation of the franc has inevitably reduced the demand for goods produced in the United Kingdom, and has diverted many orders to Belgium and Germany, imports from the latter country having been experimentally sanctioned at the beginning of 1920 for a period of six months, subject to a Customs supertax of 10 per cent. on direct, and 15 per cent. on indirect, imports. Cottons remain in demand, as is the case also with Bradford goods. Further, motor cars, bicycles with and without side-cars, lorries, tractors, and motor tyres, would find an immediate market, owing to the limited supply of these arriving from other countries whose depreciated currency places them in a better position than the United Kingdom to secure orders. Other goods greatly in demand are iron rods for ferro-concrete structures, rolled iron beams or I joists, cement (very large quantities of this are wanted), galvanised iron buckets and kettles, corrugated iron sheets, hardware, mattress covering, candles, soap, glassware, boots and shoes, petrol, kerosene and coal.

*Foreign Competition.*—The countries chiefly competing at present in the supply of most of the above-mentioned goods are Belgium, France, Italy, Spain, and the United States. Belgium is doing considerable business in iron rods and glassware, and importers were hoping to obtain these also from Germany. The present state of affairs in that country, however, will probably retard her return to the Moroccan market. Belgian cement likewise always held, and still holds, an important place. France, Italy, and the United States have supplied the great majority of motor vehicles, the makes most frequently seen being Rochet-Schneider, Berliet, Ford, Panhard, Overland, and Fiat, as well as Fordson tractors. The American Vacuum Oil Company, Limited, has a virtual monopoly of kerosene, petrol, and lubricating oils and greases, whilst Spain has been a large importer of mattress covering, ticks, hollow bricks, and tiles.

*Industrial Development.*—The industrial development of Morocco is as yet in its infancy, but a rapid advance has to be noted during the last six years. The first industry naturally to be developed in view of the fact that Morocco is a wheat-producing country was flour milling, and large mills have now been erected at centres such as Casablanca, Rabat, and Fez, and smaller ones in other towns. These mills, which are taking the place of the small native horse or water-driven mills, supply all the needs of the army of occupation and a large and rapidly increasing European population. Concurrently with the flour mills, factories for the production of alimentary pastes, such as semolina, vermicelli, macaroni, etc., have come into existence, whilst a biscuit factory has now made its appearance in Casablanca. Cement, lime, and stone-breaking factories, and power stations for the supply of electric light and current have been erected, as also have various mineral water plants. More recent industrial developments consist of factories producing fibre from the leaf of the dwarf palmetto palm, meat, and fish-salting and bacon-curing factories, and flax-spinning and olive-oil mills. In addition to these, a large slaughterhouse and bye-products factory is being erected at Casablanca on the most modern lines. At present the only manufactured products exported by Morocco are hand-made native slippers, worked leather and carpets; the latter is a cottage industry which is being vigorously encouraged by the Government. Raw materials, the export of which has only recently been undertaken, consist of vegetable fibre and spun flax and hemp. The cultivation of textile flax was begun for the first time, and the first flax-mill erected in 1919. Great hopes are entertained as regards the production of spun flax and hemp, inasmuch as both these plants grow very well in Morocco, the hemp especially being of excellent quality, and comparing favourably with Italian Bologna hemp. Experiments in the cultivation of jute are likewise about to be made.

### Zone of Tangier.

From the report of Mr. A. K. Clark-Kerr, H.M. *Chargé d'Affaires* for Morocco, we give the following extracts:—

*Trade of United Kingdom.*—In spite of the difficulty of transport and the delay and uncertainty of deliveries, the United Kingdom has in most cases maintained the lead in the articles of import of which before the war she was the principal importer. In tea, candles, soap, coal, and cotton goods she is still well at the head of the list, and she has now taken the first place in paints and coffee, hitherto held by France. In some cases, however, the United Kingdom has been outstripped by Spain, as, for instance, in confectionery and biscuits, groceries and provisions, and, indeed, as regards vegetable oil, nearly half of which in 1913 was imported from the United Kingdom, practically the whole trade has now gone to Spain. Spain has, moreover, taken France's place at the head of the list in wines and spirits and linen; while in hardware and woollen goods, in respect of which articles her trade in 1913 was negligible, she is again first. The remarkable position of Spanish trade may be explained by her policy of neutrality during the war, her geographical position, and the fact that the majority of the European population of Tangier is Spanish.

It would seem that at the beginning of 1919 the market at Tangier was overstocked with British goods, for which there had been a diminished demand. Indeed, in some cases difficulties were experienced in inducing consignees to take delivery of goods despatched to them; gradually, however, conditions appear to have improved, and the demand for British goods increased as the year went on. This was especially marked in the case of British cloths (tweeds and cheviots), and the heavy broadcloths used by the natives for clothing. Spanish manufacturers have, however, been successfully competing in the market for broad cloths. It is of interest to note that Belgian goods have reappeared in the Tangier market, and it is believed that considerable orders have been given for sickles and for glasses used by the Moors for tea, but deliveries seem to be much delayed.

*Possible Openings.*—In view of the lines upon which the development is proceeding, the following are the kinds of goods in respect of which British trade might be developed in addition to those articles in which the United Kingdom is already predominant:—Machinery and agricultural implements, building materials and window-glass, cement, cheap boots and shoes, cheap wire fencing, cutlery, drapery, electrical plant and accessories, furniture, fertilisers, glass, china, etc., hardware, ironmongery, provisions of all kinds, sanitary appliances and fittings, stationery of all kinds, timber, and woollen goods. There should also be an opening at Tangier for a general stores, where British goods of all kinds would be procurable at reasonable prices.

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## ENGINEERING.

### A New Petrol Saver.

Now that motor fuel has reached so high a price, every motorist is on the look-out for some method of economising, and I should say that the new device which has just been brought to my notice will be rather popular both at home and in our overseas markets.

A high degree of efficiency is, of course, obtained by the automatic carburettor, but in many cars a greater degree of latitude in the composition of the mixture is desirable. When properly adjusted to give maximum power at low speeds the mixture is sometimes too rich for ordinary driving, with a consequent waste of petrol. If, on the other hand, the carburettor is adjusted to give a weak mixture with a high mileage per gallon, it is sometimes a far from easy matter to get the engine to pull well at slow speeds and up difficult gradients. Further, some difficulty in starting is generally experienced.

The manufacturers of the petrol-saver referred to claim that their device entirely corrects this, as it allows the carburettor to be set for easy starting and ample power at low speeds, but when more speed and power are required on the level this result can be obtained by opening the valve of the petrol-saver, instead of by opening the throttle, thus economising petrol. The device, which is screwed into the inlet pipe, consists of a conical valve, the seating of which also acts as the valve cage of the casing. Air enters through four holes which are provided in this, but the flow of air beyond that point to the engine is regulated by a phosphor-bronze wire working in the flexible tubing and moving the conical valve inwards and upwards as required.

### Air Cooled Electric Motors.

For a considerable time the limitations of output on the part of electric motors, due to the necessity for keeping the current carrying parts cool, was accepted as inevitable. It was known that could the field magnet and armature windings be kept at a moderate temperature when a heavy current was passing, improved efficiency would result, yet very few electrical engineers went into the question thoroughly with a view to seeing what, if any, improvement could be made.

The latest development in the design of totally enclosed motors was the introduction of a system of air cooling which increased considerably the output and general efficiency of that particular type of motor. There are many purposes for which totally enclosed motors are suitable, and which could not be fulfilled with motors of any other type. Consequently, any improvement which will add to their efficiency has a special industrial value. Hitherto the demand for motors of this class, which admittedly have many advantages, has been restricted by the difficulty in constructing them, particularly in the case of machines of some size, and as a result, this class of motors, as compared with those of the ventilated and open type, has been extremely costly.

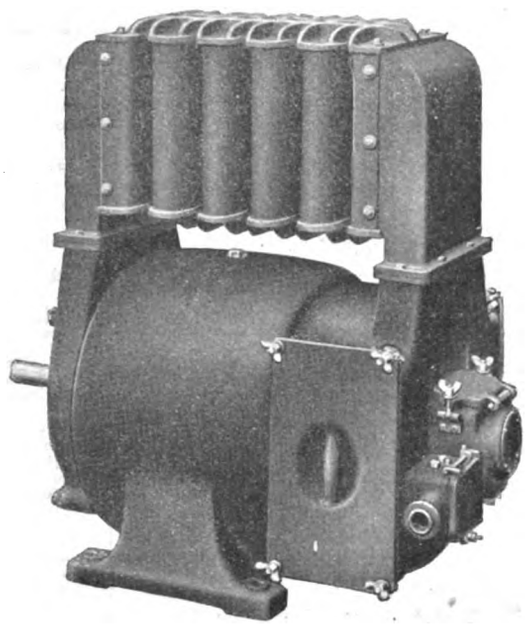
### Engineering Difficulties.

As every engineer is aware, the chief if not the only reason for this is that all heat generated in an enclosed motor must of necessity be radiated through the outside case of the machine, and as the rate of such dissipation is limited, it follows that the design and windings of the machine must be such that little heat is generated. From a practical engineering point of view, this means that the power output from such a motor must be within somewhat narrow limits, which means that to obtain a big output a correspondingly big machine is necessary. Furthermore, as has been pointed out, high speeds for such motors have been impracticable, for the reason that a large proportion of the heat is generated by the armature iron losses alone, and as these increase with the speed it follows that a point is soon reached when these losses alone balance the radiating capacity of the frame of the motor.

In the attempt to overcome these difficulties, a number of expedients have been tried, such as ventilating by means of pipes, ventilating by fans, and other means, but there have been disadvantages connected with all these. Other devices have been tried, such as pipes through the machine itself, and the use of fins and ribs on the carcase, but without complete success. One method tried was the use of a hollow bedplate, upon which the motor was mounted, and through which air was circulated from the motor. This hollow bedplate was embedded in concrete to absorb the heat, or, alternatively, was cooled by a series of water pipes.

### The Problem Solved.

The Le-Thermo motor now on the market has large radiating or air-cooling surfaces constructed in such a manner that the system can be applied to standard machines of the well-known chimney or pipe-ventilated type, the construction being such that the surface can be easily adjusted by the manufacturer to suit any requirement. The cooling surfaces are constructed in various forms, in one of which the radiator proper consists of a box with end pieces designed to fit on vertical trunk openings in the motor end covers, and through this box pass, in a vertical direction, a number of thin metal tubes. Inside the back bearing of the motor a fan is fitted on the armature shaft, which causes a circulation of air through the machine and through the



**A Totally-enclosed Motor, suitable for Normal Speeds, but giving an Open-type Output.**

radiating arrangement, and the arrangement of the tubes is such that the air impinges on the thin vertical tubes which carry away the heat. The advantages claimed for this system are that not only is increased radiating surface provided, but that as the tubes are thin compared with the motor carcase, the radiation is much greater. Hence it is possible to approach within reasonable limits of the capacity of a ventilated motor of given frame size without the use of an excessively large radiator.

In another form of the invention the tube radiator is replaced by one having thin, sinuous metal sides, with top and bottom covers, and also having mounted, inside the radiator, baffle-plates, which cause the air to impinge in a thin stream against the outside surfaces, so that this type performs the same functions as the tube radiator.

The design, the makers point out, lends itself admirably to an entirely water or dust-tight construction, which widens its field of use enormously. At the same time the bulk of the machine can be of quite moderate dimensions; in fact, less than for an ordinary totally enclosed motor when dealing with larger powers. They claim, also, that this type of machine is specially suitable for use in chemical works, collieries, foundries, flour mills, bleaching works, woodworking shops, breweries, or other places where the motors used have to work in a dusty, damp, or fume-laden atmosphere. It also is particularly suited for use in connection with centrifugal pumps, as a fairly high speed is available. This not only means cheaper motors, but enables smaller pumps to be used for dealing with a given output. It seems that it only needs these many advantages to be

(*Continued on page* 619.)

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

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

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

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

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generally recognised in order to bring about a considerable increase in the use of motors of this type in industrial work.

**The Crossley 19.6 h.p. Model.**

The great success attained by the 28-30 h.p. R.F.C. Model Crossley has decided the company to continue its manufacture during 1921, and this car will be a standard production from the Crossley factory next year. In view of the demand on the part of a large body of motorists requiring a lighter car, the Crossley Company have decided to manufacture a 19.6 model in addition to this eminently successful model, and this will be among the company's exhibits at the coming motor show at Olympia. This new model embodies the accumulated experience of many years of automobile construction, and in accordance with the consistent policy of the company every care has been taken to ensure that it reaches the high standard of efficiency which characterises Crossley cars. Tests of the severest nature have been successfully carried out, and nothing has been spared to make the car the best of its kind. The 19.6 Model Crossley will be shown to the public for the first time at Olympia in chassis form, and its appearance will certainly be welcomed with lively interest. In the design of the 19.6 model due prominence has been given to the accessibility of all parts—a point which will be greatly appreciated by owner-drivers. All unnecessary weight has been eliminated with the object of obtaining lightness with strength; the consequent economy in upkeep is obvious.

# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar.—The free market has been quiet. West Indian crystallised has been done at 97s. to 100s., and American granulated has been done at 111s. White Mauritius is quoted at 110s. There has been a good demand for home refined at the official prices.

Coffee.—There has been a slight improvement in business. Mocha has been done at 170s. The futures markets has been more animated. Quotations are: December, 57s.; March, 52s. 6d.; May, 52s. 6d.

Oilseeds.—The tone has been exceedingly dull. Indian linseed has been done at 35s. 10d., while La Plata has come to business at 32s. Rapeseed is steady. Toria has come to business at 33s., bold Ferozepore at 32s., and brown Cawnpore at 29s. Cottonseed is practically unchanged. Indian has been done at 13s., and Egyptian at 19s. 10d.

Seed Oils.—Prices have improved generally speaking. Linseed oil has risen 4s. to 72s. Refined rape oil at 92s. is 8s. up, while the crude variety has improved 5s. to 75s. Turpentine is 2s. lower at 121s.

Oilcakes.—Business has been fairly steady. Linseed cake has declined 6d. to 23s. per cwt. Cottonseed cake is considerably harder at 13s. 10d., but arachis cake remains unchanged at 14s. Other transactions comprise ground nut cake at 14s., and coconut cake of very good quality at 16s.

## EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The Bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture reports as follows on the state and prospects of crops:—

*Cotton.*—The weather was changeable during the month under review, except in Middle and Upper Egypt, where it is reported to have been on the whole favourable. The water supply was plentiful, leading to overwatering in many cases and causing damage to the crop. The first picking has been taken in most parts of the country, and the second has been completed in some places. In the majority of the provinces of Upper and Middle Egypt the cotton sticks are now being removed. The yield is hardly expected to be up to average, owing to overwatering, attacks of insect and fungoid pests, and unfavourable climatic conditions.

*Millet (Sêfi).*—Harvesting was general. The yield is nearly average.

*Millet (Nili).*—The weather has not been favourable in Qena and Aswân. The water supply was sufficient. Slight attacks of stem-borer are reported.

*Maize (Nili).*—The weather has been on the whole favourable towards maturity.

*Maize (Nili).*—The weather has been on the whole favourable and water supply sufficient. Watering, thinning, hoeing, and manuring are in progress. Flowering is general and cobs are formed in early sown fields. Slight attacks of stem-borer and stalk-borer have been reported from a few provinces.

*Bersim.*—The weather has been favourable and the water supply sufficient. Preparation of the land, watering, and sowing are in progress.

*Rice (Sêfi).*—The weather has been favourable and the water supply sufficient. The crop is healthy and the yield is expected to be above average. Harvesting the early sown crop will begin early in October.

*Rice (Nili).*—The hot weather during the month has slightly affected the growth of the crop. The crop is late this year.

*Sugar-cane.*—The condition of the crop, which is advancing towards maturity, is on the whole satisfactory. The yield is expected to be nearly average.

## LANCASHIRE COTTON

### Improved Outlook.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

After several months of depression in our market, it is possible to record a rather better feeling. So far there has not been any decided increase in the turnover, but inquiry is improving, and spinners and manufacturers seem to be within measurable distance of a large turnover. A good deal hinges on the developments in connection with the coal strike, but if a settlement is reached there are many people who believe that a revival of buying in yarn and cloth will show itself. Undoubtedly after the recent slump the level of values is considered attractive. A rather stiffer tone is now showing itself in raw cotton circles. The American crop is doing fairly well, but there is less pressure to sell on the part of Southern growers. Some telegrams during the last day or two relating to the Egyptian growth have not been very favourable, and there is a disposition in some quarters to reduce again estimates of the yield. Inquiry in yarns made from Egyptian cotton has broadened somewhat, but users do not seem to be in any hurry to purchase, and there has only been a very slight improvement in the turnover. Shippers of piece goods to the Near Eastern outlets have displayed more interest in prices, and although not many orders to make have been given out to manufacturers, stock lots have been purchased more freely both for Egypt and Turkey. A larger business has been done in light fabrics, especially dhooties for India, the bulk of the buying being for Calcutta. Operations for China have been very patchy, and staples have attracted no attention whatever. Now and again useful lines have been booked in printing and finishing styles for South America. The business offering in home trade fabrics has been rather better. Manufacturers continue to accept wretched prices, but there are indications of some relief being obtained. American yarns, especially in ring beams, have been in increased request, and quotations are firmer than a week ago. More business has been reported in coarse numbers and extra hard yarns for the Levant, and inquiry has been more prominent in cops for the countries of Northern Europe.

## GOOD BULGARIAN HARVEST.

The Central Meteorological Bulletin of Sofia in a report on crop conditions in Bulgaria, states that the harvest was almost complete by the end of August, even in the higher districts. The millet crop was good; wheat showed about 25 per cent. less in the northern districts, but was in the same proportion more in the south. The harvest, as a whole, showed: Barley, 111 kilogrammes per decare; wheat, 106 kilogrammes per decare; rye, 101 kilogrammes per decare; oats, 92 kilogrammes per decare. Maize had suffered somewhat from lack of water, but the crop on the whole was good, the plants having recovered under the August rain, in spite of its lateness. The bean crop ranged from good to excellent, and rice from abundant to excellent. Beets were promising only poorly, though recent rain should improve matters. The sunflower harvest had commenced and was satisfactory. The tobacco crop was nearly all in: the harvest was good as regards quantity and very good as regards quality.

The production of crude oil of the British Burma Petroleum and Rangoon Oil Companies amounted to 56,228 barrels for September

It is reported that an oil-bearing district has been discovered at Basilicata, and the fields are said to extend from Tuscan to the Ionian coast.

A large oil reservoir is being erected at Biserta to hold 10,000 tons of masut as part of a scheme to supply ships with oil passing through the Mediterranean to India and the East.


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*for Commerce, Industry and Shipping.*

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| **Reserve Fund** | **„** | **3,135,000** |

**HEAD OFFICE: PIRÆUS.**

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# COMPANY MEETINGS.

## HARRISONS AND CROSFIELD.

### Outlook for Tea and Rubber Industries.

The twelfth ordinary general meeting of Harrisons and Crosfield, Ltd., was held on October 21 in the Council Room of the Rubber Growers' Association, 38, Eastcheap, E.C., Mr. Charles Heath Clark presiding.

The secretary (Mr. E. C. Cleveland-Stevens) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The chairman said: Gentlemen.—At the request of my colleagues I am occupying my old position in the chair to-day, owing to the enforced absence through illness of Mr. Croll, who became our chairman shortly after the conclusion of the Armistice. The great and incessant strain of the past half-dozen years has necessitated his taking a somewhat prolonged rest; but you will be glad to know that he is making satisfactory progress towards recovery. We are hoping before long to welcome him back to business, and enjoy once more the advantage of his great ability and industry in connection with the affairs of the company.

It is a great pleasure to me to be in the position to congratulate you to-day upon what I feel sure you will regard as the very satisfactory result of the year's working, for, notwithstanding many difficulties arising out of the disturbed conditions prevailing, our total net earnings amount to £249,203 15s. 4d., as against £200,571, 8s. 8d. a year ago.

A year ago the general reserve fund was brought up to a total of £315,000. We have now added to it £111,073, being the net amount of the premium on the last issue of Preferred Ordinary shares, and we propose adding £13,922 out of the year's profits, thus bringing the reserve up to £440,000, equivalent to about 24 per cent. of the share capital. Freehold and leasehold property stands in the balance-sheet at nearly £400,000 more than it did last year.

In our stocks there is an increase of about £50,000, which is not surprising considering the general advance in values and the rise in the exchange value of the rupee as compared with that of a few years ago. The investments stand at about £220,000 more than in June, 1919. Our investments are valued at cost price or under, and it is very satisfactory that, notwithstanding the present "slump" in the prices of tea and rubber the total market value of our investments to-day is largely in excess of the figure appearing in the balance-sheet.

**Profit and Loss Account.**

Turning to the profit and loss account, our net earnings for the year under review amount, as I have already stated, to £249,203 15s. 4d., to which there has been added the balance of £36,147 11s. 4d. brought forward from last year, making the total amount of distributable profit £285,351 6s. 8d. Out of this amount we have already paid the entire dividends for the year on the Cumulative Preference and Preferred Ordinary shares, amounting respectively to £37,230 and £80,000. We have also paid the fixed dividend on the Deferred Ordinary and Management shares, amounting to £19,637 12s. 8d., and have divided a further sum of £51,412 18s. between the holders of those two classes of shares. The balance of profit now remaining is £97,070 16s. Out of this we propose to transfer £13,922 to the general reserve, as already mentioned, and to allocate £11,000 to the payment of the annual bonus to the staff, and from the balance then remaining we propose to distribute £34,275 5s. 4d. among the holders of Deferred Ordinary and Management shares, leaving to be carried forward the sum of £37,873 10s. 8d.

During the year the Board of Directors has been further strengthened by the addition of Mr. H. O. Peake, who entered the service of the company in 1908, and for some years acted as our secretary. During the past year three members of the Board, Mr. Welch, Mr. Macfadyen, and Mr. MacColl, have paid visits to our Eastern branches, and we are very much indebted to them for the services they have rendered the business in this connection. I also wish to mention again this year the loyal support which we have received from the members of our staff, both here and abroad.

Since our last meeting the position of rubber has undergone a great change. The cause of the present situation is not that consumption has declined, but that the increase in the production of rubber is at present greater than the increase in consumption, with the result that, at the end of this year, there is likely to be an accumulation of from 35,000 to 40,000 tons over the stock necessary for the working of the industry, with the possible tendency for this surplus to increase rather than diminish during 1921.

The position is aggravated and rendered more critical by financial stringency, both here and in America, making it very difficult for those who might wish to do so to carry more stock than is absolutely necessary for the actual requirements of their business. Such a position was certainly not anticipated at the beginning of the year. The financial conditions in the United States should become easier as the transport situation improves, and the strain which accompanies the financing of the harvest relaxes. The adverse European exchanges, being the result of inflated currency and adverse trade balances, will probably take a longer period before reaching anything approaching normal conditions.

**The Rubber Outlook.**

Under present conditions the French manufacturer buying rubber on the London market to-day has to pay more than twice as many francs per pound, the Italian has to pay from three to four times as many lire, and the German more than twelve times as many marks as he would do if his exchange were normal. Neither France nor Italy will take as much as last year, while Russia, which the year before the war took from 10,000 to 15,000 tons, and Austria, which took 3,000 tons, are still entirely out of the market. Germany before the war took over 15,000 tons, but this year it is estimated she may take about half of that amount.

Little real improvement in the economic conditions of most of these countries can be looked for until their expenditure is reduced to correspond with their revenue, and the continuous inflation of currency stopped. Their political and social conditions must be stabilised, and their production largely increased, for which purpose credits must be provided as a necessary condition to the restoration of their export trade.

I fear that no great expansion in the demand for rubber is to be looked for immediately. Meanwhile the price of rubber has fallen to a figure at which many estates can only produce at a loss, and which is probably little if at all above the average cost to the whole plantation industry. If this situation is allowed to develop further without interference it will be likely seriously to impair the productive efficiency of the industry for the future. This is being increasingly recognised by those connected with the plantation industry, and a favourable response to the proposals of the Rubber Growers' Association for the necessary restriction of output of both British and Dutch plantations, whether controlled in Europe or in the East, now appears to be assured.

The position in regard to tea is of a character somewhat similar to that of rubber, with the possible exception that the need for some drastic action appears to be even more necessary.

The marked rise in prices in the late summer of 1919 continued until the early part of November, by which time common Indian tea was selling in London public sale at 1s. 6¼d., but a reaction then set in as a result of abnormally heavy quantities coming from the East owing to the provision of increased shipping facilities.

At the end of September, 1920, the stock shown by the Board of Trade returns to have been in bond in the United Kingdom was 220¾ million pounds, against 99¾ million pounds at the corresponding date in 1913, and 143 million pounds in 1919. The decline in prices in London public sale has been extremely marked, the average price of all Indian tea having declined from 1s. 9¾d. early in November, 1919, to 10½d. at the close of September, 1920, while over the same period the price of common Indian tea declined from 1s. 6½d. to 4½d. As against these selling prices the probable average cost of Ceylon and Indian tea delivered in London is to-day not less than 1s. 2d. per pound. The prices at which lower grades are selling to-day are insufficient to cover even the out-of-pocket expenses incurred in shipping, landing, and selling.

**The Tea Industry.**

Again, we are faced with a position in which, if the future producing capacity of the tea industry is to be preserved, some united action on the part of those interested has become absolutely essential. It appears likely that proposals may be agreed to generally by which Indian and Ceylon producers will join together in reducing the output to the extent of approximately 20 per cent., and it is to be hoped that this will prove successful and cause prices to be maintained on a level which will at any rate, cover the cost of production.

I have now very much pleasure in proposing: "That the balance-sheet made up as at June 30, 1920, and the reports of the directors and auditors be adopted," and I will ask Mr. Miller if he will be kind enough to second that. If there are any questions which I can answer I shall be very pleased to do so.

Mr. H. Eric Miller: Ladies and Gentlemen,—It gives me much pleasure to second the resolution just moved by Mr. Clark. There is only one point to which I would refer, and that is that this business possesses an asset—I consider it to be its greatest asset—which does not figure in the balance-sheet, and that is the spirit of loyal co-operation which permeates the whole business in the head office and throughout the branches and the affiliated companies. We are living in very difficult times, and you can imagine what a relief it is to the directors to know that the difficulties which have to be faced will be faced in that spirit by everybody who is helping this business on.

Mr. Mark Johnson said he would like to ask the directors to reconsider the disbursement of the available balance. He noticed that the staff were to receive £50,000 in bonuses for the year. On the other hand, the original Preference shareholders were receiving not more than about 6 per cent. on their money.

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He hoped the directors would see their way clear to do something to enhance the value of these shares on the market.

The Chairman, in reply, said that Mr. Johnson had put to the meeting something which was not peculiar to the position of the stock of this company, but what might be said to be pretty universal at the present time; that was to say, if they were forced to realise their investments to-day they would be faced with a large capital loss. The question as to the position of the Preference shareholders might have to come before the Board of Directors at some future time—in fact, it had been considered before—but nothing could be done in that respect without the consent of the other classes of shareholders in the company, because it would affect their interests. The position of the Preference shareholders had been somewhat improved a year or two ago, but they must realise that they were only in the same position as people who held Government stock or Trustee securities of any kind. It was obvious that those investments would not be again worth par until the price of money was easier.

The motion for the adoption of the report and accounts was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved: "That the following dividends be declared and paid forthwith—namely, a final dividend on 177,646 Deferred Ordinary shares, amounting to £17,137 12s. 3d., and a final dividend on 500,000 Management shares, amounting to the same amount.

Mr. G. S. Townend seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. H. J. Welch then proposed the re-election of the retiring directors, Messrs. Charles Heath Clark, G. S. Townend, and H. O. Peake. Mr. H. P. Church seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

The Chairman said that he wished to thank the shareholders for their confidence in him, and to assure them that he could say the same of both his colleagues. Had things been other than they were he had intended retiring from the Board altogether at that meeting, but owing to the fact that matters were not easy at the moment, and especially the fact that their chairman, Mr. Croll, was away, and would be away a little longer yet, he felt that he did not wish to do other than comply with the desire of his colleagues that he should continue to serve the company to the best of his ability, at all events until Mr. Croll was able to take his place again.

On the proposition of Mr. Woodhams, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the auditors, Messrs. Price Waterhouse and Co., were reappointed.

Mr. J. B. Crosfield proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman. This was seconded by Mr. H. M. Knight, and carried unanimously.

## Assam Railways and Trading.

The fortieth ordinary general meeting of the Assam Railways and Trading Co., Ltd., was held on October 20, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., the Lord Ribblesdale, Chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. S. Maclean Jack) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the result of the year was on the whole satisfactory. The general earnings of the railway showed a satisfactory increase, and the coal earnings, following on the greater output, were higher than in the previous year. The total earnings were the highest they had ever had, but so also, unfortunately, was the total expenditure, and the actual profit earned was rather less. In the collieries the outturn had shown an improvement on the level of 1918-19, but had not reached what they regarded as the proper standard. However, the current year showed a further improvement, and he hoped they were now returning to normal figures. The quantity sold and the income from sales showed slight decreases on the previous year, and the balance carried to revenue account was smaller. However, the whole of those fallings off had been more than compensated for by the increase in the profit on exchange. As the shareholders knew, Mr. Harris, Mr. Jack (their secretary), and he himself had visited Assam last cold weather, and he would like to refer to the report which Mr. Harris had made on the company's collieries. He had told the board that the whole of the company's mines were in good condition and capable of turning out their full output. The difficulty, as he, the chairman, had explained before, was labour.

While referring to his visit he might say that he had been struck with the great importance of adopting a progressive scheme of electrification and electrifying not only the mines, but the sawmills and workshops, bungalows, coolie lines, hospitals, and wharves. He was impressed with the view that considerable economies would result. The question of the company's finances was having the board's most earnest consideration, and they hoped in due course to decide on a policy which would be in the best interests of the shareholders. For long they had lived in Assam without any labour troubles, but this year there had been a strike both on the railway and in the mines. A very good compromise had been arranged, but expenditure for the current year on wages was bound to be very considerably increased, but prices and railway rates took some time to adjust, and there could be no doubt that the result of the year 1920-21 would not be a good one for them. It was, however, purely a temporary matter, and on the whole they should be able to face the future with serene confidence.

Mr. George Turner, M.E., seconded the motion, and the chairman having replied to questions, it was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors and the auditors having been re-elected, a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors and staff terminated the proceedings.

## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

### Forthcoming Sailings.

Anchor Line s.s. Kingsmere, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Liverpool on November 8.

Bibby Line s.s. Gloucestershire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on November 3.

Byron s.s. Company's steamer Meandros, for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila, will close for cargo at Swansea on October 29 and at Liverpool on November 12.

Clan Line s.s. Clan Mactaggart, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on November 4.

Cunard Line s.s. Sea Glory, for Gibraltar, Corfu, Piræus, Salonika, Constantinople, Galatz, and Braila, will close for cargo in London on October 30.

Cunard Line s.s. Cypria, for Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina, will close for cargo at Liverpool on November 13.

Harrison Line s.s. Author, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Liverpool on November 1.

Henderson Line s.s. Henzada, for Port Said and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Glasgow on November 1 and at Birkenhead on November 10.

Johnston Line s.s. Cranmore, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 30.

Johnston Line s.s. Wingate, for Galatz and Braila (last sailing of the season for the Danube), will close for cargo at Liverpool on November 6.

Moss Line s.s. Assiout, for Gibraltar, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 30.

Papayanni Line (Ellerman Lines, Ltd.) s.s. Dido, for Malta and Alexandria (taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Mersyne, Jaffa, Haifa, Cyprus, etc.) will close for cargo at Liverpool on October 30.

Papayanni Line (Ellerman Lines, Ltd.) s.s. Andalusian, for Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on November 6.

Power Line s.s. Pangbourne, for Rabat, Larache, Tangier, Casablanca, Mazagan, Saffi, and Mogador, will close for cargo in London about the middle of November.

Prince Line s.s. Syrian Prince, for Tunis, Malta and Alexandria, direct (taking cargo for Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli (Syria), Lattakia, Alexandretta, Mersyne and Cyprus ports (with option of transhipment at Alexandria) will close for cargo at Manchester on October 30.

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It is reported that there is a wool accumulation in the Balkan regions amounting to 1,000,000 lb.

The eighth general meeting of the Oriental Carpet Manufacturers, Ltd., will be held at Smyrna on November 10.

The directors of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company recommend a distribution of 25s. per cent., in addition to the guaranteed interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum. The board also recommend a bonus of £3 per cent.

It is reported that large stocks of goods are still stored at Piræus and Athens for which the owners are unable to find a market.

Salt can now be exported from Turkey.

There is a market for dyestuffs among manufacturers of knitted goods in Western Greece.

It is reported that considerable deposits of rock salt have been discovered in the region lying north of Monastir.


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## NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Reuter's Bucharest correspondent, in a message dated October 23, states:—The Roumanian trade unions have proclaimed a general strike, and as a counter measure the Government has proclaimed martial law and closed the offices of the various unions. The general strike is a failure, but partial stoppages have occurred.

Eastern Bank.—Sir Edward Sassoon, Bart., has resigned his seat on the board on account of ill-health, and his brother, Mr. Meyer Sassoon, has been elected a director.

A large bamboo pulp factory has been recently established in Calcutta, and another in Burma.

Marine insurance companies operating in Syria are exclusively French or British.

The total quantity of raw unwashed wool in the Aleppo district amounts to 2,721,000 kilos, of which 80 per cent. is high grade and 20 per cent. low grade.

It is reported that the production of silk cocoons in Yugoslavia for the current year will amount to about 500,000 kilos.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal from September 1 to 12 amounted to 4,520,000 francs as against 5,870,000 francs.

The rise in the cost of living at Constantinople is about 1,420 per cent.

M. R. Tuffly has been appointed Roumanian Commercial Attaché at Prague.

It is reported that considerable deposits of rock salt have been discovered in the region lying north of Monastir.

Since 1915 the annual consumption of sugar in Greece has averaged 17,769 tons.

It is stated that there is a great demand in Turkey for glasses, bottles, lamp chimneys, metal bedsteads, men's clothing, and enamelled goods.

In a report published by a special committee of the Imperial Institute, which has investigated the possibility of increasing the trade of the United Kingdom and other parts of the Empire with India in food grains, the conclusion regarding British and India shipping is as under:—The committee are of opinion that in order to encourage the shipments of rice in British or Indian vessels, and as part of a general scheme for the development of British and Indian shipping, there should be discrimination in favour of such shipping at all ports in the Empire according to the following rules: (1) That a lower scale of tonnage dues and port charges should apply in all ports of the Empire to ships owned within the Empire; (2) That privileges in the ports of the Empire should be accorded to shipping owned in Allied or neutral countries equivalent only to the corresponding privileges accorded to shipping owned within the Empire in the ports of Allied or neutral countries; (3) That shipping owned in enemy countries should pay, in ports in the Empire, dues at least twice as large as those paid by any other shipping.

## GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

**The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information, compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to September 30, 1919. (New Style January 14 to October 13, 1919):—**

| | | Monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, Naxos emery. | Piræus Customs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gross receipts August, 1920 | | Dr. 6,506,630.27 | Dr. 4,362,540.20 |
| Do. do. 1919 | | 4,607,474.30 | 4,161,702.00 |
| Estimated receipts for 8 months (Law of Control) | | 19,266,666.67 | 7,133,333.33 |
| Actual do. do. 1920 | | 42,739,212.27 | 38,457,048.90 |
| " " 1919 | | 31,039,047.75 | 30,830,505.30 |
| Difference between estimated & actual receipts for 8 months | 1920 | +23,472,545.60 | +31,303,715.57 |
| | 1919 | +11,772,381.08 | +23,697,171.97 |


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General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
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CHARLES DE CERJAT.
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**CYPRUS.**
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Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

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## MOTORING IN YUGOSLAVIA.

The roads in Serbia are in poor condition owing to heavy traffic and non-repair during the war. These roads formerly were hard surfaced and furnished the chief means of communication throughout the country, says an American Consular Report. The topography of Serbia is mountainous and heavy grades are frequent. Such conditions militate in favour of light, high-powered cars. In the former Hungarian Provinces of the Banat, the Backa, and Baranja, and in Croatia and Slavonia, the country is level and the roads are inclined to be heavy during the winter rainy season; otherwise the roads are good. In Bosnia, Herzegovina, and in Montenegro the roads are hard surfaced and in comparatively good repair. The country, however, is mountainous and sharp inclines prevail. In Slovenia the roads are in good condition and the country is hilly.

It is estimated that 100 cars have been imported during the past year. A conservative estimate places the number of passenger automobiles to be absorbed by this country in the next twelve months at 400. This is exclusive of cars for Government purposes.

## TENDERS INVITED.

**Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—**

**Egypt.**

*(The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.)*

Steamer.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of an inspection steamer for the Upper White Nile Division. Specification P.T. 25. December 1.

Glass Panes.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of glass panes during one or two years. November 15. (L.)

Construction Works.—The Director of Technical Services, Department of Municipalities and Local Committees, Ministry of the Interior, invites tenders for the construction of works necessary for the water supply of Mehalla el Kobra. Specification L.E. 2. November 15.

**India.**

Springs.—The Burma Railways Co. invites tenders for the supply of 700 helical springs.

Bridgework.—The Jamnagar-Dwarka Railway Co., Ltd., invites tenders for the supply of about thirty-five tons of bridgework, comprising sixty spans of 6 ft. in the clear. (Specification 10s. 6d. Messrs. Rendel, Palmer, and Tritton, 12-14, Dartmouth Street, Westminster, S.W.) November 2.

## NEW COMPANIES.

### London and Eastern Trade Bank.

The London and Eastern Trade Bank has been registered as a private company with a capital of £600,000 in £10 shares. Object: To carry on the business of bankers in all its branches. The subscribers (each with one share) are W. E. Whineray, Exchange Buildings, Liverpool, merchant, and G. D. Zamanski, 38, Lime Street, E.C.3, banker. The first directors (to number not less than six) are to be appointed by the subscribers.

The directors of the Calcutta Tramways have declared an interim dividend of 3½ per cent., free of tax, on the Ordinary shares.

Of the 1,008 solid rubber tyres fitted to motor vehicles at the Olympia show, 511 are Dunlops, giving a percentage of 50.69. The balance is divided amongst eighteen other makes, and the highest total of any other make of tyre is 110.

## ON 'CHANGE.

### Prices Still Falling.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

There are a few cases where prices have advanced this week, but, generally speaking, a further decline has everywhere to be recorded. Among those Near Eastern securities which we class with British funds, Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per Cent. has lost half a point at 59½, and the Turkish Guaranteed 4 per Cent., 1855, has dropped a point at 67, while Greek Guaranteed 2½ per Cent., 1898, has fallen heavily from 65 to 60. Among other Government stocks, Turkish 3½ per Cent. Egyptian Tribute Bonds have eased off a quarter at 52¾, and in Greeks there is an almost general depreciation. The 5 per Cent., 1881, and 1884 Loans have fallen from 53 to 51½, Monopoly and Rentes from 42 to 40½, the 1890 Loan from 52 to 51½, and Funding from 52 to 50. The 1902 Loan has declined from 44 to 43½, the 1910 from 38 to 37, and the 1914 from 51½ to 50½.

Among the Banks, Agricultural 3½ per Cent. Bonds and 3½ per Cent. Guaranteed Bonds have each lost a point at 58 and 60 respectively. Imperial Ottoman Bank has improved 1¼ points at 9¾, and Land Bank has gained 3-16 at 4 11-16, but National Bank of Egypt has lost ⅛ at 18.

Taking the Land shares, we find Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment has eased 1-32 at 3½, and Béhera has lost half a point at 14, while the pref. shares have fallen from 68s. to 65. Egyptian Consols have gone off 2d. at 2s. 1d., Delta Lands 3d. at 13s., and Egyptian and Foreign Trust a like amount at 12s. 9d. Gharbieh Land at 2 11-16 has suffered a decline of 3-16, New Egyptians have dropped 6d. at 30s. 6d., Sidi Salem have lost ⅛ at 1⅞, and Union Foncière has eased 1-16 at 4 3-16; but, on the other hand, Sudan Plantations have advanced from 4 9-16 to 4⅞.

In the Miscellaneous group Abyssinian Corporation has eased off 1-32 at ¼, Alexandria Water has lost ½ at 7, Associated Cotton Spinners has dropped from 23s. 9d. to 22s. 6d., and Morum's Stores from 17s. 6d. to 17s.; but Egyptian Markets and Egyptian Salt and Soda have each gained 3d. at 21s. 3d. and 42s. 3d. respectively.

Oils show the expected improvement. Anglo-Egyptian has gained ½ at 3⅝, and Roumanian Consolidated has advanced from 18s. to 19s.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97 7/16 |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 35·25-35·75 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 110-112 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·7½ |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 205-207 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·7½ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 417-437 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅞ | 3·46-3·48½ |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 53·00-53·90 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 247½ |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 30 |

Messrs. Cox and Co. announce that in view of the development of the work of their insurance branch Mr. D. S. Savory, M.A., F.I.A., F.S.S., as been appointed to the post of consulting actuary.


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# "NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

| LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE. | Price Aug. 30. | Price Oct. 22. |
|---|---|---|
| **GOVERNMENT STOCKS.** | | |
| Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892 | 37 | 43 |
| Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907 | 51½ | 32 |
| Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909 | 27½ | 15 |
| City of Alexandria 4%, 1909 | 60 | 60 |
| Egyptian 4% Unified Debt | 67 | 64½ |
| Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890 | 55¼ | 53¼ |
| Greek 5%, 1881 | 55 | 51½ |
| Do. 5%, 1884 | 55 | 51½ |
| Do. 4%, 1887 | 45 | 41 |
| Do. 4% Rentes, 1889 | 44 | 40½ |
| Do. 5% 1890 | 55 | 51½ |
| Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893 | 56 | 50 |
| Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902 | 47½ | 43½ |
| Do. 4% Loan, 1910 | 41½ | 41½ |
| Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) | 56½ | 50½ |
| Do. 5% Currant | 90 | 89 |
| Montenegro 5% Loan | 68½ | 38 |
| Persia 5% 1911 | 64 | 60 |
| Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913 | 38 | 50½ |
| Serbian 4% Unified Bonds | — | — |
| Turkish 4% 1891 | 63½ | 50 |
| Do. 3½% Ec. Trib. Bonds, 1894 | 57 | 57 |
| Do. 4% Unified | 34½ | 34½ |
| **BANKS.** | | |
| Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) | 4 7/16 | 79 |
| Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) | 5⅜ | 5 3/16 |
| Do. 3½ Bonds Red. | 61 | 58 |
| Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red. | 63 | 60 |
| Bank of Abyssinia | 1½ | 1 |
| Bank of Athens | 4 | 3⅜ |
| Bank of British West Africa | 6⅜ | 5⅛ |
| Bank of Roumania | 5⅛ | 6½ |
| British Trade Corporation | 9¼ | 8¼ |
| Imperial Ottoman Bank | 9½ | 10 |
| Imperial Bank of Persia | 8⅜ | 9⅜ |
| Ionian Bank, Limited | 5 | 4⅜ |
| Land Bank of Egypt Ord. | 5 | 4 11/16 |
| London County and Westminster | 13½ | 12 15/16 |
| National Bank of Egypt | 19¼ | 18 |
| **RAILWAYS.** | | |
| Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer | 5⅜ | 6¾ |
| Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord. | 9¾ | 9⅜ |
| Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref. | 10 | 10½ |
| Do. Do. 4% Debs. | 43 | 38 |
| Do Do. 5% 2nd Debs. | 44 | 41 |
| Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry. | 27 | 27 |
| Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½% | 55 | 66¼ |
| Do. Do. 3% Bonds | 40 | 33 |
| **LAND.** | | |
| Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) | 36/6 | 30/- |
| Do. 6% Debs | 135 | 118⅜ |
| Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt | 13/- | 5/- |
| Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment | 75/- | 3½ |
| Béhéra Co. | 16 | 14/- |
| Do. Pref. | 3½ | 3½ |
| Building Lands of Egypt | 1¾ | 1½ |
| Egyptian Consol 5/- | 2/7½ | 2/1 |
| Egyptian Delta Land and Invest. | 15/- | 13/- |
| Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs. | 80 | 80 |
| Do. Land and General Trust | 1/6 | 6½ |
| Do. and Foreign Trust | 13/3 | 12/9 |
| Gharbieh Land Co. | 3½ | 3½ |
| Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt | 26/- | 27/- |
| Do. 4½% Debs. Red. | 84½ | 84½ |
| Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red | 61½ | 64½ |
| Mortgage Co. of Egypt | 6½ | 6½ |
| Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red. | 74½ | 75 |
| New Egyptian Co. | 36/6 | 30/6 |
| Sidi Salem Co. | 2½ | 1½ |
| Sudan Plantations | 4¾ | 4⅛ |
| Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. | 5 | 4⅜ |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | |
| Abyssinian Corp. | 7/8 | ½ |
| Alexandria Water Co. | 5⅛ | 7 |
| Associated Cotton Ginners | 25/- | 22/6 |
| Egyptian Hotels | 2 | 2½ |
| Do. Markets Ord. | 1 1/16 | 21/3 |
| Do. do 5% Debs. Red. | 86½ | 86½ |
| Do. Salt and Soda Bearer | 47/- | 42/3 |
| Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs. | 92 | 41/3 |
| Khedivial Mail Ord. | 5 3/16 | 5½ |
| Do. Do. Prefs. | 3½ | 66/3 |
| Levant Co. (fully paid) | 16/1½ | 15/- |
| Morum's Oriental Stores 7% Partptg. Pref | 18/9 | 17/- |
| Suez Canal | — | — |
| **Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.** | | |
| Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series | 101 | 107⅜ |
| Chinese 4½% 1898 | 55 | 61½ |
| Do. 5% 1896 | 68 | 73 |
| Argentine 5% 1890 | 77⅜ | 78½ |
| Do. 5% 1907 | 80 | 80 |
| **OIL.** | | |
| Algerian | 3/- | 2/10½ |
| Anglo-Bulgarian | 5/- | 5/4½ |
| Anglo-Egyptian B | 2¼ | 3⅜ |
| Anglo-Persian Pref. | 21/3 | 21/6 |
| Do. 5% Debs. | 78⅜ | 75¼ |
| Anglo-Roumanian | 5/3 | 5/3 |
| Cyprus Oil Trust | 3/3 | 3/7½ |
| Maisel's Petroleum Trust | 7/6 | 8/9 |
| Roumanian | 21/6 | 19/- |
| Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs. | 100 | 103⅜ |
| Suez | 4/- | 3/9 |

The production of olive oil in Tunis last year is estimated at 21,433,000 litres.

The receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended October 9 amounted to £19,129.

It is reported that all building material for rebuilding purposes in the vicinity of Salonika may be imported into Greece duty free up to March 31, 1921.

# "NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

*(Continued.)*

| BRUSSELS BOURSE. | Price Aug. 27. | Price Oct. 21. |
|---|---|---|
| Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs. | 412·50 | 415 |
| Do. do. Priv. | 640 | 570 |
| Do. do. Cap. | 505 | 530 |
| Do. do. Div. | 412·50 | 410 |
| Anglo-Belgian Co. | 42·25 | 28·75 |
| Cairo Electric Railways Cap. | 225 | 200 |
| Do. do. Div. | 307 | 290·50 |
| Caisse Hypothécaire Act | 477·50 | 430 |
| Do. do. (10 eme p.b.) | 72·125 | 65·25 |
| Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½% Debs. | 362·50 | 340 |
| Do. do. Priv. | 467·50 | 470 |
| Do. do. Div. | 172·50 | 176·5 |
| Compagnie Immobilière Deb. | 399·50 | 405 |
| Do. do. Cap. | 157·50 | 157·25 |
| Do. do. Fond. | 230 | 247·50 |
| Enterprise and Development Cap. | 242·50 | 235 |
| Do. do. Div. | 117·50 | 102·50 |
| Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte) Priv. | — | — |
| Do. do. Ord. | 395 | 340 |
| Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap. | 170 | 170 |
| Do. do. Div. | 110 | 110 |
| Salonika-Constantinople Railway | 248 | 250 |
| Salonika-Monastir Railway | 262·50 | 275 |
| Smyrna-Cassaba Railway 4%, 1894 | 165 | 275 |
| Do. do. 4%, 1895 | 165 | 275 |
| Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv. | 115 | 115 |
| Do. do. Div. | 150 | 150 |
| Tramways du Caire Priv. | 443 | 410·25 |
| Do. do. Jouiss | 602·50 | 670 |
| Travaux Publics du Caire Priv. | 230 | 216·25 |
| Do. do. Ord. | — | — |
| Do. do. Div. | 34·50 | 25·50 |

# INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

**INDIAN FUNDS.**

| Interest Due. | Name. | Aug. 30. | Oct. 22. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc. | India 3½% Stock,* 1931 | 52 | 53⅜ |
| Various dates.. | Do. Rupee Paper 3½% | 54 | 52½ |
| | * Redeemable. | | |
| **CORPORATION STOCKS.** | | | |
| | Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959 | 79 | 79 |
| | Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40 | 62 | 63 |
| | Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938 | 66 | 63 |
| **BANKS.** | | | |
| | Chartered of India | 76 | 64½ |
| | Eastern | 7 5/16 | 6⅜ |
| | Mercantile of India A. | 28⅛ | 26 |
| | National of India | 53½ | 37½ |
| **MINES.** | | | |
| | Balaghat Gold Mining | ½ | 8/7½ |
| | Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref. | 13/9 | 14/9 |
| | Burma Corp. | 10½ | 11/6 |
| | Burma Ruby Mines Ord. | 6/3 | 21/- |
| | Champion Reef Gold | 2/6 | 2/3 |
| | Mysore Gold Mining | ½ | 13/9 |
| | Nundydroog | ¼ | 4/10½ |
| | Ooregum Gold Mining Ord. | 13/9 | 13/6 |
| | Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf. | 20/- | 16/9 |
| | Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.) | 12/6 | 12/6 |
| **OIL.** | | | |
| | Assam Oil | 30/- | 37/7½ |
| | Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref. | 27/6 | 32/6 |
| | Brit. Burmah | 1⅝ | 94 |
| | Burmah Oil Co. Ord. | 8¾ | 8⅛ |
| | Do. 6% Cum. Pref. | 18/- | 18/- |
| | Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref. | 8⅞ | 8⅞ |
| **RAILWAYS.** | | | |
| | Assam Bengal | 50 | 41 |
| | Bengal and N.-Western Ord. | 115½ | 112 |
| | Do 3½% Cum. Pref. | 48½ | 45½ |
| | Bengal-Nagpur | 99½ | 95½ |
| | Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India | 95½ | 88½ |
| | Burma Railways | 101½ | 99½ |
| | Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb. | — | — |
| | E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953 | 11½ | 10⅜ |
| | East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957 | 11⅝ | 11⅛ |
| | Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948 | 10½ | 10⅜ |
| | Madras and S. Mahratta | 95 | 95½ |
| | Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord. | 121 | 105 |
| | Nizam's Guaranteed State | 57½ | 61½ |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | | |
| | Bengal Iron Ord. | 56/9 | 50/- |
| | Do. 7½% Cum. Pref. | 19/3 | 19/6 |
| | P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P. | 75 | 73 |
| | Do. Deferred | 407 | 405 |
| **TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.** | | | |
| | Assam Co. | 56½ | 54 |
| | Bengal United Tea Ord. | 15⅝ | 8⅜ |
| | British Indian Tea Ord. | 6 | 5⅛ |
| | Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord. | 15 | 6⅜ |
| | Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord. | 9/- | 9/4½ |
| | Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. | 52/6 | 38/1½ |
| | Consolidated Estates | 38/- | 30/10½ |
| | Darjeeling Co. | 17/6 | 17/3 |
| | Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. | 35/- | 35/- |
| | Dooars Tea Ord. | 38/- | 35/- |
| | Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. | 17/- | 16/3 |
| | Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est. | 30/7½ | 22/6 |
| | Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber | 28/- | 25/- |
| | Hewagam Rubber Co. | 21/- | 18/9 |
| | Jhanzie Tea Association | 8⅜ | 7⅛ |
| | Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. | 14½ | 12⅜ |
| | Kepitigalla Rubber Estates | 14/4½ | 13/1½ |
| | Lanka Plantations Ord. | 22/7½ | 22/3 |
| | Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord. | 17/7½ | 16/9 |
| | Malayalam Rub. and Produce | 34/4½ | 29/3 |
| | Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. | 12¼ | 11⅛ |
| | P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates | 33/- | 27/- |

# STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

| GOVERNMENT LOANS. | July 30. Rs. | Sept. 30. Rs. |
|---|---|---|
| 3½% Government Paper | 59½ | 58 |
| 4% Government Paper, 1916-17 | 74 | 74 |
| **BANKS.** | | |
| Alliance Bank of Simla | 300 | 291x. |
| Bank of Bengal | 1695ex | 1920 |
| Bank of Bombay | 2115ex | 2240 |
| Bank of Madras | 1590 | 1775 |
| Bank of India | 145 | 130 |
| Tata Industrial Bank | 44½ | 32½ |
| **COAL.** | | |
| Baraboni | 14⅜ | 15 |
| Bengal | 770 | 800 |
| Burrakur | 51½ | 53 |
| East Indian | 38ex | 46 |
| Equitable | 49½ | 45½ |
| Pench Valley | 330ex | 300 |
| Raneegunge | 67⅜ | 68 |
| Standard | 85 | 85 |
| **COTTON.** | | |
| Bengal Nagpur | 625½ | 600 |
| Bombay Dyeing, etc. | 3675 | 3240 |
| Bowreah | 1570 | 1400x. |
| Buckingham | 2600 | 3000 |
| Carnatic | 1100 | 1100 |
| Century | 1267 | 1045 |
| Central India | 5395 | 5315 |
| | 2697½ | 2657½ |
| Elgin | 265 | 265 |
| Gold Mohur | 400 | 400 |
| | 200 | 200 |
| Khatau Makanji | 740 | 650 |
| Muir | 388 | 400 |
| New Ring | 1281 | 1175ex. |
| Phœnix | 1100 | 1050 |
| Svadeshi | 5500 | 5020 |
| **JUTE.** | | |
| Alliance | 842½ | 920 |
| Barnagore | 179 | 200 |
| Budge Budge | 689 | 814 |
| Clive | 344 | 424 |
| Dalhousie | 621 | 835 |
| Delta | 714 | 870 |
| Fort Gloster | 1131 | 1560 |
| Gourepore | 1325 | 1625 |
| Howrah | 55 | 66⅔ |
| Kamarhatty | 1139 | 1200 |
| Kanknarrah | 860 | 896 |
| Khardah | 710 | 850 |
| Kinnison | 1430 | 1820 |
| National | 460 | 545 |
| Standard | 805 | 930 |
| Union | 1035 | 1260 |
| **MISCELLANEOUS.** | | |
| Bengal Paper Mills | 141½ | 119½x. |
| Bengal Timber Trading | 480 | 440x. |
| British Indian Corp. Ord. | 13½ | 12¼ |
| British Indian Corp. Def. | 22½ | 20 |
| Burn and Co. | 300 | 270x. |
| Carew and Co. | 121 | 134 |
| Cawnpore Sugar | 46½ | 52½ |
| Champaran Sugar | 43½ | 43 |
| Howrah Oil Mills | 34½ | 29½ |
| India General Steam | 137 | 140 |
| Indian Iron and Steel | 140 | 95 |
| | 85 | 50 |
| Marshall Sons and Co. | 11½ | 10⅔ |
| Titaghur Paper | 512 | 505 |

# ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

PRICES ON OCTOBER 8.

| | |
|---|---|
| Agricultural Bank of Egypt | £4½ |
| " " " Fond. | £350 |
| Alexandria Water Co., Ltd. | £7½ |
| Anglo-American Nile Steam | £4 |
| Assoc. Cotton Ginners | £1 7/16 |
| Banque d'Orient | Fr. 99½ |
| Béhéra Ord. | L.E. 14½ |
| " Priv. | £3⅜ |
| Bonded Stores | £12⅞ |
| Brasseries d'Egypte Priv. | Fr. 150 |
| Building Lands of Egypt | £2½ |
| Cairo Heliopolis Railway | £10⅞ |
| Cassa di Sconto | Fr. 88 |
| " " Priv. | Fr. 108 |
| Ciments d'Egypte Priv. | Fr. 58 |
| " " Div. | Fr. 30 |
| Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte | £1½ |
| Consolidated Land | P.T. 11 |
| Crédit Foncier Egyptien | Fr. 584 |
| " Fondateur | 7900 |
| " 1886 Oblig. | 375 |
| " 1903 " | 258 |
| " 1911 " | 261½ |
| Crown Brewery Priv. | Fr. 239 |
| " " Div. | Fr. 240 |
| Eaux du Caire Capital | Fr. 83 |
| " " Jouissance | Fr. 106 |
| Egypt and Levant S.S. Ord. | 35/0 |
| Egyptian Delta Light Railways | £5½ |
| Filature Nationale d'Egypte | £17 |
| Frig. orifique d'Egypte | L.E. 2½ |
| Gabbari Lands | L.E. 2 |
| Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. | £6½ |
| Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv. | £3 |
| " " " Ord. | 114/0 |
| Kom Ombo Ste. Ane. de Wadi | £7⅝ |
| " " Fondateur | £77 |
| Land Bank of Egypt Actions | £4⅜ |
| " " Parts de Fond. | £40 |
| Lots Turcs | Fr. 65½ |
| Menzaleh Canal Navigation | P.T. 330 |
| Nungovich Hotels | £8⅝ |
| Ramleh Railway | £3 |
| Salt and Soda | 42/6 |
| Tram d'Alexandrie Priv. | Fr. 57 |
| " " Div. | Fr. 75 |
| Union Foncière d'Egypte | £4⅜ |
| Upper Egypt Hotels | £1½ |
| Urbaines and Rurales | £5 |

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 496.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

It was difficult to believe that the question of the succession to the Greek Throne would be settled as easily as M. Venizelos affected to imagine. Prince Paul was known to be wholly under his father's authority, and ex-King Constantine had shown no disposition to subordinate his own personal interests to those of Greece as a whole. Accordingly, the reply given by Prince Paul to the verbal communication of the Greek Government is a subtle move to compel M. Venizelos to adopt a course that he has repeatedly refused to take—that is, to re-open the question of ex-King Constantine's position. It has throughout been a plank in the Opposition's platform that King Constantine's removal was effected at the instance of foreign Powers without reference to the wishes of the Greek people: they claimed, therefore, that the *status quo* had no validity until it had been endorsed by the nation. M. Venizelos, on the other hand, has contended that the King's removal was the inevitable outcome of his own misdeeds at the time, that the re-opening of the question would be an affront to the Protecting Powers, and that it would be almost impossible to submit to the electorate as a whole all the considerations which weighed with those Powers in arriving at their decision.

There can be little doubt that M. Venizelos' contention is entirely right. If ex-King Constantine had proved himself to be of a different temperament, if his subsequent actions had shown that, as he alleged, he was the victim of a misunderstanding, and that he was actuated solely by a desire to promote the welfare of the Hellenic people, there is every reason to suppose that the Protecting Powers would have welcomed a settlement of the Greek question which promised to weld the country once more into a united whole. But no one could be persuaded now that ex-King Constantine and his immediate entourage, after being permitted to return to Greece, would allow bygones to be bygones. The events of December, 1916, are still too fresh in everyone's minds, and, it must unfortunately be admitted, the subsequent course of things has not helped to heal the breach between the two sections of the people. In the circumstances, therefore, the Greek Government may find itself compelled to regard Prince Paul's refusal as absolute, and to seek a King for Greece elsewhere.

The British Government would seem to have satisfied the Greek inhabitants of Cyprus that it has at last definitely made up its mind not to cede the island to Greece, and naturally a great pother is being made by the annexationists. We can sympathise with the heads of the movement in the dilemma in which they are placed. At one time they felt that they could conscientiously encourage their followers to hope for the best, and accordingly an expensive deputation was maintained for a long period in England. But as time passed, and, with it, all the conditions that might have justified Great Britain in her act of renunciation, they must, as sensible men, have realised that the prospects of union with Greece were becoming fainter and fainter. To-day, if they value their reputation for statesmanship, with which is bound up their own capacity for administering the island, if it should be surrendered by Great Britain, they have to admit that the British Government's decision is the only one in keeping with the realities of the present time, and, consequently, with common sense. It remains to be seen, therefore, what these leaders will do. Will they subordinate their better judgment to the irresponsible extremists among their own followers and lead the shouting against Great Britain, or will they be strong-minded enough to still the clamour and bid their people wait until circumstances have changed? It is to be hoped that they will adopt the wiser course.

The Millennium has not yet begun in the Balkans; but a great step in advance has been made when a frontier incident such as that described by our Sofia Correspondent last week is capable of adjustment after a minimum of fighting. For some time to come we must expect rifles along the frontiers to have a habit of "going off" on their own accord; the most that can be hoped for at first is that the responsible people on each side will see to it that the trouble is not allowed to spread. M. Stambolisky's absence for more than two months is in some measure a test of the extent to which the new spirit in Bulgaria is genuinely national and not merely his individual policy. It is, therefore, satisfactory to find that the first frontier incident has been rapidly adjusted. In the old Bulgaria the manufacture of frontier incidents with a view to embarrassing the Government of the day would have been regarded as a perfectly fair move in the political game, but such tactics need not be looked for to-day. The Bulgarian Opposition is giving its mind to a coalition of parties, in order the better to counter the great strength of the Agrarians. Its cue would seem to be not to challenge M. Stambolisky's foreign policy, but possibly to try to belittle the results of his tour abroad by attributing to him intentions which he could not have entertained. As already stated in these pages, it was stipulated that the Entente Governments could not

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listen to any proposals for modifications of the Treaty of Neuilly. This stipulation would not prevent the Allies from offering to modify some of the terms, and it is significant that the Greek Government has informed Bulgaria that it renounces the right of trying Bulgarians charged with crimes against the rules of civilised warfare, and will leave them to be tried by Bulgarian Courts. The extent to which these and other concessions are due to the good opinion held of M. Stambolisky's regime will not be lost on his fellow-countrymen.

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A great deal of fuss has been made in the French Press—and is being faithfully echoed in the section of the English Press that is in search of sticks with which to beat the British Government—over the renunciation by Great Britain of her rights under the Peace Treaty to seize post-war property of Germans in England in case of German default. We are not here concerned with the wisdom or unwisdom of the step; but it may be pointed out to our French Allies that they have themselves recently taken precisely the same step in precisely the same way with regard to the Bulgarian Treaty. They have exercised a right of renunciation without reference to Great Britain. But whereas the British Government's action is relatively unimportant, as it leaves all pre-war enemy funds available, France's action in liberating all the pre-war Bulgarian funds in her hands by dispensing with a clearing-house for the payment of debts is a crucial modification of the Neuilly Treaty. Moreover, it was done with the obvious intention of "scoring off" Great Britain, who had decided to establish a clearing-house under the terms of the Treaty. We do not contend that France's action was wrong; on the contrary, we have strongly urged that the British Government should follow her example. But the fuss made in the French Press and in some English newspapers is entirely disingenuous, if not dishonest.

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Zaghloul Pasha and other members of the Egyptian Nationalist Delegation returned to England last week, for the purpose, it is understood, of reporting to Lord Milner and his Mission on the results of the negotiations, or explanations, in Egypt regarding the proposed Agreement. Their reports will no doubt, have been quite as favourable as was expected, and the next step of importance will be the presentation to the British Government of the report of the Milner Mission. Meanwhile from Egypt come reports of a difference having arisen between Zaghloul Pasha and some of his co-delegates. According to the native Press the trouble arose through Zaghloul Pasha's insisting that certain reservations suggested in Egypt must be regarded as the nation's commands, and obeyed accordingly, while the delegates who opposed him maintained that the reservations were unessential. Happily, the difference has now been arranged.

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In Egypt those opposed to settlement on the lines proposed are manifesting great activity in one way and another just at present. Among other things, they charge the present Cabinet with conspiring against the Delegation, and accuse the Ministry of extravagance. It is to be noted, also, that opposition of a different kind is beginning to be observable. The prospect of Egypt receiving such a full measure of independence as contemplated by the suggested Agreement is causing lively anxiety to a good many people who not very long ago were professing to be eager for just such independence; and if only they dared to give open expression to their views, it is not improbable that the world would be greatly surprised. The fellaheen, and many of the landowners, are said to be uneasy; and it would be interesting to know whether responsible Copts — not those who make their living by agitation—feel entirely happy when they contemplate the withdrawal of British control and British troops. Egypt has once more justified its association with the idea of paradox.

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The fall of Damad Ferid Pasha's Cabinet has been followed, as was anticipated, by the opening up of negotiations with the Nationalists. At the time of writing, however, the only satisfactory thing about this move is that it is reported to have been made by Mustapha Kemal, and not by Tewfik Pasha. If the terms brought from Angora have been correctly transmitted from Constantinople, they show an entire failure on the part of the Nationalists to realise the position. Mustapha Kemal is represented as asking that the Grand Vizier shall obtain a written promise from the Entente to accept five points, as follows:—

> 1. The restoration of Smyrna and the hinterland to the Straits zone under Turkish sovereignty. 2. The concession of autonomy under Turkish sovereignty to Thrace. 3. The admission of three delegates, representing Smyrna, Thrace, and Anatolia, to the Commission entrusted with the administration of the neutral zone. 4. The modification, favourable to Turkey, of certain articles of the Treaty of Sèvres, particularly those relating to financial and economic questions. 5. The separation of the Khalifate from the Sultanate, the latter to be passed down to the eldest son of the Osman family, and the former to such descendant of the Prophet as enjoys the confidence and reverence of the whole Islamic world.

The fifth of these points might be accepted, even welcomed, by the Entente; for though it would probably set the Islamic world by the ears if granted, that is not the concern of the Entente, as such. The fourth point, too, might be conceded, if it did not involve any extensive "modifications" of the Treaty; but the first and, even more so, the second, would obviously never be seriously considered to-day.

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Regarding the fourth point, that the Treaty of Sèvres shall be modified, it is interesting to find an Italian newspaper, the *Tempo*, suggesting that something of the kind may be advisable, or even necessary. This is in connection with a report that the mandate for Armenia has been offered to Italy, who is disposed to accept it; and the *Tempo* observes that Italy would have to play the part of mediator between the Turks and the Armenians; and that it would be impossible for her to accept that difficult rôle unless the Treaty were revised. If there is any foundation for the rumour, and if Italy is in fact thinking of undertaking such a difficult task, it would be folly indeed to place any barrier in her way; and if she expressed a desire for some modifications of the Treaty, her Allies should, and doubtless would, be quite ready to consider the matter in the most accommodating spirit. Until some more definite announcement is forthcoming it would be foolish to give rein to our hopes; but the fact that the rumour should find its way into the Press at this time is perhaps not without significance.

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News received from Persia lately has not been of the best. A fortnight ago the Bolshevists, recovering from the disorder into which they had apparently been thrown, inflicted a defeat on the Persian Cossacks in the neighbourhood of Enzeli and reoccupied Resht. The Cossacks seem to have gone to bits rather badly, and it looks as if they were retreating on Teheran in something like panic, for they are reported by *The Times* Teheran correspondent to "have passed through the British lines between Kudum and Rustamabad," though "they have had practically no casualties" and there is no "evidence that the enemy is pursuing them." The collapse of the force, or of its *moral*—for that is what it amounts to—has led to the British Minister's informing the Persian Government that further help from us to the Cossack Division must be withheld in view of the proved incompetence of the Russian staff, and this in turn has led to the resignation of the Prime Minister, who declined to dismiss General Starosselsky. It is anticipated that the Sipahdar will form a Cabinet to carry on the business of the country, at any rate until the Mejliss assembles, and that the Shah himself will insist on an immediate reorganisation of the Cossack force. Meanwhile British troops are barring the advance of the Bolshevists in the north, and the British Government is doing its best to lighten the difficulties of Persia. But until the Anglo-Persian Agreement is ratified by the Mejliss the situation must remain unsatisfactory.

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India continues to send us little news except of strikes, industrial or political as the case may be, for the whole non-co-operation movement is in essence

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merely a strike against the authority of Parliament. Leaving it for the moment out of account, the only conclusion to be drawn from the events of the last year or two is that the wage-system in India has broken down, and that employers, as well as the Board of Industries to whom the employers must look for a lead, are faced with the necessity of developing a new one. System is perhaps scarcely the right word, for what exists at present is a hybrid growth, springing in part from the Indian institution of slavery, and in part from the ideas which prevailed in this country during the last century. Its most obvious fault is that it offers no incentive to increased efficiency; from one end of India to the other, the worker thinks only of how "to fill his stomach," as he says himself; if his stomach is not filled, he goes on strike; if it is reasonably comfortable, he knocks off work; and in either case the country suffers because the things it wants are not produced.

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What is wanted now is a new inspiration. The Indian worker is no longer a slave, to be kept employed "only by sheer necessity or blows from a cudgel," as Bernier wrote of him in the seventeenth century, neither is he a keenly competitive individual, as the pure Cobdenite theory assumed: he is just a human being, with a closely limited vision, and his social tastes are a good deal more important than employers are apt to recognise. It is pertinent, then, to suggest that some light on the problem may be obtained from the experience through which we are now passing in England, where we are grappling, rather clumsily perhaps, with a new idea, the first of those great formative influences which a couple of years ago everyone said the war would yield. The idea is so new that it has not yet acquired a recognised label, but we may describe it in general terms as the provision of a collective incentive to individual efficiency, for its essence is that the earnings of individual workers should be determined, not by the individual's effort but by the efficiency of the industry as a whole; in short, it is team-work on a large scale.

No sensible person would suggest that Indian employers should copy the particular arrangements now devised for regulating wages in English coal-mines. The miners may refuse to try them, or if tried they may fail to work; and in any case the conditions are so different that the direct transfer of methods could scarcely be expected to succeed. But the idea of team-work remains. Is it possible to give the whole body of workers in an Indian factory or tea-garden a collective interest in the success of the enterprise? That question should, we think, be faced by every employer in India, and it should be faced by way of experiment rather than *a priori* argument. It has been the fashion to say that education would cure labour difficulties, but things have moved too fast for that; employers cannot afford to wait for the next generation but one, and there is at least a chance that an appeal to social instincts may prove more successful than the attempt to rely on a non-existent individualism.

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Our experiences of last week have a lesson for the Indian politician as well as for the Indian employer. As *The Times* has pointed out, "the settlement in its present stage justifies the faith of those who have held that counsels of moderation must prevail if they were maintained stoutly, in despite of provocation on either side." The Indian Moderates or Liberals are in similar case; they can prevail against the Extremists if they show a bold front, but they must maintain their position stoutly if their object is to be attained. A glance at the columns of the Indian Press will suffice to show that the Extremists are out to crush the Liberals once for all, but it cannot be said that, up to the beginning of last month, the Liberals, except in Bengal, were exerting the strength which they undoubtedly possess throughout the country. They have possibly been trusting to the reaction which is certainly in progress against the excesses of their opponents, but they have not done enough to help that reaction on; and for the sake of India we can only hope that October has seen a more vigorous effort in this direction.


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# THE WEEK AT HOME.

**The Coal Peace.**

The coal strike is over, or at least it will be as soon as the miners accept by ballot vote the terms agreed on by their leaders—a matter which is, perhaps, not quite such a foregone conclusion as in some quarters is anticipated; and industrial peace seems assured for the present. How long it will last nobody would care to prophesy.

The terms are long and rather complex. The miners get an advance immediately on resumption of work, 2s. a shift for men, 1s. for youths, and 9d. for boys; there is to be an adjustment of wages from January 3, and *thereafter every four weeks*, on the basis of export coal values. Joint district and national committees are to be set up on output, and a joint scheme is to be submitted to the Government by coal-owners and miners for the future regulation of wages. The September quarter's output is to be regarded as the standard output, and every increase above a certain value in the proceeds of export coal—the only coal in which there is a free market—will mean additional wages.

A practical public is now asking who won the triangular duel between coalowner, coalminer and Government—the aforesaid practical public having recognised from the first that it was not itself in any circumstances to rank as the winner, being placed in the interesting position of the spectator who has to pay a high price to watch the proceedings. The public, then, being relegated to its proper insignificance, realises that a compromise has been agreed upon. The miners get their extra money; which means that everybody else will ask for more money (including the Chancellor of the Exchequer when it comes to meet the year's Budget). But the principle that the amount of wages depends on the amount of work has had to be conceded by the miners; and also the datum line—only, to save everybody's feelings, it is not called a datum line but a standard output.

So far, so good. The Government has secured its principle, and the miners have secured the money; which, by the charming operations of economics, instantly raised the price of wood logs. Both sides can, therefore, claim to have won, as well as the watchful woodman, who has secured his advance without any fighting at all. But if I were asked the best way to make trouble in any trade in the future, I should suggest a revision of wages every four weeks. If miners and owners were respectively cherubim and seraphim, which nobody has yet suggested, such a system would lead to difficulties sooner or later. Perhaps the Joint Board may evolve something better in due course.

One thing that seems pretty definitely to have emerged from the discussions is the conclusion that the miners were not the only parties responsible for shortage of output. Their complaint that the coalowners were partly to blame seems to have had some basis of fact. It is to be hoped that the promised committees on output will settle this matter, and if they should also chance to turn their attention incidentally to including a rather larger percentage of coal in the dirt and stone that has recently been sold for three pounds a ton, the public will be grateful to its masters.

**Political Apathy.**

With the settlement of the strike the talk of a general election has again died down. One ambitious young politician, who wants an election for the simple reason that he is a candidate and not a member, was deploring to me the other day that the public is utterly apathetic; they will not contribute to the party funds, or attend his meetings, and even the most marrow-freezing denunciations of Bolshevism leave them cold. I heard the same story from a member on the other side, who devoted his most opprobrious adjectives to the sins of the Coalition, without a single sign of enthusiasm from the audience; he made the curious remark that people were more interested in religion than politics at the moment, and seemed to think that the country was going to the dogs in consequence.

A clergyman to whom I happened to repeat this opinion added the still more curious remark that, while he agreed that people were interested in religion, they steadily refused to go to church. He told me of a case in which a fellow-priest simply could not induce his flock to enter the building, but one of them suggested he should give them an informal talk at the public-house. Like a wise man, he did so; they listened respectfully, and then asked him questions, which he answered frankly, whereupon the chairman of the meeting called for a vote of confidence, and invited him to come again. It is his experience that men who will not tolerate a ten-minutes' sermon will listen to an hour's lecture on Christianity, so long as they can heckle him at the end. It is the right of reply that they value; as my friend put it, "they will not swallow religion like our fathers, they want to digest it over a pipe."

**Masters and Men.**

A Labour Co-Partnership Congress was held last week, at which Lord Robert Cecil and other speakers have urged that the old theory of masters and men in industry is out of date, and that there should be a human partnership between capital and labour. Lord Robert remarked that what is amiss with our present industrial organisation is "the fundamental misconception that the business of a great undertaking belongs to the owner of the capital, instead of to the whole undertaking, labour as well as capital." This idea is obviously spreading in Labour circles, but the attitude of the mine-owners and other employers in the last month shows that it is not generally accepted by capital.

A curious commentary on the idea is given by a Mr. John Hoyle, a Bradford wool merchant, who has attained a little brief notoriety these last few days by offering to hand over his business, "lock, stock, and barrel," to the local Labour Party for two years; he stipulates that they shall find the capital and manage the business, on condition that if they do not make it pay and ruin the business they must compensate him for the loss. The fact that Bradford business is rather in a depressed condition at the moment possibly accounts for this calculated generosity.

**Houses and Builders.**

The building trade appears to thrive in an atmosphere of altercation and recrimination. The builders are accused of holding up supplies for higher prices, and the builders' labourers of refusing the admission of ex-Service men to make the work last as long as possible, and each assures a patient public that it is the other's fault. But in the intervals of quarrelling it is an undubitable, albeit astonishing, fact that they do find a little leisure in which to build a few houses. In going through one of our larger home counties the other day I noticed that in almost every village two or three pairs of new houses were either building or built. These are of the workmen's cottage type, and the price (inclusive of rates) in London is about a pound a week and in the country fifteen shillings, which compares roughly with ten and five shillings in pre-war days. Even at this rent, however, there will be a loss, which will eventually come on to the National Debt. The foundations, like some current philosophy, are all right until you set out to discover how deep they are laid, but the houses are quite comfortable and fairly roomy.

**Episcopal Palaces.**

It is announced that the Bishop of Lichfield intends to leave the Palace and to live in a small house in the

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Cathedral Close. Although the yearly income of the see is £4,200, charges and taxes only leave £1,200 for the upkeep of the Palace, which cannot be maintained on less than £2,000.

The example is likely to be followed by the Bishop of Worcester, who is considering giving up Hartlebury Castle, which is far too large. Dr. Gore years ago, when head of that diocese, refused to occupy the place, and lived in Birmingham. The Bishop of Durham is understood to be thinking of leaving Alnwick, and it has been rumoured that the Bishop of Winchester, who has Farnham Castle to maintain—an enormous wilderness of a house—is also contemplating the possibility of a move. It is some years since the Bishop of London let London House in St. James's Square, and lived simply in a small corner of Fulham Palace, and he would not object to selling that too.

Evidently the old order, which required a bishop to be a prince of the Church, is going. High taxation and increased charges are making these things inevitable, but I doubt whether they will do the Church any harm. These great episcopal palaces, which have long been a white elephant to most prelates, have often been attacked by enemies of the Establishment, and their defence has not always been very effective.

**Oxford and Reconciliation.**

Some pother has been caused by a letter which was sent a few days ago from Oxford inviting a resumption of intellectual intercourse with Germany. It was drawn up by Dr. Bridges, the Poet Laureate, who seems two years ago to have condemned the Germans to eternal ostracism in one of his published poems, but has evidently since revised his views; submitted to the leaders of the University, the majority refused to sign it, but a fair number attached their signature, whereupon *The Times* attacked them rather blusterously, and the Poet Laureate returned the proverbial soft answer.

These things are after all a matter of disposition and taste, and the real question seems to be whether the time has yet come. Apparently Dr. Bridges felt that himself, for the letter was drafted some time ago, since it is signed by two or three men who have since died, and evidently held back from publication. But the reception of the letter seems to show that it is too early yet to talk of reconciliation. John Bull does not hate the German, but he would rather not have anything to do with him for some time, and any talk of general reconciliation would be insincere.

**The Week's Books.**

"Mrs. Asquith's Autobiography" (Thornton Butterworth) would have been the book of the week had it not been serialised and discussed so much in advance that its actual publication may fall a little flat. It is full of faults of taste and tact, and it shows a lack of reticence and a sharpness of the pen which are rather disconcerting; and her accounts of such people as the late Lord Salisbury, Professor Huxley, and Robert Louis Stevenson have all been accused of inaccuracy. As regards the last-named, Mrs. Asquith has replied that the offending passage was struck out in manuscript, and only got into the book by inadvertence; but if it was struck out in manuscript, one is curious to know how it got even as far as the proof. A second volume of these reminiscences is hinted at as a possible infliction next year.

I am slowly reading, with the interest and the tempered admiration suitable to rather heavy going, "A Study in Realism," by Mr. John Laird (Cambridge University Press). Its appeal is likely to be small, but those who follow the logical analysis of psychology would be well advised to get it.

Mention should be made of the "Life of Admiral Mahan" (John Murray), by Mr. Carlisle Taylor, which is likely to be an authoritative work.

Mention should be made of "Suggestion and Autosuggestion," by Dr. Charles Bandoun (George Allen)—an important psychological book dealing with the work of the celebrated Nancy school of mental medicine. It is, of course, authoritative as a statement of their views and discoveries.

One of the most delightful works of natural history I have read for a long time is "A Naturalist on Lake Victoria," by Dr. G. D. Hale Carpenter (Fisher Unwin). Its earlier pages deal with sleeping sickness, and are naturally more calculated for specialists in tropical diseases; but the author subsequently recounts his discoveries and observations of snakes, birds, and reptiles. The chapter on the protective coloration of insects—one of the most difficult and controversial subjects in the whole field of biology—is peculiarly valuable, and shows a wide grasp of theory as well as close observation. The book, in my opinion, is worthy to rank as a successor to Bates on the Amazons and Belt on Nicaragua. Higher praise cannot be given, but strict justice demands no less. (It is a curious fact, by the way, that most doctors, when they take to writing, write exceedingly well—Mr. Carpenter is the latest example. The badness of lawyer's English is proverbial, and the English of the pulpit sometimes even worse—almost as bad as that of the chemist or physicist. But the medico always seems to me to compound his English better than his abominable drugs.)

Mr. John Buchan, who must surely be one of the most prolific authors of the day, has published a biography of "Francis and Riversdale Grenfell" (Nelson), the two famous brothers who both lost their lives in the war. It is a fitting memorial of two noble lives.

The thesis of "England and the New Era" (Fisher Unwin), by Mr. Brougham Villiers, is briefly that Mr. Lloyd George is "an utterly incapable Prime Minister," and that Mr. Chamberlain's finance is "a scandalous degradation of sound British finance," while "the political ideas of some of the ablest men are enough to make angels weep." His remedy is the nationalisation of the land, "and the owners compensated by Government five per cent. stock to the amount of the valuation." After that, no doubt the angels will dry their tears with five per cent. stock, which would be cheaper than pocket-handkerchiefs at the present price.

An economic work of more value is Mr. Hugh Dalton's "Some Aspects of the Inequality of Incomes in Modern Communities" (Routledge), a very able book, which incidentally discusses very carefully the effects of laws of inheritance on social conditions.

The Education Department in pre-Fisher days has always been the Cinderella of Whitehall; and Sir George Kekewich, in "The Education Department and After" (Constable) discusses not only the office but his political chiefs with candid pen. I like the story of the Duke of Devonshire, who could not get on with Sir John Gorst, his Under-Secretary—nobody could get very far with Gorst—and the Duke therefore asked Kekewich how he was to be got rid of. Sir George suggested one of the better-paid and not too heavy Colonial Governorships. "I cannot imagine," replied the Duke grimly, "that the Government would offer Sir John Gorst the Governorship of any colony that they desired to retain."

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, October 18.

**The Political Situation.**

There is little change in the political situation. The Opposition are very active, and in a measure are being successful in gaining adherents; but this success is really due to the fact that most of the Delegation are now in Europe, and that consequently little counter-propaganda is being done. Personally, I am convinced that the Opposition will stand no chance of ultimate success, and that the Treaty, if it follows on the fundamental lines already proposed and makes allowance for certain of the reservations submitted, will go through. Meanwhile, of course, all eyes are directed towards Paris and London, and every scrap of information that is available with regard to the movements of Zaghloul Pasha and his colleagues and the intentions of the British Government is eagerly scanned and debated.

**The Conspiracy Trial.**

The sentences in the conspiracy trial have not yet been promulgated. It is understood that the papers, which are very voluminous, have been submitted to the Judicial Adviser, but it is hoped that promulgation will take place this week. With regard to the actual trial, one of the remarkable features was the fluency with which the Egyptian Advocates pleaded in English and the readiness with which they adapted themselves to the procedure of an English Criminal Court, with which many of them had up to then been quite unfamiliar. In view of the outcry which has taken place in connection with the proposal to adopt English procedure in criminal cases before the Mixed Courts, the relative ease with which at such short notice the advocates mentioned assimilated the new conditions is exceedingly interesting, and should go some way towards strengthening the position of those who are in favour of the proposed innovation.

**The Question of the Mails.**

For some little time now there has been great dissatisfaction with the way in which the mails are arriving here. The letter mails are coming to hand in a most erratic manner, while parcels are taking anything up to two months from England. It is said that there is considerable delay at the Egyptian ports, but it would certainly appear as if the main blame is at the other end, and the sooner the question is looked into and remedied the better.

**The Coal Strike.**

Not unnaturally, the coal strike is an important topic of conversation in view of its possible effect locally, and especially in regard to the cotton situation, which is far from promising. In the matter of fuel itself there would appear to be little to fear, as the railways have an enormous stock—said to be the largest recorded since the British occupation—and consignments of foreign coal, as well as of oil-fuel, are steadily coming in. Nevertheless, in spite of the fact that stocks at present are ample, it is somewhat surprising that no sooner was news received that the coal strike would in all probability come off than the Government should have taken off the lighting restrictions, which had been in force for the past year, and which, without any further inconvenience to the public, might well have been maintained until matters at home had assumed a more satisfactory aspect.

Talking of lighting reminds me that the gas strike in Cairo is still not satisfactorily settled. Lighting in the streets has been resumed by the native lamplighters, but the main installation is still being worked with the help of men from the Cairo garrison. While the strike may in a measure be due to political agitators, I am informed that the workers have a certain amount of grievance against the company.

**Disastrous Fire in Cairo.**

Last Friday morning a fire broke out at "Cicurels," one of the leading haberdashers and ladies' outfitters in Egypt. It was discovered shortly after 5 a.m., and the fire-brigade were promptly on the spot. They worked doggedly until late in the afternoon: but the fire had already obtained a mastery before the alarm had been given, and they were quite unable to save the premises. The whole building was gutted out, and nothing now remains but an empty blackened shell of one of the finest buildings in the commercial quarter. It is not known exactly what the damage amounts to, but, taking into account the fact that the interior of the building will have to be entirely rebuilt, and that the firm had only just got in its winter stock from Paris, the estimate of about £3,400,000 does not seem exaggerated. It is understood that the building, as well as the best part of the stock, was covered by insurance.

An inquiry has, of course, been opened by the authorities into the origin of the outbreak, and I understand that the experts are of opinion that the fire was caused by an electric flat-iron having been left accidentally in circuit. This is the first great fire that we have had in Cairo for many years, and it is entirely due to the energetic and skilful efforts of the local fire-brigade that it did not spread to the neighbouring buildings, which were separated from it by but narrow streets, and that a general conflagration did not take place in the Sharia Boulac.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, October 26.

**The Klagenfurt Area.**

The evacuation by the Serbian troops of "Zone A," which voted for Austria in the recent plebiscite in the Klagenfurt area, is now complete. It is reported that the Government will request the Inter-Allied Commission to sub-divide "Zone A" and allot to Yugoslavia that district as far as the River Drave, where the main mass of the people are Slovenes who voted for union with the Slavs. The Italians have naturally made capital out of the action of the Belgrade Government in sending troops into the district after the voting; but the authorities could scarcely refuse to give protection to its nationals, who implored help against the Austrians, who, in the absence of any authorities, were venting their vengeance upon all those who had voted against them. The Yugoslavs were also obliged to hand over the administration to the Inter-Allied Commission, and to assist and protect their nationals who decided to migrate; and these are said to be numerous. The Press comments upon the results of the plebiscite are to the effect that it is unfortunate in that it is proof that their old accounts with their ancient enemy, Austria, are not closed after all, and that the plebiscite, instead of finally clearing the ground and removing all questions, has opened another; for, they maintain, the Slavonic population of the Klagenfurt area must inevitably one day come within the boundaries of the united kingdom.

**Election Activities.**

As the general election approaches politics are occupying the attention of the public and of politicians more and more; most of the Ministers are busy stumping the country, and Parliament has virtually ceased to act for want of a quorum. News from the provinces shows that the people are sick of their present representatives, and it is thought that not more than a third of them will be returned again. After all, the present Skupshtina is far from representative; it was elected before the Turkish war of 1912, and much water has flowed under the Save Bridge and much blood flowed in Serbia since those remote days, and the people have been through a fierce school and look very differently upon life to-day.

It is considered probable that the Cabinet will not propose a centralised form of administration under the new constitution. The Democrats ask for this, but the Radicals, and, above all, the Narodny Club, strongly oppose it and ask for a decentralised system, which to the foreign sympathiser seems the most suit-

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able for the young kingdom, at all events, for another generation.

M. Poljak, a former Minister, has withdrawn from the Democratic Party and joined the Croatian Peasants' Party, whose programme is to struggle against the elements of conservatism and reaction in any form, regardless of race or religion. They are joining hands with the Agricultural Alliance of Belgrade and all similar organisations in Yugoslavia.

**A Ministerial Difference.**

The Minister of Finance, M. Kosta Stojanovitch, has sent in his resignation on the grounds that the Minister of Communications, Dr. Koroshets, declines to sign the Supplementary Budget and Amendments to the Financial Law for 1920 and 1921. The Council of Ministers had already approved this proposal, in which the Minister of Finance showed that they would have to budget for 4,600 million dinars and to raise taxes and customs duties, since last year the imports into the country were valued at 4 milliards, but the Customs brought in only 250 million of revenue, which is about 6 per cent. only. Dr. Koroshets is endeavouring to exclude Slovenia from the scope of the new law, but it is hoped that M. Vesnitch will persuade him to accept it and sign, and the possibility of another Cabinet crisis at this juncture is to be avoided at any cost.

**A Danube Trouble.**

A Committee of Ministers consisting of M. Vesnitch, Dr. Trumbitch, Dr. Koroshets, Admiral Pritsa, representing the Yugoslav Navy, and the President of the Danube Steamboat Syndicate, has been considering the finding of the International Danube Commission dealing with the distribution of the monitors of the late Austrian fleet. They resolved that they cannot accept the finding of the Commission on the grounds that Yugoslavia has a longer riverine frontage than any of the other Danubian countries, and requires all these monitors for police duty; and will request the Commission not to waste time by sending a committee to Belgrade to take the craft over.

**An Albanian Raid.**

The Albanians are up to their old tricks again. News comes from Skoplje that a large band of armed Arnauts raided Galichnik, killing and wounding a few gendarmes and civilians who resisted them, and driving off over a hundred head of cattle. These frontier raids recall the conditions on our own border a couple of centuries ago, but it is extremely probable that interested parties are helping and encouraging the wild hillsmen, in order to ensure unsecurity along the frontier districts of Serbia. The *Politika* recently made a definite accusation that Major Winkels, who, in spite of his name, is an Italian officer, and was well-known at Salonika, and is now Italian representative on the Allied Military Commission at Sofia, is intriguing with the organiser of Bulgarian bands for operation in Macedonia.

**Miscellaneous News.**

The ill-fated and premature, but very gallant, rising of the Serbs against the occupying forces in Southern Serbia in 1917 was not unnaturally repressed very fiercely. Particulars are now available of what this unfortunate affair cost the people in the three departments of Vranje, Nish and Toplitsa. The figures are startling. There were killed or died in internment camps 8,757 people, and 8,855 houses and 34,684 other buildings burnt down; in the Toplitsa department alone 3,907 were killed.

Voivoda Sir Zhivojin Mishitch, of whom more optimistic reports have been in circulation, is now very ill indeed, and his condition has taken a turn for the worse. The gallant Field-Marshal has, unfortunately, recently contracted inflammation of the lungs, and little hope can be entertained of his eventual recovery.

Dr. McPhail has found her quarters too cramped for her hospital for Serbian children, and has acquired new and more spacious premises in Vishegradska Ulica, No. 29, which she has bought from the late Mayor of Belgrade, M. K. Yovanovitch. It is stated that this great benefactor of Serbia will establish a thoroughly modern and up-to-date hospital, which, when she returns home, she will present to the Government or to the municipality.

Captain Fewald, formerly commanding the 78th Regiment of the Austro-Hungarian Army, has been arrested at Osijek and sent to Loznica to be court-martialled for the offence of shooting five old men without trial at Loznica in the early days of the war

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, October 15.

**Political Outlook.**

As the opening of Parliament draws near, the attitude of the Opposition towards the Government becomes more militant. The Federal Party are inveighing against the inefficiency of the Government, while the Socialists are threatening a general strike. The Government, however, do not seem greatly perturbed by these threats and attacks, feeling confident, apparently, that they can frustrate them; and barring unforeseen events, Parliament will open as usual on November 15.

Despite the numerous rumours about the insecurity of the Government's position, there is every sign that it will remain in power, though, perhaps, with some changes of *personnel*. The fact is that the only parties that could take up the reins if they were dropped just now are not yet sufficiently organised for such an emergency.

The two parties I refer to are: the Federalists and the Liberals. The former are an amalgamation of the Peasants' Party, Transylvanian National Party, M. Jorga's National Party, Dr. Lupu's group, and a number of Bessarabian and Bukovinian leaders. It will be some time before the organisation of this party is at all near perfection; at present there are many squabbles as to its leadership, and its component parts are far from sharing a united programme. Nevertheless, they are important, because in Parliament they are the second party in point of numbers. The Liberals are numerically poorly represented in Parliament; but they still have the best party organisation throughout the country, with experienced leaders, and a firm hold upon national finance. Despite their unpopularity, there is a good chance of their coming into power should the present Government and the Federals fail.

The Hungarian political leaders in Transylvania, at a meeting held at Targul-Maresului, have decided to take a part in the political struggle, and to abandon the passive attitude they have maintained ever since Transylvania was awarded to Roumania at the Peace Conference.

**Roumanian Prisoners in Siberia.**

According to the information received by the Roumanian Government, there are still in Siberia 6,000 Roumanians, formerly belonging to the Austro-Hungarian Army, and captured by the Russians during the war.

**Prince Carol.**

After a few days' stay in Sinaia, Prince Carol arrived in Bucharest on October 9. He was received in state at the station, and driving along the beflagged streets, was heartily cheered and welcomed by the people.

The same evening a banquet was given in his honour at the Royal Palace. Besides the King and Queen and Princess Marie, the guests included the British Chargé d'Affaires, members of the Government, and ex-Premiers and other high officials of State. Speeches of welcome were made by the Prime Minister, General Averescu, and the Minister for War, General Rascanu, in which the Prince was thanked on behalf of the Roumanian people for the successful way in which he had carried out his mission of furthering Roumanian interests, and making the country better known in other parts of the world, and especially the part she took in the great struggle for liberty.

In his reply the Prince said that his tour had given him valuable experience and knowledge, which he would

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not fail to use in the future, as far as he was able, to ensure the prosperity of the country. On this occasion, all those who accompanied him on his tour were decorated by the King. Immediately after the banquet the Royal family returned to Sinaia to join their guest the Duke of Sparta and his two sisters.

**Coming Engagement of Princess Elisabeth.**

In Court circles it is affirmed that all questions in connection with the betrothal of Princess Elisabeth to the Duke of Sparta have been arranged, and the announcement of the official engagement is expected very soon. After the marriage, it is further rumoured, the Duke of Sparta will remain in Roumania, where he will be given a certain rank in the Army by the King. In connection with this, the ex-Crown Prince of Greece may decide to settle down definitely in this country, if his position with regard to ascending the throne of Greece remains unchanged.

**Railways.**

At the recent conference which took place at Budapest between Hungarian and Roumanian technical committees, relating to the reopening of the railway lines between the two capitals, it was decided that the following routes should be used:—(1) Viâ Oradea-Mare, (2) viâ Arad Chisighaza, and (3) viâ Temesvar-Szegedin. Time-tables for future trains have already been prepared.

**Contract for British Firm.**

The Ministry of Communications has authorised the Department of Harbours and Inland Water Transport to enter into a contract with a local English firm, Messrs. Watson and Youell, to rebuild and improve the docks and quays at Braila and Galatz, for which this firm has granted the Government a credit of £100,000 sterling, payable within 3-5 years. The Ministry of Communications has opened a further credit of 1½ million lei for the purpose of building warehouses on the above docks.

## BULGARIA.

Sofia, October 10.

**The New British Minister.**

Last Friday the new British Minister, Sir Arthur Robert Peel, arrived here, and has taken up his post at the British Legation. Sir Herbert Dering, the British ex-High Commissioner, is, with his wife, who has now quite recovered from her illness, leaving for Bucharest on October 12.

**Adjournment of the Chamber.**

The Chamber adjourned yesterday until the 20th inst. to give the various Budgetary Commissions time to study, and to report upon the modifications suggested by different deputies in the general debates.

**A National Protest.**

At 11 'oclock this morning a mass meeting was summoned in the square of St. Alexander Nevsky to protest against the delivery to Serbia, Greece, and Roumania of 500 Bulgarian war criminals. The Capital is placarded with appeals, which read as follows:—

Bulgaria is threatened with another severe blow; a fresh insult to her sovereignty is being prepared. The right to distribute justice is being denied to her! According to the Peace Treaty we ought to deliver to Serbia, Greece, and Roumania more than 500 Bulgarians, charged with crime during the war. Germany also, according to the Peace terms, ought to deliver her criminals, but she has succeeded in proving to the Entente how onerous and, in fact, impossible, is this clause of the Treaty, and they have yielded on the point. We should do likewise. There is nothing more humiliating to the dignity of a nation than that foreign tribunals should try its culprits.

In 1914 a similar demand by the Austrians upon the Serbians caused the world war. Serbia would have accepted all the other terms, and the war would have been avoided, but she refused this base demand, and war broke out.

Why is this humiliation now demanded from us?

We will suffer our dignity to be insulted no more. This is too much! Present yourself at the meeting, and utter a loud protest against this attempt on the honour of a whole nation; and let your appeal be to the world's conscience that no more criminals should be demanded from us. If there are further criminals who should be punished, we have tribunals that can deal with them.

Sofia, October 21.

**The New British Minister.**

Last Saturday afternoon King Boris received, with the customary ceremony, Sir Arthur Robert Peel, H.B.M. Minister Plenipotentiary. In presenting his credentials the new Minister offered his assurances that he would not neglect any favourable opportunity to co-operate in restoring harmonious relations between England and Bulgaria. In replying, the King said that he was happy to count upon his Excellency's co-operation in this noble work, and felt sure that Sir Arthur Peel's care would always meet with approval and support on the part of the Bulgarian Government. The new Minister is stated to have been very favourably impressed by the conference he had with the King. He says that he has come to this country with the most intense desire to be useful to Bulgaria in her efforts to recover from the effects of the war and to return to a normal life. He is a strong supporter of a sincere understanding between the Balkan nations, and is willing to co-operate in the work of preparing the way towards a *rapprochement*. It is noteworthy that Sir Arthur will be able to follow the Bulgarian Press, because he knows Russian and already reads Bulgarian.

**Voluntary Service.**

In conformity with the stipulations of the Treaty of Neuilly that future military service in Bulgaria must be voluntary for twelve years after the ratification and entering into force of the Treaty, the Ministry of War announces the terms of the new system, publishing them in all Bulgarian newspapers. Up to the present, however, no volunteers have appeared. If, therefore, the terms of the Treaty are not relaxed, it looks as if the country will be left without even the defensive militia allowed to it.

**Frontier Questions.**

According to trustworthy information received, the claims of some Greek members of the Greco-Bulgarian Frontier Commission to the inclusion in Greek territory of the towns of Ortakeui, Kirdjiali, and Egri-Dere have been refused by the Commission.

Yesterday Colonel Gill, of the British Army, arrived here from Constantinople. He will act as arbiter on the Serbo-Bulgarian Frontier Commission. The occupation of Tsaribrod and the other Bulgarian territory ceded to Serbia by the Treaty of Neuilly will take place gradually as each point is decided by the Frontier Delimitation Commission.

**Food Control Scandal.**

Last Monday the police made a sudden raid on the offices of the Food Control. They found in the writing-table of the Director (M. Kvatchcoff) written permits for the export of cheese (*kashkaval*) and other articles, the export of which is forbidden, signed by him and the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Finance (M. Georgieff), and both these officials were arrested, together with fourteen other persons, mostly cheese factors. An inquiry was at once opened up by the legal authorities, who were on the track of the speculators. The Chamber yesterday resolved to institute a Parlia-

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mentary inquiry into the affairs of the Food Control. Owing to the illegal export thus carried out, the prices of milk, cheese, and butter are exorbitant, and the cost of living is almost insupportable. The Customs authorities have been ordered to confiscate all such articles found at the railway stations and the frontier Customs House. The rigorous measures adopted for the punishment of the criminals and the putting a stop to this contraband have been unanimously approved by the Chamber and by the people. The Minister of the Interior (M. Dimitroff) has declared that offenders, whoever they may be, will receive exemplary punishment.

**Jubilee of a National Poet.**

Next Sunday, the 24th inst., will be the 70th anniversary of the birthday of the Bulgarian national poet, Ivan Vazoff. Great festivities have been organised throughout the kingdom. The National Assembly has voted a sum of 100,000 levas to be awarded to him as a national recognition of his patriotic literary work during the last half-century.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, October 17.

**The King's Illness.**

"How is the King? What is the latest news?" These are the questions asked everywhere and by everybody since the beginning of last week, when King Alexander's condition, instead of showing the hoped-for improvement, had, on the contrary, become so critical that even the doctors, who had hitherto been more or less optimistic, began to feel anxious and openly expressed their doubts as to whether the sick monarch would ever recover. During the night of Friday last his condition became so serious that for a moment all hope was lost. The temperature had reached 41 degrees Centigrade (105.8 degrees Fahrenheit), and the King had an attack of "coherent delirium," which, according to the doctors, is a very bad sign. Happily this crisis, which was undoubtedly the worst his Majesty had so far experienced, did not last for more than an hour, and his temperature subsequently dropped to about 101 degrees. The doctors attribute this really miraculous escape to the exceptionally robust constitution of the sick King. The Government, sparing no efforts to save the young King, summoned to Athens the famous French pathologist, Professor Widal, and he, like the Greek doctors, does not hide the fact that the King's condition is a very grave one.

During the last two or three days the Athens Press has been dealing with the dynastic crisis that would necessarily arise in the country in case the King died. Of course, such a preoccupation is premature, seeing that his Majesty is still alive, and that all hope for his recovery is not completely lost. In case, however, of a fatal issue, the natural heir to the throne would be, in accordance with the law, Prince Paul, King Alexander's younger brother, now in Roumania. The return to the throne of ex-King Constantine, or even of his son, Prince George, the ex-Crown Prince, is altogether out of the question. Moreover these would be required to renounce definitely and irrevocably all further claims to any right to the Hellenic throne. There is, of course, the possibility of Prince Paul refusing to accept the Crown, in which case the Government would be obliged, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, to convoke the recently dissolved Chamber to choose a Regent. This would immediately be followed by the convocation of a National Assembly, which would decide as to who would fill the vacant throne.

**Venizelists and "Antis."**

The following amusing incident, which occurred last week, is published by certain of the Athens papers:—Two anti-Venizelist candidates for Parliament for Chios crossed from that island to the opposite side for the purpose of delivering speeches to the electors of Chios residing at Tsesme. The population, however, whose sentiments are purely Venizelist, after jeering and threaten-


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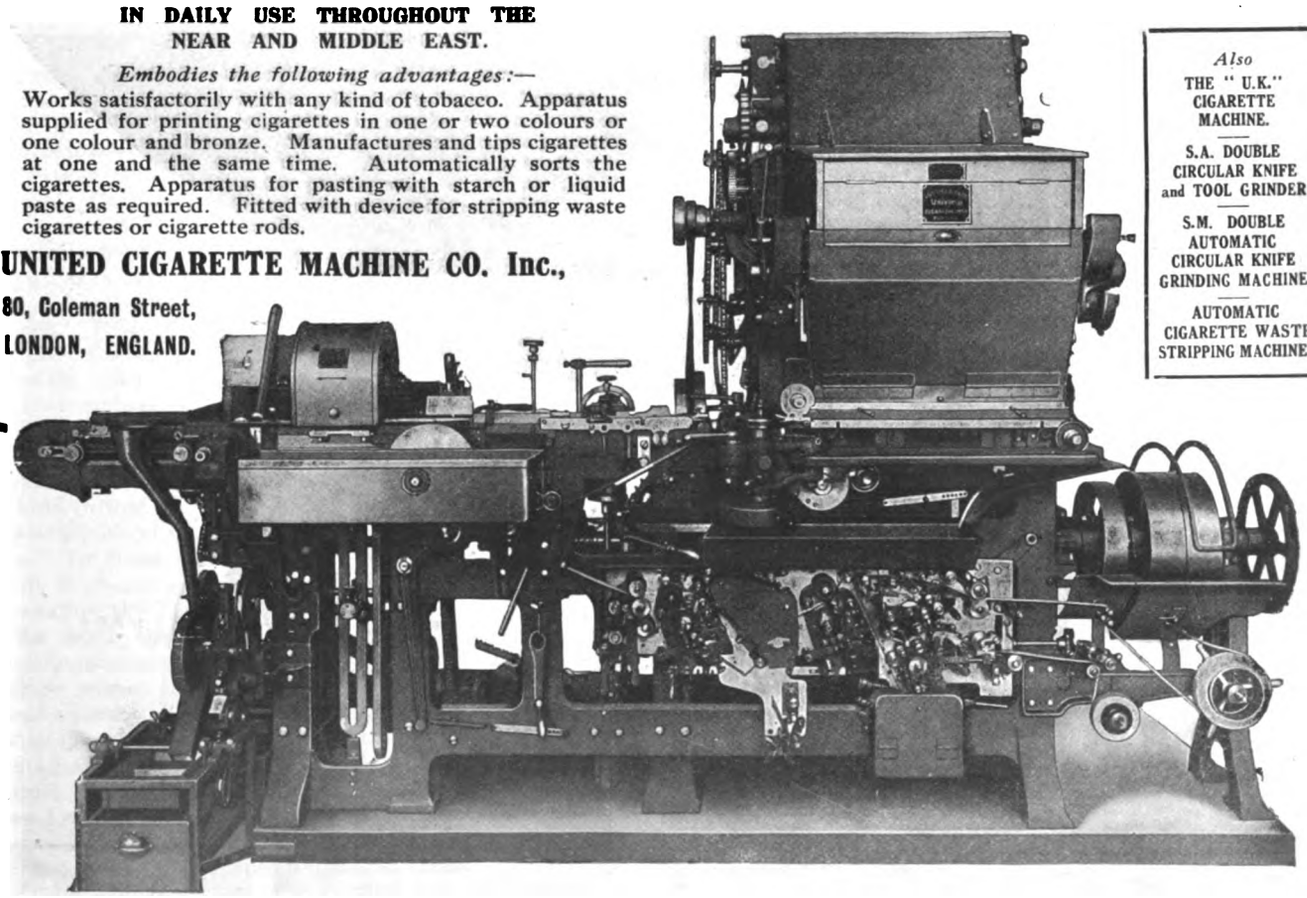

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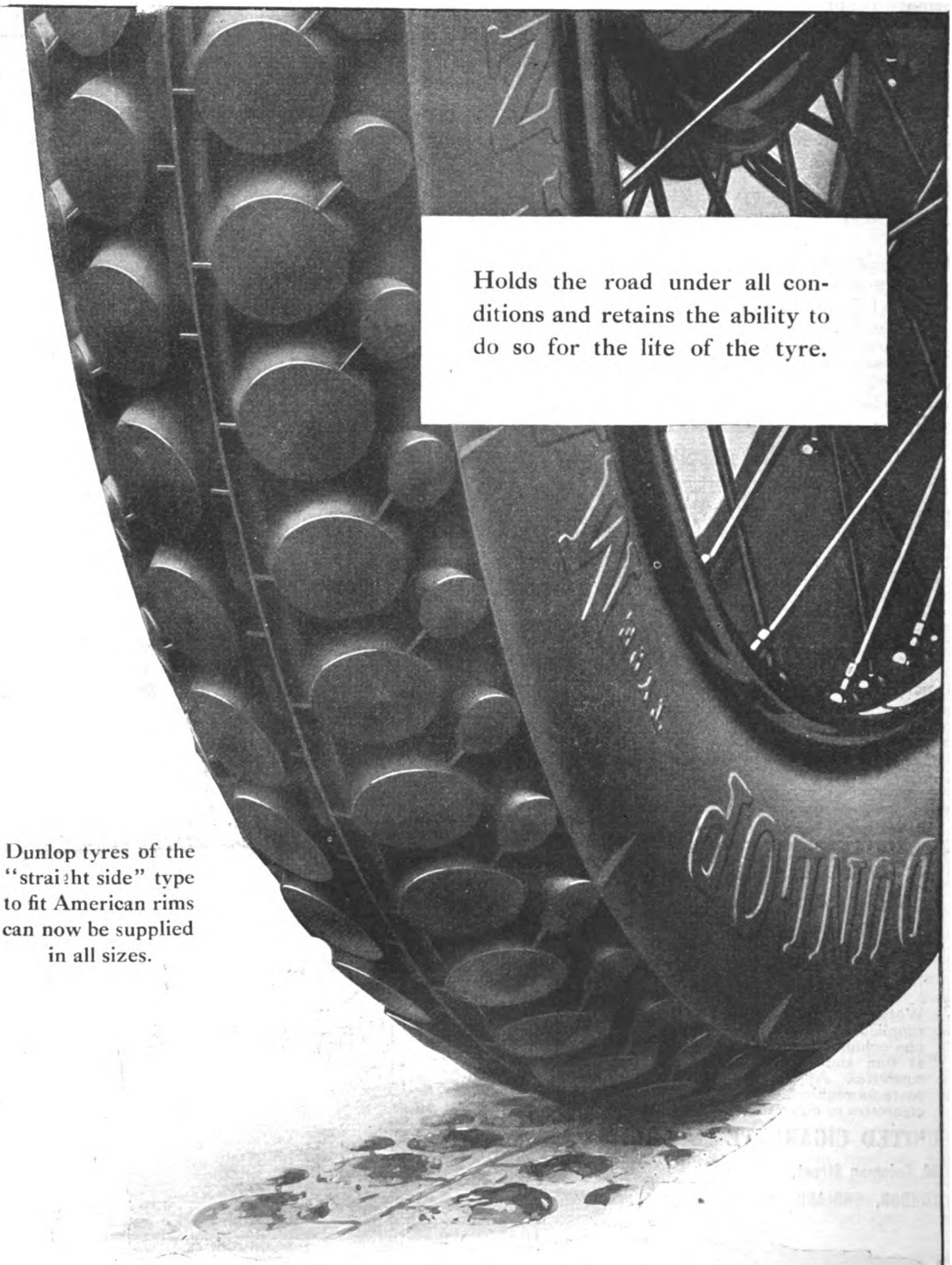

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ing the two candidates, compelled them publicly to kiss M. Venizelos' photograph and then cheer three times for the Greek Premier. Only when that was done were these two unfortunate persons permitted to return to Chios.

**Miscellaneous News.**

The lists of the Parliamentary candidates for Attica and Boeotia are now ready. According to these the total number of candidates who will fight for the twenty-two seats in these two provinces amounts to 107!

The leader of the Opposition, M. D. Gounaris, who has been staying in Italy since 1918, has at last decided to return to this country to take an active part in the coming elections. The Government has suspended the warrant for this politician's arrest, which was issued some time ago.

General Headquarters of the Hellenic Army, which had moved from Smyrna to Athens a fortnight ago, have again returned to the former town.

The murderers of Jean Dragoumis, who after their crime succeeded in making good their escape to Crete, have been arrested in that island. They number seven, and they are being conveyed to Athens for trial.

## TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, October 24.

**The New Cabinet.**

The resignation of Damad Ferid Pasha was officially announced on October 18, thus terminating the existence of an administration that had endured for nearly seven months, which is quite a long life for a Turkish Cabinet in these days. The official reason for the resignation of the Grand Vizier was the unsatisfactory state of his health, but the real causes were those which were outlined in last week's letter.

Damad Ferid Pasha's successor, Tewfik Pasha, who was Turkish Ambassador in London until the outbreak of war, was by no meas anxious to assume the burden of the Grand Vizierate, but finally accepted the charge. The nomination of Marshal Ahmet Izzet Pasha to the Ministry of the Interior is some indication of the important part which that distinguished soldier is expected to play in the immediate future. The Cabinet was not constituted until October 21, and was composed of politicians who had almost all occupied ministerial positions in one or more of the numerous cabinets that have succeeded each other since the Armistice. Salih Pasha, the new Minister of Marine—surely a superfluous ministry in Turkey to-day—occupied the same post in Ali Riza Pasha's Cabinet, and negotiated the agreement of Amassia with Mustapha Kemal, which was largely responsible for the fall of the Cabinet. He succeeded Ali Riza Pasha as Grand Vizier, but only remained in power for a month, when he was succeeded by Damad Ferid Pasha. Both Ali Riza Pasha's Cabinet and that of Salih Pasha were frankly in favour of a policy of reconciliation with Angora, but in spite of every sacrifice neither succeeded in modifying the attitude of the Nationalists.

Damad Ferid Pasha's policy was to disperse the Nationalist forces by military measures, but he was unable to find enough money for the everyday needs of the administration, and the Allies were unwilling to help him. In these circumstances one more effort is to be made to reason with the Nationalists, and persuade them to swallow the Treaty of Sèvres.

As usual, the first act of the new Ministry has been to commence a general reshuffle of Government servants, and to release those who had been arrested by the previous administration for political offences. Thus all who have been incarcerated for correspondence with the Nationalists have been released, and the entire personnel of the court-martial has been dismissed to make way for men of a different political colour. The fall of Damad Ferid Pasha was greeted in Angora with the wildest enthusiasm, and a general holiday was proclaimed. Nevertheless, the Nationalists have made it quite clear that any reconciliation with the Central Government must be based upon a resolve to obtain a revision of the Treaty of Sèvres. As the Nationalists are determined to continue fighting in order to achieve this purpose, presumably the Central Government will, if it agrees to their demands, have to pledge itself to renew hostilities. As this is out of the question, it would appear hopeless to anticipate a successful issue to the new Cabinet's policy. The Grand Vizier and Marshal Izzet Pasha are said to be confident that they possess enough influence to be able to bring the hotheads to reason; but one may be permitted to doubt it. If Mustapha Kemal refuses to listen to reason,—and it is practically certain that only the revision of the Treaty will cause him to incline his ear—what then? For one thing, the question of Constantinople will again be open to discussion, but that will not settle matters. However, sufficient for the day is the evil thereof. Let us see how Marshal Izzet Pasha's overtures are received. In two months' time, perhaps, the Allies will reconsider the matter of giving Damad Ferid Pasha the money he needed for the despatch of a punitive expedition to Anatolia; but his estimate of the cost will then be considerably greater in all probability.

**The Turkish Offensive in the Caucasus.**

Next to the change of the Turkish Cabinet, the most interesting event of the past week has been the development of affairs in the eastern part of Anatolia, and the southern Caucasus. Much has been made of the Turkish attack upon Armenia, but there is good reason to believe that Batoum is the real object of the Turkish offensive. The Nationalists have never relinquished Turkish claims to the "three sanjaks" of Kars, Ardahan, and Batoum, and for some time past Turkish agents have been very active in the Batoum district. The incursion of Turkish troops into the Artvin district, which is contiguous to Batoum and in Georgian territory, is an indication of the true state of affairs. The Georgian Government has summoned the Turks to withdraw and has threatened war, but it is pretty certain that the Turks will not leave of their own accord. It remains to be seen how their scheme for a local rising of the Moslem population in the Batoum district will work. The Turkish advance in the Etchmiadzin district may be regarded in the light of a diversion to prevent the Armenians from developing an offensive further west. With regard to Bolshevist action, however, it would appear that nothing of importance has yet been undertaken by the Red Army of Azerbaijan. An advance is said to have been broken up by the Armenians in the Kazakh district, to the north-east of Erivan, but it is doubtful whether anything more than a reconnaissance was really intended.

Meanwhile, the Erivan Government has rejected a Bolshevist ultimatum demanding what practically amounted to the unconditional submission of Armenia to the Bolshevist and Turkish forces. The Bolshevist army in Azerbaijan is said to be in a lamentable state, and if this is the case, the ultimatum was merely bluff. If they really intend to do anything, however, the Bolshevists must move quickly, for, according to the latest reports, the Turkish army is being more than held by the Armenians, and the Georgians will certainly not stand by while the Turks advance upon Batoum. It is not impossible, of course, that a Turkish *débâcle* would harmonise quite satisfactorily with Bolshevist plans.

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

## THE GREEK ARMY IN TURKEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—As far as I can judge from my own observation and from that of journalistic colleagues, not to mention the numerous British officers attached as observers to the Greek Army, nothing is occurring in the "silent hills of Anatolia" to warrant protests being raised against the conduct of the Greek Army. I have thus far seen Greek troops in enemy country at Constantinople, Smyrna (April, 1920), between Panderma and Balikessir in July this year, and at Brusa and Kestel in September. I have lost no chance of talking to Turkish peasants, whose tongue I speak, and I may here remark that the Greek military made no attempt whatever to shadow me when wandering about, as Turks have done in pre-war days.

My conviction is that the conduct of the Hellenic regulars has been excellent. Neither at Brusa nor Panderma did I hear of any offences save a few petty thefts of melons and chickens—inevitable when hungry, tired, and thirsty soldiers of any nationality are camped near fowl-runs and melon patches. As for the use of irregulars, I *saw* no traces thereof, but heard of some Circassians (*not* Greeks) having been enrolled to round up Kemalist deserters. While at Brusa I heard of the arrest of eighteen Armenians, who, having suffered from the attacks of Kemalist brigands, raided a Turkish village and murdered several non-combatants. I learnt from a native source that these people were working in a chain-gang pending trial.

I learnt that an irregular corps of Greeks and Armenians had been employed for a few days near Aidin, but, having misbehaved, was immediately disbanded and disarmed. Would that the Kemalists would disband the unpleasant savages who form the bulk of their "chetés," or armed bands! That the Greeks should have in some cases armed exposed Greek villages is natural. Can they be expected to desire men and women of the same race to be subjected to the treatment meted out to the unhappy inhabitants of Isnik? And if these peasants, when raided, counter-raid, are the Greeks to be blamed for allowing them to carry arms? They cannot be expected to see them massacred, and they cannot send a column to every village that is or thinks itself in danger of a visit from the "Blue Flag" battalion or some other cut-throat gang.

After service during the war and the armistice, during which I saw a good deal of British, Colonial, Indian, French, and French Colonial methods in occupied enemy territory, I will record my conviction—namely, that the Greek soldier this year has behaved as well as most and much better than some of the troops above mentioned. The little occurrences in the neighbourhood of one of the Jewish colonies in Palestine—at Surafend to be precise—and our subventioning and employment of an Arab army, which did not treat enemy wounded and prisoners with conspicuous humanity when it had entered Damascus, should prevent us from adopting too critical an attitude towards the Greeks.—I am, etc.,

October 22, 1920. EX-OFFICER.

## DISTRESS IN TURKEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Will you allow us to draw public attention, in your columns, to the widespread suffering and distress prevailing at this moment among the Moslems of Turkey? The reports we have received speak of appalling mortality, especially among children, from starvation, lack of clothing, and every necessary of life.

The representative of the British Red Crescent Society, who has been doing relief work among the Moslems, gives a harrowing picture of the distress and destitution among the Turkish population in Asia Minor, and the refugees in Constantinople from Thrace. The Turkish employees of every grade, who have been expelled by the Hellenic authorities from the occupied territories, are trooping into Constantinople with their families in the greatest distress. The families of the Turks deported to Greece are in an equally deplorable condition, whilst the vast numbers of broken sufferers who have lost all their possessions in this war, or have been evicted from their lands to make room for Greeks imported from abroad, are crowding into the capital.

The Turkish Government has absolutely no means of helping in the alleviation of this vast mass of misery and suffering. We are informed that it recently applied for permission to raise an internal loan; but that it was refused, as the Financial Commission to whom the destinies of Turkey have been entrusted had not yet been appointed. In these circumstances, the only hope of saving the suffering Moslems of Constantinople and Western Asia from perishing lies in outside help.

The British Red Crescent Society has done its best with the limited funds at its disposal. It has received, however, no help from any of the charitable organisations in the United Kingdom; not a penny has been given to save the lives of the dying children in Turkey.

The contributions received from India and elsewhere have been transmitted by wire by kind permission through the Foreign Office to the British High Commissioner in Constantinople for payment to the Rev. Dr. Frew, who has scrupulously administered the British Red Crescent charity.—Yours faithfully,

LAMINGTON.
H. CONYERS SURTEES
AMEER ALI.

British Red Crescent Society,
18, Sloane Street, S.W.1.
October 26, 1920.

## AN ALBANIAN COMPLAINT.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—At a committee meeting of the Anglo-Albanian Society I was asked to send you the enclosed translation of a letter lately received from Albania, and to hope that you will find space for it.

We have received other letters to the same effect. The condition of the refugees is described as very bad indeed by the American missionary, Mr. Erickson, who appeals for help.—I am, etc.,

M. EDITH DURHAM, Hon. Sec.

[Translation of letter recently received from Dr. Tourtoulis, member of the Albanian Government.]

SCUTARI, ALBANIA, September 26.

I have been a month in Albania. I have been on a mission in Scutari for the past four days. The Serbs have been occupying a portion of our land since 1918. In 1920 they occupied Tarabosh (a mountain on the frontier), and have there planted guns trained on the town of Scutari. Their intention was to invade the rest of Albania easily from these new positions. They, nevertheless, declared that they would recognise the integrity of Albania so soon as the Italians should evacuate Valona. They did not believe this would be done. But Valona has been evacuated by the Italians.

Nevertheless, the Serbs are not only not evacuating our lands, thus arbitrarily invaded, but are invading other parts of our territory under the most futile pretexts. We repel them when we can, but they arrive unexpectedly at other points. Thus, latterly, they pushed to within four hours' distance of Tirana, from which point we repulsed them.

You will easily understand the excited state of our population and the difficult position of the Government which has to keep a large force on a war footing and make crushing expenses for its upkeep. In addition to this our Government has to nourish thirty thousand refugees whose houses have been burnt by the Serbs. The British Military Attaché from Belgrade has seen them. The towns and villages of Central Albania are full of these unfortunate people who have lost even this year's harvest and their flocks.

Our hope is based on your action. All the Albanian people make a supreme appeal to the British people to save them from catastrophe.

## TELL EL-AMARNA.

Tell el-Amarna was the subject of a lecture given by Professor Newbury, in the Lecture Room of the Royal Society, at Burlington House, on October 28. This lecture was the first of a series arranged by the Egypt Exploration Society, which is sending out an expedition to excavate this site. The chair was taken by the Earl of Carnarvon, and there was a large audience.

Tell el-Amarna marks the site of an ancient city that was founded by King Akhenaton in Middle Egypt in the fourteenth century B.C. It was known to Champollion, Sir Gardner Wilkinson, and others, who were exploring in Egypt in the early twenties of last century, and since then every Egyptologist has had something to say about the remarkable monuments that have been found in the vicinity. The King Akhenaton—generally known as the "heretic" King—has come in for more than his fair share of comment, and no one in the long series of Pharaohs has been so badly treated by scholars, and about him they have allowed full rein to their imagination.

He was the son of the great Amenhotep III. by his wife, Tiy, who was not of Royal birth but the daughter of a Priest of Min of Panopolis, in Upper Egypt. This Queen, in the opinion of the lecturer, was one of the most interesting personalities of Egyptian history, and it was mainly her influence that brought about the religious and political revolution that led to the courts abandoning Thebes and founding the city of Akhetaten at Tell el-Amarna. Professor Newberry laid stress upon the fact that the religious ideas set forth by Akhenaton were not entirely new, but were Heliopolitan in origin. A brother of Queen Tiy was a priest at Heliopolis, and the last Vizier of Amenhotep III. came from the northern city. The peculiar art which has been thought to be characteristic of the reign of Akhenaton can also be traced back for one or two generations before his time, and the monuments found in the ruins of the palace of Amenhotep III. at Thebes throw much light on this rather obscure subject.

The revolution and reforms started by Akhenaton were short-lived, and soon after the death of the King the work of the revolutionist was overthrown and the fair city of El-Amarna left a ruin—a warning to idealists of all later times.

The next lecture of the series will be by Professor Elliott Smith, F.R.S., on "The Royal Mummies," on November 25.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"ALLENBY'S FINAL TRIUMPH." By W. T. Massey. (London: Constable. 21s. net.)

II.—"THE GOLDEN TREASURY OF THE GREEKS." Rendered in English by Alexander Lothian. (Oxford: Basil Blackwell. 5s. net.)

III.—"FOLK-TALES OF THE KHASIS." By Mrs. Rafi. (London: Macmillan and Co. 3s. 6d. net.)

## I.—ALLENBY'S FINAL TRIUMPH.

It is the best compliment to this present volume to say it comes up to the two previous volumes of this series, "The Desert Campaign" and "How Jerusalem Was Won." It completes a record of successful military operations which has no equal for romance, picturesqueness, and decisiveness. The author is probably correct when he refers to an "impression which prevails among a not inconsiderable section of the British public that the Army commanded and handled with such consummate skill by Lord Allenby in Palestine had a comparatively simple task." Such opinions have been expressed, but those who do so forget the enormous difficulties of climate and disease, of communication and of transport—especially as regards water—and above all the check placed upon the already planned advance by the withdrawal to the Somme of a very large number of the very pick of the troops when the whole machine was, as it were, ready wound up. It is evident that the astonishing completeness of the victory was due, as is shown here, first, to the most consummate organisation and attention to the minutest details, and, secondly, to the fact that, while this was the only field where cavalry was the all important arm, Allenby was emphatically *the* great cavalry leader of the war. Lastly, even though so many were withdrawn, those that were left were just the men whose magnificent and reckless dash was suited to this kind of warfare—the Anzacs, the Yeomanry, and Indian horsemen.

In the previous volume Mr. Massey closed his narrative where Allenby had consolidated his position in Jerusalem by the extension of his line northward of Ramallah and Bireh, and eastward through Jericho to the edge of the Jordan. No section of the book before us is more vivid and thrilling than the description of the three expeditions from Jericho across the Jordan to Amman, the ancient Rabbath Ammon. At the end of March the Jordan is usually in full flood, and its approaches almost impassable. The rains have not ceased, are even at times very heavy, and the hills all around are slippery with slimy clay. On the night of March 21-22 "the water roared along, overflowing the banks, tearing up scrub by the roots, and making the surface black with driftwood." At the site of the old bridge, then destroyed, at Ghoraniyeh all attempts to cross were in vain. At El Hajleh, however, an officer and six men of the Londons successfully swam across, so that by midnight of the 23rd five military bridges spanned the swollen river, and by the next dawn the flat ground east of the Jordan was covered with advancing troops. A truly wonderful piece of work in the face of hostile snipers in good cover on the eastern side.

The two raids on Amman were extraordinarily venturesome—the second I have heard described by one who took part in it as "mad, quite mad!"—but the results in the long run fully justified the risks. The immediate results manifestly did not come up to expectations, as Amman was not captured, nor was the Hejaz railway seriously destroyed; but as a consequence of these raids great numbers of Turks and Germans were concentrated about Amman, and, more important still, the enemy leaders were convinced that this was the route planned for the British next advance. This misreading of Allenby's plans contributed greatly to the success in September.

The chapter entitled "Camouflaging of an Army" is one of exceptional interest. In the Jordan Valley, for example, "where cavalry had been encamped, one saw dummy horse-lines and camps looking, doubtless, from the air precisely as they had appeared for months. Four sticks with an Army blanket slung between them must have resembled a horse when an observer looked down from an aeroplane skimming above the valley at a height of 10,000 ft., and tents and shelters were left untouched after men had ceased to occupy them. The dummy horse-lines answered so well that an enemy air reconnaissance report, dated September 17, found among Liman von Sanders' papers at Nazareth, said: 'Far from there being any diminution in the cavalry in the Jordan Valley, there are evidences of twenty-three more squadrons'!" During the day, along the front all was quiet; if horse or transport was visible it was always going East. "A brigade of the 7th Indian Division left the coast early in September, and marched for three days up the Jerusalem road as far as Enab. They marched eastwards by day and returned at night." It seems almost unfortunate that our mastery of the air did not give our enemies' aircraft more opportunities of studying the impish tricks prepared for them. Every night guns, horse, and infantry were steadily pouring towards the western end of the defences. "For a fortnight preceding the offensive no new tents were pitched, and all tents then standing were left up, whether occupied or not." "To complete the camouflage there was an elaborate scheme for turning Fast's Hotel in Jerusalem into a sort of battle headquarters for General Allenby," and British officers were sent to hunt out lodgings for the coming winter in Jaffa. Roads which were being constructed for the advance at night were covered by grass and stable refuse by day. No detail which could deceive the enemy was neglected.

Through it all "General Allenby was the greatest optimist in his army. He predicted what would happen, and he told his staff that he would beat, crush, and capture the Turkish armies opposed to him." The result, however, seems to have exceeded even his calculations.

It is marvellous that the whole elaborate plan, known, as it must have been, to hundreds and surmised by thousands, was kept a secret from the enemy to the last moment. There is only one exception to this known. One Indian soldier, a religious fanatic, deserted to the Turks a few hours before the break-through, but too late to be any use. Later he was captured and shot.

The great battle of September 19 may be said to have begun at 1.30 a.m., when a Handley-Page aeroplane left to bomb the central signalling station at Afuleh—the connecting link between the trenches and the General Headquarters of the Turks. This was done so successfully that, as was found afterwards, all telephonic and telegraphic communication was destroyed.

The actual "zero hour" was 4.30 a.m., when hundreds of guns, the existence of which was undreamed of by the enemy, belched forth shot and shell upon the Turkish trenches in the maritime plain, while at the same moment the infantry in great strength advanced and overwhelmed line after line of astounded and bewildered Turks. A little after 7 o'clock, when the sun had conquered the fog and the dust of conflict had subsided over the Turkish trench system, which the German engineers had thought impregnable, our army had overrun all the defences. While the infantry wheeled eastwards, the cavalry burst through the gap between them and the sea. This was the determining feature in the overwhelming success which followed. "The Turks were in absolute ignorance of the fact that two nights before the attack there was one of the biggest bodies of cavalry ever assembled in war within easy shelling distance of their long-range guns," and hidden in the orange and olive groves. One large body of mounted men moved direct on Nazareth, which they reached at dawn the next day, capturing there some members of Liman von Sanders' staff in their pyjamas, and only just missing the German general himself; and this body made for Afuleh, Jenin, and then to Beisan and the Jordan, actually reaching the Jisr-el-Majamie, six miles south of the Sea of Galilee, by dawn of the 21st. And yet a third body made for the openings of the passes for the mountains of Samaria.

Meanwhile "stern hill fighting"—which is here described with considerable detail—was going on in the hills. Progress, though slow as compared with that in the plain, was steady, and soon the whole Turkish army was surrounded. But one exit remained, and that was the Nablus-es Salt road down the Wady Farah. It was left to the airmen, who had already done great deeds about Tulkeram, to deal with this. Here the column of retreating Turks—guns, transport, etc.—extending for five to eight miles, was steadily bombed for four hours, with results so terrible that our author states that "some of the airmen got so sick of the awful havoc they had created that they asked to be relieved of the duty, and it was left to the gunners to smash up the rear of the column."

More wonderful even than the great bombardment which began the battle, or the magnificent spectacle of the mighty mass of cavalry, or the sight of the thousands of disarmed prisoners streaming to our rear, were the long lorry columns of supplies moving forward behind the army "over a country which but a few brief hours before had been roadless, its shallow wadis vertitable trap for all wheeled vehicles."

Meanwhile, Amman had fallen, with thousands of prisoners for us. The Hejaz forces, which had already destroyed the Turkish railway communications on all the East Jordan lands, was advancing on the edge of the Syrian desert. The bulk of our cavalry now swept north-eastwards across the Jordan, and in their veritable race for Damascus lapped up thousands of prisoners and much military booty. Damascus was reached on the last day of September, and after a "night of fireworks," caused by the explosion of countless tons of army ammunition by the re-

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treating Turks, the 3rd Australian Light Horse, at 5 a.m. on October 1, crossed through the city in pursuit of the flying Turks. Some hours later the vanguard of the Arab forces, under Colonel Lawrence, made a triumphant entry into the city.

Meanwhile from captured Haifa and Acre a force was assembled for an advance along the coast to Beyrout. With the assistance of construction parties blasting out a road at an incredible rate along the face of the steep cliffs at the Ladder of Tyre, a force of cavalry, infantry, and artillery advanced through Tyre and Sidon, and entered Beyrout by October 8. They found this city already in the occupation of Shukri Pasha Ayubi, the Hejaz representative No little diplomacy and national self-effacement were needed successfully to transfer the authority from this self-constituted government to the French, who arrived shortly afterwards. General Bulfin proved happily equal to the emergency, though it would appear that the rank and file of our army were not so content.

The final stage—one apparently hardly dreamed of when the advance began—was to Aleppo. This was divided into three parts—(1) Damascus to Rayak, the railway junction, 40 miles; (2) Rayak to Homs, 89 miles; (3) Homs to Aleppo, 115 miles. The last part was almost exclusively the work of cavalry and armoured cars. The plans were considerably embarrassed by a very severe outbreak of influenza, on the top of much malaria and dysentery, which now occurred. Nevertheless, that whole 244 miles was covered during the month of October; the last day of that month witnessed the Armistice with the Turks, the first beginning of the rapid disintegration of the enemy power and the end of the war.

The airmen, supplies, and signals are the subjects of the last chapters which fitly close a book of which it may truly be said there is not a dull page. There is nothing of the military critic about Mr. Massey. His admiration for General Allenby is so great that he does not seem to allow there were any weaknesses or failures by him or his subordinates in the whole glorious six weeks. The book is the work of an enthusiast who would have us appreciate as he does the immensity of the genius and labour which attained such results. He writes with the full knowledge of one who has seen much and has, too, been behind the scenes. He appraises credit to all units in turn, mentioning to what troops and to what leaders each success was due, not, too, forgetting those who were doing the vital but less showy work behind the lines. One may venture to hope that some day a popular and condensed account of this wonderful campaign from its beginning at the Canal to its ending in Aleppo may be presented by Mr. Massey in one compact volume, that great numbers who have not the opportunity, or the knowledge, or perhaps the patience to follow the whole of this military history as given in these volumes may also thrill with pride as they read of Allenby's great triumph.

E. W. G.M.

## II.—THE GREEK ANTHOLOGY.

There seems since the war to have been a revival of enthusiasm for the Greek Anthology. Translators have been turning with renewed zest from the anarchy of modern verse to these fascinating poems, at once the most perfect of all in thought and in expression. Their charm and secrets are alike inexhaustible; and it is the sense of their vitality that has produced this little book.

Mr. Lothian has here put into English verse 250 pieces of the Anthology, and we may say at once that it is the choicest and freshest selection we have yet read. He has his own theories of translation, but he wisely carries these "at the back of his mind," where they become of a piece with, and do not inform, his practice. "A translation," says the author, "is either a poem or a failure (when it is not, as so often, both); therefore it must fuse and crystallise out like the real thing." And he can fairly claim to have produced the real thing. Listen to this, for instance, and compare it with Cory's "Heracleitus": mark how this translator, though destroying nothing, constructs a poem:—

> One said it—you were dead: my tears
> Broke sudden, friend, for you.
> And the quick thought came of the years
> When, talking, often we two
>
> Had sunk the sun down. Yes, I know
> That somewhere without end,
> Charred ash in Caria long ago,
> You sleep who were my friend.
>
> Yet there, your nightingales as clear
> Sing as they sang of old.
> The clutch of Death is wide: but here
> Is what he cannot hold.

These lines of Callimachus have inspired many versions which have since become English literature, and this, the latest effort, surely has claims so to become.

Mr. Lothian is equally happy whether he is dealing with Death, with the Gods, or with the lusty jokes of the Satyrs. It is not only that his technical knowledge of the Anthology is intimate, that he also has most admirably captured its spirit, but that his acquaintance with and following of the forms of English verse are fresh and unhackneyed which makes his book stand apart from similar efforts.

There is a very pleasing little introduction to these translations, and the book also contains some useful notes and a chronological table of the poets of the Anthology. It is daintily produced, and is altogether a most readable volume.

## III.—SOME INDIAN FAIRY TALES.

The origin of popular myths has long been a standing puzzle for philologists. Their similarity in countries far apart seemed to indicate prehistoric migrations which were physically impossible. It is now generally admitted that the primitive brain reacts in equal measure to the stimulus of its environment; that the forces of Nature and the apparent miracle of growth gave birth to similar legends in every land. The Khasis are an Indo-Chinese race inhabiting a mountainous tract in Western Assam. Although their social and intellectual development is at a low ebb, they possess a wealth of poetic legends. The stories of Orpheus and Tubal Cain find their counterpart in this isolated region; fairies, goblins, and giants are equally dear to British children and Khasi grown-ups. Mrs. Rafi has done well to publish a selection of Indian folk-tales, of which the following is a fair specimen:—

On a certain summer day the animals met under a rubber-grove, and their conversation turned on the relative speed of each. It was generally admitted that the stag excelled in this respect—"now that the dog has run away to man"—but his supremacy was challenged by a tiny snail; and amid the derision of all a race was arranged between them to the top of the Iei Mountain. Ka Mattah—for so the snail was called—discarded his cumbrous shell and dived into the undergrowth, while the stag started on a leisurely canter towards the goal. After going a little distance, he stopped, and called out, "Heigh, Ka Mattah, art thou coming?" receiving the unexpected reply, "I am here; I am here!" Then he put on a violent spurt, stopping at intervals to ask the same question, with the same result. At length he grew faint with the exertion, and on struggling to the summit of the Iei Mountain, he sank exhausted, only to hear Ka Mattah shout, "I have won. I have won!" It is needless to explain that the wily snail had attached himself to the stag's hind leg. The illustrations in Mrs. Rafi's book give one a good idea of this primitive people's surroundings. It is curious to find at pp. 63 and 67 that the Khasi habitat has several rings of huge monoliths resembling Stonehenge.

F. H. S.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

A Handbook of Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, and Adjacent Parts of Greece. Prepared by the Geographical Section of the Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff, Admiralty. (London: H.M. Stationery Office. 7s. 6d. net.)

Vocabularies: English, German, Magyar, Serbian, Bulgarian, Roumanian, Greek, and Turkish. Compiled by the Geographical Section of the Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff, Admiralty. No. I.D.1024. (London: H.M. Stationery Office. 3s. 6d. net.)

Vocabularies: English, Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Armenian, Kurdish, and Syriac. Compiled by the Geographical Section of the Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff, Admiralty. No. I.D.1121. (London: H.M. Stationery Office. 3s. 6d. net.)

"The Jews in Egypt and in Palestine Under the Fatimid Caliphs." By Jacob Mann, M.A., D.Lit. (Oxford University Press. 12s. 6d. net.)

"The Serbian Epidemics of Typhus and Relapsing Fever in 1915." By William Hunter, C.B., Colonel, A.M.S. (London: John Bale Sons, and Danielsson, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"A Short History of the British Commonwealth." By Ramsay Muir. (London: George Philip and Son, Ltd. 17s. 6d. net.)

"The Balkan States." Part I. Peace Handbooks. Vol. III. (H.M. Stationery Office. 14s. 7½d.)

"Collected Prose of James Elroy Flecker." (London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd. 7s. 6d net.)

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# MUSICAL NOTES.

### The Templars' Quartet.

In nearly all male voice quartets there is a tendency to go out for "effects" and particularly for imitation of sounds other than musical. And when this tendency has become a habit the quartet is damned. Now it is to the surprising credit of the Templars' Quartet, who gave a recital at the Æolian Hall on October 25, that their realisation of the fact that a part-song is always music is almost complete. It is true that their use of realism in things like Gustav Holst's "The Homecoming," and the Scottish "The Piper o' Dundee" fell only just short of being inartistic; but these two were but lapses in a concert at which a very high level of singing was kept. They were quite excellent in traditional French and British airs, adapted by themselves; and in the Hebridean "Island Shieling Song" and the sixteenth-century "Ce Moi de Mai" they attained an unusual delicacy of interpretation. Their first tenor, Mr. Norman Stone, is uncommonly good, but the whole four are obviously musical. Their *ensemble* can be improved, but their future, which is certainly a bright one, lies rather in avoiding than attaining. The degradation of quartet singing is easy: *audie* the Gresham Singers. At this concert Mr. Gervase Elwes, the most perfect of our tenors, gave the first performance of Dr. Walford Davies' "Four Songs of London." The words are from Alice Meynell, Mary Coleridge, Shane Leslie, and Francis Thompson, and the settings are full of beauties; but in getting the spirit of the poems all right, the composer seems to have got some of the details wrong.

### Dr. Augustus Milner.

It is seldom that one finds nothing to cavil at in the choice of a new concert singer's programme, but that of Dr. Milner, a young baritone, who gave a recital at the Wigmore Hall, on October 26, was very sound. A French group of Berlioz, a German one (musically, at any rate) of Busoni, an English one of Quilter, and a Russian one of Moussorgsky and of Rimsky-Korsakoff here was a selection which indicated at once sense and sensitiveness. This singer shows great promise; although at present his control is imperfect—a deficiency which makes him get all sorts of wrong emphasis on words—and his intonation a little doubtful, he has naturally a very fine voice and a keen sense of artistry. He sang Busoni's two Goethe songs excellently; he held firmly to the gist of Berlioz diffuse "L'Ile Inconnue"; and the tremendous air from Boris Godounov he sang with splendid dramatic reserve.

### M. Jascha Heifetz.

It seems plain now that M. Heifetz is not a great interpreter, though his wonderful technique is still an audible miracle. At his second recital, given at the Queen's Hall on October 26, he played, as if one might finally judge him, César Franck's Sonata in A. All his purity, his precision, his white faultlessness were in it, and yet it did not move. Be it granted that the sonata as a piece of chamber music was spoiled by the deficiencies of the pianist, M. Samuel Chotzinoff, who, though a most obedient and really priceless accompanist, knows not how to command; still, the passion of M. Heifetz was chill, the whole reading classically rigid. But what he can do was proved in a most amazing rendering of Paganini's Concerto in D major; its incredible difficulties were overcome with brilliant ease, and out of a maze of intricacies he really achieved a simple triumph. To him all things but those pertaining to the soul are possible; his double-thirds, for instance, alone are evidence that as a violinist he is unsurpassable.

### Mr. Norman Wilks.

When I heard Mr. Wilks, who by some Belgian and Dutch critics is hailed as a great British pianist, play last year, I could hold out no hopes for him, and after hearing him once more at the Wigmore Hall on October 29 I could not find it in my mind to praise him. His Beethoven (the "Appassionata," unmercifully) was pseudo-profound, and with all its noise, its wrong emphasis, and its confusion, it did not bear the mark of conviction. With Ravel's "Sonatine" it was no better; a lack of lightness and neatness generally was not made less obvious by an ill-kept balance between left and right hand. Cyril Scott's "Water Wagtail" was quite and surprisingly harmless, though there was much more wagtail than water about it; but two commonplace pieces of José Sevenants made it seem wisdom not to wait for the Liszt. At present this pianist puts more on to the pianoforte than he takes out of it; he superimposes (especially with his left hand!) where he should extract; and he draws where he should suggest. With more reserve and clarity he could improve his playing a hundredfold.

### Mr. Steuart Wilson.

It was an extreme disappointment not to be able to hear the whole of Mr. Steuart Wilson's recital at the Æolian Hall, but as it clashed with that of M. Heifetz I could listen only to the end of it. This young tenor has an unusually intriguing and attractive voice, though his artistry is best where it is delicate. In *forte* music there is a sense, though not the actual sound, of forcing; and in the dramatic and impassioned side of his singing he has yet some way to go. But in soft *legato* passages where the words and the music float lazily on, as they do in Clive Carey's "Melmillo," in Denis Browne's "Epitaph on Salathiel Pavy," and in some Fauré songs with which he ended, he was perfectly satisfying. He is, I think, one of the most musical young tenors we have, for he knows and finds what is good to sing.

### A Promising Violinist.

It is to the credit of Miss Katie Goldsmith, who gave a violin recital at Wigmore Hall on October 22, that she went for some big things. Bach's Concerto in F major, four of the Brahms-Joachim Hungarian dances, and a very solid sonata by J. B. MacEwen are not the sort of composition one attempts unless one really likes playing them. Her technique is perhaps not far above the average—it is very lacking in delicacy—but she certainly infuses more feeling into her playing than most of her contemporaries. In the MacEwen she made a brave effort to extract eloquence from the music, and it was not her fault that she failed. The Hungarian dances were played with an abandon that was a little too eager, and instead of finding the rhythmic effects inevitable one just expected them. And the Bach was really beyond Miss Goldsmith; her technique, though resourceful, obscured the exquisite joinery of the concerto, and her temperament did not appear to take kindly to this class of music. Interest consequently flagged, but was revived again when she played the "Rosalind" of Dorothy Howell, whose orchestral piece "Lamia" made a stir at the Promenade Concerts last season. This was an unpretentious but quite charming dance, done with lightness and ingenuity, if scarcely original. The last thing I listened to the violinist playing was "The North Wind," by Rowsby Woof; it made me choose the (apparently) less evil of the fog outside the hall. But Miss Goldsmith really shows much promise; already she has fine tone and quite uncommon spirit.

### A Great 'Cellist.

It seems pretty generally agreed that the greatest 'cellist in the world is Pablo Casals, whom I have not heard; and it seems equally generally agreed that the greatest 'cellist in this country is Mme. Guilhermina Suggia, who gave the first of a series of three recitals at the Wigmore Hall on October 27. She is really a magnificent player; her intellectuality, her technique, and the continuous impulse of her interpretations put her into a class apart. Her breadth of tone is glorious, and this as much on her metal as on her other strings. She played Brahms's Sonata in F major and Frank Bridge's Sonata with intense conviction; and her lightness of touch in Fauré's "Papillon" was a revelation. In purity of tone she was perfect; but what happened to her intonation, particularly in Moór's "Prelude" and again in Sinigaglia's "Humoreske" had best not be related.

### M. Josef Hofmann.

Further hearing of M. Hofmann confirms the impression that he is one of the world's pianists and artists. Again at his second recital at the Queen's Hall on October 27, he showed the beauty and general charm of the master. He is neither the intellectual nor the romantic; he is neither classical nor extravagant; he is merely himself, a reserved but complete personality. In Beethoven he preserves an unfashionable amount of good tone; the "Appassionata," for instance, was played as if it were the smooth, unruffled outpourings of a soul, and, except in the first few variations of the middle movement, his reading was entirely convincing. To Chopin's Sonata in B flat minor, again, he gave a most distinguished and natural explanation; its scherzo, a sheer delight, I have never heard played better, and the Funeral March, apart from a too characterless silkiness of tone in the second movement, was made most moving. The tolling of the bell was pitiless; to its inexorability everything was rightly sacrificed. It is absurd to deny that M. Hofmann has big conceptions of great works: no brain, indeed, could equal the nimbleness of his hands, but his mind is always working. It is, in fact, in things like Chopin's Nocturnes and Polonaises that his intellectuality triumphs at the expense of his tone; a hardness in melodic outline and a stabbing in the filling-in of the bass can only be accounted for by a purpose deliberately to sacrifice beauty of tone for effect. For into things which need but little interpretation M. Hofmann allows no trace of bad tone; he plays Mendelssohn's "Caprice" or Chopin's waltzes, for example, quite unsurpassably. As a pianist there is none better in the world.

But to judge from the two examples, published under the name of Dvorsky, of his own compositions—"East and West" and "The Sanctuary"—it is not as a composer that M. Hofmann will go down to fame. There was in these pieces no depth, no feeling, and little originality; in a word, they were unworthy. However, as an interpretative and executive artist he is very great: certainly there is no one greater playing in England at the present time.

ANDANTE.

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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**TO-DAY.**

November 4 (New Style).
October 22 (Old Style).
Safar 23, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Marheshwan 23, 5681, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Basil Zaharoff has returned from London to Paris, and will shortly leave for the South of France.

Mr. and Mrs. Mann, of Trulls Hatch, sailed for Colombo, by the s.s. Leicestershire, on October 22.

Sir Charles and Lady Marling have returned to the British Legation at Copenhagen after leave of absence.

Lord and Lady Templemore have left London for Paris on their way to Algeciras, where they will spend the winter.

M. Kauhtchishviti, Georgian Delegate, arrived in London last week from Berlin in connection with economic matters.

Major-General Sir Charles Townshend is standing as an Independent Parliamentary candidate for the Wrekin Division of Shropshire.

M. Hadji Misheff, who has been appointed Bulgarian Minister at Rome, was, before the war, the representative of Bulgaria in this country.

Sir Henry Stewart Cunninghame, K.C.I.E., of Eaton Place, S.W., late a Judge of the High Court of Calcutta, left property valued at £35,871.

Hamad Basil Pasha has arrived at the Savoy Hotel, where the other members of the Egyptian Delegation to the Milner Commission are staying.

Mr. John Quinn, J.P., of Kenley, Barnes Close, Winchester, late of the Covenanted Bengal Civil Service, left property of the gross value of £13,266.

The name of Mr. Bertram Christian, the first chairman of the Serbian Relief Fund, has been added by the Lord Chancellor to the Commission of the Peace for Kent.

General Sir John and Lady Maxwell have left 103, Lancaster Gate for Egypt, where they expect to spend the winter. Letters sent to Lancaster Gate will be forwarded.

Prince Nicholas of Roumania was visited this week at Eton by M. Titulesco, Roumanian Minister of Finance, and M. Boeresco, Minister Plenipotentiary and Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires.

On October 28, which has been proclaimed as the official Czecho-Slovak Independence Day, a reception was given to friends of the new Republic at the Czecho-Slovak Legation at 9, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1.

Mr. Sydney Armitage-Smith, Financial Adviser to the Persian Government, has returned to London to conduct certain financial negotiations on behalf of that Government, and will remain here for some weeks.

Mr. Bhupendra Nath Basu, who has been confined to a nursing home for some weeks past, is recovering from his illness, and hopes to resume his duties as a member of the Council of the Secretary of State for India in a few days.

Mrs. Eckstein and Miss Eckstein left England last week for Colombo, where they will be the guests of Sir William Manning, Governor of Ceylon. Captain Bernard Eckstein leaves in December for the Sudan for big game shooting. Mrs. and Miss Eckstein will afterwards go to Khartoum to await his return there from the interior.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place in India, between Captain Geoffrey Sydney Brewis, D.S.O., 1st Batt. the Welsh Regiment, youngest son of the late S. R. Brewis, J.P., of Ibstone House, Bucks, and the late Mrs. Brewis, of 86, Cromwell Road, S.W., and Gwendolyn, elder daughter of Lieut.-Col. C. Powney-Thompson, C.B.E., Indian Army, and Mrs. Powney-Thompson, M.B.E.

A marriage has been arranged between Philip Gordon, eldest son of Major L. M. Boileau, retired, Indian Army, and Mrs. Boileau, of St. Croix, Englishcombe Lane, Bath, and Cecilia Margaret, younger daughter of the late Walter C. L. Floyd, M.Inst.C.E., formerly Deputy Consulting Engineer for Railways to the Government of India, Calcutta, and Mrs. W. C. L. Floyd, of Kelston Knoll, near Bath.

The Secretary of State for War gave a dinner last week at the United Service Club, in honour of General Lord Rawlinson, Commander-in-Chief in India designate. Invitations were issued to:—

Field-Marshal Earl Haig, Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby, Field-Marshal Sir Henry Wilson, Field-Marshal Sir William Robertson, General Sir O'Moore Creagh, General Lord Byng, General Lord Horne, General Sir H. V. Cox, Lieut.-General the Earl of Cavan, Lieut.-General Sir T. H. J. C. Goodwin, Lieut.-General Sir A. Godley, Lieut.-General Sir J. P. Du Cane, Lieut.-General Sir P. W. Chetwode, Lieut.-General Sir G. M. W. Macdonogh, Lieut.-General Sir Travers Clarke, Major-General Sir G. Ellison, Major-General Sir A. Lyndon Bell, Major-General Sir Charles Harington, Major-General G. D. Jeffreys, Major-General Sir W. Childs, Mr. E. S. Montagu, the Earl of Lytton, Viscount Peel, Sir A. Williamson, Sir J. Stevenson, Sir W. Meyer, Sir W. Duke, Sir Herbert Creedy, Sir Charles Harris, Sir Bertram Cubitt, and Mr. E. Marsh and Major Sir A. Sinclair, private secretaries.

General Lord Rawlinson left on November 1 for India. He will attend a ceremony to present a flag to Amiens Cathedral on his way.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. Alexander Cretziano has been appointed Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in London.

M. Gregoire Michaesco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, arrived in London this week from Bucharest.

Ebraham Khan Gharagozlow, Secretary to the Persian Legation, arrived in London this week from Berne.

M. Dahalsky, the newly-appointed Second Secretary to the Czecho-Slovak Legation, arrived in London on October 28 from Prague.

M. Max Labkovitch, the newly appointed First Secretary to the Czecho-Slovak Legation, arrived in London on October 27 from Prague.

It is officially announced that the following appointments have been made to commands in India:—

Northern Command.—General Sir W. R. Birdwood, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., C.I.E., D.S.O.

Eastern Command.—Lieut.-General Sir H. Hudson, K.C.B., K.C.I.E.

Southern Command.—Lieut.-General Sir W. R. Marshall, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

Western Command.—Lieut.-General Sir W. P. Braithwaite, K.C.B.

## THE LATE KING ALEXANDER.

The body of the late King Alexander of the Hellenes was conveyed from Tatoi to Athens on October 27, and the funeral service in Athens was held in the Cathedral on October 29 at 1 p.m. Among those present were Queen Olga, Mme. Manos (the late King's morganatic wife), the Regent, Admiral Condouriotis, the Serbian Prince Regent and his sister, Princess John Constantinovitch, the Swedish Crown Prince, Prince Eugene, Duke of Nerica, members of the Cabinet, the Special Envoys, Read-Admiral Sir George Hope (British), Rear-Admiral Dumesnil (French), and Captain Mariglia (Italian), and members of the Diplomatic Corps representing other foreign Sovereigns and States.

The service was short, but most impressive. At its conclusion, the coffin was placed on a gun carriage and drawn by bluejackets to the Museum, where it was transferred to a motor-car and conveyed to Tatoi. There King Alexander was buried by the side of his grandfather, King George. In Athens and throughout Greece mourning is general for the young monarch.

A requiem service was held on October 31 at the Greek Church, Moscow Road, Bayswater, in memory of King Alexander of the Hellenes. King George was represented by the Prince of Wales, who wore khaki uniform, and Queen Alexandra by Earl Howe. The Archbishop of Canterbury was represented by his chaplain, and the Lord Mayor attended in state.

A Supplement to the *London Gazette* issued on October 27 contained the following notice from the Lord Chamberlain's Office, dated October 25:—

"The King commands that the Court shall wear mourning for two weeks from this day for his late Majesty the King of the Hellenes, first cousin once removed of His Majesty the King.

"The Court to change to half-mourning on Monday, November 1 next.

"And on Monday, November 8 next, the Court to go out of mourning."

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## OBITUARY.

Sir Gabriel Stokes, K.C.S.I., has died in Dublin at the age of seventy-one. He entered the Indian Civil Service in 1871. After holding posts in Bombay and Madras, he was appointed superintendent of the provincial census in 1881, and afterwards served as Revenue Secretary to the Government, then as Chief Secretary, and from 1903 to 1908 as a member of the Madras Government. He acted as Governor of the Presidency in February and March, 1906, between the departure of Lord Ampthill and the arrival of his successor, and was created a K.C.S.I. on retirement.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

General Charpy has been appointed Commandant of the French troops of occupation in Constantinople.

New Zealand women are proposing to send a nurse to Palestine to assist in the child welfare movement there.

The *Morning Post* Cairo Correspondent states that British troops are now being steadily replaced by Egyptians in the provinces and the Fayoum.

M. Chicherin is reported to have informed Roumania that the Soviet Government is ready to return the £24,000,000 in gold removed from Bucharest to Russia during the war.

Tramway strikers at Bombay have resorted to indiscriminate stone-throwing and, whenever possible, holding up tramcars. There have been several casualties, and one man was stoned to death.

Consequent upon the non-co-operation movement among the students of the Punjab, Aligarh College is closing *sine die*. The parents of the students at the college are unanimous against non-co-operation.

The Pope has given £4,000 to the fund to provide a Roman Catholic Cathedral in Belgrade. The hon. secretary of the fund, to whom subscriptions should be addressed, is Mr. E. Christitch, 33, Brooke Street, E.C.

The Secretary of State for India announces that revised rates of leave pay, pay whilst on duty outside India, and unemployed pay for officers of the Indian Army have been approved, and are being communicated to the officers concerned.

Mass meetings were held in all parts of Yugoslavia on October 31 and on November 1 to call upon the Government at Belgrade not to recognise the recent plebiscite in Carinthia, and to suspend diplomatic and commercial relations and the sending of food until its revision is granted.

An Admiralty Order has been issued directing the battleship Emperor of India, flying the flag of Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Webb, Rear-Admiral Second-in-Command of the Mediterranean Fleet, to be re-commissioned at Sheerness on November 20 with a new crew from Chatham for a further term of service in the Fourth Battle Squadron, Mediterranean Fleet.

*The Palestine Daily Mail* (published in Jerusalem) suggests that owing to the increasing use of the telegraph service by Jewish and Arabic merchants in the Holy Land, telegrams should be permitted in Hebrew and Arabic. At present telegrams in these languages have to be transliterated into Latin characters. This journal shows that the Morse code can be readily adapted for Hebrew and Arabic.

The *Morning Post's* Cairo correspondent states that the Princess Shafika, the divorced wife of the Sultan of Egypt, and sister of Prince Seif Ed-Din, has instituted an action against the ex-Premier Mohammed Said Pasha, praying that he be relieved of the custody of her brother's estates. Said was appointed after Seif's exile, which followed his attempt on the life of the present Sultan at the time of his divorce proceedings.

The battleship Ramillies, Capt, Aubrey Smith, M.V.O., which was detached from the Atlantic Fleet last January for service in the Mediterranean, returned to Devonport on October 27 after work in the Black Sea and Asia Minor, which included the bombardment of Ismid and operations at Constantinople. The Ramillies brought home Capt. Fitzmaurice, late commodore at Smyrna, and his staff.

It is announced, says the Rome Correspondent of the *Morning Post*, that the Italian and Yugoslav delegates at the forthcoming conference, which is expected to begin on November 7, will be accompanied by five civilian and two military assessors for either side. General Badoglio and Admiral Acton will be the Italian military experts.

## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses. Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

QUALIFIED NURSE and MASSEUSE, Cheerful Temperament, seeks post as companion to go abroad, preferably Constantinople.—A.G., Care of 12, Ramshill Road, Scarborough.

DEMOBILIZED SISTER, fully trained, unable continue nursing, seeks post as secretary—companion to elderly lady; willing to travel, highest testimonials,—Write Box 174, THE NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C. 2.

# WHERE TO STAY.

**For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—**

**"EASTAPROX. LONDON. TWENTIETH MATLOCK TWO**

**(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."**

**which would indicate that two rooms were required at Matlock on the 20th of the month.**

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# THE NEAR EAST.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1920.


## ALBANIAN FRONTIERS.

Last week it was urged in THE NEAR EAST that there was little chance of a satisfactory solution of the Adriatic tangle being found, unless Great Britain and France took a vigorous hand in the settlement. If it is unlikely that Italy and Yugoslavia can of themselves arrive at an understanding in regard to the future of Fiume and the frontier line between their two countries, there must be still less hope that the Albanian question will be settled by a policy of *laissez faire* on the part of the Council of Ambassadors. Yet it would seem to require but a small amount of Allied initiative at this stage to secure an adjustment of outstanding points in regard to Albania, and thus to establish at least one State in the Balkans on a permanent basis. The Albanians may not be entirely free from differences of opinion among themselves—they would hardly be human, certainly not Balkan, if they were—but, whereas they may yet prove to be peacefully disposed when once they have obtained their independence, there can be no doubt that the Peninsula will know no rest until that independence, without any irredentist grievances attaching to it, has been won. References elsewhere in this issue indicate that an unsettled Albania only serves to fan the present bitterness between Italians and Yugoslavs, apart from the fact that the frontier incidents now occurring may give rise to vendettas which may embroil Albanians and Serbians for many years to come. Italy has recently experienced a wonderful evolution in her attitude towards Albania. After a period of attempted Italianisation, the country was evacuated, the Tirana Government was provisionally recognised, and an arrangement was entered into between Italy and Albania which did no violence to the nationalist aspirations of the latter, while satisfying the natural anxiety of the former for a *point d'appui* on the Albanian side of the Adriatic. The next development was an appeal from Albania to the Italian Government for support against Serbian inroads. There is no evidence that this request was officially granted: but the Serbians can hardly fail to see Italian encouragement, if not material assistance, in the struggle which the Albanians are now maintaining along the frontier.

Albania has suffered more than any other Balkan State from the ignorance of the Supreme Council regarding Near Eastern affairs. In December, 1919, an agreement was concluded, to which President Wilson, Mr. Lloyd George and M. Clemenceau adhered, giving the mandate over Albania, with certain reservations and safeguards, to Italy. Within two months, however, the existence of this arrangement had been forgotten, and the irresponsible opportunism which characterised so many of the Allies' decisions led to a proposal on the part of the British and French Prime Ministers that Albania should be partitioned, Scutari and the north going to the Serbs, Valona and the centre to the Italians, and the south to Greece. Fortunately, President Wilson valued his reputation for consistency, and refused to agree to a scheme in such glaring contradiction to the arrangement made the previous December. The protests of his former colleagues on the Supreme Council against his squeamishness on this point fell somewhat flat in the face of the attitude of the Yugoslav Government, which also refused to be a party to the dismemberment of Albania, and insisted that Albanian nationality and rights should be respected. The San Remo Conference failed to discuss the Albanian question, which, therefore, remains in this indeterminate position as far as the Allies are concerned. In the meantime, however, as we have seen, Italy has been better than her word, by abandoning the idea of a protectorate, while the Serbians promise to belie the expectations they had previously raised. The conflicting claims of the Serbians and Albanians can only be settled by arbitration. There are two frontiers in existence, that of 1913 and the one provisionally fixed by the Allies for the Serbians. With regard to the latter, the Serbians can claim that it has never been abrogated, and that they are, therefore, within their rights in occupying the territory assigned to them. The Albanians, on the other hand, point out that the only frontier with any real validity is that given them in 1913; but they claim, with some justification, it must be admitted, that this frontier was not fair to them even in those days, and has become still more unjust in the light of the principle of nationality and the right to economic development for which the Allies declared that they were fighting. Their patriotism may centre in their mountains, but they resent being cut off from some of their chief market towns.

It will be a matter for surprise if the demarcation of 1913, arrived at as a result of a compromise between the hostile interests of the Great Powers of that day, cannot be improved upon by the Allies acting alone in 1920. Conflicting claims will still have to be adjudicated upon, but they can be narrowed down to the issue—difficult enough to decide, but unimportant outside the sphere immediately concerned—of the nationality of this or that town or village. The significant improvement in the relations between Italy and Albania justifies the hope that Greece will also find it to her interest to establish a friendly understanding with the Albanians. There can be a little doubt that in the past international intrigue has contributed largely to the enmity manifested along the Greco-Albanian frontier. Strong ties exist between the two countries. The leaders of the Greek War of Independence were in a large number of cases of Albanian descent, and Albanian blood runs in the veins of many Greek families to-day, including, unless we are mistaken, that of Admiral Condouriotis, the present Regent of Greece. Both he and M. Venizelos would welcome an agreement that would put an end to the misunderstanding between the neighbouring peoples. But here again mutual suspicion may keep the two Governments apart, unless some outside influence acceptable to both undertakes the task of mediation. It would be right for Great Britain and France to act together in this matter; but, rather than that there should be any further delay, the British Government should act alone. Its disinterestedness enabled it to be the peacemaker in 1913; and although the agreement then reached had little to commend it, at least it served to postpone for a year the European War. In arbitrating now between Albania and Serbia in the north and between Greece and Albania in the south, Great Britain will have an easier problem to solve, and there is abundant evidence to show that, with however much grumbling her verdict might be received on one side or the other at the moment, all the three countries would at heart be grateful for a solution that made for peace along their frontiers.

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# TURKO-ARABIAN RELATIONS.

(By Our Constantinople Correspondent.)

The appointment of Sir Percy Cox as High Commissioner in Mesopotamia has aroused considerable interest in both Arab and Turkish circles in Constantinople, where the development of events in the land that is said to be flowing with oil, if not with milk and honey, is being followed with the closest attention. The persistent unrest in Mesopotamia must be a source of considerable perplexity to the average Briton, who was persuaded that we had been welcomed as saviours by the population of that country, which for so long had groaned beneath the intolerable burden of Turkish despotism and tyranny. The truth of the matter is that Turkish despotism was by no means intolerable in Mesopotamia, for the very good reason that the turbulent Arab tribes of that country are not the sort of people who will submit to any kind of tyranny unless it be that of their own tribal chiefs. The Turks, in reality, had to keep a very light hand on the bridle, but, even then, they failed to eradicate the hereditary antipathy of the Arabs for their race, and it was this antipathy that caused the latter to welcome the British—at first. Why this welcome has cooled has already been discussed at length in the pages of The Near East, and there is no need to dilate here on the matter; but it may be said that the Turkish Nationalists have from the outset spared no effort to intensify the unrest that has now spread over practically the whole of Irak-el-Arabi. One not unimportant Sheikh, at least, Ajemi Sa'adun Pasha, has never hidden his sympathies, and from the beginning has co-operated as closely as possible with Mustapha Kemal.

Nevertheless, there can be no question of the Arabs' desiring the re-establishment of Turkish dominion. What they certainly do want is the establishment of a form of administration in conformity with their customs and traditions, and one which, at the same time, will harmonise with their national and religious sentiments. Arab ideas on this subject are very different from Western ideas—so different, indeed, that it would be almost impossible for any ordinary mind steeped in traditions of parliamentarianism to devise an administration that would work successfully among the Arabs. Parliamentary government in Turkey, a country much closer to Occidental culture than Mesopotamia, has been a travesty and a failure from its inception. Sir Percy Cox is doubtless a specialist in matters Oriental, but his task is none the less arduous.

Undoubtedly one of the most thorny points to be settled will be that of selecting an overlord or ruler for the country, who would be acceptable to the majority of the tribal chiefs. The name of the Emir Abdullah, brother of the recently dethroned King of Syria, has been mentioned in this connection, but upon what grounds it is not easy to understand, except that King Hussein and his brilliant sons have been so much advertised that there has been no room for any other prince either in the illustrated papers or in the public eye. Yet there is an alternative choice to one of the members of King Hussein's family, and the distinction of being first in emphasising the fact belongs to The Near East, which published in its issue of September 2 an interesting article on the claims of H.H. Shereef Ali Haidar, the representative of the senior branch of the Shereefian family which traces its descent from Fatma, the daughter of the Prophet.

It was with a view to obtaining the Shereef's own opinions with regard to the article in question, and also the letter from Professor Kay, of St. Andrew's University, that I paid him a visit. There was no need for an introduction, as I have known both the Shereef himself and his sons for some years, and was also in touch with them during the difficult period of the war, when, had they ever been imbued with anti-British sentiments, they would surely have given some evidence of them. In spite, however, of every inducement, the Shereef, Ali Haidar, never became an Anglophobe. He was quite ready, it is true, to fight the Shereef Hussein for the throne of Mecca, but that is a different matter, for King Hussein's own brother, Shereef Nassir Pasha, who is a senator in the Ottoman Parliament, publicly cursed the Shereef Hussein for his rebellion.

Shereef Ali Haidar informed me that the article to which I called his attention was historically accurate, but assured me that he was completely ignorant of the identity of the writer, or that such an article was to appear in the English Press. He seemed to be exceedingly pleased that it should have been written by a complete stranger. In reply to my remark that the article said little about his activities during the war, the Shereef replied: "Even my worst enemies can say no more than that I was a member of the Committee of Union and Progress, and that, having been appointed Emir of Mecca (which, after all, I consider to be my right), in place of Shereef Hussein, who had rebelled against the Khalif, I proceeded to Medina to fight for my rights; but no one can say that I ever did the slightest harm to the British. As for my being a member of the Committee, who at that time in Turkey was not a member? Was it not the Committee that confirmed the Shereef Hussein himself in the Emirate of Mecca? Why, if I was a favourite of the Committee, was that done? The reason was that I was a marked man on account of my pro-British sympathies, like my grandfather before me."

H.H. SHEREEF ALI HAIDAR.

With regard to his claims, the Shereef said that he asked for nothing but moral support; not for financial or military assistance. He supposed that to a certain extent the Arabs of Mesopotamia would be free to choose their own ruler, and all he asked was that he should be given a chance to put his claims before his own countrymen in a free and unrestricted manner.

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KING OF SPAIN.


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If those claims were rejected, he would have nothing to do but to accept a fair verdict with the best grace he could; but he was confident that the justice of those claims would be fully recognised. When he was at Medina during the war, he had numerous offers of help from the most influential chiefs of Arabia, but it was no part of his plan to come into conflict with the British, and for that reason his party afterwards retired to Damascus. He felt confident that if he were allowed to place his claims before his countrymen the result would be in his favour. "Surely," he continued, "it would also be in the interests of the British to have a ruler in Mesopotamia upon whom they could rely, not only with regard to his loyalty, but also with regard to his fitness for the post. You have seen Professor Kay's letter, and even if you did not know me, there would be no need for me to boast."

Our conversation had been in Turkish; but the Shereef speaks French quite fluently, and his sons, who have had a thorough English education, speak English perfectly. After the Shereef's eldest son, Abdul Mejid, had shown me many papers, including letters from British statesmen and cuttings from *The Times* in corroboration of the article in THE NEAR EAST already referred to, I took my leave, with the feeling that Shereef Ali Haidar has a very strong case.

## M. STAMBOLISKY.

The Bulgarian Prime Minister terminated his visit to England on Sunday, October 31, when he left in the early morning for Paris. During the last week of his stay he was brought into touch with the members of His Majesty's Government and a number of prominent politicians. He lunched at 10, Downing Street with Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd George; and he had conversations with, among others, Mr. Bonar Law, Lord Curzon, Mr. Balfour, Mr. Winston Churchill, and Mr. Austen Chamberlain. In spite of a very full "business" programme, he found time to indulge his unofficial bent in three typical ways: he attended a children's tea party, he went shopping (when neither King Boris nor the members of the Cabinet were forgotten), and he spent a number of hours—in prison. After three and a half years in gaol for his sympathies with the Entente, M. Stambolisky retains a lively interest in prisons, and he makes a point of examining them whenever he has an opportunity. In Rome the authorities were horrified at the idea, and found many excuses for not acceding to his request. He was, therefore, correspondingly delighted when in London he was not only told that he could visit any he liked, but was also invited to take lunch in one. Accordingly M. Stambolisky had lunch in Wandsworth Gaol, and inspected the prisoners' quarters, and was then taken to Holloway Gaol, where women prisoners are detained. Other engagements during the week included a dinner given on Tuesday by the Prime Minister at the Hyde Park Hotel to the members of his suite and a large number of friends. On Friday he was entertained at dinner by Sir Clifford Cory, Bart., M.P., and others, among those present being Sir Hugh Barnes, K.C.S.I., Sir Ernest Roney, Mr. H. J. White Jervis, Mr. H. J. Kearney, Mr. A. H. Jackson, and Mr. J. A. Muirhead.

In the course of conversation on the last day of his stay, M. Stambolisky stated that his visit had surpassed all his expectations. He was particularly gratified by the cordial reception that had been given him, and by the way in which the members of the Cabinet had made it possible for him to meet them. Nothing could have exceeded the thoughtfulness of the arrangements made for his tour. He left feeling that Bulgaria could always count upon a genuine friend in England, and he hoped that his visit had laid the foundations for closer commercial relations between the two countries.

It may be stated that there was never any question of the revision of the Neuilly Treaty being raised during M. Stambolisky's visit; but we understand that Mr. Lloyd George had previously had his attention called to the Bulgarian Government's difficulty in raising a voluntary army, and he took the opportunity of hearing what the Prime Minister had to say on the subject. The introduction of the voluntary system in the enemy States was a special point with the Peace Conference, and it is realised that there may be strong feeling against allowing an exception to be made for one country.

In Paris M. Stambolisky, with the members of his suite, will remain twelve days. He then proceeds to Brussels, Berne, Prague, Warsaw, Bucharest and Belgrade. His return to Sofia is fixed for the middle of December. As it is not possible to include Greece in this tour, M. Stambolisky hopes to visit Athens in the spring.

## PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

### "A Farewell Survey."

In its issue of last week, the *New Europe* announces its own untimely demise. After a vigorous existence of four years it finds itself strangled by printers' wages, the price of paper, and the fantastic state of foreign exchange. No one who has studied its pages regularly can have failed to derive both interest and knowledge from them, and it would be a serious loss to instructed opinion in Great Britain if all those who have contributed to it were to write no more. Fortunately there is no reason to suppose that such will be the case. Of the joint editors, one, Mr. A. F. Whyte, may find that his labours in a new sphere as President of the Indian Legislative Assembly will interfere with his work as a publicist, but there are other media by which Dr. R. W. Seton-Watson can still place his unrivalled knowledge of Central and South-Eastern Europe at the disposal of his fellow-countrymen. In his farewell article he has once more lived up to his wish "to play the mosquito to a deadened public opinion," and most people will be ready to accept his verdict on his own able publication, that "its influence has reached far beyond the most sanguine expectations of its founders."

Particularly masterly is his analysis of the general situation to-day:—

Look where he will, there is cause for anxiety, though not for despair. France stands halting between a desire to hoodwink herself with the last shreds of a belief in a great German indemnity and a courageous resolve to work out her own salvation, as she eventually must. America, on whose goodwill Europe banked too largely, is distrustful of the Old World, and very loth to commit herself politically or financially in its interest. The economic paralysis to which Italy is a prey does not fall far short of temporary political disintegration, though her peculiar genius may be expected to provide new and unexpected solutions to old problems. Germany still stunned by the blow of defeat, seems for the moment to be sick to death of politics, and reveals a more marked intention to work harder than almost any other nation. Russia is no longer the Russia we once knew; and whether the collapse of the Bolshevik régime lies in the near or the distant future, a prolonged period of agony and anarchy lies before her. Where Austria-Hungary once was there is now a group of vigorous but immature States: Poland, the most perilously ambitious; Czecho-Slovakia, the most realist; Jugo-slavia, beset by difficulties by no means all of her own creation; Roumania, still in transition from a patrician to a peasant State; and within this ring the reduced body of Hungary, whose substantial future a clique of magnates are willing to gamble away in exchange for a worthless dynasty.

Dr. Seton-Watson admits that the story has to be told in terms which hold out little promise; but beneath, changes have been wrought which are good for the health of Europe. Those who talk of the Balkanisation of Central Europe, he declares, have failed to see the wood for the trees, and have mistaken the passing effects of war for permanent features in the landscape. The doctrine of "The Balkans for the Balkan peoples" is for the first time coming into its own, and is being steadily extended to include all the Danubian countries.

In a further article on "the Psychology of the Succession States," the same writer comes a little nearer than he has allowed himself to come before to constructive criticism of his *protégés* nations, the absence of which in the past on the part of their most influential friends has been in no small measure responsible for any failure there may have been in the attainment of the goal in view.

### Egypt.

The *Saturday Review* of October 16 does not like the new Egyptian proposals. Referring to "this latest adventure—the transfer of the reins of Government from the hands of Great Britain to those of Egypt, about a year after the Allied and Associated Powers had conferred upon England the title and responsibilities of the Protector of Egypt," and particularly to the negotiations between Lord Milner and Zaghloul Pasha, it says:—

We confess to a certain amount of surprise not unmixed with dismay that, in these latter days when so much lip-service is paid to the *vox populi*, these negotiations should have been thus far conducted *in camera*, so far as Great Britain is concerned. It is quite conceivable that Parliament may take a different view to Lord Milner and Zaghloul Pasha's as to the extent to which we should abandon our protectorate over Egypt in exchange for an alliance; if it does, then many hopes will have been raised in vain, and more harm than good will result. It is also certain that the proposed abolition of the Capitulations will be the occasion of much anxiety among foreign Governments which are responsible for the safety of their own nationals, both as regards life and property. We have not yet been told what the substitute is to be, but we can be sure that all the chief Chanceries of Europe will have a good deal to say before the Capitulations are finally disposed of.

The truth is that Egypt cannot be dealt with as though it were Teschen, or the Hedjaz. No, not even to please President Wilson. At a time when relations between France and England had long passed breaking point, Napoleon said, "If once Egypt were in

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possession of the French, farewell India to the British," which points to a very real danger, if ever the Suez Canal should pass beyond the political control of the great Company over which France and England have the directing voice. So Bismarck, in later days: "Egypt is as necessary to England as her daily bread," laying stress not upon the commercial value, but upon the strategic necessity of securing our communication with the East. Read Lord Cromer's "Modern Egypt," or Sir Valentine Chirol's latest volume, and mark how, with varying degrees of emphasis, the same is proclaimed. That truth is not cancelled by the appearance of the new Convention. Therefore, we insist that, until the Parliaments of the Great Powers and the Chambers of Commerce and of Shipping have been convinced that the hour has come when Great Britain, the recognised Protector of Egypt, may safely abdicate the authority entrusted to her by her Allies, it is our bounden duty to go steadily forward upon the path that has brought to Egypt peace, justice, and great prosperity, for which we are the trustees.

### Articles to Note.

"The New Adriatic State," by John Leyland; and "The Report of the Army in India Committee of 1919-1920," by General Sir O'Moore Creagh, V.C., G.C.B., G.C.S.I. (late Commander-in-Chief in India), in the *Nineteenth Century* (November).

"The Little Entente and Central Europe," by Sisley Huddleston in the *Contemporary Review* (November).

## TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

*The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—*

PERSIA.—INDIA: Vizagapatam and Cochin Harbours.—Railways, Management. ARMENIA.—MESOPOTAMIA: Administration. —Expenditure (Supplementary Estimate). HILLAH FIGHTING (MANCHESTER REGIMENT). AFGHAN WAR (HONOURS LIST.) (October 19.)

EGYPT. (October 20.)

RUSSIA: British Prisoners. LEAGUE OF NATIONS: Anglo-Persian Agreement. MESOPOTAMIA. PALESTINE. EGYPT. INDIAN ARMY (ESHER COMMITTEE REPORT). MESOPOTAMIA: Hillah Fighting (Manchester Regiment). INDIA. (October 21.)

ARABIA (EMIR FAISAL). (October 22.)

MESOPOTAMIA. PEACE TREATIES: Turkey. SYRIA. INDIA: Army Pensions (Officers' Widows and Dependents).—Industrial Unrest. — Pre-War Pensions. — Brahmins (Appointments), Madras).—Army Leave and Unemployment Pay. ALBANIAN REFUGEES, SCUTARI. (October 25.)

INDIAN ARMY, OFFICERS' FIELD ALLOWANCES. MESOPOTAMIA SOMALILAND. EASTERN THEATRES OF WAR (BRITISH TROOPS) ARABIA (EMIR FAISAL). ANGLO-PERSIAN AGREEMENT. PERSIA (BRITISH TROOPS). MESOPOTAMIA: League of Nations. EGYPT (MILNER COMMISSION). INDIA: British Cavalry Regiments (Officers' Chargers).—Punjab Disturbances (Indemnities and Grants).—Madras Legislative Council (Presidency). October 26.)

INDIA: Army Pensions.—Officers' Acting Rank.—Political Situation.—Governor-General's Executive Council. KHIVA AND BOKHARA. MESOPOTAMIA: British Forces.—Administration. INDIA: Girls' Secondary Training School, Triplicane.—Army Administrator and Organisation.—Punjab Disturbances (Disciplinary Action). MESOPOTAMIA: Indian Labour.—British and Indian Troops. SMYRNA (BRITISH MILITARY HEADQUARTERS): PALESTINE, INTERNAL SITUATION. MUSTAPHA KEMAL (MUNITIONS). (October 27.)

INDIA: Army Pensions (Invalided Officers).—Public Services (Pensions).—Bengal Civil Fund Annuitants.—Army Officers' Quarters.—Electoral Rules, Bombay. TREBIZOND. ARMENIA. MESOPOTAMIA: Kapurthala Infantry.—Indian Troops (Tinned Milk). (October 28.)

BRITISH ARMY: Officers (Mesopotamia).—Passages (India). (October 29.)

## THE Y.M.C.A. IN THE SUDAN.

The opportunities for Y.M.C.A. work in the Sudan are described in a report by Mr. F. W. Coffey, who has lately returned from a visit to that country. At Khartoum the Y.M.C.A. is already at work in the barracks among the 500 British soldiers quartered there, and has also a town centre in the gardens. For the troops at Atbara the association has a delightful bungalow in the gardens, placed at its disposal by the Sudan Government Railways, and staffed by a committee of six or seven Englishmen who render voluntary service. At Gebeit, the hill station for the troops in the Red Sea provinces, 1,600 feet above sea-level, the only permanent building in the camp is occupied by the Y.M.C.A. While at Port Sudan, where Y.M.C.A. work has ceased, the British residents are prepared to form a committee and carry on work for British soldiers and sailors, as well as for civilians, if the association will back them up. There is, however, urgent need for work of a special kind to be undertaken by the Y.M.C.A. in the Sudan on behalf of scattered groups of Englishmen in lonely oases, engaged on administrative work or in industrial enterprises. If the Y.M.C.A. can provide a secretary to visit these centres regularly, with a portable cinema, books, papers, etc., the Sudan Government will gladly give him a free pass on all its railways; and a Y.M.C.A. hostel in Khartoum, where these men from the oases could come for an occasional rest, would also be a great boon to the whole of the Sudan.

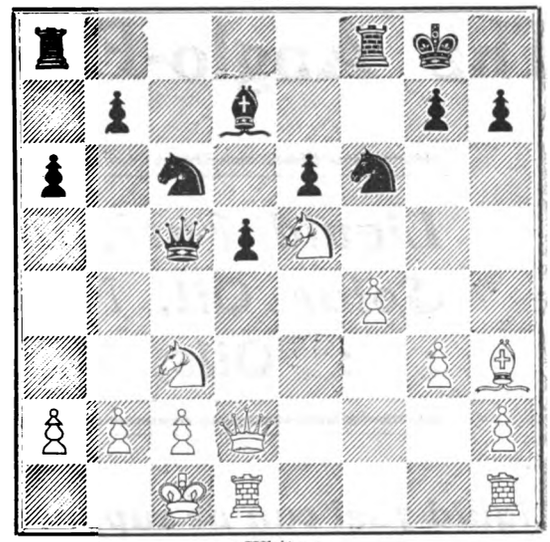
## CHESS.

The winter season will not be in full swing until the middle of this month. The City tournaments are, however, well advanced, and there have already been the usual surprises in the championship, but so far all the chief favourites are to the fore. Sir George Thomas, who is playing very well, has so far won all his games, and he is expected to keep the title, though he will no doubt encounter strong opposition in the final from Mr. R. H. V. Scott and others.

I understand that about a dozen entries have been received for the Metropolitan championship, including Sir George Thomas, the holder, and Mr. R. H. V. Scott. It is, however, uncertain at the moment whether Sir George will be able to take part in this competition.

I give this week another of the series of consultation games played recently at the City of London Chess Club.

Position after White's 15th move, Kt—K5.
Black.



White.

FRENCH DEFENCE.

| Sir G. A. Thomas, &c., White. | Dr. S. F. Smith, &c. Black. | Sir G. A. Thomas, &c. White. | Dr. S. F. Smith, &c. Black. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 P—K4 | P—K3 | 11 P x P | Q x P |
| 2 P—Q4 | P—Q4 | 12 Kt—KB3 | Kt—B3 |
| 3 Kt—QB3 | Kt—KB3 | 13 Castles QR | P—QR3 (2) |
| 4 B—Kt5 | B—K2 | 14 B—R3 | B—Q2 |
| 5 B—K5 | Kt—Q2 | 15 Kt—K5 (3) | Kt x Kt |
| 6 B x B | Q x B | 16 P x Kt | Kt—K1 |
| 7 Q—Q2 | Castles | 17 Kt x P (4) | R—B7 |
| 8 P—B4 | P—KB3 (1) | 18 Q—B3 | Q—Kt4 |
| 9 P x P | Kt x P | 19 Q—K3 | R—B2 |
| 10 P—Kt3 | P—B4 | 20 Kt—Kt6 | Resigns. |

(1) Very weak. P—KB4 should have been played.

(2) With a view to a Q side attack. But there is no time for this.

(3) Taking swift advantage of White's mistake in playing the B to Q2 instead of continuing his plan of an attack against the King.

(4) Absolutely decisive.

CARO-KANN.

CUNARD

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MEDITERRANEAN AND NEAR EAST

REGULAR FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO PATRAS PIRAEUS SYRA VOLO SALONICA SMYRNA CONSTANTINOPLE ROUMANIAN PORTS GIBRALTAR ALGIERS MALTA GENOA LEGHORN NAPLES PALERMO MESSINA CATANIA BRINDISI BARI ANCONA VENICE TRIESTE AND FIUME

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The lack of transport facilities, as is well known, has constituted one of the main obstacles to rapid reconstruction in the Near East. The acquisition by a British syndicate of shipping interests marked an important contribution to the solution of these difficulties, but it has long been recognised that this step, while extremely helpful, did not go far enough, and for some time negotiations have been in progress for the concession for a term of years of the control of railways in certain countries touching the Danube. Such a development would have an enormous influence in promoting the rapid recovery of the states in question, but the matter is not one that lends itself so readily to arrangement as the Danube shipping deal, and, while unbounded optimism would appear to obtain in certain circles regarding the imminence of interesting developments, I find it somewhat difficult to share it, much as one would like it to be true.

***

Elsewhere in these columns will be found an important interview with Mr. Attfield, head of the Export Credit Department of the Board of Trade, in which he explains the advantages that may be expected to accrue from the adequate utilisation of this scheme. Everyone recognises that only by the arrangement of credits can trade be developed with certain of the Near Eastern countries in present conditions. Traders have, however, shown, until recently, extreme shyness in making use of the Government scheme. Two things would appear to have brought about their changed attitude which has led to what Mr. Attfield describes as a "rush of applications" during the last few days. In the first place, there has been the modification in the scheme whereby advances are now increased to 100 per cent. But in Mr. Attfield's view the most powerful reason has been the development of general trade depression. He points out that, while there was the enormous home demand, traders preferred meeting it to entering overseas markets, where conditions were less favourable. Now they are forced to find markets by the stress of circumstances.

***

The advantages of this scheme from the point of view of the British trader are obvious. It enables them to export freely to markets that would otherwise be closed to them. But, as Mr. Attfield shows, the scheme is of enormous importance to the importing countries. Besides assisting them to obtain goods which they could otherwise only purchase by buying foreign exchange at a heavy loss, it is bound to exercise a favourable influence on the course of their exchanges, since by the postponement of payments the influence of exports in bringing about a rise in the exchanges will be permitted to go on unchecked, since there will be no immediate necessity to purchase foreign currency. In this connection Mr. Attfield rightly lays great stress on the great potential resources of the Near Eastern countries. "These countries, especially Roumania and Bulgaria," he points out, "are normally able to export great quantities of grain and other products. Once the stream of exports begins to flow in its accustomed volume the financial position will be revolutionised." That is the all-important fact, and one which I have constantly emphasised in these columns. But it has been uphill work to persuade the British trader with his eye on the exchanges that it is not always the case that figures talk.

***

One aspect of the scheme touched on by Mr. Attfield is the question of the early liquidation of transactions. As my readers are aware, security has to be deposited in a bank in the importing country, and has to be kept on an equality with the advance made in sterling at this end. Now Mr. Attfield, taking the case of Roumania, argues that if the exchange improves to 150 lei the tendency will be to close the transaction at once, seeing that the sterling required for payment can then be obtained at so much lower a rate. But it seems to me that it is much more probable—or shall we say that it is at least possible since the nature of the human race is towards optimism in these matters?—that rather than close the transaction the natural impulse will be to wait in the hope that, as there has already been such a rise in the lei, only a little more patience is required for the arrival of a really favourable moment for closing the transaction. I have discussed this aspect with one or two authorities, and their views more or less coincide with mine. Of course, there is another factor to be borne in mind, and that is the fear that an adverse movement may succeed a rise in the exchange, and I imagine that if things turn out as Mr. Attfield suggests, it will be solely on this account.

***

The question of the construction of a new railway in the Sudan to serve the Kassala district was discussed last week by Lancashire members of the House of Commons. The district in question offers exceptional opportunities for the extension of cotton cultivation; but developments in that direction depend on the provision of communications, and the cotton-growing region is some distance from the Port Sudan—Atbara line. Two projects are in view—the one a line from Kassala to Thamian, a length of 250 miles; the other a line from Kassala to Atbara, a distance of about 230 miles. A glance at the map will show that the former scheme is to be preferred, as it affords more direct communication with Port Sudan. The terrain offers no undue obstacles to the construction of this line, the estimated cost of which is between one and two million pounds.

***

It is understood that if a sub-committee of the Lancashire members appointed to consider the project presents a favourable report, efforts will be made to enlist the support of the Government in regard to raising a loan on favourable terms. It may be noted that the advantages of this development are dwelt on in the recently issued Blue Book on Egypt, in which it is stated that "if the railway to Kassala could be built, there is every reason to believe that some 200,000 acres of land suitable for cotton cultivation in the Gash Delta could be cheaply developed in a comparatively short space of time. This railway would have to be extended southwards, so as to tap the areas suitable for the cultivation of rain-grown cotton."

***

The interesting announcement was made last week of a further extension of the activities of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, which is associated with a French group headed by Sir Basil Zaharoff in the formation of a French oil company with a capital of 100 million francs to assure to our Ally adequate oil supplies. An extensive organisation has already been established, and suitable sites have been acquired in the principal French ports for the erection of large storage tanks. Besides this main company several other companies are to be formed to work a fleet of tankers. The Anglo-Persian Oil Company is to subscribe for 45 per cent. of the capital of the various companies, the balance being reserved for purely French interests. The board of the importing company will include Sir Charles Greenway, Sir Basil Zaharoff, and Admiral Ronarch. The arrangement which arises out of the Anglo-French Agreement arrived at last March at San Remo marks a further stage in the association of French and British economic interests. From the point of view of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company the enterprise is of special importance because the company will thereby be provided with a new outlet for its output of oil.

COMMENTATOR.

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# Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

## ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, October 15.

### Merchants and Trade Restrictions.

A meeting of merchants and business men has recently been held at Bucharest for the purpose of discussing the various restrictions on the development of trade and commerce which the Government is imposing by unnecessary and heavy taxation, permits, and regulations. A resolution was passed calling on the Government to put a stop to this, and to allow the free intercourse of legitimate trade between individuals and other countries, and in this way to create healthy competition for the ultimate good and prosperity of the country.

### Bessarabian Roubles.

The Government have decided to revise the rate of exchange of the Bessarabian rouble, but only in cases where the owners are living in Bessarabia, and provided that not more than 60,000 roubles are in the possession of one individual. The revised rates for the Lvoff rouble are graded as follows according to the possession of the following amounts:—1-5,000 roubles one lei, 5-15,000 roubles 0.80 lei, 15-30,000 roubles 0.60 lei, 30-60,000 roubles 0.40 lei. For the possession of more than 60,000 roubles the exchange will be as previously established: that is, 30 bani for the Lvoff rouble and one lei for the Romanoff rouble. The rates of exchange for the Romanoff rouble are as follows:—1-5,000 roubles 1.35 lei, 5-1,500 roubles 1.30 lei, 15-30,000 roubles 1.20 lei, 30-60,000 roubles 1.10 lei. The rate of exchange for all institutions under State control, and churches, co-operative societies, etc., will be one lei for the Lvoff rouble and 1.35 lei for the Romanoff rouble. This only applies to institutions situated in Bessarabia.

### Petrosani Coal Company.

The well-known coal mine of Petrosani, formerly the property of the Hungarian Bank of Commerce of Budapest, and of the Salgo-Torjan Company, Budapest, has been formed into a Roumanian joint stock company, with a capital of 100,000,000 lei. The name of the company is the "Petrosani," and its object will be the further exploitation of the coal from that district. Fifty per cent. of the capital will be held by the old proprietors, while the remainder will be divided amongst the following Roumanian banks:—Banca Romaneasca, Banca Agricola, Banca Natiunei, Banca de Scont, Banca Taraneasca, Creditul Extern, Banca de Credit, Banca Generala à Tarei Romanesti, Banca Commerciala Romana, Banca Chrissoveloni, Banca Comertului, Banca Viticola, Banca Bercovici, Banca Creditul Minier, Banca Creditul Technic, Banca Centrala din Cluj, Industria Ardealului, and Creditul Technic Transylvanian. The board of directors will consist of twenty-one persons, of whom eleven will be Roumanian.

### Miscellaneous.

The lei has again depreciated, and the pound has gone up to 190-195, which has resulted in a general rise in prices. These are now about double what they were last autumn.

The Government is preparing a new list of duty and import taxes, which will shortly come into force.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade, October 26.

### Revenue Increasing.

The General Directorate of Indirect Taxation announces that the revenue from stamp duties and taxes and fees for the month of September amounted to 9,325,840 dinars, which is a million more than the previous month. From the beginning of the financial year, that is, since July 1, to the end of September, the total receipts from these sources are 31,873,410 dinars, or three times as much as for the corresponding period of 1919, and twice as great as the estimate.

### Withdrawal of Tax on Turnover.

The ill-fated tax on turnover, which caused so much perturbation in commercial circles, has so quickly proved to be unworkable that the Minister of Finance has withdrawn it. It was pointed out to him that it was unfair and would produce little results in proportion to the immense disadvantages. The Minister was surprised by the storm of protests on all sides, and invited a deputation of merchants, manufacturers and tradesmen to consult with him. They had little difficulty in persuading him that it was an unsatisfactory measure, which would harm all branches of the community, and he agreed to substitute a different proposition. The tax was to be 3 per cent. on the sale of luxuries and 1 per cent. on all other articles; it was to come into force immediately, and many traders found themselves suddenly called upon to find substantial sums of cash to pay down on their stock-in-trade.

### New Taxes.

The deputation suggested to the Minister a different means of raising funds, namely, a 10 per cent. *ad valorem* additional customs duty, and on goods for export and home sale an excise duty of 2 per cent. on the turnover. The Minister accepted this, and it is now put forward in the following form: 1. The prohibition on the importation of luxuries is removed and an additional 10 per cent. *ad valorem* customs duty imposed. 2. An additional ½ per cent. is added to the export duties. 3. The former duty is re-imposed on goods which have recently been free of import duty. 4. The former export duty is re-imposed on goods which have recently been exempt, but only to the extent of one-half the former duty. 5. On goods already imported into the country a turnover tax is imposed of 2 per cent. *ad valorem*, raised to 10 per cent. in the case of luxuries. 6. A tax of 1 per cent. is to be levied on the sale of cattle and horses. 7. Contractors will pay 1 per cent. on the amount of their contracts. 8. Dealers in local produce and manufactures, mixed shops and workshops will pay the same amount as the direct tax upon such institutions. 9. Financial institutions will pay 2 per cent. on their gross revenue. 10. Manufacturers will pay 1 per cent. *ad valorem* on their products.

The comment of the *Politika* is that this is a good sample of how the finances of a country should not be managed, by ill-considered, hasty enactments, and that now, when the Government is endeavouring to allay the crushing cost of


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living, it has taken a step which will inevitably and immediately involve a heavy increase in the price of all goods.

**General News.**

The Minister of Finance has authorised a credit of one million dinars for the purchase of motor-cars and lorries for Montenegro.

It was announced some time ago that an Anglo-French company had made an offer to the Yugoslav Government to erect all new Government buildings in Belgrade within five years, on favourable conditions of payment. The Minister of Public Works has rejected this offer on the ground that the Municipality has not yet published its international competition for the plans for the proposed new lay-out and modernisation of the town.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, October 4.

**Reducing Expenditure.**

Yesterday the Budget Committee considered the question of curtailing the expenditure for which provision is made in the new Budget for the police administration, the gendarmerie, and the Labour Board. It was decided that a reduction of 70 per cent. could be achieved.

**Compulsory Internal Loan.**

In order to meet the extraordinary expenditure provided for in the Budget, the Finance Minister has introduced a Bill for a compulsory internal loan for the large sum of two and a half million levas. It is proposed that the loan shall bear 5 per cent. interest, payable half-yearly.

SOFIA, October 21.

**Exports of Cereals to Turkey.**

The Consortium has granted permission for the export of 1,620 tons of flour, wheat and other cereals through Varna and Bourgas to Turkey.

Of last year's crops 1,710 tons of rye, 2,800 tons of barley, 390 tons of oats, and 2,080 tons of millet remain for sale in the stores of the agencies of the Consortium in the Danubian ports.

**Arrival of French Railway Commission.**

Yesterday a commission representing the Paris-Lyons Mediterranean railway arrived here by the Orient Express to study the condition and organisation of the Bulgarian railways.

## CYPRUS.

**Phylloxera Scare.**

NICOSIA, September 30.

From Papho comes an alarming report that phylloxera has appeared in some vineyards of that district. It is to be hoped that the rumour will not be confirmed. Cyprus possesses no expert in vine diseases, and the entomologist of the Agricultural Department, Mr. Solomides, is now in England in connection with his discovery of a locust spray. The Cyprus Government has always taken the strictest measures to ward off the danger of this dreaded vine pest. It has, in fact, carried its measures so far (e.g., by needlessly prohibiting the importation of various seeds) as to evoke protests from the Director of Agriculture against what has been a bar to progress in his Department. There has only once before been a scare of this disease, which proved to be unfounded.

**Good Olive Yield.**

The olive crop, which is abundant, is being gathered. Preparations for winter sowing are being actively pushed forward.

## INDIA'S RICE TRADE.

### Imperial Institute Report.

In dealing with the problem of food supplies in the United Kingdom during the war, much attention was paid to the question of increasing the supplies of rice from British countries. In this connection the reports on the rice trade of India in relation to the rice resources of the world, recently published by Mr. John Murray (6s. net.) as the third volume of the reports of the Imperial Institute Indian Trade Enquiry, are a mine of valuable information. The Indian Trade Enquiry was conducted by special committees appointed by the Committee for India of the Imperial Institute, at the instance of the Secretary of State for India, to investigate the possibility of increasing the trade of the United Kingdom and other parts of the Empire in Indian raw materials. In the present volume the results of the enquiries made by the special committee on food-grains with regard to the Indian rice industry are embodied in a report on the trade in Indian rice, to which are appended two further reports on the production and uses of rice and the utilisation of Burmese rice and its by-products, respectively. These latter reports comprise summaries of information prepared at the Imperial Institute for the committee.

In the main report reference is made to the two branches of the world's rice trade, viz., the far Eastern branch, requiring a cheap rice for feeding the native population; and the Western branch, requiring large quantities of a medium quality rice and smaller quantities of a high quality product. The sources of supply of these markets are referred to, and sections are devoted to the following subjects: the world's trade in rice; the rice trade of India with the British Empire and with the Continent; imports, exports and home consumption of rice in European countries and the United States; the comparative cost of handling, milling and transporting rice in the United Kingdom and on the Continent. The industrial uses of rice are also dealt with, and a series of statistical tables form an appendix to the report.

In 1913 India (chiefly Burma), Siam, and Indo-China together contributed 94 per cent. of the world's exported surplus of rice (including paddy, i.e., unhusked rice), the amount of the Indian exports roughly equalling those from Indo-China and Siam combined. The total Indian export (2,450,000 tons) is approximately equivalent to the total requirements of the British Empire from the three chief exporting countries. From the point of view of a self-supporting Empire, therefore, it would appear possible for India to become the sole source of supply of rice to the Empire.

Among the recommendations made are suggestions for modifications in the headings of rice exports in the official Indian trade returns, with a view to tracing the development of the important rice milling industry of India. Since the report was made alterations on the lines suggested have been made in the Indian trade returns. Certain changes in the headings of the rice exports in the trade returns of the United Kingdom are also suggested. The Committee also make recommendations for the regulation of foreign interests on the Indian rice trade, and the reconsideration of port charges and railway rates which at present constitute a severe handicap on the British rice trade in competition with the Continent.

Mr. H. A. Reed, chief engineer of the Manchester Ship Canal Company, has been appointed a member of the International Consultative Works Commission of the Suez Canal.

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# TRADE IN PALESTINE.

## FIELD FOR BRITISH ENTERPRISE.

**By Estelle Blyth.**

The Government of Palestine have issued an important statement, giving in detail the trade statistics of the Department of Customs for the financial year ending March 31, 1920. It is the first complete return yet issued showing the position of Palestine in the world's trade, and is important as it reveals the vast possibilities now open to British manufacturers in a country which is being stabilised by the formation of an orderly and responsible Government.

British traders do not yet fully realise the tremendous importance of Palestine in the world of trade, both on account of its natural resources and capabilities, and its position on the map. Palestine must be regarded as an emporium for the large import trade for Trans-Jordania and the Hauran, where extensive fields of grain (chiefly wheat and barley) form the wealth of a region as large as France. British manufacturers are fortunate in having the Haifa-Damacus Railway at their disposal for the opening up of trade with this region, and their utilisation of this line should give them a great advantage over their French competitors, who use the Beyrout-Riyak-Damascus line, and labour under the serious disadvantage that there is a narrow gauge as far as Riyak, but there a change is made to a different gauge, more suitable for heavy traffic, increasing the freight charges and involving the possibility of damage to consignments. The Haifa-Damascus line is really one of the main trade arteries of Palestine, whose importance will be immeasurably increased by the completion of the new harbour at Haifa; and it is the duty of British firms to keep a steady trade flowing through it.

The imports for the year amounted to £E4,191.060, and the exports to £E773,443. These figures include the transit trade to Damascus, but exclude the imports from, and exports to, Beyrout from Jaffa and Haifa. The imports from Beyrout amounted to £E282.000, and the exports to £E493,694. It will thus be seen that the total imports are valued at £E4,473,060, and the exports at £E1,267,137. It may be observed that under military occupation there was free intercourse overland between the French, Arab, and British zones, hence there are no figures available which give any indication of the large and growing traffic from Palestine into the interior, which is mainly carried on by road. The disparity between the figures of exports and imports is due to the total prohibition imposed by the British Army upon the export of cereals, for which Palestine, in pre-war days, was famous; wheat, barley, and durra, which form the country's main agricultural products, were formerly exported in large quantities to England, Egypt, and Italy. The world shortage of cereals and the bad harvests of 1919 compelled the military administration to conserve for Palestine the whole of its available supplies. The past year has also seen disturbances in Syria and Damascus which affected the transit trade and caused a serious drop in credit. These adverse conditions, however, may be considered as temporary, and the excellent harvest of this year (which shows an average increase of, approximately, 65 per cent.), combined with the great improvement in communications, should go far to restore the trade balance. The commencement of harbour works at Haifa, the near revision of the *ad valorem* custom tariff to meet the immediate needs of the country, and the establishment of agricultural credit banks, are further indications of commercial and industrial progress and stability which should not be underestimated.

The principal importing countries are Great Britain, Egypt and France, while Great Britain and Egypt absorb the majority of the exports. The following table shows the amount of trade to and from these countries:—

| Country. | Imports. | Exports. |
|---|---|---|
| Great Britain ..... | £E1,204.682 ..... | £E92.059 |
| Egypt ..... | £E997,433 ..... | £E546.759 |
| France ..... | £E115.257 ..... | £E20,483 |

Cotton fabrics stand first on the list of imports, valued at £E1,006,281, followed by sugar, £E419,728; rice, £E171.721; and petroleum, £E170,658. The exports are chiefly confined to oranges, soap, and wine, the first (valued at £E161.104) being exported to Great Britain and Egypt.

It is a difficult matter to make any comparison between present and pre-war trade figures as the Turkish statistics were very inaccurate and misleading. The import figures for Jaffa for 1913 were £E1,312,695, as compared with £E1,408,238, to which must be added the figures for Jerusalem and Ludd, at which customs houses did not exist in 1913, the railway now necessitating this advance. The total import trade, therefore, for the Jaffa-Jerusalem area was £E2,365,617. In 1913, the exports from Jaffa amounted to £E745,413, while during the year under review the total exports from the Jaffa-Jerusalem area amounted to £E359,000. It will thus be seen that there is a considerable leeway to make up as regards exports.

Jaffa has maintained its position as the leading port in Palestine, the total tonnage for 1919-1920 being 283,137 tons, as compared with Haifa's 190,892 tons. Haifa is a transit port. It is the junction for Kantarah-Damascus Railway, and will be a port of very considerable importance when the projected harbour works are completed. It stands in the same relation to Jaffa as Amsterdam does to Rotterdam.

### Goods in Demand.

British manufacturers have now an immense opportunity of extending their trade in Palestine. The country is showing unexampled prosperity, and the Trans-Jordania area is known to be plentifully supplied with gold as a result of the liberal employment of our Arab allies under the military direction of Great Britain during the war. There is a great shortage of building material, on which the import dues have been lowered from 11 per cent. *ad valorem* to 3 per cent. Agricultural machinery and implements, and chemical manures are required in large quantities, and may be imported free of customs duties; also iron bedsteads, crockery, hardware, clothing, timber, furniture, and fuel of all descriptions. There are, also, good markets for salted fish, tinned foodstuffs, and potatoes. In pre-war days Cornish fish, salted, was exported to Italy for the great fasts, and (though reliable figures are not available) it is not improbable that the surplus found its belated and unsavoury way into Palestine for the Russian pilgrims' use in Lent. The suggestion is, perhaps, worth while that this small item of British trade could be doubled in quantity and sent direct to Palestine. Again, is there no stimulus to Canadian and Australian enterprise in the fact that Palestine can absorb as much timber, jam, and wool as it can get?

The shipping returns for the period under review reveal the fact that Italian shipping companies are making a great bid for freightage. While Great Britain is credited with 109 vessels of a tonnage of 123,288, Italy has 100 vessels with a tonnage of 176,662. France is a poor third with 77 ships of 72,230 tons.

It is a cause of frequent complaint among merchants that they are unable to obtain British ships to take consignments to and from British ports, and it would appear that there is some justice in this contention in view of the fact that this country provides 56 per cent. of the seaborne import trade. British traders are using Alexandria as a port of transhipment, when direct shipment to Palestine, even at long intervals, would be an incalculable boon to our trading and political interests.

It is not possible to close this review without congratulating the Palestine authorities on the very detailed statistics they have provided, which should go far towards demonstrating the possibilities of Palestine as a fertile field for British enterprise. Nor should it ever be forgotten that the amazing recovery of Palestine is due, first and last, to that splendid, self-effacing band of Englishmen—soldiers all—who, even before the country was wholly free, addressed themselves to the tremendous task of restoration and reconstruction. On the solid foundations of order, law, and confidence laid by the military occupation, the Civil Administration in Palestine can build in security and hopefulness.

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The transfer books of the Three-and-a-Half per Cent. Preference and the Four per Cent. Second Preference Stocks of the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company will be closed from November 13 to November 27 for the preparation of dividend warrants.

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# THE EXPORT CREDITS SCHEME.

## GROWING DEMAND FOR ADVANCES.

It is a highly anomalous position, and one that in less serious circumstances would be amusing, that while some British business men have been explaining that one of the main reasons why they cannot undertake trade with the Near East is because of the difficulty in obtaining payment owing to the adverse exchanges, the export credits scheme devised to cope with this problem has been until recently almost neglected. The scheme as drawn up may not have been perfect, but at least it provides a thoroughly sound and workmanlike method of assisting the exporter, and it is generally recognised that it offers a more practical solution than that recommended by the Brussels Financial Conference many months after the British scheme had been inaugurated. Now that the main defect in the scheme has been overcome by an increase in advances to the exporter from 80 to 100 per cent., with recourse to the exporter in respect of the additional 20 per cent., the scheme has suddenly come into universal favour, and in the last few days it is stated that applications have been received for very large advances.

In an interview with a representative of THE NEAR EAST, Mr. Attfield, head of the Export Credits Department, outlined the advantages of the scheme as regards trade with Bulgaria, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Czecho-Slovakia, and other countries which is at present hampered by the adverse exchanges. "Broadly speaking," he pointed out, "it will counteract the exchanges by postponing payments. Without the assistance afforded by this scheme, the exporter, more often than not, would find it impossible to obtain the necessary financial assistance, however sound the character of the business he proposes to undertake. At present the high rates of exchange entail long credit, and banks are extremely averse to transactions of this kind when ready at hand they have a wealth of profitable investments from which to choose. Of course, in some cases the buyers must have the goods at any cost, and to obtain them they purchase sterling at a great price. Every time this is done the exchange falls. Now the adequate utilisation of the export credits scheme means not merely the development of commerce, but also indirect assistance to the countries with which the trade is being carried on by the removal of one factor adversely affecting the exchanges."

Mr. Attfield went on to describe the working of the scheme. "The position is that, if we make an advance to an exporter, we require from him some guarantee from a bank in the importing country that the required security will be deposited, and that its value will be maintained on an equality with the amount of sterling which we pay over here. If the exchange improves we are obviously so much the better off. I am personally in favour of taking a banker's guarantee absolute; that is to say, that the banker will guarantee due payment of the bill in sterling. I consider that by that means we are ensuring earlier liquidation. Assume that in a transaction with Roumania security to the value of 200.000 lei was provided at the present rate, and that the exchange by reason of something or other rises to 150 lei. My idea is that the bank will then insist on the transaction being closed. Moreover, it is to the importer's advantage that he should close it, because he can obtain the sterling required for far less than the amount of his deposit of security. That is why I think that this scheme will generally work out satisfactorily. I might add that in order to afford every facility to exporters we give what is known as provisional sanction before any man signs a contract. The effect of that is that he is insured beforehand that his business will be financed. He has thus in effect an irrevocable confirmed credit."

Insistence was laid by Mr. Attfield that all that the countries with which the scheme deals required was time to develop their great potential resources. "That we may hope the scheme will provide, if only British traders make adequate use of it. And of that there would seem little doubt judging by the great development of interest in it during the last few days. These countries—especially Roumania and Bulgaria—are normally able to export great quantities of grain and other products. Once the stream of exports begins to flow in its accustomed volume the financial position will be revolutionised. A fact which must be emphasised is that the United Kingdom needs the resources of these countries. It is because we are unable to obtain them now that we have high prices. It seems to me that the scheme is going to assist trade in every way. We shall alleviate the extent of the unemployment here, and we shall assist in bringing over those things we must have for our manufactures."

In conclusion, Mr. Attfield dealt with the attitude of British traders to the scheme up to its sudden rise to popularity. "One of the principal reasons why the response was disappointing was probably," he said, "simply because merchants had too much to do in other directions. Traders as a whole are very human in their preference for the easier way, and at home they were faced with an enormous and apparently insatiable demand. And so they contented themselves with meeting it, and ignored for the most part the overseas markets. But the period when orders could be booked for many months in advance has passed, and its place has been taken by a very general trade depression. And now traders have to solve the problem of finding markets, hence, in my view, the rush of applications for advances."

## INCOME-TAX RELIEF TO RESIDENTS ABROAD.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The very great change made in the income-tax liability of many residents abroad does not seem to be as widely known as it should be. Prior to April last all but a small number of privileged non-residents (such as Crown servants, missionaries, etc.) had to pay full tax on all British income with no allowance whatever.

This is now changed, so far, at least as *British subjects* are concerned. Any British subject is entitled to precisely the same reliefs, family and other allowances, etc., whether he resides in the United Kingdom or anywhere abroad, subject only to the very reasonable condition that he should not be better off in that respect through his foreign residence. Accordingly he has to aggregate all his income, British and foreign, and to calculate what the average British tax would be on such an income, after deducting his appropriate allowances. This average rate he must bear on that portion of his income which is subject to British tax, but anything paid beyond that he has the right to reclaim.

Apparently, too, all non-residents, whether British subjects or not, are entitled to Dominion tax relief, as well as exemption on foreign and colonial securities and most war loan, but otherwise *foreign* non-residents (except those above referred to) have to pay the full rate of British tax with no allowances.—Yours faithfully,

CHAS. H. TOLLEY.

107, Tierney Road, Streatham Hill, S.W.,
October 27.

A report from the Geological Survey of India has been received by the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau stating that 40,049.1 ozs. of gold, valued at Rs.2,078,458, were extracted from the mines in India during the month of July, 1920.


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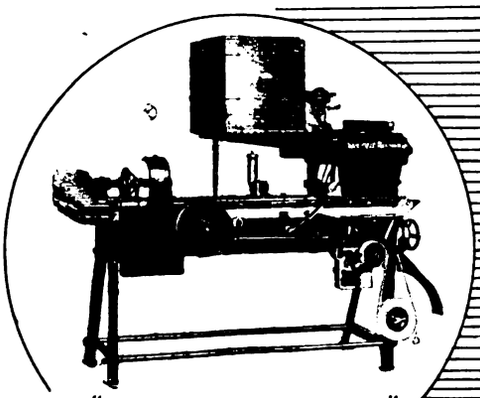

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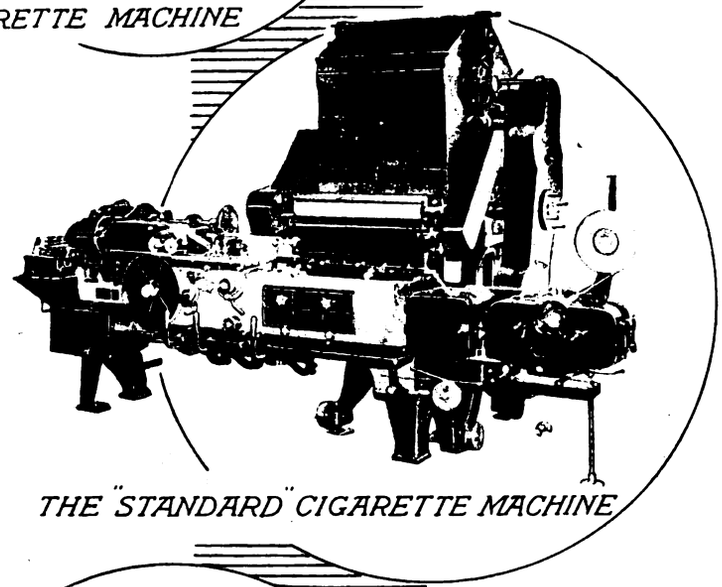

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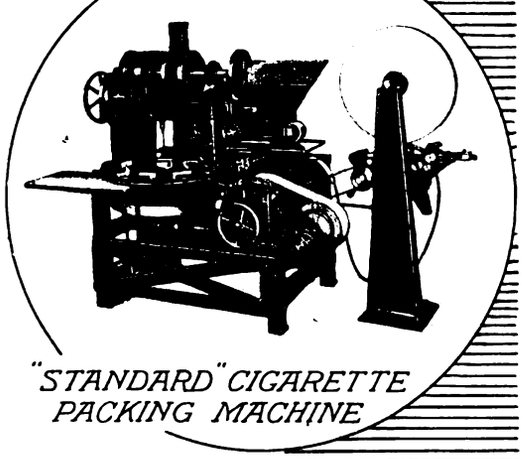

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## ENGINEERING.

### The Motor Show.

Opening on Friday, November 5, the fourteenth annual Motor Exhibition will be held, but this time, owing to the great increase in the number of firms wishing to exhibit and the exceptionally large number of models that will be shown, it has been necessary to sub-divide it into two concurrent shows, the one at Olympia and the other at the White City, Shepherd's Bush. This year the show will be, consequently, on an unexampled scale, and will be of unusual interest to the general public, to engineers as a class, and to the motor industry as a whole. In order to avoid any misapprehension it must be stated here that the two shows are treated as one, the same ticket admitting to both sections. The ticket, further, includes the provision of facilities by special motor transport of getting from one show to the other.

As a foreword to this gigantic show, which will be dealt with fairly fully in succeeding issues, it may be said that approximately one hundred different makes of car will be on show at Olympia, with a further seventy odd at the White City. In addition to all these, there will be the usual stands devoted to components, accessories, clothing, and motor sundries. There are also some fifty carriage-building firms, and as each car exhibit will average a chassis and two or three complete cars, it may be taken that several hundreds of different types, models, and sizes of cars will be on view. The executive have acted wisely in dividing the show, as otherwise it would have been impossible for the firms interested to have exhibited or for the public to have inspected the various cars. Even as it is, I have no hesitation in prophesying a crush at Olympia, although I am not at all certain that the attendance at the White City will be up to the mark

I have been asked to make a further point clear in connection with the show. It will be almost if not quite impossible for anyone to inspect both sections of the exhibition thoroughly on the same day. In order to meet this side of the business the committee have arranged that the second half of the double ticket may be used at whichever section had not been visited first on any other day of the week when the entrance fee is not greater. No single price of admission to either show separately has been arranged. Tickets are to be five shillings each, with the exception of the two Saturdays, on which they will be half-a-crown, and on Thursday, November 11, when the price of admission will be ten shillings.

### Electrolytic Zinc.

During the past few years much more attention has been given to the subject of electrolytic zinc by British chemists and metallurgists than is usually imagined, and, as a result of the experiments made and the investigations carried out, it may be stated with confidence that British electrolytic zinc is now an economic proposition. For over four years exhaustive research work has been carried out in Swansea, and in the later stages, in a plant capable of dealing with one and a-half tons of material per day, over 120 tons of metal have been produced. This was sold for much higher prices than were commanded by ordinary spelter by reason of the extreme purity of the product. It has now been demonstrated beyond doubt that electrolytic zinc can be obtained commercially from even the complex zinc ores obtainable in this country, and that the process can be carried out far more quickly, efficiently, and cheaply than can the distillation process.

It may be pointed out, briefly, that the outstanding advantages of the electrolytic method are, first, the high purity of the product, which ranges up to 99.95 per cent. zinc; and, secondly, the high recovery. Another point in which this method scores heavily is that the ore throughout all stages can be handled almost entirely by mechanical means, from ore to ingot. This cuts out the excessive labour cost, which has now reached such heights. A further point is that it is possible to deal electrolytically with a large quantity of British ore, which, by reason of its composition, could not be dealt with properly by distillation. The electrolytic method, in short, now ensures an established home production of a metal which is so largely used in the galvanising industry, and which may take the place of brass or copper, as it has already done in Germany, in the manufacture of a number of articles in fairly general use.

### Iron and Steel Production.

The position in the iron and steel trades is being keenly watched by British producers, and the working arrangement which seems to exist between American and German steel works and between French, Italian, and Spanish iron founders seems not without interest. For some time there has been something closely approaching an understanding between the German and American steel firms, and now French capitalists have secured a large interest in some of the bigger German undertakings, and so complicated the position. These French firms had already a connection with other Continental producers, and the latest development is that an agreement has been made with Scandinavian interests for ore supplies. Huge supplies of iron and steel plates, girders, sections, and angles are being made in America and sent to Germany for use in building up the German mercantile marine; a big New York bank is said to be financing the scheme, and the American petroleum interests have more than a little connection with the combine, if such it can be called. There seems to be a complete chain now running through the new and old worlds, built up of links consisting of American ventures, Continental iron and coal mines, ore transporters, iron works and blast furnaces, steel works, and rolling mills, right through engineering and shipbuilding work, up to actual ship owning. Germany is supplying the brains, whilst America and France are finding the capital, but in all this there appears one factor the importance of which cannot be over-estimated. Although the French have secured the Lorraine, have vast iron reserves, and possess a keen desire to build up a vast and wide-reaching steel industry, they are short of ordinary labour, have little skilled labour, have poor transport facilities, and are wretchedly equipped so far as modern steel making plant is concerned. To-day they are straining their resources to the utmost, and are employing a large body of Lorraine workmen who before the war were in German employ, and yet are only able to turn out half the quantity that they did in 1913. In this connection also it must be remembered that no cheap Polish or Italian labour is now available.

### The Austin "Twenty."

The Austin "Twenty," one of the most popular models of the year in the motor world, will, I understand, remain practically unaltered in design, although a number of valuable improvements have been made in certain details. From a user's point of view one of the most important announcements is that there will be no increase of price, a fact due to the mass production policy of the Austin Motor Co. The car has been on the road for about a year and a-half, and has shown its value under every possible condition. The excellent reports received by the company from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and India bear out the expressed opinion of every user in Great Britain, and the design may therefore be considered to have proved its value in every way. Anyone who has driven an Austin "Twenty" will readily admit that nothing better can be desired so far as engine efficiency, ease of control, and general poise of the car are concerned. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that the activities of this huge and admirably managed and organised firm are not confined to motor-cars, as the production of the Austin farm tractor, the output of which is about 100 per week, is now becoming an important side of the business.

The output of the "Austin Twenty" motor-car, incidentally, has now grown to such dimensions that the company are seeking to make contracts for the supply of 100 limousine bodies at a time. This makes the fourth type of body for fitting to chassis of this size and design. At present touring, coupé, and landaulette bodies only are fitted, and the chassis is also supplied alone, so that bodies can be fitted to suit the tastes and requirements of individual owners. For use chiefly in connection with Austin service, the makers of the car have published a list of their car agents in the United Kingdom, who now number about 400. The list is intended to be placed in a pocket at the end of the Austin "Twenty" owners' spare-part list, so that the owner can see at a glance the nearest depot where he can obtain Austin service, which, as every road user knows, has now reached a highly organised stage of development. It may be mentioned that the fleet of Austin "Twenty" cars which were originally selected for the Prince of Wales's tour in India, and which consisted of eight touring cars, four coupés, and two landaulettes, will be used by the Duke of Connaught, who is going to open the Imperial Legislative Council in Delhi on December 1.

(*Continued on page* 655.)

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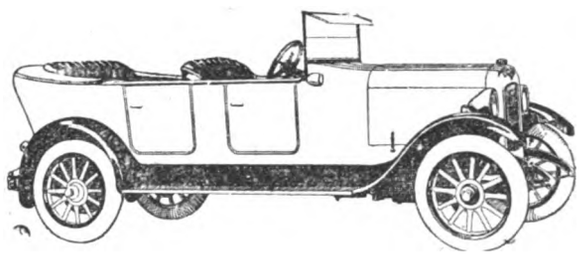

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### The Michelin Wheel.

An interesting competition, for which a first prize of £25 and a number of other prizes down to £5 for the fifth, has been arranged by the Michelin Tyre Co., Limited, in order to give the motoring public an opportunity of testing the merits of the Michelin wheel. The prizes are for the quickest and smartest handling in fitting and detaching this wheel, and I believe there are to be about fifty prizes of £1 and several consolation prizes. This should be an extremely interesting competition, and full particulars, which may be obtained from the Michelin people at 81, Fulham Road, should be written for at once. In case any of my readers decide to "try their luck," I would offer the following hints: Use both hands, as well as your head. Don't try any ladylike methods. Don't forget that seconds can be split into fifths, and finally, if a thing is worth going in for, it's worth while trying to win.

### A Plug Tester.

I have recently had an opportunity of examining and trying a new form of plug tester which is an extremely simple device intended for permanent attachment to each of the sparking plugs of a motor-car or motor-cycle engine. By its aid it is an easy matter to locate any faulty plug that may be giving trouble.

A slight pressure on the insulated knob will bring about an electrical short circuit, thus cutting that particular cylinder out of action. If two or more plugs are cut out at the same time the faulty one can easily be identified and a new one fitted. In that case the plug tester is removed from the old and defective plug and screwed on to the new one at the same time and together with the high-tension cable. One good point about the tester is that it is always in position ready for instant use, and it not only obviates the need for exploring tool-boxes, but takes the place of the good, old-fashioned screwdriver test which has been so frequent a cause of unpleasant sensations. The device is known as the "Duco" plug tester, and I believe it will shortly be obtainable, if it is not obtainable already, from all dealers in motor accessories.

### The Apprenticeship Question.

One of the most hopeful signs in the British engineering industry is the increased recognition of the value of apprenticeship by employers as a class. They recognise fully that the present-day slap-dash and intolerably careless and generally inefficient methods of the average young man who deigns to earn a few pounds a week in a motor-car factory or an engineering shop turning out high-speed engines or lace machines are not to the good of the industry. They are, in fact, bringing or tending to bring British engineering into bad repute abroad, as, no matter how careful or exact supervision may be, it is always possible for one of these imitation mechanics to do something incredibly stupid, or to neglect to take due care, and so create some hidden fault which will only become manifest after the machine or whatever it may be has passed out of the factory. There never was a time in the history of British industry when the average workman did his work so carelessly, so slovenly, so inefficiently as he does to-day, and it would seem that the apprenticeship system, in which the apprentices are drawn from a class which, as a whole, recognises more fully its responsibilities, will prove a great safeguard to British engineering.

It was pointed out recently by a writer under the pseudonym of "Philos" that the American manufacturers were the first to realise that if a sufficient supply of skilled labour was to be available means must be established and a training school formed whereby a constant flow of highly-trained men could be provided. A few British firms rapidly took up the scheme, and to them is due the thanks of the whole industry, for to their zeal and enlightened outlook the movement owes a great deal. In fact, it is due to their example that apprenticeship training has been revived to such an extent in modern works management.

Too much stress cannot be laid on the fact that it is not only a problem of education alone, but that it combines education with sound business principles, and it may be said, without fear of contradiction, that where the apprenticeship system is not proving satisfactory, the fault is not with the system, but is either in the selection of the class of youth to be apprenticed, or in the way in which the training is being carried out.

### Australian Diesels.

It is interesting to note that the Commonwealth Government is seeking to encourage the manufacture of Diesel engines in Australia. In pursuance of this object, a Customs by-law has been approved permitting the free entry into Australia of one Diesel engine to each firm of engineers which agrees to send a specially selected and technically trained engineer to Switzerland to assist in the construction of the engine at the works of the makers, who will train the man in regard to all the special points involved. It is proposed that subsequently these engineers should supervise the building of the Diesels in Australia.

## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

### Forthcoming Sailings.

Anchor Line s.s. Kingsmere, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on November 8.

Anchor Line s.s. Elysia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Glasgow on November 23 and at Birkenhead on December 1.

Anchor-Brocklebank Line s.s. Mangalore, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on November 13.

Anchor-Brocklebank Line s.s. Anchoria, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on November 20.

Bibby Line s.s. Oxfordshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Liverpool on November 17.

Clan Line s.s. Clan Macmaster, for Bombay and the Persian Gulf, will close for cargo at Manchester on November 12.

Cunard Line s.s. Cypria, for Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina, will close for cargo at Liverpool on November 13.

Ellerman Line s.s. Student for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, and Mombasa, will close for cargo at Glasgow on November 11 and at Birkenhead on November 18.

Ellerman's City Line s.s. Branksome Hall, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Glasgow on November 8, and at Birkenhead on November 20.

Ellerman's City Line s.s. City of Lahore, for Bombay and Karachi, will close for cargo at Glasgow on November 13 and at Birkenhead on November 26.

Harrison Line s.s. Author, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Liverpool on November 22.

Henderson Line s.s. Henzada, for Port Said and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on November 10.

Johnston Line s.s. Wingate, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on November 6. (Last sailing of the season to the Danube.)

Maindy Line s.s. Maindy Transport, for Moroccan Ports, will close for cargo in London the latter half of November.

Holt and Co.'s s.s. Oanfa, calling at Port Said and Singapore, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on November 6.

P. and O. s.s. China and s.s. Lahore, for Bombay, will close for cargo in London on November 19 and 20 respectively.

P. and O. s.s. Sardinia, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta, also taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden, will close for cargo in London on November 20.

Power Line s.s. Panglourne, for Rabat, Larache, Tangier, Casablanca, Mazagan, Saffi, and Mogador, will close for cargo in London about the middle of November.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97 7/16 |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 36·00-37·00 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 114-115 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·7⅝-1·7⅞ |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 214-216 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·7⅝-1·7⅞ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 440-460 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅔ | 3·43¾-3·45 |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 54·30-54·55 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 247½ |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 30 |


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**S.R.C. Societatea Rom. de Combustibil.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei**
**Industria Forestiera din Transilvania.—Capital, 12,000,000 Lei**
**Industria Chimica Romana.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei**
**Tipografia Gutemberg.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei**
**Casele Populare.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei**
**Crucea Societate pentru comertul si industria de vestminte si odoare bisericesti.—Capital, 1,000,000 Lei**
**Minele de Aur din Romania.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei**
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In 1914 the cultivated area was (according to an estimate of Dr. Colesco) 34,475,750 acres; of which 13,074,922 were ploughed lands, 468,670 were vineyards and orchards, 1,436,960 were meadows, 2,948,472 were pastures, and 5,705,750 were forests.

**POPULATION. About 17,400,000.**

**IMPORTS (1915). £8,533,234.**

United Kingdom, £348,997; Austria-Hungary, £3,718,182; Belgium, £43,230; Germany, £3,575,159; France, £660,287; Turkey, £558,238; Italy, £762,023.

**EXPORTS (1915). £21,742,379.**

United Kingdom, £2,238; Austria-Hungary, £13,576,255; Belgium, £2,343; Germany, £7,044,803; Turkey, £443,325; Italy, £37,838.

[NOTE.—In 1914 the Imports from the U.K. amounted to £2,231,773, and the Exports to it to £1,433,535.]

# BANQUE DE CREDIT ROUMAIN

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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—Business has shown signs of improving in the last few days. Poor quality fruit is cheap, but prices are advancing for the better grades, and it may be anticipated that this tendency will continue as the demand expands for the Christmas trade. Fair supplies of sultanas are available, and prices are not unreasonable. Figs have met with a fair demand, and prices have hardened. Why this should be so is not clear, as whatever may be the case with other classes of dried fruit, there is no likelihood of any shortage of supply of figs.

Sugar.—The free market has been quiet. West Indian Crystallised has been done at 85s. to 97s., while American granulated has dropped 2s. to 109s. White Mauritius is quoted at 108s. There has been a good demand for home refined at the official prices.

Coffee.—The position remains much the same. The futures market is easier. Quotations are: December, 56s.; March, 55s.; and May, 54s.

Oilseeds.—Business has improved. Indian linseed has been done at 36s. 10d., while La Plata has come to business at 32s. 3d. Rapeseed is firm, with Toria at 34s., and bold Ferozepore at 33s. Cottonseed is harder. Indian has been done at 13s. 5d., while Egyptian stands at 20s. 3d.

Seed Oils.—With a few exceptions prices have remained practically unchanged. Linseed oil has dropped 1s. to 71s. Refined rape oil is firm at 92s., the crude variety being quoted at 75s. Turpentine is unchanged at 121s.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake has declined 6d. to 22s. 6d. Cottonseed cake is lower at 13s., but arachis cake remains unchanged at 14s. Other transactions comprise coconut cake at 16s. 9d., and palm kernel meal at 11s. 6d.

### Current Prices.

*General Produce.*—Bacon, 232s. 9d. cwt.; butter, 336s. cwt.; cheese, 172s. 6d. cwt.; chillies, 140s. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 7d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 125s. cwt.; coffee, Costa Rica 120s. cwt., East India bold 117s. 6d. cwt., Mocha 147s. 6d. cwt., Santos, 68s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 103s. 6d. cwt.; eggs, 40s. per 120; ginger (washed cochin), 63s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 217s. cwt.; lard, 164s. 3d. cwt.; nutmegs, 1s. 1d. per 110's to 180's; pepper (Singapore, black) 6d. lb., and Muntok white 1s. 3¼d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 139s. 6d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 44s. cwt.; sago (small pearl), 33s. cwt.; sugar (granulated) 112s. cwt., No. 1 cubes 116s. cwt., White Java 110s. 6d. cwt., Mauritius 108s. per cwt.; Sultanas (Smyrna), 142s. cwt.; tapioca (Singapore), 2d. lb.; tea (Indian) 6½d. lb., Ceylon 7d. lb., and Java 4¾d. per lb.; Wheat (Australian) 121s. 6d. qr., English white 94s. qr.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £175 ton; bismuth, 12s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard) £91 12s. 6d. ton, electro, wire bars, £103 ton; gold bars, 119s. 6½d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 225s. ton; hematite (mixed), 260s. ton; nickel, £230 ton; platinum, 520s. oz.; plumbago, £37 10s. ton; quicksilver, £16 15s.. bottle; silver bars, 4s. 4½d. oz.; spelter, £39 1s. 3d. ton; tin, £245 ton; wolfram, 24s. 6d. unit; zinc sheets, £59 10s. ton.

*Chemicals.*—Acids:—Boric 75s. cwt., oxalic 2s. 2½d. lb., citric 3s. 7d. lb., tartaric 2s. 8½d. lb; ammonia (sulphate), £31 1s. 9d. ton; benzole (standard), 3s. 7½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £27 10s. ton; borax crystals, 41s. cwt.; cream of tartar, 240s. 6d. cwt.; glycerine (crude, 80 per cent.) £105 ton, industrial (1,250 per cent.) £155 ton; lead (red) £56 10s. ton, white dry £63 10s. ton; potassium:—bi-chromate, 1s. 11d. lb., chlorate 10d. lb., caustic £105 ton, nitrate £70 10s. ton, permanganate 3s. 6d. lb., prussiate yellow 1s. 11½d. lb., sulphate 90 per cent.) £34 ton; quinine, 4s. 2d. oz.; sodium:—crystals 190s. ton, bi-carbonate £14 ton, alkali (58 per cent.) £14 ton, chlorate 5¼d. lb., bi-chromate 1s. 3d. lb., caustic (70 per cent.) £33 10s. ton, hypo-commercial £36 ton, prussite 1s. 2¼d. lb., and nitrate £24 5s. ton; sulph. copper £41 ton, and sulph. iron 160s. ton.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton (American good midd.) 17 2¾d. lb., Egyptian F.G.F. Sakel 43d. lb.; linseed (La Plata) £30 15s. ton, Indian £36 10s. ton; oils:—linseed £71 ton, soya £69 ton, cotton £52 ton, olive 21s. 6d. gallon, ground nut £79 ton, palm £54 15s. ton, and rape £73 ton; palm kernels £35 5s. ton; petroleum 2s. 3d. gallon; rape (Toria), £32 10s. ton; rubber: plantation No. 1 crepe 1s. 5½d. lb., smoked sheet 1s. 3½d. lb., and fine hard Para 1s. 6d. lb.; turpentine, 121s. cwt.

## TENDERS INVITED.

**Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned:—**

### Egypt.

*(The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.)*

Steamer.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of an inspection steamer for the Upper White Nile Division. Specification P.T. 25. December 1.

### Greece

Paper.—The Greek Minister of Finance, Athens, invites tenders for the supply of paper. Specifications, etc., may be seen at the offices of THE NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2. November 16.

## SUDAN PRODUCE.

### Gum.

The C.E.B. report for August states that the exports during the month were 9,802 kilos of bleached of the value of £E564, 386,530 kilos of hashab of the value of £E18,557, and 55,679 kilos of talh of the value of £E1,832, via Port Sudan, and 20,775 kilos of hashab of the value of £E997, and 25,058 kilos of talh of the value of £E801, via Halfa.

Kordofan Province.—1,235 kantars of gum were sold in El Obeid market during August as against 3,336 during the same month last year at an average price of £E1.386 per kantar of 100 rottles. Arrivals from Nahud were 1,286 kantars, as against 2,085 kantars during August last year. No gum was sold at Um Ruaba or Rahad during August, as against 2 kantars sold at the former place during August, 1919.

### Dura.

Blue Nile Province.—Sufficient quantities of dura have been coming into the markets during the month. The price is dropping slightly, but should soon drop considerably further as the 1920 crop becomes assured.

Dongola Province.—The dura crop is now being harvested, and is reported to be good and undamaged by pests. The price of dura has fallen 50 per cent., and is now about PT.9 or 10 per kirat.

Halfa Province.—The price of dura fell from PT.345 to PT.318 per ardeb of 360 rottles (162 kilos).

Kassala Province.—The market prices for dura during the month were as follows: Kassala PT.369 per ardeb of 300 rottles (135 kilos), and Gedaref PT.140 per ardeb of 300 rottles.

Kordofan Province.—173 ardebs of dura and 317 ardebs of dukn were sold in El Obeid market during the month at PT.255 per ardeb of 420 rottles (189 kilos).

### Wheat.

Berber Province.—The average price of wheat during the month was PT.612 per ardeb of 400 rottles (180 kilos).

Dongola Province.—The price of wheat is steady at about PT.19 the kirat.

### Sesame.

Kassala Province.—It is reported that the average price of Sesame at Gedaref was PT.400 per ardeb of 300 rottles (135 kilos).

### Dates.

Dongola Province.—The date crop is just beginning to be harvested, and should be good. Little or no damage has been done by rain. Sufficient quantities of the new crop to affect the price are not yet on the market, the price is now about PT.18 per kirat.

### Livestock, Hides and Skins.

Berber Province.—Only 16 cattle and 726 sheep and goats were sold in Damer market. Prices were abnormally high, cattle averaging £E14 and sheep £E3.400. Meat was correspondingly dear.

Halfa Province.—Three camels, 2,180 cattle, 49 goats, 8,463 sheep, 181 skins and 61 hides were exported via Halfa during the month.

Kassala Province.—109 cattle, 529 sheep and seven goats were exported from Kassala to the interior of the Sudan.

Red Sea Province.—23 sheep and 17 head of cattle were exported via Port Sudan.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cable received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated October 25:—During the week ended October 16 light to moderate rain fell in places. Prospects of standing crops generally fair, but more rain urgently required everywhere, except in North-Eastern and South-Eastern India. During the week ended October 23 local rain fell in Burma, Assam, Southern India, United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and Kashmir.

All India first indigo forecast (1920-21) 181,400 acres, 24,600 cwts. (*cf.* last year's forecast of 208,100 acres, 27,300 cwts.) First rice forecast up to October 1, 72,823,000 acres, which is 2 per cent. below revised estimate for corresponding period of previous year.

Bombay cotton market deadlock unchanged. Ready cotton quiet. Fine M.G. Oomra Number 3 Rs.285 spot rate. Piece goods market continues depressed. Calcutta jute market steady with little doing. Hessians steady but quiet, with prices unchanged. Heavy goods steady with little business. No change in bank rates.

Egyptian Markets.—Interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax., on the ordinary shares on account of the year to December 31, payable November 25.


**CENTRAL BANK OF GREECE**

**Head Office: 12, Aristeides Street, ATHENS.**

***Paid-up Capital - - - 3,500,000 Drs.***

*Administratice Council:* LEONIDAS SKENDER *(Chairman)*, GEORGE EMBIRICOS *(Vice-Chairman)*, K. SALLIARIS, A. DAMBASIS, Ph. LOUKISAS, M. EVLAMBIOS *(Director of the National Bank of Greece)*.

*General Manager:* GEORGE MOUSTAKAS. *Manager:* G. A. KARYSTINAKIS.

EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.


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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

STAMBOUL, October 16.

The situation is unchanged. The sales effected for Roumania have relieved the monetary stringency to a certain extent. There is a marked demand for winter goods, such as flannels and woollen fabrics.

Exports.—The exports for the week represent a value of about £T30,000, of which £T15,000 was for carpets and £T10,000 for opium. There were no transactions in wool, silk, or gum tragacanth. All these products are neglected.

Opium.—Twenty-two cases were sold during the week—ten Malatia at £T10 per oke, eight Druggist at £T10.30 per oke, and four fine quality at £T11½.

Mohair.—The arrivals have been 250 bales; sales have been nil. Prices have still further declined, quotations being Ps.95-110 Extra, Ps.80-85 I., Ps. 75 II.

Wool.—130 bales arrived, but there have been no sales. The market is weak, but prices are unchanged.

ALEXANDRETTA.

The report for September states:—The Governor of Aleppo having guaranteed the route from Aleppo to Hamam, some consignments of liquorice have been despatched from Aleppo to Alexandretta. We hope that shortly trade between the two towns will improve. All the same, business can only develop on a considerable scale when Aleppo is in a position to communicate freely with the interior; that is, with Urfa, Diarbekir, Mosul, and Deir-El-Zer. The re-establishment of these communicatons will be still delayed owing to the activities of rebels who infest the country. The local government has issued a proclamation giving the rebels until October 1 to make their submission. After that date French troops will deal rigorously with the bands.

Some consignments of silkworms despatched from Alexandretta and Antioch has given rise to some commercial activity between France and this town. There have also been some transactions in liquorice, which have led to purchases of sterling.

ALEPPO.

The report for August states:—The adverse exchange position continues to exercise a depressing influence on our market. In addition, the interruption of communications with the interior and the present position of this country contribute to the general dullness.

There are large stocks of British manufactures here in excess of local requirements.

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The annual import of cinematograph films into Greece amounts to 300,000 metres. Hitherto these have been supplied from France, but this source of supply is now largely curtailed, and an opening exists for films from the United Kingdom.

Forty-one British vessels entered the port of Galatz during the first nine months of this year, as against 39 for the whole of 1919.

The exports from Algeria in 1919 amounted in value 1,137,180,000 francs to France, 33,385,000 francs to the United Kingdom, 10,193,000 francs to the United States, and 17,457,000 francs to Holland.

One thousand cases of eggs, each containing 1,414, have arrived in London from Roumania. It is understood that similar quantities will arrive every fortnight.


# IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

**Capital - £10,000,000**
**Paid-up - £5,000,000**

## GENERAL COMMITTEE.

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**SALONICA. TUNIS. AFRICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.**
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The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

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

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.


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## OIL NOTES AND NEWS.

### Roumanian Oil Wells' Position.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, October 15.

I am able to give the following particulars regarding the activity of oil wells now being bored in the Roumanian oilfields together with statistics of production as recorded on September 25.

*Moreni District.*—(1) Astro Romana Company: Well 54 at a depth of 170 metres has reached sandy gravel. Well 55 at a depth of 721 metres has reached hard sand. Well 76 at a depth of 542 metres has reached clay. Well 79 at a depth of 593 metres has reached stone. Well 80 at a depth of 128 metres has reached hard clay. The daily production of 17 wells of this company now amounts to 453,000 kilos. (2) Romana Americana Company: Well 76 has reached a depth of 714 metres. Well 79 at a depth of 445 metres has reached plastic clay. Work on Well 114 has been temporarily suspended at a depth of 504 metres. Well 115 at a depth of 768 metres has reached sandstone. The daily production of eight wells now amounts to 449,000 kilos. (3) Concordia Company: Well 6 having been blocked up is now under process of being cleared. (4) Columbia Company: Well 40 at a depth of 640 metres is being prepared for ladling. (5) Steaua Romana Company: One well produces 62,000 kilos per day.

*Bana Moreni District.*—(1) Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields: Well 288 has reached a depth of 26 metres. Well 78, at a depth of 36 metres, had a pipe burst, which is now being repaired. The daily production of four wells is 99,000 kilos. (2) Orion Company: Well 505 produces 1,000 kilos per day. (3) Franco Romana Company: Well 102 produces 7,000 kilos per day. (4) Stavropoleos Moreni Company: Well 2 produces 15,000 kilos per day. (5) Astro Romana Company: Well 58 produces 16,000 kilos per day. (6) Concordia Company: Well 12 produces 8,000 kilos per day. (7) Jean Goldfield: Well 2 produces 200 kilos per day. (8) Steaua Romana: Well 11 produces 9,000 kilos per day. Well 13 while being ladled had to be stopped, owing to the lack of electric motive power.

## NEW COMPANIES.

### Egyptian Oil Industries.

The Egyptian Oil Industries, Limited, has been registered with a capital of £400,000 in £1 shares. The objects are to cultivate all kinds of seed for the production of oil; to manufacture and deal in all kinds of seeds, oils, and fats in Egypt and elsewhere; to acquire and work oil wells and oil-bearing deposits of all kinds; and to adopt an agreement with Ilia Paenson. First directors:—B. Barki, 63, Avenue Victor Hugo, Paris; A. Arcache, Ramleh, Bacos, Alexandria, Egypt; C. E. Chelioti, Palace Hotel, Birkdale, Southport; A. Lamorani, 85, Rue d'Hauteville, Paris; V. Sidi, 34, Avenue de Wagram, Paris; I. Paenson, 71, Jermyn Street, W.; M. Wilbushewich (technical manager), 71, Jermyn Street, W. A. Arcache and I. Paenson are managing directors. The business of the company shall be managed by the company in Egypt, except that they may from time to time manage any part elsewhere, and all general and board meetings shall be held, as far as practicable, abroad, and the directors shall, as far as possible, retain in Egypt or elsewhere, as may be determined by them, the capital and profits of the company, and shall only remit to the United Kingdom such sums as shall enable them to pay dividends to persons in the United Kingdom and expenses.

## ON 'CHANGE.

### Better Tone Prevails.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

Generally speaking, a rather brighter tone prevailed in the markets during the week, though some further declines were experienced. Government securities were firm, and in a number of cases rises have to be recorded. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. has regained the loss of the previous week at 60, the Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855 has risen a point to 68, while Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1898 is unchanged at 60. Among other Government securities Turkish 3½ per cent. Egyptian Tribute Bonds are ¾ up at 53½.

Greek securities are about the same. The 5 per cent. 1881 and 1884 Loans have gained half a point at 52, the 1890 Loan is a like amount up at 52. Fundings and the 1902, 1910, and 1914 Loans are unchanged at 50, 43½, 37, and 50½, but Monopolies and Rents are both half a point down at 40.

Among the Banks, Agricultural 3½ per cent. Bonds and 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are both unchanged at 58 and 60. Imperial Ottoman Bonds are unchanged at 9¾, also the National Bank of Egypt at 18. Land Banks, however, are 2-16 down at 4 9-16.

In Land shares Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments are 3½ as last week; Béhéras have eased off half a point at 13¼, but the preference shares are unchanged at 65s. Egyptian Consols are ½d. up at 2s. 1½d., Delta Lands are 3d. up at 13s. 3d., and Egyptian and Foreign Trusts have registered a like advance at 13s. Gharbieh Lands are a further 1-16 down at 2⅜, New Egyptians have shed 6d. at 30s., while Union Foncières have dropped 3-16 at 4. Sudan Plantations are unchanged at 4⅞.

Among Miscellaneous securities Abyssinian Corporations remain at ¼, while Alexandria Waters are unchanged at 7. Morums are again 6d. down at 16s. 6d., while Egyptian Salts and Sodas are 1s. 3d. down at 41s.

Oils are firm. Anglo-Egyptians are 1-16 up at 3 11-16, while Roumanian Consols have made a smart advance from 19s. to 21s. 6d.

## COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

### Morums Oriental Stores.

The report of Morums Oriental Stores states that the profit on trading for fifteen months to June 30, 1920, amounted to £79,378. Commissions payable to managers, interest, discount charges, etc., and depreciation took £12,012; proportion of profit allocated to the period prior to the incorporation of the company transferred to general reserve, £7,008; provision for taxation, directors' remuneration and London office expenses (less transfer fees), £14,340, leaving a balance of net profit of £46,018. The directors have decided to place £9,593 to general reserve, which with the profit allocated to the period prior to incorporation, less interest on purchase consideration, amounts to £11,000. This leaves £36,424 available for distribution. The directors recommend a dividend of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, less tax. Notwithstanding the unsettled conditions which have prevailed in Egypt during the greater part of the period covered by the accounts, the business of the company has expanded and the turnover shows a satisfactory increase, but in view of the downward trend of wholesale prices and market conditions, the directors have deemed it wise to pursue a prudent policy as regards the distribution of profits.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Co., Ltd., will be held at 25, Buckingham Palace Road, Westminster, S.W.1, on November 10, at 12 noon.


# BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

Telegrams: "TRABANQUE, LONDON."

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*Manager*, A. G. M. Dickson.

*London Manager*, P. C. West. *Secretary*, G. de B. Brounlie.

The Corporation is prepared to assist in the development of the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and offers exceptional financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their export and import trade.

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*(Established for the Assistance of British Trade by the Insurance of Accounts.)*


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# LEVANT MARKET REVIEW.

We give the following extracts from the market review of the National Bank of Turkey for September :—

Among the new schemes before the Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture is one for the protection of the forests. In the future all felling must be done in accordance with the system clearly defined in the instructions to be issued by the Ministry. The re-afforestation of certain regions, badly denuded during the war, is also foreshadowed. New laws are to be promulgated dealing with the cultivation of lands, and in cases where land is fit for cultivation and is left uncultivated by the owners it will be confiscated by the Government.

A concession for the construction and exploitation of a railway starting from the port of Ilidjé, on the Gulf of Edremid, and running to Palamoudlouk through Ak-Tchaï, Edremid, and Hauran, has been granted to Mr. Georges Ralli, director of the Balia-Karaïdine Mines. According to certain information obtainable, the line will be about 28 kilometres long and will be joined to the Decauville at present used by the Balia-Karaïdine Mines; it is to be a 75 c.m. gauge line.

### Flour, Barley, &c.

Towards the end of the month arrivals of flour were less frequent than at the commencement. However, with large orders recently placed with the U.S. for delivery end October and end November, there should be ample supplies in the near future and sufficient to last a long time. Some 3,000 sacks were sent to Batoum.

Barley arrived in large quantities during the month from South Russia and the Crimea, and after local needs were supplied some went to Smyrna for the Greek Intendance, but the bulk of it was sold here and transhipped to England. About 10,000 tons arrived from Galatz, also destined for England. The authorities in the Crimea are trying to negotiate the sale of barley there with direct shipment, in place of the present arrangement for transhipment at Constantinople, and it is reported that they have despatched a cargo of 5,000 tons direct to Marseilles for the French Government, which has already arrived, and that further cargoes are expected to be shipped to France in the near future. It is not thought, however, that much direct business from the Crimea to foreign ports will be feasible until proper facilities are given to commercial houses to trade and especially to enable telegrams to pass, without delay, to and fro by wireless.

Nothing much in maize. Only small arrivals from Roumania and about 400-500 from Ada-Bazar, most of which is ground here and largely used to mix with flour in the making of the cheaper class of bread.

### Large Stocks of Coal.

Market is well stocked with Turkish coal, and large stocks accumulating at the mines are causing considerable inconvenience to the mine owners. The market is also well stocked with American coal. Several cargoes of this description were shipped to the Mediterranean, but could not be sold there and have come on this market; the result is that "New River Standard Navy" can now be obtained at 210s. per ton f.o.b. bunkers.

With regard to British coal, should the anticipated settlement of the threatened strike materialise, it is to be hoped that it will be followed by an increased output, and that a wider permission to export will be granted, as it can always successfully compete with others.

Considerable quantities of coal have been purchased by the Crimean Government, for its mercantile fleet, railways, and for domestic use.

As much as 41 dollars per ton was paid for American Pocahontas Standard, although it has since been reported that a cargo of American was bought as low as 33 dollars c.i.f. Sevastopol. Welsh is naturally much preferred to American, and further cargoes are asked for: the demand is chiefly for "floating" cargoes, and this has consequently brought into the market several speculators, mostly Greeks.

As far as Sevastopol is concerned, the conditions of discharging are no worse there than they are here, perhaps even better, and between 500/600 tons per day can be safely reckoned upon. Taking into consideration the adverse exchange of the rouble, expenses in the Crimea may be considered cheap.

---

It is estimated that the amount of energy from hydraulic sources which is being supplied to Greek industries totals over 6,000 horse-power.

It is understood that a leading bank in Holland is to open a branch in Constantinople.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields :—Hurgada production for week ended October 24, 3,362 tons (last week 3,177 tons).

The directors of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation have declared an interim dividend of 8 per cent. per annum (4s. per share), less tax, on the ordinary shares for the half-year, payable November 15.

# LANCASHIRE COTTON.

### Increased Demand for Near East.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

Although the amount of inquiry in the market continues fairly extensive there has been some falling off in the turnover since a week ago. Many buyers are not convinced that it is safe to operate freely at current rates, and there is hesitation in arranging heavy commitments. Although at the time of writing the result of the miners' ballot is not known, the dispute may be considered over, and work will be resumed in the pits immediately. The general industrial situation throughout the country is undoubtedly healthier. In local trade circles there has been some disappointment at the further weakness in American cotton rates, and at the moment it seems impossible to prevent selling pressure on the part of growers in the States at each advance. With regard to the Egyptian crop the reports have again been of a rather indifferent character, and a big yield seems quite out of the question. Estimates vary from 6¼ to 6½ million kantars. In yarns made from Egyptian cotton there has recently been a better turnover, but many spinners have met with scarcely any relief, and prices continue very irregular. In cloth for Egypt there has been an increased demand. Useful orders have been booked for Turkey and the Levant. Most of the buying has been in sized, printing, and finishing styles. India has given considerable support in bleaching descriptions, especially dhooties, but very little has been done in grey shirtings. Operations for China have been very limited, and only isolated lots have changed hands for the minor outlets of the Far East. Scattered sales have been put through for South America. Some manufacturers are now in a slightly better position than a fortnight ago, but it is still possible to purchase goods at comparatively low figures. American yarns for home use are now quieter, but spinners have improved their position during the last week or two. Ring beams are decidedly better situated. Export numbers have not attracted much attention, the offers reported being generally unworkable.

# ENQUIRY BUREAU.

*Readers abroad desirous of getting in'o touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.*

*Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."*

*ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.*

*No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.*

### Agents Wanted Abroad.

*ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, 'The Near East,' 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2," when they will be redirected to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.*

102. A stamp collector wishes to purchase used Austrian stamps prior to the 1882 issue. Stamp dealers in the liberated provinces of Austria are asked to send bulk packages of such stamps to the care of the Editor of The Near East, with the price in kronen of each stamp or price per dozen, per 100, etc., of each kind. All stamps required will be paid for at the price indicated and the rest returned. Newspaper stamps are not required, but rare postmarks should be included.

103. An Athens firm invites publishers of periodicals dealing with yarns (reports on local markets and world output) and cottons to send specimen copies with a view to its becoming a permanent subscriber.

104. A Greek firm is establishing an electric light station in Macedonia, and wishes to get into touch with firms dealing in the necessary machinery.

105. Engineering and general contractor in Mosul, Mesopotamia, wishes to get into touch with manufacturers in Great Britain.

106. Old-established English trading company with branches in Mesopotamia and Persia is willing to accept agencies there for manufacturers, etc.

107. Old established Turkish firm handling general stores situated in Smyrna and having branches in the interior invites exporters to quote prices for groceries. The firm also acts as agents for articles of general consumption in Asia Minor.

108. Hemp manufacturer in Croatia wishes to get into touch with rope manufacturers who would purchase hemp.

109. A reliable firm of Egyptian hand-made cigarette manufacturers and exporters desire to get into touch with British firms importing Egyptian cigarettes.

110. An engineer-architect in Bulgaria would like to get in touch with British manufacturers of flour-milling machinery who are prepared to consider the opening-up of business in Bulgaria.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 497.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

In the House of Lords last Thursday there was a debate on Egyptian affairs, which was noteworthy chiefly by reason of a particularly frank speech by Lord Milner, who, while recognising the difficulties of coming to an agreement that shall satisfy both Egypt and Great Britain, was nevertheless hopeful that they would all be overcome. He had not the slightest doubt, he said, that we could maintain our position in Egypt by our own strength, but he believed that we might secure all that we needed in Egypt without involving ourselves in permanent hostility with the Egyptian nation. There was an element of Egyptian Nationalism that was anti-British, but the best and strongest elements were not so, but simply pro-Egyptian; and since there was no permanent conflict of interest, a good and permanent alliance was possible. He made it clear, however, that it was not yet certain whether his Mission would recommend the British Government to enter into some arrangement that might be called a treaty, and that he could not foretell how its recommendations would be received. The facts that he took the opportunity to state that he would in the Cabinet put up the best fight he could for them, and that he also spoke of the possibility that "his piece might be hissed off the stage," lend strong support to rumours, or what are rather more than rumours, that two, if not three, leading members of the Government do not see eye to eye with him in the matter. We may feel sure, however, that neither Parliament nor Public will wish to hiss until they have heard the piece on which Lord Milner and his collaborators have worked so hard and so patiently.

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In a long and interesting article in *The Times* the Aga Khan has challenged what he conceives to be British policy in the Middle East. Elsewhere in this issue it is suggested that His Highness has been misled into attributing as a settled policy to the British Government certain temporary measures imposed upon it as a result of the long war, which is still far from having been liquidated in territories that formed part of the Ottoman Empire, and we have indicated an alternative policy to the proposal that we should incontinently withdraw at this inopportune moment from Persia. With regard to Mesopotamia, just as, in our view, His Highness has misjudged the action of Great Britain, so, it would seem, he has read more into the Arab rising than the facts warrant. The contention that the Arabs "have shown that they now wish to be left alone, and are fighting for what they believe to be their freedom" is at variance with all that is known of the outbreak, which at no time revealed concerted action and was indeed repudiated by one of the chief tribes. Further, the view is specifically contradicted by the Busreh Correspondent of *The Times* in its issue of November 9. Certainly, none of the recent announcements of the Government justify the suggestion that it is Great Britain's claim that "if the Mesopotamian Arabs are to learn the arts of self-government, they must be placed under an elaborate service of British military and civil officials, backed by a powerful army of occupation." The description may apply to the temporary measures introduced since the Armistice, but does not apply to the policy which Sir Percy Cox has been sent out to inaugurate.

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Still less are we able to follow the Aga Khan's line of reasoning when he cites it as an example of confused and contradictory political thought that this hypothetical *régime* should be recommended for Mesopotamia when "the people of India are told that the only way to learn self-government is to be released from official control and British leading-strings." There can be nothing contradictory in withholding from the Arab people a constitutional system that is only now being adopted in India and Egypt. We are confident that it is officially recognised that the British "hold" on Mesopotamia is to be of the lightest, and we have little doubt that in practice it will prove to be precisely what the Aga Khan desires. The only point on which instructed opinion will differ from His Highness is in regard to the wisdom of leaving unrest rampant in the country without attempting to point out to the Arab population the better way.

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Reports from Warsaw state that Poland has refused to join the Little Entente, partly, it is alleged, owing to distrust of the Czechs. In matters of this nature it is always well to hear the other side, for in view of what was known of M. Take Jonescu's mission, it may well be that what has actually happened in Warsaw is that the Polish Government and the Roumanian Minister, after comparing notes, have decided to come to no definite arrangement for the time being. M. Take Jonescu had no mandate to offer Poland participation in the Little Entente without reservation or *quid pro quo*. It had been particularly impressed upon him in London and Paris that, unless Polish policy could be entirely divorced from adventures, the inclusion of Poland in the Little Entente might be a source of weakness instead of strength. The fact that further discussions are to take place between the two countries in Bucharest suggests that the whole matter is still left open.

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If domestic affairs in the different countries permit, all eyes in Europe will be turned towards the Greek elections next Sunday; for, if the popular vote were to be cast in favour of ex-King Constantine, a situation would be created that might well flutter a considerable number of European Chancelleries. M. Venizelos, with characteristic courage, has offered the nation a clear-cut issue. "If the elections go against him he will definitely retire from the political arena; if, on the other hand, the Greek people manifests its confidence in the Liberal Party, the vote will be a formal verdict condemning the claims of the dethroned King." The crux lies in the Peloponnese, which is claimed by the Opposition to be wholly in sympathy with it. But among the anti-Venizelists are some who, while joining issue with the Liberal Government on constitutional and other questions, realise that the recall of ex-King Constantine must necessarily plunge the country into violent internal struggles, if not actual civil war, and might well prejudice Greece in the eyes of foreign Powers. It is not without significance that M. Venizelos should begin his electoral campaign at Patras, the Opposition stronghold.

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Comments in the French Press on the appointment of General Harrington to succeed General Milne at Constantinople have elicited a statement regarding the situation. According to this statement, Great Britain and France, with Italy's approval, have arranged that the Allied command shall be held for two years, or thereabouts, by a British general, and afterwards by a French general; while the first President of the Financial Commission is to be a Frenchman. Paris welcomes the arrangement, not unnaturally, perhaps. The Inter-Allied Military Mission, of which General Harrington is thus made the head, is charged with the organisation and control of the new Ottoman armed forces, but it has also to supervise the disarmament of Turkey; and, balancing one thing against the other, it seems probable that Great Britain will once more find herself the most unpopular of the Allies, because she has—or will be regarding as having—done one of the most unpleasant tasks that had to be performed.

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According to reports which reached this country a few days ago from Transcaucasia, the Turks had failed to capture Artvin, and it was doubtful whether they had reached Ardahan. Against this we must, unfortunately, set the facts that Kars was captured by Kiazim Karabekir's forces on November 2, and that the victorious Turkish Nationalists are reported to be advancing on Alexandropol. Indeed, according to latest reports available at the time of writing, they claim to have captured that city. Other Turkish columns are said to be approaching Erivan from the south; while Russian Bolshevists are harassing the unhappy Armenians in another direction, and have captured Kara Kalissa. Kiazim Karabekir's success at Kars is attributed chiefly to his receiving strong reinforcements. If the Armenians are also suffering from a shortage of munitions of war, it is to be feared the Allies must be held responsible for that to a certain extent. The Armenian Government has appealed to Azerbaijan for a cessation of hostilities on that front, but there would appear to be little chance of the appeal meeting with any success.

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Just when the London hospitals are finding it almost impossible to make both ends meet, when one of them, in fact, announces that it cannot keep open after the end of this year, it is announced that the Egyptian Government intends to build in Cairo "the finest and most complete Medical School and Hospital in the world." In view of the remark in Lord Allenby's lately issued Report (p. 67), that "The time has almost arrived when the provision of further hospital accommodation by the Central Government cannot reasonably be expected," the announcement is in the nature of a surprise. It is a not unpleasant surprise, however, for though a good deal has been done of late years in the way of providing better hospital accommodation for the country, Egypt is still not well off in this respect. We would welcome especially any steps that will help towards stamping out ankylostomiasis and bilharziasis, two diseases which—to quote Lord Allenby again—"cause so much suffering and loss of efficiency amongst the population of Egypt, especially the fellaheen." The Committee in charge of the project is to be congratulated on having secured expert advice before fixing on a site or deciding on building plans. Mr. John Simpson, P.R.I.B.A., who has been engaged as their adviser, has selected a good site on Roda Island; and with the co-operation of the Committee he has arranged a competition, open to architects of all nations, for the design of the buildings. The terms are unusually well thought-out and generous, and it is to be hoped that the competition will provide Cairo with a building of which its citizens will have reason to be proud. At present such buildings are few and far between.

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It may be taken as a sign of the times that Reuter should think it worth while to send us news of the Trades Union Congress in Bombay, for, though India has suffered for many years from a superfluity of congresses, gatherings of organised workers have been hitherto practically unknown. The reason, of course, is that the workers have not been organised, and that is still very nearly true, but it will not remain so for long, and the new body will, in the course of time, come to count for much in the Indian industrial world. Perhaps a favourable augury of its future may be drawn from the fact that while its president of the moment, a well-known politician of extremist views, insisted on the doctrine of non-cooperation with the Government, the Congress itself passed a resolution condemning the local employers, and, apparently as a last resort, calling on the Governor to intervene. It is an eminently sensible resolution, for Sir George Lloyd understands these matters as well as anybody in Bombay, and if one thing is more certain than another, it is that Government will have to play an active part in dealing with the whole complex question. It is not, however, non-cooperative.

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Sir George Lloyd has meanwhile scored a definite success in the result of the provincial loan issued in order to finance his great schemes for the development of the city of Bombay. The loan has realised over nine crores, or something between seven and eight millions sterling, more than double the amount which the whole of India used to be expected to subscribe, and that notwithstanding the large sums contributed to the usual loan during the summer. It is particularly satisfactory to know that Bombay is not only willing but able to back its future on this scale, for the local Press has been so pessimistic of late over financial and commercial topics that observers at a distance have been led to conclude that the great city must be nearly bankrupt. The truth is, we take it, that the pessimism has been inspired by the losers during a period of exceptionally active speculation, while the winners have been content to wait till they could show by their actions that, though much money has changed hands, it is still there, or thereabouts.

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We hope the composition of the committee appointed to inquire into the management of Indian railways will prove satisfactory to the politicians who have pressed the subject so eagerly. For ourselves, we should have preferred a small and impartial body, but since the representation of "interests" has once more prevailed, we do not think a much better selection could have been made, and Indians, at least, have no grounds for complaint when their manufacturers are represented by Sir Rajendra Nath Mukherjee, their merchants by Mr. Thakurdas, and their passengers by Mr. Sastri, three names which should certainly command general confidence in that country. An interesting feature of the list is the inclusion of a former manager of the New Zealand Government railways; the descriptions of that system which we have heard from sundry colonists are unfortunately unprintable, but their general tenor suggests that the disadvantages incidental to State management in democratic countries will not be altogether excluded from the committee's observation.

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# THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

**The Greenwood Case.**

The whole country this week seems to have but one interest—the trial of Harold Greenwood for the alleged murder of his wife. For once in a way Mr. Lloyd George is not the most-discussed Welsh solicitor in the world, but this obscure practitioner of a place called Kidwelly. The case has all the elements of mystery, but the trial being still unfinished, no comment is possible. Sir Marshall Hall is defending the prisoner with quite extraordinary power, and every respectable journalist has left Fleet Street for the Welsh Assizes to describe the trial.

**Colonel Malone.**

Parliament has quite properly taken a back seat while the more sensational drama of crime progresses, but at least one member of Parliament has increased his notoriety during the week. In a case dealing with a mysterious Finn who had apparently been connected with Miss Sylvia Pankhurst in revolutionary propaganda, Colonel Malone was asked to give evidence, as the prisoner had been seen at his house. This particular member has recently adopted revolutionary views, which is entirely his own affair, since he has no particular following; but he made an absurd exhibition of himself when he protested in the witness-box against members of Parliament being called on to give evidence in a police-court.

For the House of Commons in its collective capacity the public has a proper respect; but of the individual member its opinion is by no means so high, and it would not tolerate any suggestion that they should be privileged to withhold their evidence when required in a court of justice. It is a curious fact that the revolutionary should appeal to what he imagines is constitutional privilege when he is called on to do what he dislikes.

**Sinn Fein and Reprisals.**

The newspapers have again been full of the Irish tragedy. Those that are against the Government have made a great point of the existence of reprisals, but I have not observed that they have given any prominence to the continuance of murder on a wholesale scale by the terrorists; some of the more excitable writers seem to reproach the British public with apathy on the reprisals question. I am convinced that they misjudge England—they generally do, for those who are most loud against the Government on this matter were pacifists in the war. England is not apathetic; it long ago made up its mind that Ireland should have any form of Home Rule it desired if it would make up its mind on the matter and present its scheme to Westminster. Four British Governments in forty years have drawn up four several Home Rule schemes for Ireland which for one reason or another have failed, and it is recognised that one reason for the failures is the fact that they were British and not Irish schemes. Mr. Lloyd George tried to avoid that mistake—which Lord Morley pointed out to Gladstone in the 1892 Parliament—by calling an Irish Convention, but no agreed measure seemed possible.

If such a measure were produced, there would be criticism, and possibly amendment in detail in Parliament, but as a whole I think it would be accepted. It is the fact that no such measure has been produced, and that Sinn Fein has no intention of doing so, which makes the present position seem so hopeless; and the argument that a change of Government from a specified to an unspecified form can be either accomplished or justified by the murder of policemen and soldiers is one that never has and never will appeal to the mind of England. After all, politics is more than a mere pursuit of power; it cannot wholly disregard ethics and morality.

It is difficult to find a detached spectator of this tragedy, but one such remarked to me recently that while England had harmed Ireland by not understanding her, and treating a sister as an outcast, Sinn Fein has ruined Ireland by misunderstanding both her own country and the world in which we live. Sinn Fein desires not only independence, but isolation, and isolation is utterly impossible for any country to-day unless it commits economic and spiritual suicide. "Ireland," he said, "has always had its heart in the past and its feet in the future—not a bad thing if it would keep its head in the present. It is its misfortune that at the very moment when it could have almost any form of government it wants it refuses to have any form of government at all; this opportunity will pass, as others have passed, and the campaign of murder will merely provoke reaction and repression. And it would be easy even for a progressive Government to carry such a policy through, for the present campaign of crime would forfeit the sympathy of any civilised community. This is the real culmination of the Irish tragedy, that it now misunderstands England even more than England ever misunderstood Ireland."

**The Mining Strike.**

The coal trouble is over—for the present. But it has led to the retirement of both Mr. Brace and Mr. Hartshorn, and the latter has spoken out strongly as to the attitude of the miners. He declares that strike after strike is organised with a continual attempt to cut down production and to get more money, which is landing both the industry and the country in an impossible position. Nothing more severe has ever been said by the critics of the miners than by this old and tried leader, but it is clear that he and Mr. Brace, now that the fight is finished, or at least a truce is called, will fight no more. Their resignation is a bad blow to the miners' cause, and the fact that Mr. Hartshorn, who was not considered "a moderate man" by the public, was not extreme enough for the miners, is not of good augury for the future peace of the South Wales coal trade.

**Mrs. Asquith's Memoirs.**

Rarely has any book received such general condemnation as Mrs. Asquith's memoirs. *The Times* began its review with a sentence twenty-five lines long, after which it remarked, rather breathlessly, that the book was a scandal. Even the faithful *Westminster* and the *Daily News* seemed more anxious to bury Cæsar's wife than to praise her; the other papers were frankly hostile. Mrs. Asquith professes not to care; she said to an interviewer: "I have given no one away in my book, and have said only a third of what I know and an eighth of what I feel." Probably if her husband said an eighth of what he felt about it . . . .

**Pussyfoot's Defeat.**

Glasgow has refused to be charmed by the voice of Pussyfoot, and has voted against prohibition under the local option scheme, or "wet," as the American slang has it. I am not surprised. It may be brave, but it is hardly wise strategy to attack your enemy in his very stronghold, and the last place where men will "give up the drink" is probably Glasgow, which is said to consume more liquor per head than any other place in the United Kingdom. There is certainly some excuse: Glasgow is the most depressing city in the British Isles, and a tram-ride round the place on a wet Sunday afternoon is dreary enough to make a saint call out for whisky. I have always understood that it would be

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preferable to take any reasonable kind of slow poison in preference to some of the liquor sold in Glasgow and Greenock bars, but the local population seems inured to it, and is reputed to drink spirits with its beer. With such a sturdy race against him, one would suppose that "Pussyfoot" expected the adverse result.

The English brewers, who were alarmed at this American propaganda, are frankly relieved at the result. I never thought they need have been so frightened, neither the English nor the Scots public being so open to waves of emotion as the American, where prohibition was carried through as a win-the-war measure. Temperance is certainly progressing in this country—one has only to read "Pickwick" where everybody indulged in brandy all day long, to see how things have changed in the last two generations—but temperance propaganda has had little to do with it.

**The Wrekin.**

The premature and sudden death of Mr. Charles Palmer, who was only elected as M.P. for the Wrekin division in February—and who had already intervened effectively in debate on several occasions in the Commons—has caused a by-election. Its main interest lies in the fact that Mr. Horatio Bottomley, who is the one leader and sole follower of the Independent Party at Westminster at present, has announced that General Townshend will stand in his interest. The gallant but unfortunate soldier's friends have already hinted at the existence of a camarilla against him at the War Office, and we shall probably hear a good deal about it during the contest. Few people had any idea that General Townshend cherished political ambitions. The *Saturday Review*, which is one of the wittiest papers in London in these days, has christened him "Kut and come again."

**The Epidemic Season.**

Autumn is the season not only of "mists and mellow fruitfulness," but of pests and epidemics—a fact which Keats omitted to mention. Two years ago influenza took its toll; this year it is scarlet fever and diphtheria. There have been thousands of cases in the London fever hospitals, and the number in still growing; it is not expected to diminish until the end of November. The cases are mostly of a mild type, and in any event the mortality is much lower in these days than thirty years ago, owing to anti-toxin and better treatment. But the doctors dislike scarlet fever because it is apt to leave heart weakness and other constitutional symptoms behind, and diphtheria is proverbially an unpleasant companion. The outbreak is naturally the worst in those districts which are most overcrowded.

**Ignoring the Prime Minister.**

One of the reviewers has discovered that Mrs. Asquith contrived to write a whole book without once mentioning Mr. Lloyd George—a feat that appears to require some dexterity. But it is not original. Lord Morley's "Recollections" had a similar omission, although he was a colleague of the Prime Minister for some eight years. It seems hardly credible that the omission is accidental; for, after all, Mr. Lloyd George was quite a considerable person even before 1914. But probably he will not mind very much; perhaps he will take it as a compliment to be ignored by Mrs. Asquith.

**The Week's Books.**

The fashion for writing the lives of people before they are dead, which has at least the advantage that the book is read before the subject is forgotten, is responsible for "Mr. Balfour" (Collins), by Mr. E. T. Raymond. The statesman does not appear to have collaborated with the author in any way, and the peculiar subtlety and elusiveness of Mr. Balfour's character makes him an exceptionally difficult study, I should imagine, for the biographer. Mr. Raymond, who is remembered as the author of "Uncensored Celebrities"—a book which showed him to be no respecter of persons—has succeeded in conveying a vivid likeness of Mr. Balfour, and has critically explored as much of his character as is at present explorable. It would not be a bad idea if he were to proceed to dissect Mr. Asquith; Mr. Lloyd George has already been annexed by Mr. Harold Spender.

A good many detailed histories of London are in existence, but few of these have anything to say of London government, that strange tangle of conflicting authorities and boundaries, rates and powers. Mr. Claud Mullins in "London's Story" (Bell) has produced an excellent little book which for a modest half-crown tells the story of the development of the administration of the metropolis and unravels many of the puzzles of its government. It is the forerunner of a larger book on the subject which will be awaited with interest.

Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., has published a forecast of "When Labour Rules" (Collins), which will command a good deal of attention. He makes the point, which is obviously sound, that "in many respects the workers are even more conservative than the Conservatives, and in none are their views more steadfastly established than on the question of the head of the State; and notwithstanding heated controversies on almost every subject under the sun, no question of Republicanism as a serious proposition ever finds a place in Labour discussions." Also, "there will be no Bolshevism; the British working-man is too sane a fellow for that, and, let me add, as the war proved, too patriotic and too proud of his own country." As regards defence, "we should not be lavish in our expenditure for a fighting machine. But there would have to be an Army, and especially a Navy";—the turn of the phrase shows that Labour echoes the traditional view of the two services.

There will be a capital levy, probably realising £1,000,000,000, and "we shall increase the death-duties enormously." A suggestion that intrigues me is the following: "It is rather interesting to speculate on the chances of one day establishing a world-wide currency. It is a possibility that, perhaps, is not so far off as some people suspect—to cut out the exchanges—and one of the subtlest of his jokes is that he writes for international business relationships." As for taxation, there will, when Labour comes into power, be only one tax—income-tax. "We stand absolutely for the entire abolition of all indirect taxation." There will be national ownership of railways, mines, canals, harbours, roads, possibly steamships; and there will be "no profiteers, no unemployment, no slums, no hungry children." The public-house will be nationalised, there will be a National Theatre and Opera, and a great army of university extension lecturers; the House of Lords will be cut down to 300, and will be elected. The book, as this rather bald summary shows, is well worth reading, and I think it is the most effective bid for power the Labour Party have yet made. But the price—10s.—is rather against it; a cheap edition ought to come out at a shilling. At the present price of print and paper it would probably ruin the publishers, but what matter? Mr. Thomas could nationalise them.

A lighter book is "Supers and Supermen" (T. Fisher Unwin), by Mr. Philip Guedalla. It calls itself a series of studies in politics, history, and letters; but most people will regard it as a study in Guedallacisms. The author is a barrister with so pretty a wit that one would almost rather lose one's case with him than win it with a duller advocate—I hope this is not technically a libel—and one of the subtlest of his jokes is that he writes for the *Daily News*, where they probably think the paradoxes are ordinary legal opinions. The present volume of studies are among the most brilliant essays I have read for a long time.

OCELLUS.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, October 25.

**The Mixed Courts.**

On October 31 the mandate of the Mixed Courts will come to an end. I understand that a decree will be issued on that date extending the powers of those Courts, and consequently renewing the contracts of the judges, for a further six months, the consent of the Powers interested having been obtained to this extension. In this connection it is interesting to note that originally introduced in 1879 for five years, these Courts, until the war, have, with but one or two exceptions, had their powers regularly renewed for quinquennial periods. The last quinquennial period expired on January 31, 1915, and owing to the uncertainty of the situation the renewals have since then been made for annual periods only, with the exception of 1919, when the renewal was for six months, from February 1 to October 31.

The period has now again been extended for only six months owing, of course, to the imminence of an agreement on the political status of the country between Great Britain and Egypt. That agreement will provide, amongst other things, for the abolition of the Capitulations, the closure of the Consular Courts, and the transference to the Mixed Courts of the jurisdiction *vis-à-vis* their Nationalists enjoyed by the former in criminal, civil, and commercial matters. Ever since the visit of Lord Milner and his colleagues last winter the authorities have had hopes of being able to introduce these legal reforms on the opening of the judicial year, which starts on the 1st prox. To the ordinary layman such expectation has throughout appeared ultra optimistic. Apart from the fact that it was quite conceivable that it would take more than six months to obtain the consent of even the majority of the Powers interested in the important reforms which the reorganisation of the Mixed Courts connotes, and that any hasty action to introduce reforms might in the long run be prejudicial to the community, the absence of the necessary codes, the question of the appointment of the necessary staff, and, finally, the lack of buildings to house the extra Courts which would have to be provided for, were, to our minds very serious drawbacks to such an early introduction of the reforms. The layman has proved right, and there is every reason to believe that the present extension of six months will likewise prove inadequate, and that it will eventually turn out that the opening of the 1921-22 judicial year will be the earliest date at which it will be possible to introduce the new judicial régime.

**The Residency Report.**

Considerable comment has been aroused by the fact that although a report by Lord Allenby on Egypt between 1914 and 1919—the publication of which was foreshadowed in this correspondence last April—has appeared in London, not only is no copy obtainable in any bookstore in the country, but not a single copy is available in official quarters. Usually copies of such reports are distributed officially to the leading local papers in advance, and are purchasable here at the same time as publication takes place in London, but on this occasion something seems to have gone wrong with the publicity organisation. Indeed, had it not been for the enterprise of the London agent of your contemporary, the *Egyptian Gazette*, we should still be ignorant of the contents of the report. Fortunately, that paper received a copy from London, and is publishing extracts, which are being reproduced by the rest of the Press.

While there is, of course, no justification for such a deduction, and there can indeed be no connection between the two matters, local opinion inclines to see in this mystery surrounding the publication of the report an indication that all is not going well with the Delegation! The original postponement of Zaghloul Pasha's departure from Paris was, as might be expected, regarded with suspicion, and there is at present a persistent rumour in the country that the rest of the Cabinet does not regard with a favourable eye the proposals made by Lord Milner. It is stated, in fact, that it is because of this hitch that Zaghloul Pasha has been accompanied by three instead of the whole Delegation in his present visit to London. Such is at present the trend of rumour, which in this country ever leads a particularly active life; and meanwhile the opposition is gaining strength.

**The Opposition to the Agreement.**

One of the interesting features in this respect is the *volte-face* which certain elements now show an inclination to make. Reliable information from the districts indicates that the fellaheen and many of the landed proprietors are somewhat disturbed in their minds as to the ultimate effect on the country in general and on them in particular of the withdrawal of British control. They, together with certain classes of officials who joined in the tally-ho when the pro-Delegation fever was at its height, are beginning, now that the excitement has cooled off, to realise, as so many of us do, the possible effects of the complete withdrawal of British control; and while they do not repudiate the Delegation or abandon their ideas of independence for Egypt, nevertheless they are beginning to think that the pace which is being set is too fast and that Lord Cromer was perfectly correct when in his valedictory speech at the Opera House in May, 1907, he said: "I consider that a steady jog trot is the pace best suited to advance the interests of this country. It is a pace which has done us good service in the past. I say it should be continued, never relaxing into a walk or breaking into a gallop; and my strong conviction is that if the pace be greatly mended, a serious risk will be incurred that the horse will come down and break its knees."

**Attack on Railway Official.**

On Wednesday last a murderous attack was made on Mr. R. G. Peckitt, C.B.E., Chief Mechanical Engineer of the Egyptian State Railways, resulting in his receiving serious injuries. While Mr. Peckitt was waiting on the platform preparatory to taking a trolley down to the workshops, an Egyptian suddenly came up from behind and attacked him with a large native knife. Before the man could be seized he had inflicted two bad wounds on Mr. Peckitt's face and neck, and it was only by the merest luck that he missed the jugular vein. Mr. Peckitt was at once attended to and removed to hospital, where he is making satisfactory progress. It appears that the assailant was an Egyptian railway engineer who had been sentenced by the Assize Court at Zagazig for threatening an Englishman, and who, as a result of his conviction, had been dismissed from the service. It is assumed that he attacked Mr. Peckitt because the latter, in his official capacity, signed the dismissal order. This is the second time that Mr. Peckitt has been attacked within the last year, for on December 22 last he was fired at by a man while he was visiting the workshops.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, October 31.

**Honouring a Poet.**

The celebration of the seventieth birthday of the national poet, Vazoff, last Sunday was remarkable. Although the day was wet and chilly, the citizens flocked to the residence of the venerable poet from the early hours of morning. At a quarter-past nine King Boris, who was accompanied by the Minister of Public Instruction, M. Omartchevsky, honoured him with a personal visit, conferred on him the highest class of the Order of St. Cyril and Methodius, and expressed to him the nation's gratitude for his half-century's literary work. At ten o'clock there was a public meeting, attended by his Majesty, his Ministers, and the leading citizens, at which the poet received addresses and greetings from: the Minister of Public Instruction (who handed him 100,000 levas), the President of the National Assembly,

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## THE NEW MAGNUM TYPE

TRADE MARK


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M. Alex. Moleff, and the Minister of Railways, M. L. Athanasoff, who presented him with a collection of pictures and photographs on behalf of the Directorate of Railways, and with a free pass on the railways. Dr. Tzankoff also greeted the poet in the name of the Holy Synod and the Bulgarian Church, and presented him with an ikon with the image of St. John of Rilo. Prof. L. Meletitch read an address from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences; and many others were read, or presented, on behalf of his native town, of the Bulgarian University, the Army, the League of Bulgarian Savants, the Chamber of Commerce, etc., etc. Afterwards the poet replied to all these greetings in a touching speech, which was received with great enthusiasm by his hearers. The celebrations lasted throughout the day, and throughout the kingdom as well as in the capital; and showed how Bulgaria, at any rate, honours poetry. The Communists tried to create a disturbance, but it was promptly suppressed by the police and military, and the would-be disturbers were roughly handled by the crowd.

**The Death of King Alexander.**

The news of the premature death of King Alexander of the Hellenes was received here with regret. M. Dimitroff, the Minister of the Interior and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, accompanied by the Secretary-General of the latter Ministry, called at the Greek Legation and expressed the condolences of the Government to the Hellenic Chargé d'Affaires, M. Panourias. The Marshal of the Court also called to express condolences on behalf of King Boris.

On Saturday a requiem service for the dead King was held at the chapel of the Greek Legation, and was attended by King Boris, the Minister of the Interior and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Diplomatic Corps, and M. Panourias and the staff of the Legation.

**The Commission of Reparations.**

M. I. Ilieff, formerly Chief of the Protocol at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, has been appointed Secretary of the Bulgarian representative on the Reparations Commission.

## TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, October 30.

**The Cabinet and the Nationalists.**

In the early part of the week the official programme of the new Cabinet was published. As is usual with such announcements, it consisted mostly of embroidery; one paragraph alone is worthy of comment:—

"The first task of the Government will be to eliminate, in a manner compatible with the dignity of the State and the nation, the dualism which has arisen in the organism of the body politic, and by which the existence of the State is being impelled towards doubtful issues."

In order to induce a favourable frame of mind at Angora, it has been thought advisable to abolish the censorship, and to "reform" the court-martial, but it would appear that these measures have not been appreciated at Angora, as was anticipated. As a result of the first, and unofficial, exchange of views between the Cabinet and the Nationalists it seems that the latter will only agree to a reconciliation with the Central Government if plebiscites are immediately taken in Thrace and Smyrna and the Hellenic troops are withdrawn! Thus, as was pointed out in last week's letter, the real point at issue is with the Allies rather than with the Central Government; and it looks almost as if even Marshal Izzet Pasha will be unable to find a common ground for commencing negotiations. As a matter of fact, there is hardly any necessity for the Government to send a mission to Anatolia, since the Nationalists have always had their representatives in Constantinople, who have always been in close touch with Angora, and who could reply to any inquiries immediately.

The commencement of the offensive against the Greeks immediately after the reception of the news of King Alexander's death, and at this particular moment, is a sufficient indication of Nationalist mentality if any such indication were needed. The fall of Damad Ferid Pasha was hailed with joy at Angora, because that veteran statesman was regarded as the tool of the British. What will be thought of the present Cabinet when it is realised that it also must refuse to discuss the Treaty of Sèvres? It would also appear that the Allies are now pressing for the ratification of the Treaty, and have left the Sublime Porte no loophole for procrastination, by offering to accept the Sultan's signature as sufficient. The Angora Chamber has been declared illegal, and would certainly refuse to ratify the Treaty, even if it had not already declared all engagements entered into by the Central Government since the Armistice null and void. The convocation of a Chamber in Constantinople is manifestly impossible, unless the Nationalists yield, and as this is highly improbable, the Treaty can only be ratified by a special body, or by the Sultan himself. It will be interesting to see what attitude the present Cabinet will observe if the Allies press the point. If one may hazard a guess, it would be to say that there will be another change in the Cabinet before long.

Another interesting question is, whether the Allies will carry out the threat embodied in the Treaty, and deprive the Turks of Constantinople; for it is certain that the conditions will not be fulfilled within the specified period. The loss of Constantinople will almost certainly raise the dynastic question; for it is probable that in such an eventuality the Sultan will abdicate, and it is highly doubtful whether the Heir Apparent would consent to succeed him upon the crumbling throne of Osman. These considerations, however, are at present merely interesting speculations, and some little time must elapse before they can become anything more.

**Anatolia.**

The *Bosphore* has published an interesting account of conditions in Anatolia given by a traveller who has recently returned from Angora. It would appear that the Nationalist régime is not very different from that of the Unionists during the war, and that considerable hardships are being suffered by the people, although there is no scarcity of food. The world-wide housing problem also exists in Anatolia, although one would think that after so many people had been killed there would be plenty of accommodation for the survivors. The province or *vilayet* has been abolished as an administrative unit, and the country is now divided into cantons or *sanjaks*, governed by divisional commanders possessing extensive powers. The system is said to be giving much better results than the old system. The Angora Government is proceeding with the construction of roads, railways, and light railways, with "feverish activity," and light railways are said to have been already constructed between Samsun and Angora, and Angora and Erzeroum. The same account confirmed the statements made in previous letters concerning the divisions among the Nationalists with regard to Bolshevism, and the struggle between the extremists and the moderates. All the Nationalist leaders, however, are said to be confident of success, and in addition to the offensives against the Armenians and the Greeks, there is a renewal of activity in the Adana area.

**Armenia.**

The Nationalist forces operating against the Armenians are estimated at 15,000 men, but this is probably a very conservative estimate. In any case, the gallantry of the defence maintained by that sorely tried people is worthy of as much admiration as that of the Belgians against the German hordes. General Seboh, the commander of the Armenian forces at Kars, which is

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being attacked by the Turks, has issued an appeal to all men between the ages of 18 and 50 to hasten to the front with their weapons, spades, scythes, or axes, adding that if Kars was lost, Armenia itself would be in great danger. So far as is known at present the Armenians are holding their own against the Turks, but the Bolshevist menace seems to be taking more definite form in the east. Khalil, the uncle of Enver, is active in the Zangezur district, where the Bolshevists are enrolling the male population by force. It is also said that the Reds are forcing the Armenians of that district to sign papers indicating their desire to be governed by the Azerbaijan Soviet. One cannot but hope that the tardy help given by the Allies will be increased, and that the gallant little people will not have to yield for want of the necessary supplies.

### The Death of King Alexander.

A funeral service was held at the Œcumenical Patriarchate on Friday, and was attended by the Allied High Commissioners and a large number of official and notable personages in Constantinople. Never has there been a better illustration of the old proverb that all the world loves a lover, for many people who had hitherto hardly ever thought of the dead King eagerly followed the record of his terrible struggle for life, and were genuinely moved by the news of his death. Among other marks of the general sentiment of regret may be noted the action of the Greek pupils of the American College for Girls at Arnautkeuy, who sent a telegram of sympathy to Mme. Manos.

## CYPRUS.

Nicosia, October 15.

### The Outlook.

Coinciding with the end of an unusually hot summer, there is a general quieting down of political activity in the towns, and a recognition at last of the fact that no declaration of policy regarding Cyprus is likely to be made at present, but that any political question which may concern the island will be duly considered by the British Parliament and Government in connection with other important and wider issues that may be involved in any settlement or reconstruction of Near East regions as a whole. The Greek papers now merely urge that it is necessary that an immediate meeting should be held of members of the London Mission, and of the local "Aid Committee": first, in order that the former may give an account of their stewardship, and, second, to deliberate on the course to be pursued henceforth. Also, it is to be decided whether the two members still in London should be advised to remain or return.

### Another Grievance.

In connection with the raising of salaries, discontent now prevails among temporary officials, who do not share in the benefits secured for permanent public servants; and the grievance is supported by the Press. In many cases, it is argued, these persons, whose employment is precarious, are just as much entitled to help as others, in view of the high cost of living, especially as in some cases—e.g., the Public Works Department—they have to live away from home, and sometimes to keep a horse or mule, with forage at exorbitant rates

### The Cypriot Volunteers.

The movement for enlistment of Greek volunteers for service in the new Hellenic provinces proceeded so far that about 10,000 Cypriots were enrolled. But as all Cypriots (except those who were of non-Ottoman nationality) became British subjects when the island was annexed by Britain, such enrolment could not be countenanced, and permission to join an alien army was refused by the Government—a decision which caused disappointment to some, though by no means all, of the would-be patriots. Hellenic subjects could be invited, or called upon, to serve, but these are in Cyprus a negligible quantity.

### General News.

A message from Athens informs the Mayor of Nicosia that twenty-seven Cypriot schoolmasters have been chosen for appointments in Greece, and that their travelling expenses will be paid by the Hellenic Government.

The return of British troops to Limassol, it is believed, will be shortly carried out. They will probably be quartered in the depot outside the town, while the camp of Polemidia remains as a refugee camp.


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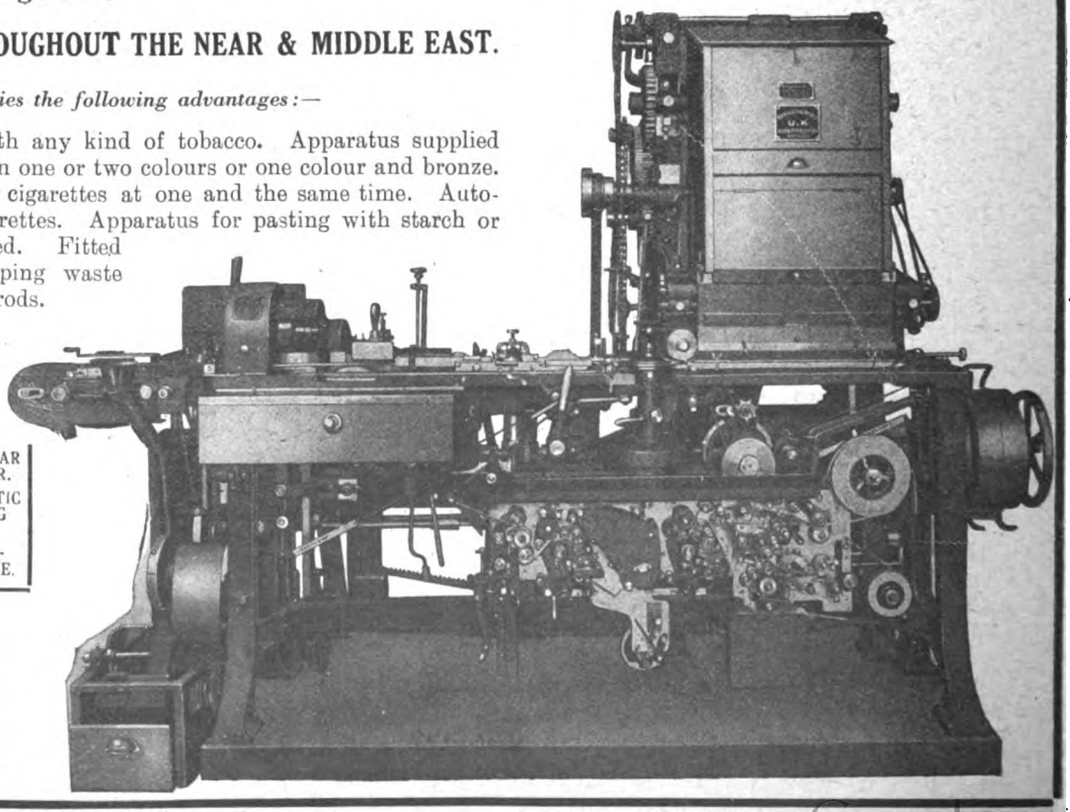

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Whatever may be the result of the Greek rejection of the new Education Bill, which would have marked a great step forward, there is, nevertheless, much activity throughout the island in connection with school life, as it is felt that a new era is about to begin, whatever the source of the funds may be. Some advocate raising the amount needed by voluntary effort. The whole status and prospects of the masters must be at once raised in all schools. The call for Cypriot teachers from Athens adds an additional stimulus to the profession. The summer holidays have ended. Many new schools are being built in well-to-do villages, in some cases through the generosity of Cypriots who have made money abroad; in others, by village efforts aided by advances from the Loan Commissioners.

The Armenian Archbishop has been visiting the refugees at their camp, baptising and organising work. They are showing commendable zeal in the matter of education, church services, and industrial work of various kinds.

Winter hours have begun in all Government offices. The regulation working hours now cease at 3 p.m., which gives officials an opportunity of a little fresh air and exercise.

## THE GREEK SOCIALISTS' PROGRAMME.

(From Our Athens Correspondent.)

The Greek Socialist-Communist party has published its political programme, consisting of the following ten articles:—

1. To oppose by all possible means the outbreak of any new wars, and any attempt to draw Greece into the alliances or enterprises of the European Imperialists.

2. Immediate general demobilisation, and conclusion of peace with everybody; close collaboration with the people of the Balkans and the Danube, with a view to throwing off the yoke of the Great Powers of Europe, and the creation of a Soviet Republic in the Balkans.

3. Complete recognition of the Russian Labour Republic, and the re-establishment of economical and political relations with that country.

4. Confiscation and setting apart for the public benefit of all surplus gains realised as a result of the war. Suppression of all taxes affecting the workmen and the peasants, and the imposition of heavy taxes on the big capitalists pending the nationalisation of all means of production and exchange.

5. Immediate and radical regulation of all questions of hygiene, and instruction of both sexes in accordance with the spirit and principles of Communism. Radical fight against speculation, enforcing of immediate measures against those trafficking and control of the "ravitaillement" by the public.

6. To oppose any attempt on the part of the State to violate the rights of the people by definitely abolishing martial law; suppression of all "Corps de Sureté" and spying organisations, also of all methods adverse to the liberty and political action of the working people.

7. Appointment of a control on all railway and navigation enterprises, also on all industrial concerns, including the banks.

8. Immediate requisition of all large buildings in order to ensure cheap lodgings for the workmen, closing down of all unhealthy habitations, and reconstruction of all destroyed towns and villages.

9. Re-institution of the peasants on the lands on which they are at present employed, without paying any indemnity to the landowners, and confiscation of all surplus profits realised by the latter during the war with a view to providing agricultural machinery for the peasants and cultivators; carrying out of irrigation works, and abolition of all debts contracted by the peasants and cultivators with usurers, monasteries, or the State.

10. General amnesty to all persons condemned for political or military offences.

## TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

*The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—*

Mesopotamia: Sir Percy Cox (Report). India: Civil Disturbances (Military Areas).—Mrs. Besant.—Burma Rice Crop.—Indian Troops (Attempted Seduction).—Shipping Accommodation (Residents in India).—Indian Railway Committee. Mesopotamia: Oilfields.—Government Expenditure (Parliamentary Discussion). Batoum. Thrace (Greek Forces). (November 1.)

Albania. Montenegro. Foreign Governments (Recognition). India: Government Service (Pensions).—Afghan Agency, Peshawar (November 2.)

India: Native Troops (Mesopotamia and Persia).—Legislative Councils Elections.—Disturbances (Pardons).—Officers' Pay (Deductions). Mesopotamia: Colonel Sir Arnold Wilson. Peace Treaties: Turkey (Rahmy Pasha). Palestine (Boundaries). Persia.—India: Uncovenanted Services (Pensions).—Burma (Constitutional Reforms). Ceylon (Constitutional Reforms). (November 3).

Roumanian Government Bonds. British Army: Troops in Persia. India: Army Pensions.—Civil and Military Pensions. (November 4.)

## THE MILNER-ZAGHLOUL NEGOTIATIONS.

The following is the text of a Memorandum prepared on the basis of Conversations held in London in June to August last between the Milner Mission and Zaghloul Pasha and the Egyptian Delegation:—

1.—In order to establish the independence of Egypt on a secure and lasting basis, it is necessary that the relations between Great Britain and Egypt should be precisely defined, and the privileges and immunities now enjoyed in Egypt by the capitulatory Powers should be modified and rendered less injurious to the interests of the country.

2.—These ends cannot be achieved without further negotiations between accredited representatives of the British and Egyptian Governments respectively in the one case, and between the British Government and the Governments of the capitulatory Powers in the other case. Such negotiations will be directed to arriving at definte agreement on the following lines:—

3.—(I.) As between Egypt and Great Britain a Treaty will be entered into, under which Great Britain will recognise the independence of Egypt as a constitutional monarchy, with representative institutions, and Egypt will confer upon Great Britain such rights as are necessary to safeguard her special interests, and to enable her to furnish the guarantees which must be given to foreign Powers to secure the relinquishment of their capitulatory rights.

(II.) By the same Treaty, an Alliance will be concluded between Great Britain and Egypt, by which Great Britain will undertake to support Egypt in defending the integrity of her territory, and Egypt will undertake, in case of war, even when the integrity of Egypt is not affected, to render to Great Britain all the assistance in her power within her own borders, including the use of her harbours, aerodromes, and means of communication for military purposes.

4.—This Treaty will embody stipulations to the following effect:—

(I.) Egypt will enjoy the right to representation in foreign countries. In the absence of any duly accredited Egyptian representative, the Egyptian Government will confide its interests to the care of the British representative. Egypt will undertake not to adopt in foreign countries an attitude which is inconsistent with the Alliance, or will create difficulties for Great Britain, and will also undertake not to enter into any agreement with a foreign Power which is prejudicial to British interests.

(II.) Egypt will confer on Great Britain the right to maintain a military force on Egyptian soil for the protection of her Imperial communications. The Treaty will fix the place where the force shall be quartered, and will regulate any subsidiary matters which require to be arranged. The presence of this force shall not constitute in any manner a military occupation of the country, or prejudice the rights of the Government of Egypt.

(III.) Egypt will appoint, in concurrence with his Majesty's Government, a Financial Adviser, to whom shall be entrusted in due course the powers at present exercised by the Commissioners of the Debt, and who will be at the disposal of the Egyptian Government for all other matters on which they may desire to consult him.

(IV.) Egypt will appoint, in concurrence with his Majesty's Government, an official in the Ministry of Justice, who shall enjoy the right of access to the Minister. He shall be kept fully informed on all matters connected with the administration of the law as affecting foreigners, and will also be at the disposal of the Egyptian Government for consultation on any matter connected with the efficient maintenance of law and order.

(V.) In view of the contemplated transfer to his Majesty's Government of the rights hitherto exercised under the *régime* of the Capitulations by the various foreign Governments, Egypt recognises the right of Great Britain to intervene, through her representative in Egypt, to prevent the application to foreigners of any Egyptian law now requiring foreign consent, and Great Britain on her side undertakes not to exercise this right except in the case of laws operating inequitably against foreigners.

In view of the contemplated transfer to his Majesty's Government of the right hitherto exercised under the *régime* of the Capitulations by the various foreign Governments, Egypt recognises the right of Great Britain to intervene through her representative in Egypt, to prevent the application to foreigners of any Egyptian law now requiring foreign consent, and Great Britain on her side undertakes not to exercise this right except in the case of laws inequitably discriminating against foreigners in the matter of taxation, or inconsistent with the principles of legislation common to all the capitulatory Powers.

(VI.) On account of the special relations between Great Britain and Egypt created by the Alliance, the British representative will be accorded an exceptional position in Egypt, and will be entitled to precedence over all other representatives.

(VII.) The engagements of British and other foreign officers and administrative officials who entered into the service of the Egyptian Government before the coming into force of the Treaty may be terminated, at the instance of either the officials themselves or the Egyptian Government, at any time within two years after the coming into force of the Treaty. The pension or compensation to be accorded to officials retiring under this provision, in addition to that provided by the existing law, shall be determined by the Treaty. In cases where

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no advantage is taken of this arrangement, existing terms of service will remain unaffected.

5.—This Treaty will be submitted to the approval of a Constituent Assembly, but it will not come into force until after the agreements with foreign Powers for the closing of their Consular Courts and the decree for the reorganisation of the Mixed Tribunals have come into operation.

6.—This Constituent Assembly will also be charged with the duty of framing a new Organic Statute, in accordance with the provisions of which the Government of India will in future be conducted. This Statute will embody provisions for the Ministers being responsible to the Legislature. It will also provide for religious toleration for all persons and for the due protection of the rights of foreigners.

7.—The necessary modifications in the *régime* of the Capitulations will be secured by agreements to be concluded by Great Britain with the various capitulatory Powers. These agreements will provide for the closing of the foreign Consular Courts, so as to render possible the reorganisation and extension of the jurisdiction of the Mixed Tribunals and the application to all foreigners in Egypt of the legislation (including legislation imposing taxation) enacted by the Egyptian Legislature.

8.—These agreements will provide for the transfer to his Majesty's Government of the rights previously exercised under the *régime* of the Capitulations by the various foreign Governments. They will also contain stipulations to the following effect:—

(*a*) No attempt will be made to discriminate against the nationals of a Power which agrees to close its Consular Courts, and such nationals shall enjoy in Egypt the same treatment as British subjects.

(*b*) The Egyptian Nationality Law will be founded on the *jus sanguinis*, so that the children born in Egypt of a foreigner will enjoy the nationality of their father, and will not be claimed as Egyptian subjects.

(*c*) Consular officers of the foreign Powers shall be accorded by Egypt the same status as foreign Consuls enjoy in England.

(*d*) Existing Treaties and Conventions to which Egypt is a party on matters of commerce and navigation, including postal and telegraphic Conventions, will remain in force. Pending the conclusion of special agreements to which she is a party, Egypt will apply the Treaties in force between Great Britain and the foreign Powers concerned on questions affected by the closing of the Consular Courts, such as extradition Treaties, Treaties for the surrender of seamen deserters, etc., as also Treaties of a political nature, whether multilateral or bilateral—*e.g.*, arbitration Conventions and the various Conventions relating to the conduct of hostilities.

(*e*) The liberty to maintain schools and to teach the language of the foreign country concerned will be guaranteed, provided that such schools are subject in all respects to the laws applicable generally to European schools in Egypt.

(*f*) The liberty to maintain or organise religious and charitable foundations, such as hospitals, etc., will also be guaranteed.

The Treaties will also provide for the necessary changes in the Commission of the Debt and the elimination of the international element in the Alexandria Board of Health.

9.—The legislation rendered necessary by the aforesaid agreements between Great Britain and the foreign Powers will be effected by decrees to be issued by the Egyptian Government.

A decree shall be enacted at the same time, validating all measures, legislative, administrative, or judicial, taken under Martial Law.

10.—The decrees for the reorganisation of the Mixed Tribunals will provide for conferring upon these Tribunals all jurisdiction hitherto exercised by the foreign Consular Courts, while leaving the jurisdiction of the Native Courts untouched.

11.—After the coming into force of the Treaty referred to in Article 3, Great Britain will communicate its terms to foreign Powers and will support an application by Egypt for admission as a member of the League of Nations.


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# CORRESPONDENCE.

## A TURKISH DISH.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In confirmation that the dish of egg-plants—*aubergine* is the French word—called "Imam Baildi" is not a delicacy, may I quote the following well-known and very interesting Turkish proverb: "Adji Badinjani Kiragi yagmaz," which I translate into English: "The frost does not blight the *bitter* egg-plant." This means that common misfortunes and contagious diseases, which attack and destroy the worthy and tender, rarely harm those who are bad and unworthy.

The stories put forward by your different correspondents upon this subject are in circulation in the Near East, but in fact they originated in the inventive minds of some ignorant nurses to satisfy the curiosity of children, who usually ask with innocent amazement why the priest should faint. I think the name originally was the compound adjective "Imam-Baildir"—"the priest-fainter," referring to the excess of garlic in the dish, but by careless pronunciation, the final "r" being omitted, became the preterite "Imam-Baildi"—"The priest fainted." Hence so many curious stories.

The name of the work to which I referred in my previous letter would be spelled "Sahih-ul-Boukhari," Boukhara being the birthplace of the famous editor.—I am, etc.,

M. NEJMI BODAMIALISADE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—Before writing my letter of 16th ult. I had the opportunity of meeting a well-known Turkish personage who happens to be in London, and he gave me the same version as to the origin of the name "Imam Baildi" as the one which I gave, and which I have known for years. The version, which comes from Anatolia, is the following:—An Imam had been invited to "Iftar," which is the meal taken at sunset during the month of "Ramadan," or month of fasting, and one of the courses served up was this preparation of "Patlijan," which the Imam ate with great relish, exclaiming after each mouthful, "Ugh Bailiyorum," which signifies "I am fainting," or, in other words, it was so delicious that he was quite overcome. When at length he had finished, he asked the guest sitting next to him if he knew what the dish was called; the guest replied, "Imam Baildi." Now, I ask, which is the correct tale?

Replying to your correspondent M. N. Bodamialisade, as I am not competent on the question as to what Mohammed advised, I will accept your correspondent's statement. In regard, however, to the question of Imams' lighting the lamps in mosques, I know that they have persons whose duty it is to do this work; at the same time, I would remind your correspondent that, as a matter of fact, there are many mosques in the provinces as well as in many poorer quarters of the city where the Imam lights the lamps, because I have seen it done; besides, carrying out a religious duty cannot be considered at all derogatory, no matter what the function is.

As to whether the dish "Imam Baildi" is appreciated or not is a matter of taste, and the statement that it is rarely cooked in the "houses of high-class people" makes it none the less a very much-sought-after dish by all "gourmets."—I am, etc.,

November 6. ALFRED C. SILLEY.

## THE GREEK SUCCESSION.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—According to a French paper, M. Vénizélos will probably address himself to the Royal House of Belgium for a successor to the Greek Throne, in case Prince Paul continues to refuse to recognise that he alone is the constitutional heir to his late brother.

This curious news, unless it has been published as a semi-official view of the Quai d'Orsay, is more interesting from a historical point of view.

Through a protocol signed at the Foreign Office on February 3, 1830, by Lord Aberdeen (Great Britain), Count de Montmorency-Laval (France), and Prince Lieven (Russia), the Government of Greece was offered to H.R.H. Prince George-Christian-Frederick Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, Duke of Kendal (son-in-law of King George IV.), who accepted the title of "Prince Sovereign of Greece," which, however, he renounced on May 21 of the same year, because of the strait frontiers of Greece. He also emphasised in his carefully worded Act of Abdication that "he never gave the President [i.e., Capodistrias] reason to believe that he was likely to adopt the Greek religion." A year afterwards Prince Leopold was elected as the first King of the Belgians, and during his thirty-four years' reign he acquired the fame of being Europe's "Justice of the Peace."

Although the memory of King George I. is still revered in Greece, where the change of dynasty will find the Greeks not so apathetic, as is supposed, and given that the Greek people are not yet mature for a Republican régime, we have reason to believe that the members of the Greek branch of the House of Holstein-Glucksbourg will renounce their claims of divine rights only in case M. Vénizélos wins in the forthcoming general elections. In such case King Constantine will abdicate *de jure et de facto* in favour of Prince Paul. It will be too late, though, as M. Vénizélos will probably reconsider his old threat about the question of the reigning

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dynasty, thorny as it is; and certainly no Greek will criticise him if, acting as the mandatory of the General Assembly, he offers the Crown of a Greece much greater than that of 1830 to Prince Charles-Theodore, a descendant of the democratic prince who for nearly four months was known as the Sovereign Elect of Greece, and whose abdication was painfully resented by Capodistrias and the Senate of Greece.

—I am, etc., THEODORE D. MOSCONA.

32, Oxford Street, Manchester, November 3, 1920.

## THE MASSACRE OF HADJIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In the excitement caused by the Greenwood trial and the American Presidential election it seems almost impossible to expect that the massacre of 10,000 Armenians would make any impression except among those who have been closely following the gallant stand made by those Armenians against the enormous number of Turkish regulars and irregulars. It is futile to attempt to trace the responsibilities in this new tragedy which has fallen upon the remnant of these sturdy mountaineers. Soon after the Armistice the British and French military authorities encouraged the Armenians deported by the Turks to Syria and Mesopotamia to concentrate in Cilicia. For the Armenian people in those circumstances and every other circumstance this encouragement given by the Allied Powers was naturally regarded as a safeguard of the development and security of the Armenian people in Cilicia. More than 150,000 Armenians gathered within the borders of Cilicia in a few months after the Armistice. Under British military occupation the Armenians of Cilicia practically recovered their former economic position in the course of a few months. Then in November, 1919, British troops were replaced by the French, in accordance with a military convention signed between the two Powers. In February of this year about 20,000 Armenians were massacred at Marash.

As far as it is possible to judge on the merits of the case, the policy followed by France in Cilicia for the last year has been a sublime masterpiece of muddling and inconsistency. The French authorities on the spot, with an eye on Damascus, have alternately pursued a policy of conciliation and a policy of pin-pricks towards the Turkish Nationalists, who apparently do not bother their heads to understand the motives of the French, for they have massacred the French as brutally as they would massacre anybody else.

The City of Hadjin, about 80 miles due North of Adana, had been isolated since last March owing to this muddled policy of the French. These hardy mountaineers of Armenian Cilicia have been accustomed to long sieges and stout self-defence ever since the appearance of the Turks in the West of Asia. In July last the women of Hadjin, despairing of the masterly inactivity of the Allied Powers, appealed to the women of the civilised world, asking their intervention on their behalf. In the meantime, however, the French authorities allowed the Armenians to supply the garrison of Hadjin with flour and munitions by aeroplane. At the beginning of September last, General Gouraud visited Cilicia, and as a result there was a volte-face in the French policy towards the Armenians. The Armenian local authorities were suppressed; the 500 Armenian volunteers who were on their way to rescue Hadjin were disarmed and disbanded and the supply of provisions to Hadjin was stopped.

In the House of Commons last week Mr. Harmsworth stated that Italy had supplied arms to Turkish Nationalist forces. Italy would supply these arms from her zone of influence at Konia, and the Turkish Nationalists seem to have made use of the arms supplied by Italy against the beleaguered garrison of Hadjin.

It is in this way that some of the Allied Powers have begun to exercise their rights according to the Tripartite Agreement signed at Sèvres on August 10 in their respective zones of influence. It is to be hoped that those Powers will put a better interpretation on the terms of the Turkish Treaty respecting the rights of minorities and thus prevent further outrages similar to that which has been inflicted on the brave people of Hadjin.—

I am, etc., ARSHAK SAFRASTIAN.

The Armenian Bureau, 153, Regent St., London, W.1.

November 4, 1920.

## THE FIRST BRITISH FLAG IN BAGHDAD.

At a short service in Canterbury Cathedral on November 3 the Union Jack which was the first British flag to be raised in Baghdad was handed over to the custody of the Dean and Chapter by Lieutenant-Colonel J. Body, D.S.O., O.B.E., T.D., commanding the 5th (Weald of Kent) Battalion, "The Buffs." The flag was hoisted in the early hours of March 11, 1917, by C.Q.M.S. French, of this Territorial battalion, which served in the East from 1914 to 1919, including four years in Mesopotamia. It was the first British battalion in action at Sheikh Saad and the first British battalion to enter Baghdad.

**Mr. Harry Lyne**, who is in charge of Y.M.C.A. work among the troops in Mesopotamia, reports that the hardships of the last few months have been as trying as any experienced in France. The Y.M.C.A. centre at Diwanieh has been closed down, as all the troops have left there, but useful work is being carried on at Hillah, where the waiting-room on the station platform is occupied as a Y.M.C.A. canteen.

# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

### "Lion and Monkeys."

The *Morning Post* on October 27 published an article, "Britain in Egypt," from its Special Correspondent in Cairo. The writer gives some of the opinions on Home Rule for Egypt that he has heard lately. The first quoted is that of an Arab who—

told of the coming of the English to Egypt as of the coming of a lion among chattering monkeys. It was of Divine purpose, he had thought, some thirty years ago, as he noted orderliness and silent industry take the place of the rabble talk of the Egyptian rulers of that time—not Egyptians chiefly, he explained, but Turks, Circassians, foreigners of many kinds; but all muddlers and vain talkers. Under his eyes the rubbish they had made was cleared away, and a new Egypt arose. The monkeys continued to chatter, but they were kept outside the Temple, and might not interfere with the work.

But what, he asked, had come over the English now? Were they, too, learning to talk and to think of what the crowd talked, and to decide by that, instead of by what was justice and right? That which was right surely was right, and not to be changed because the bazaars clamoured. And what was this new religion of Mr. Wilson that they seemed to have accepted? Had they come to forget that there was but the one religion of government, to do justice and to fulfil the work which fell to your hand?

Poor Arab! It is to be feared that his views are hopelessly out of date in this brand-new democratic world. Two Copts, one a merchant, the other a professional man, were concerned with the question of public order:—

"You have seen," they said, "the wild disorder at the railway station the other day when the four delegates arrived. It was because there was no British police officer there in charge. We fear that if the British go away it will be the same in all things. Many Egyptians who paid money to help the Delegation to go to England are now troubled. It was well to join in the cry for Independence; it was popular. But it was all theory and not practical. They did not think there would be any practical result. They did not think England would be convinced."

They wanted to know whether England wished to go out of Egypt because she feared the trouble and expense of staying; and urged that a very small army could keep the country quiet, because the class which is disorderly is very small and very cowardly. They emphasised the latter point by reminding their hearer that "since the man who committed the bomb outrage was executed there has not been any more outrage." An English official of wide experience thought that we had not been doing our job by Egypt as well during the last ten years as we used to in earlier days; that a rather lower class of British official had helped to lower our prestige; and that it is a mistake to crowd the minor posts with British officials. Finally, we have a typical Nationalist who wants "our country free from the source to the mouth of the Nile because it is our country," and an Egypt free from foreigners. On this the writer remarks:—

It is a fair comment on this to quote the estimate of a Cairo journalist that there is certainly less than 30 per cent. of Egyptian blood in the leaders of the Nationalist Party, taking them in the aggregate; and that the Egyptian in asking for the Sudan is hardly following up the principle of "national self-determination"; and if he got it would find it an awkward possession.

The Nationalists undoubtedly will not consider their ideals fully realised unless they secure the Sudan as well as Egypt; and—unless with British military help—they could not hold the Sudan a month, nor indeed hold Egypt against Sudanese raiders.

### Egypt.

On the following day the *Morning Post* dealt with the military aspect of the new Egypt. It made a very plain statement of this point of view:—

Holding the Canal zone presumably means from Port Said to Suez. Now if Egypt is to be independent, with full rights in foreign affairs, from a military point of view the soldier is bound to think of it as a possibly hostile country, with a possible ally in some future war. What are the chances of holding the Canal zone with Egypt hostile and having an ally of real fighting value? It would be for our troops another Gallipoli, with the necessity of carrying every ounce of water needed for the Army by sea. From a strategic point of view, to hold the Canal zone with any security there must be garrisons at Cairo and at Alexandria, particularly at Cairo. The "sweet water canal" must be held as well as the salt water canal. No soldier who knew his business would report otherwise, no matter what force was to be stationed in the Canal zone

If we are to hold the Sudan without having Egypt as a base the military position in the Sudan will have to be reconsidered, and reconsidered in terms of greatly increased garrisons and greatly improved transport arrangements from the Red Sea. To keep the Sudan as a kind of province of Egypt is a fairly simple matter. If Egypt becomes a foreign country, with the possibility of being a hostile country, the garrisoning of the Sudan and the organisation of supply and transport for its garrison will become a great military commitment.

There is an idea with some people in England that Home Rule for Egypt will represent a great economy; that we shall be able to withdraw practically all our troops if we give the Egyptian

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Home Rulers what they want. The soldier's mouth is silenced in matters of politics. But he should be allowed on this point to declare the truth: that if we give Egypt practical independence, and resolve at the same time to hold the Suez Canal and the Sudan, we shall be committed to a military policy of which the vast expense will be certain, and of which the complete security will never be certain.

**Armenia.**

The leading article of the *Manchester Guardian* of November 8 deals with the urgent question of Armenia. It begins by stating the problem:—

The situation of the Armenian people since the Armistice has been an "acid test" of Allied policy in the Middle East. When this test is applied the official complacency with which the unpalatable facts have been compounded for public consumption is effectively dissolved, and nothing is left to hide the selfishness and the imprudence of the course to which the Allied nations have been committed in the East by their Governments for the past two years. But the Armenian situation has now reached its crisis. At the forthcoming Assembly of the League of Nations the question of a mandatory for Armenia is to be raised on a report from the Council of its negotiations with the Supreme Council of the Allies last spring. And at the moment this discussion is taking place, and while it is still in the academic stage, the Armenians will be struggling for life and death to defend the last two cities of refuge left to them after the crowning disasters of the war—the Republic of Erivan (in the former Transcaucasian territories of Russia) and the district of Cilicia (on the Mediterranean seaboard of the former Ottoman Empire). The Republic of Erivan is the victim of an alliance between the Soviet Government at Moscow and the Turkish Nationalist organisation at Angora, and is now being invaded by a Turkish force. And in Cilicia the Armenian population is being attacked by the same Turkish organisation, with as yet no effective opposition by France.

It proceeds to indulge in what it calls a "humiliating retrospect," and concludes:—

In this critical situation there are three main things to be done. First, the Supreme Council of the Allies, having appealed to the League (of Nations) to undertake a responsibility for Armenia which in other cases, when it suits them, they have vindicated for themselves, must loyally back the Council of the League in its endeavour. The frontiers of Armenia must be settled and adequate financial guarantees provided for a presumptive mandatory. Otherwise the League, with the best will in the world, will hardly have a chance of inducing one of its members to undertake the Armenian mandate. Secondly, the French Government, which happily has recently abandoned its complacent policy towards Mustapha Kemal since he joined forces with the Bolsheviks, must take effective steps to assert its authority against his forces in Cilicia. By the Treaty of Sèvres the greater part of Cilicia reverts to Turkey, but by the tripartite treaty, signed simultaneously by France, Italy, and Great Britain, Cilicia is recognised as a French sphere of economic influence, on condition that France protects minorities there against Turkish persecution. At present France is neither effectively protecting the Cilician Armenians nor helping them to protect themselves. The third thing needed is to induce a similar change of policy on the part of the Moscow Government. The best contribution which the Allies could make towards relieving the situation at Erivan would be to make a genuine peace with Moscow without further delay.

## MUSICAL NOTES.

**M. Siloti's Last Recital.**

I have already said that M. Siloti's playing grows on one, and in his last recital this season, given at the Wigmore Hall on October 30, I knew it had grown on me. For he has a sanity which, while demanding in these unusual days time for its appreciation, finally conquers; and he has a sincerity which, however frank in its excesses, is really compelling. To hear him play (with M. Ilmari Hannikainen, a very worthy partner) Mozart's Sonata in D major for two pianofortes, was a very rare joy, for, except in those heavy moments when he could not forget how like Beethoven it might be made, his pure, unaffected fingerwork was utterly delightful. It was, through M. Siloti, the appeal of Mozart himself, and naturally it succeeded. As a specialist in Bach M. Siloti improves with hearing; much as I liked his first rendering of the Sicilienne and the Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue, he was still more attractive at this recital. Before he could break the spell with some Preludes (as I knew he would) I had gone, so that my memories of him were wholly pleasant.

**Some Violinists.**

There has been some distinguished violin playing recently. At the last Quinlan concert M. Thibaud gave fresh evidence of the fact that he is in the class of Kreisler and Ysaye. And M. Michael Doré, who used to be violinist to the Tsar of Russia, showed in a recital the other day at the Wigmore Hall that for volume of tone, at any rate, he stands apart. Twice during the past week M. Manuel de Sicard, soloist to Her Majesty the Queen of Roumania, has given concerts; and M. Heifetz has again appeared at the Queen's Hall.

M. Heifetz, whose recital was on November 3, is a unique wonder, for never was such extraordinary skill exhibited with so little result. There can be no question about it now: this violinist's playing is for admiration, not for enthusiasm. His fiddling is a thing of beauty, but its loveliness does not increase. Technically, M. Heifetz is poles apart from most, but he has not yet found the truth. In the "Devil's Trill" he could not let us forget, but merely reminded us, what Quiroga did with Tartini last season; for one cannot contrast, one generally compares unfavourably, his reading with any other master's. No matter what he does—whether it be unaccompanied Bach, or Ernst's jejune concerto in F sharp minor, or a Chopin nocturne, or a Hungarian waltz of Brahms—it is always the same; he is the versifier, never the poet. Exquisitely polished verse his is, it is true; no false quantities, no false rhymes, and but rarely a false subject (the Ernst concerto and Glazounov's "Meditation" were examples of this rarity); but his stanzas do not move, they have but charm and no conviction. Whether he will eventually add to his present vast powers the art of interpretation I do not know, but such addition would surely make of him one of the finest fiddlers the world has ever seen.

Far humbler, less famous, and much less accomplished than the violinists named above is Miss Katharine Kendall, who, assisted by Mr. Leonard Borwick, gave a recital at the Æolian Hall on November 1. But it was both because of her faults and because of her refinement that this concert was a rare enjoyment. The deficiencies of the amateur she has in abundance; uncertain intonation, lack of finish, and the absence of confidence which inhibits a complete *abandon*: but she has just as fully the amateur's virtues, sincerity, impeccable taste, and unaffectedness. These are the qualities which brought conviction to her playing; these are what made it an unalloyed pleasure to listen to even so big a work in her hands as Cesar Franck's Sonata. As I predicted some time ago, when Miss Margaret Fairless brought them out, J. R. Heath's three Macedonian pieces have become popular among the discerning, and it was not surprising therefore to find that Miss Kendall included two of them—"An Old Shepherd at Sundown" and "Vodena Market"—in her programme. She missed a little of the atmosphere of the first, but the rhythmic chatter of the second she splendidly secured.

To have the assistance of Mr. Leonard Borwick is both a distinction and a help, for he is one of the old school of British pianists who, partly through their contrast with the modern school, but chiefly through their own inner grace, never fail to charm. His Schumann was a thing of natural but exquisite beauty: the music flowed unrufflledly its own course, and its satisfying power was complete.

Further evidence of Miss Kendall's taste was in her choice of Miss Anne Mukle as accompanist, and in her selection of Brahms' Trio for Pianoforte, Violin and Horn.

**A Chamber Concert.**

The London Chamber Concert Society began its series at the Wigmore Hall on November 2. This excellent society is giving concerts on every Tuesday in November—concerts not to be missed by any lover of chamber music. At the first the Philharmonic String Quartet played Dr. Ethel Smyth's Quartet in E minor and Eugène Goosens' "By the Tarn" and "Jack o' Lantern." The first, to me, was disappointing, its first two movements particularly so. It would be gratifying to think that our one considerable woman composer had written chamber music not unworthy to rank on the same programme as Mozart, but this is impossible. Her ideas, both sound and surprisingly orthodox, were too freely, even exhaustively, discussed; and it was only in the third movement (*andante*) that some writing which was at once clever, original, and beautiful was found. Goosens' two pieces have been praised here before; it is necessary only to add that the first was badly played (extremely badly in consideration of what a fine body they are) by the Philharmonic String Quartet. Miss Fanny Davies, who belongs to the same school as Mr. Borwick, played well five movements from Schumann's "Kreisleriana," but to find justification for her inclusion in a concert of this standard of Sgambati's Minuetto Vecchio and Toccata in A flat was difficult. It was an excellent notion to end this concert with Mozart's rarely heard Trio for Pianoforte, Clarinet, and Viola in E flat major, but an obvious lack of rehearsal denied the possibility of any excellence in performance. Over so unusual and so beautiful a work as this it was a great pity to have such remediable differences as those of *tempo*. Mr. Raymond Jeremy (viola) was almost indiscreetly modest, but the leading of Mr. Charles Draper (clarinet) was at times fierce, and scarcely lessened the independence of Miss Fanny Davies at the pianoforte. However, there is a certain atmosphere of music at the concerts of this society, and even if dutiful critics do find faults here and there, well—it does not matter overmuch.

ANDANTE.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"UNDER THE TURK IN CONSTANTINOPLE." A Record of Sir John Finch's Embassy, 1674–1681." By G. F. Abbott. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 18s. net.)

II.—"WHEN THE BLOOD BURNS." By E. W. Savi. (London: G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

## I.—AUTRES TEMPS, AUTRES MŒURS.

We are beginning to realise more and more how exceedingly difficult it is to get any really valuable inside information on the true history of the people in our own or any other country in past ages. The sources which we can draw upon refer us almost entirely to the great movements of State, and we are thankful when they go just a little further and allow of a peep into the inner workings of the State machinery, specially when they give us some liftle glimpse into the inner workings of the minds of those who used that machinery.

This is what Mr. Abbott's book sets out to do, and, with the intimate historical and local knowledge of the author behind it, it is what it succeeds in doing. The result is a work of the greatest interest and value for the state of affairs in the Turkish capital at the end of the 17th century, and for the relations of the foreign trader in Turkish towns with the powers that were. Every now and then the searchlight throws its beam into odd corners of even greater interest, and we must be grateful that this is so, and not allow ourselves to grumble that the author has not achieved the impossible by letting us see even more.

A queer picture it is. The Grand Signor was still successful in placing himself on a pinnacle to which even the greatest of foreign potentates had no means of attaining. He was not altogether inaccessible to their ambassadors, when it suited him to be polite to them or when they had sufficiently purchased his graciousness. But these ambassadors were looked on more in the light of hostages for the good behaviour of their nationals than as representatives of equal monarchs. They were received only as an act of grace, and it was very easy for them to fall from grace at any time, a disaster which demanded much exercise of humility and much money to retrieve. The Grand Signor acted entirely through his Grand Vizir in such matters, and access to the Grand Vizir was to be had only by proper propitiation of his Kehayah or steward. These officials were seldom apt to value their services at a low figure, and were eager to take advantage of the most trumpery incidents to impress on the unbeliever the necessity for gratifications. Nor were our representatives finished when they had been to this, for there was always an army of minor officials who had to be kept in good humour. All these officials, from Grand Vizir downwards, had but a precarious hold on their appointments, which were apt to be ended by the sudden death of the holders. So, not only were they eager to make hay while the sun shone, but our representatives were constantly being placed in the position of having to begin all over again owing to new men coming into power. When one reads of the constant humiliations to which foreign ambassadors were subject, their constant anxiety to keep on good terms with the rascals who ruled the land, their fear that their monarchs might be deprived of the smallest portion of the dignity to which they aspired, and the constant jealousy and bickerings between themselves, one can well understand that such a post was not a bed of roses, and that the big pay attached to it was hardly earned.

It is difficult to praise sufficiently the skill with which Mr. Abbott has treated the material on which he has worked or to give any idea of the extraordinarily lifelike and vivid picture which he presents to us. The following extract, giving an account of poor Sir John Finch's reception by the Grand Signor, will give some idea of Mr. Abbott's style. The reference to "Padesha" is explained by the frantic efforts of Sir John to get even with the French ambassador in getting his master termed *Padishah* (Emperor) at the Sublime Porte instead of *Kral*, or King. His efforts, we may add, were quite vain.

"The proceedings appear to have been marked by rather more than the ceremonial violence customary on such occasions; so much so that those who took part in them could afterwards give only the vaguest and most confused account of what had happened. . . . At the entrance they were each seized by two capijis, one holding them under one arm, the other under the other, and were dragged in. As soon as ever they crossed the Sublime Threshold, their conductors, laying their hands on their necks, forced them to bow down till their foreheads touched the floor: once—twice—thrice; and immediately afterwards all, except the Ambassador, his secretary, and chief dragoman, were hustled out again in such a manner that the Treasurer, who came out first, swore that he saw practically nothing—only in a general sort of way he had an impression of a very large, dimly lighted room, with in it something that looked like a thing they call the Grand Signor. The poor Cancelier, being a little man, was crushed quite down at the door, and the oldest merchant nearly tumbled over him as he lay sprawling over the Sublime Threshold: so they saw even less than the Treasurer.

"The Ambassador stayed in about four minutes altogether. . . . After the three compulsory prostrations, Sir John's Dragoman was ordered to read His Excellency's address—just twelve and a-half lines given to him beforehand in Italian: 'wherein was all His Majesty's titles that I could thinke of and the word Padesha in, where there was occasion to putt it, at which my Druggerman being a little startled when I gave Him the Paper the day before I went in, I bad Him fear nothing for I was to be by Him.' But in spite of the brevity of the speech, in spite of his rehearsal of it, in spite of the Ambassador's protecting vicinity, poor old Signor Giorgio, what with the violent exercise he had just undergone, what with the Grand Signor's scowl, was so flurried that he very nearly lost the thread. That done, the Secretary handed the King's Letter to the Dragoman, who passed it to the Vizir, who laid it on the bolster at the Grand Signor's right hand, who cast a kind of scornful eye towards it and said—nothing. The Vizir spoke instead, saying, 'All right,' and, without more ado, Ambassador, Secretary, and Dragoman were dragged out again."

It is interesting to find that Sir John Finch preached in vain to the Levant Company how their trade with Turkey could be increased, if only they would follow the example of their rivals by giving credit. These arguments sound quite modern to a reader of THE NEAR EAST, and "Commentator's" sermons seem to produce almost as little effect as Sir John's did.

It is quite impossible to do justice to this fascinating and scholarly book in the space available to us. We can only urge our readers to buy it and enjoy it themselves at leisure. The pictures add to the interest of the text, and the index is welcome. The only fault that we can find is in the unnecessarily heavy paper which the publishers have used, making the book rather uncomfortable to hold.

C. S.-W.

## II.—DREARY SENSATIONALISM.

E. W. Savi takes her title from the lines:

". . . . I do know,
When the blood burns how prodigal the soul
Lends the tongue vows."

Marcelle Raeburn listens to the vows of David Stallard when he persuades her that his elderly wife—whom he was forced to marry for the sake of his firm's finances—means nothing to him, and that a life of true happiness is to be found for Marcelle and himself near a small station in Bengal. Here she meets Stallard's magnanimous and idealistic friend, Roddie Carr, and him she eventually marries—after she has become thoroughly disillusioned about David and has suffered many tribulations.

The characters have their qualities clearly labelled, in case we should miss their significance in the story, and the author propels them through as many sensational scenes as possible, mostly—until the very sugary ending—of a painful character. Probably these are meant to thrill the reader; but they produce, as does the rest of the novel, only a feeling of rather disgusted boredom.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Balkans: Roumania, Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenego." By William Miller, M.A. The Story of the Nations Series. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Flames on the Bosphorus." By Luigi Motta. Translated by Helen Zimmern. (London: Odhams Press, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Savitri." By Marjorie Strachey. (London: Chatto and Windus. 6s. net.)

"Tales of Ægean Intrigue." By J. C. Lawson. (London: Chatto and Windus. 12s. 6d. net.)

"With the Indians in France." By General Sir James Willcocks, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., etc. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd. 24s. net.)

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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**TO-DAY.**

November 11 (new style).
October 29 (old style).
Safar 30, 1339, A.H., of the Moslem calendar.
Marheshwan 30, 5681, of the Jewish calendar.

Princess Cantacuzène has arrived in Paris from Bucharest.

Lord and Lady Oranmore and Browne have returned to London.

M. Titulesco, the Roumanian Minister of Finance, left for Paris on November 7.

M. Gueguetchkori, the Georgian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has left London for Paris.

Sir C. Sankaran Nair is on leave in India, and does not return to London until March.

Prince Habib Lotfallah, the Envoy of the King of the Hejaz, visited the Foreign Office on Friday.

M. Nicolas Vladesco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London last week for Paris, on leave.

M. Matila Costiesco-Ghyka, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London on November 6 for Bucharest.

The Greek Minister, M. Demetrius Caclamanos, was received at St. James's Palace on November 3 by the Prince of Wales.

The Queen of Roumania has arrived at Zurich from Bucharest, to visit the grave of her mother, the Duchess of Edinburgh.

Dr. and Mrs. A. C. Inman have returned to London from India after a six months' visit to his Highness the Maharaja of Nepal.

Sir Davoud Khan Meftahos Saltaneh, the newly appointed Persian Minister to the Court of St. James, has arrived in London.

M. Madjaroff, the Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires, is leaving London shortly for Warsaw, in connection with the forthcoming visit to that city of M. Stambolisky.

The Sultan of Egypt, according to a Cairo message, has conferred the Grand Cordon of the Nile on Sir Paul Harvey in recognition of his eminent services to Egypt as Financial Adviser.

Lieutenant-General Sir C. H. Harrington left London on November 2 to take up his appointment as General Officer, Commanding-in-Chief, the Army of the Black Sea. He is expected to arrive at Constantinople to-morrow.

Captain R. F. Briscoe, who died recently at Shamley Green, Guildford, served in the Naval Brigade in the Crimea, and was twice mentioned in despatches for services rendered in connection with the bombardment of Alexandria.

Dr. Stancioff, the newly appointed Bulgarian Minister to London, is accompanying M. Stambolisky on his visit to Paris and other European capitals, and is not expected to take up his duties in London before the New Year.

His Excellency Doctor Vojtech Mastny was received in audience by the King on November 6, and presented his Letter of Credence as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Czecho-Slovakia.

A course of four public lectures, on "The Bhagavadgita," will be given at the University of London, University College, by Miss D. J. Stephen, of Newnham College, Cambridge, on November 18 and 25, and December 2 and 9, at 5.30 p.m.

Accompanied by the Premier, the Sultan of Egypt last week visited Damanhour, the capital of the Behera Province. The Sultan will probably visit Mansura during this month and make an extended tour in Upper Egypt in December.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain N. G. Hind, M.C., 2nd King Edward's Own Gurkhas (Simoor Rifles), and Marguerite, eldest daughter of the late Captain A. Hall, Royal Irish Rifles, and Mrs. Hall, of Gloucester House, Jersey.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in December, at Patna, India, between Captain Marsh, M.C., R.A.M.C., and Stephanie Maud, only child of Sir Edward Gait, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., Lieutenant-Governor of Bihar and Orissa, and of Lady Gait, C.B.E.

Mr. Thomas Russell, J.P., of Haremere, Etchingham, Sussex, who died on July 6, leaving estate of the value of £77,470, bequeathed £200 each to the United Free Church of Scotland for the "Charles Russell" Mission, Palestine, and to the Russell Homes for Soldiers, Cairo.

Sir Arthur Yapp left London last week on a three months' visit to India, on the invitation of the National Council of Y.M.C.A.'s, to attend the tenth national convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations in India and Ceylon, which meets in Calcutta this month.

Sir Charles James Lyall, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., late Indian Civil Service, of Cornwall Gardens, S.W., who died on September 1, aged 75, left estate of the value of £44,214 gross and £43,613 net. He gives to his wife £500 and such furniture as she may select, and her income is to be made up to £1,200 a year, free of income-tax. The ultimate residue goes to his children.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Mr. H. E. Bowman, C.B.E., of the Egyptian Ministry of Education, who recently returned to Cairo from Mesopotamia, has been seconded by the Egyptian Government as Director of Education under the Palestine Government, and is proceeding to Jerusalem immediately to take up his duties.

Lieutenant-General Sir H. Vaughan Cox, on reaching the age of sixty, has retired from the Secretaryship of the Military Department of the India Office, and with Lady Cox has left for the Continent. Lieutenant-General Sir Alexander S. Cobbe, V.C., who acted for Sir Vaughan Cox during his deputation as a member of the Esher Committee, has now been appointed his successor.

The Secretary of State for India has made the following appointments in the Indian Educational Service:—

Mr. H. Dippie, D.S.O., M.A.Cantab., to an Inspectorship of Schools in Bihar and Orissa.

Mr. C. A. Phillips, M.C., B.A.Cantab., to a Headmastership in the Central Provinces.

Mr. R. Wolfenden, M.B.E., M.Sc., A.M.I.M.E., as Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur.

He has also appointed Mr. C. R. Copeland as Instructor of Mechanical Drawing at the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur.

## WAR HONOURS.

The following list of Decorations and Medals awarded by the Allied Powers at various dates to the British Forces for services rendered during the course of the campaign:—

**BY THE KING OF THE SERBS, CROATS, AND SLOVENES.**

ORDER OF THE WHITE EAGLE (WITH SWORDS).

*4th Class.*

Temp. Lt. W. Hine, O.B.E., S. Wales Bords.

ORDER OF THE WHITE EAGLE.

*5th Class.*

Hon. Maj. R. N. G. Bingley, Spec. List.

**BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECHO-SLOVAK REPUBLIC.**

CROIX DE GUERRE.

Temp. Col. H. C. Bickford, C.M.G.; Temp. Maj.-Gen. J. H. Elmsley, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.; Br. Lt.-Col. A. H. H. Powell, Canadian Forces.

**BY THE MAHARAJADHIRAJA OF NEPAL.**

ORDER OF THE STAR OF NEPAL.

*2nd Class.*

Tempt. Brig.-Gen. W. D. Villiers-Stuart, C.B.E., 5th Gurkha Rifles; Maj. Gen. N. G. Woodyatt, C.B., C.I.E., Ind. Army.

*3rd Class.*

Maj. W. B. Baker, O.B.E., 10th Gurkha Rifles; Temp. Maj. W. D. G. Batten, 3rd Gurkha Rifles; Actg. Maj. T. H. Battye, 10th Gurkha Rifles; Capt. W. St. J. Carpendale, 1st Gurkha Rifles; Actg. Col. T. H. Foulkes, C.I.E., F.R.C.S.; Lt.-Col. J. W. Grant, M.B., I.M.S.; Capt. J. L. Johanson, 7th Gurkha Rifles; Lt.-Col. W. C. Little, 6th Gurkha Rifles; Actg. Maj. A. S. Mackay, M.C., 7th Gurkha Rifles; Majs. A. L. M. Molesworth, 8th Gurkha Rifles, W. B. Northey, M.C., 1st Gurkha Rifles; Lt.-Col. C. McL. Porteous, ret. pay, Ind. Army; Capt. G. G. Rogers, 1st Gurkha Rifles; Maj. H. M. D. Shaw, D.S.O., 1st Gurkha Rifles, Ind. Army

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The King has given the following authority to wear decorations of the Order of the Nile, conferred by the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered under the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior:—

Insignia of Fourth Class.—A Pringle, Director, Police Stores, Cairo; W. S. Roberts, Inspr. Ministry of the Interior; Bimbashi H. Vernon Jarvis, Inspr. Cairo City Police; W. D. Blake, Supt., Cairo City Fire Brigade.

Insignia of Fifth Class.—Bimbashi T. W. Weller, Sub-Director, Police Stores, Cairo.

## AT GENERAL JACOB'S TOMB.

Recent letters from missionaries on the frontier speak of the state of uncertainty and unrest among the frontier tribes, which necessarily affects the work of the hospitals. Dr. R. J. H. Cox, a C.M.S. missionary at Peshawar, on the N.-W. Frontier of India, writes as follows:—

"In February I went down to help in the work at the mission hospital at Shikarpur. This was a record year, and in six weeks 1,241 operations for cataract were performed, with 1,033 other operations. Shikarpur is near the old frontier station of Jacobabad. I made a pilgrimage there, this time to the tomb of General Jacob, after whom the place is named, and was interested to notice that the tribesmen of the frontier still go and light lamps on his grave when they are in trouble. Such is the lasting influence of a godly man among these fine people."

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

General Gouraud, French High Commissioner in Syria, is expected in Paris in about a week's time.

For the first time in the history of Roumania, says the *Jewish Guardian*, a training college for Jewish teachers is about to be opened in Braila.

Mr. Israel Cohen has collected altogether £78,800 during his tour in New Zealand on behalf of the Palestine Fund. He is now proceeding to Hong Kong.

The trustees of the National College at Amritsar have unanimously rejected non-co-operation, thus acting on the same lines as the trustees of the Aligarh College.

The Secretary of the Admiralty announces that the torpedo-destroyer Stonehenge is ashore at the entrance to the Gulf of Smyrna. All officers and men are safe.

Italy has closed the coast of the Gulf of Syrtis (Libya) to commerce pending the release of the Italian garrison of Syrtis, which has been captured by the natives.

Mr. Abram I. Elkus, formerly United States Ambassador to Turkey, has been selected as the American member of the Aaland Islands Commission of Investigation.

In conformity with the Bulgarian Peace Treaty, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister has given orders that Bulgarian prisoners remaining in Serbia shall immediately be repatriated.

At the conclusion of the All-India Trade Union Congress on November 2 a resolution was passed condemning the attitude of the employers towards the strikers in Bombay and urging the Governor to intervene.

His Majesty's ship Centaur left Constantinople on November 4 for Odessa, carrying 43 Bolshevik prisoners to be exchanged for British prisoners from Baku. The latest news received states that the British prisoners have reached Tiflis.

The High Commissioner of Palestine has announced that the Administration is prepared to recognise the elected Assembly as representative of the Jewish population, provided that the Assembl recognise the mandate of the League of Nations and retain its representative character.

Two important bequests have recently been received by the British Museum in the collections made by the late Mr. H. B. Earle Fox and Mr. F. W. Hasluck. Mr. Earle Fox was a well-known student of Greek and English coins, and the gift of the Greek portion of his collection has greatly strengthened the Museum series. Mr. Hasluck, who was Assistant Director of the British School at Athens, was a keen collector, especially of European coins struck in or exported to the Levant. By the terms of his will, the first selection from his collection has been given to the British Museum, which has thus acquired over 1,200 pieces, many of them rare and curious illustrations of the history of the Italian colonies in the Levant, as well as of the Levantine trade in general during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons set themselves a very high standard in the matter of Christmas and New Year cards, but each season they come up to that standard, and this year is no exception to the rule. We have received from them samples of greeting cards of many kinds, including the Royal cards, and we congratulate the firm on the beauty of design and excellence of production that all of them show. Whether they take the form of private greeting cards, of calendars, or of the popular postcard, they are the best of their kind and sure to give pleasure to sender and recipient alike. Our readers who send cards, whether now to friends abroad or later on to friends at home, cannot do better than go to the dealer who stocks Messrs. Tuck's productions; and any one looking out for a gift book for a child should bear in mind the "Legends" series, which would be hard to beat.

## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses. Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

# WHERE TO STAY.

For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—

"EASTAPROX, LONDON, TWENTIETH MATLOCK TWO
(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."

which would indicate that two rooms were required at Matlock on the 20th of the month.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1920.


## BRITISH POLICY IN PERSIA.

With most of the criticism levelled against the British Government's policy in regard to the Middle East we confess to being entirely out of sympathy, and we see no reason to modify this point of view even when the attacks of *The Times* are reinforced by the measured arguments of the Aga Khan. It might be difficult not to share some of the misgivings of the latter, if there were any ground for supposing that the condition of affairs which His Highness condemns was other than a passing phase for which Great Britain is by no means wholly responsible. Instead of "the wild and reckless adventures" against which he inveighs we seem to have witnessed a total absence of any clear design, much less of any definite policy. Adventures imply driving power or at least direction, and the Aga Khan admits in the same breath that British policy has been "without coherence and without clear direction." Is it not more probable that Great Britain's difficulties in the Middle East are due to her attitude of *laissez faire*, which encouraged the Arabs to indulge in their traditional recreation of fighting and looting, and allowed the Bolshevists to advance into Persia, and to make a bid for authority in Afghanistan? We are not concerned to defend the administration of Mesopotamia, but in common fairness it has to be admitted that its mistakes were of local origin, the result of the authorities being left without instructions rather than being charged with any policy of aggression or adventure. When once the Arab rising had broken out, only a personal vendetta or a hopelessly unmilitary and unpractical mind would prompt the suggestion that the British should withdraw from Mesopotamia before the rising had been quelled. If Indian opinion is exercised over the retention of Indian troops in Mesopotamia, it is ungenerous on its part to insinuate that their presence there is necessarily connected with any policy of adventure. The facts are well known to all. Mesopotamia was conquered by force of arms, and until the future status of the country had been arranged there could be no question of withdrawing the army of occupation. The delay in the settlement of the Turkish peace terms was in no way the fault of Great Britain. A mistake made by the British Government was to reduce the strength of the Army in Mesopotamia below the safety limit. It can be claimed that, apart from the errors of judgment of administrators on the spot, Great Britain has done nothing at variance with the correct policy of a Mandatory State to train the people in the science of self-government. The Aga Khan's misgivings in regard to Mesopotamia, we venture to think, are mainly the product of his dislike of the recommendations of the Esher Committee. As for the latter, it is altogether ignored that they are the suggestions of an advisory body, and have not received the *imprimatur* of Government approval. It is, therefore, wide of the mark to invest them with the authority of Government policy, and for this reason much of the Aga Khan's criticism falls to the ground. His indictment, none the less, merits careful attention; for if a responsible Indian of his sagacity and statesmanship can labour under erroneous impressions, it is evident that scores of lesser intellects will be still more at fault, and the British Government should take care that the misunderstandings are removed.

But while the Government can make out a good case in regard to Mesopotamia, it does not follow that it has equal justification for its policy or absence of one in Persia and Central Asia. Here, again, the determining factor would seem to have been military necessity. To safeguard the integrity of Persia it was natural that an attempt should be made to shut up the Red armies in their own territory and to prevent them from overrunning Persia. The presence of British or Indian troops at Enzeli or Meshed, therefore, is not necessarily a symptom of "wild and reckless adventure," but would be strictly in accordance with sound defensive strategy. That this particular military enterprise has remained more or less "in the air," without leading to any definite result, is due to a set of circumstances entirely ignored by the critics who are obsessed with the bogey of Asiatic adventure. In the light of subsequent events it was, no doubt, unfortunate that Great Britain negotiated an agreement with Persia without notifying the French Government of her intentions. (Our very captious Allies, it may be remarked in passing, would probably base a grievance on a similar omission in regard to any understanding with Canada or India.) But no one can dispute that the Anglo-Persian Agreement was a genuine attempt to solve the Persian problem in the manner most satisfactory to Persian *amour propre*, and the most calculated to preserve the integrity and independence of Persia. That Agreement has not yet been ratified, for two reasons. In the first place the Shah would seem to have derived from his visit to Paris this year direct encouragement to thwart the ratification of the Agreement; secondly, his own interests and the interests of the clique surrounding him are linked up with the maintenance of a corrupt system, which would be in danger of coming to an end, if the Anglo-Persian Agreement were to be carried into effect. Unfortunately, the British Government in its short-sightedness and in the absence of a practical policy, is merely playing into the hands of an effete administration by providing it with money, without insisting upon the performance of Persia's share of the bargain.

The mistake made by the British Government, in perfect good faith, is that it has attempted to bolster up a system which is inherently unsound. It is the presence of British troops in North Persia that has given rise to charges of reckless adventures, and the troops have been sent so far north only because of the fetish that the fortunes of a country are invariably linked up with its capital. In the case of Persia it would be more correct to say that all its misfortunes are derived from that particular source. But for the restraining presence of Great Britain the good sense of Persia would probably have rid the land long since of the incubus of a corrupt bureaucracy. By depriving the Persians of their crude remedy for the ills that beset them, we are encouraging a revolutionary element of a different type, which will be actuated by more advanced doctrines than the mere desire to wipe out the incompetent and to make way for better men. Recent events should have provided us with an object-lesson of the hopelessness of any attempt to assist the Persians to make good in Teheran. We might accomplish something with British troops in residence in the capital, but such a course would now not be sanctioned by public opinion in England; and when the time came to withdraw there would be the certainty that city and Government would at once revert under whatever influence might be exerted from the direction of Russia. The solution that we recommend for the Persian problem is to build up the country's salvation from the south. It is the sphere where Great Britain is best known, and where her influence will not have to contend against the corrupt and demoralising atmosphere of Teheran. With the withdrawal of our troops from North Persia, the Shah, Court and the Government would have to choose between fighting their own battles by themselves and removing to Ispahan. If they adopted the latter course, there would be no obstacle to the ratification of the Anglo-Persian Agreement, and no difficulty in giving effect to its provisions. A reliable army and gendarmerie could then be trained, which in time would restore peace and order throughout Persia. The chaos that might result at first in the North would in all probability be localised; for with the lure of Teheran largely eliminated as a result of the removal of the Court and Government the incentive to intrigue would disappear. Persia,

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however, would still need help and advice, for the whole success of the agreement depends upon the manner in which the necessary assistance is given to the Persians in the creation of an honest and efficient administration. Unless we are very much mistaken, we believe that the right man is already on the spot, in the person of General Ironside commanding the British troops in North Persia, who should be entrusted with the task of setting Persia on her feet. The decision to withdraw to the south would cut the Gordian knot: it would meet Indian misgivings, reconcile the British taxpayer and save Persia from herself.

## MOSLEM TALES FROM JERUSALEM.*

**By Estelle Blyth.**

### THE STORY OF THE SULTAN'S DAUGHTER AND THE THREE RIDDLES.

Long, long ago, when the governor of a city was as a sultan for power and riches, there reigned in Jerusalem a Pasha who was very clever and also very wicked. He made friends with a young man named Hassan, who was the only son of rich parents, and the Pasha loved him as his own soul—until the young Hassan lost his money. After that sad day (whose dawn it is possible the Pasha had hastened), Hassan could do nothing that pleased his friend; and at last it came to a real quarrel between them. Then the Pasha sent for Hassan's father and told him of the quarrel. "It has made my heart bleed for ever," said the Pasha, "for the same city can no longer hold me and your ungrateful son."

What could the poor father do? He begged the Pasha to forgive Hassan, if only because he was young.

"No," said the Pasha, "that I cannot do, for it would lessen my honour in the sight of the people, and am I not, unworthy as I am, the representative of our august master, the Sultan? But listen, I will give your son a letter to a brother of mine who lives in Constantinople, and he will be a friend to Hassan for my sake."

Greatly troubled, Hassan's old father left the Pasha's house. It was possible that Hassan might do well in Stamboul, the city of the Sultans, for he was clever and resourceful; but how was he to raise the money to send him there? As there was no other way of getting the money, he caused himself to be sold, and insisted on Hassan using the money to buy clothes. The means of travelling were another difficulty, and this was only overcome at last by the mother being sold as well, and her price provided Hassan with a horse. Hassan wept much that these things should be, and he swore that he would never rest until he had repaid his parents for their sacrifice. When all was ready, the Pasha gave him a sealed letter to his brother in Stamboul, together with many kind words and two bishliks; and Hassan set forth sadly enough on his long and lonely journey.

After many weeks of wandering and hardship, he found himself one evening at the foot of some bare mountains; and presently he fell in with a tribe of Bedouin, who quickly robbed him of his clothes and also of his horse. Searching his garments for money or valuables, they found the Pasha's letter, which they took at once to their sheikh. Now, the sheikh was a very learned man, and he could read, so he opened the letter. With amazement he read the Pasha's order to his brother: "So soon as he who brings this letter shall appear before you, let his head be lifted up with those of the unlucky men in the city of the Sultans."

The Bedouin thought it would be as well to slay Hassan themselves, to make sure; but the sheikh would not allow it. "Why," he said, "should we stain our hands with the blood of one who is already far down the road of death? Let him proceed to Stamboul; they will surely slay him there."

So the letter was carefully resealed and given back to Hassan, and he was allowed to proceed on his way; he had to walk, however, for his horse was a good one and the Bedouin thought it waste for one whose days were so nearly numbered to keep such a valuable steed.

Weary and ragged, he reached Stamboul at last. Great was his horror, as he approached the city, to see its beautiful walls adorned with rows and rows of human heads. He stopped a man and asked him what this meant, and the man replied: "The Sultan's daughter has sworn to marry no man save him who can answer her three riddles. Those are the heads of the men who have tried."

On hearing this, Hassan, who was full of courage and energy, took his way at once to the Sultan's palace, and demanded an audience of the Sultan's daughter. He was taken to the great hall, where she sat with her father the Sultan; and at the sight of her the heart of Hassan became as water within him, for she was more beautiful than the moon at its full.

The Sultan's daughter put to him the first riddle.

"How can a man wear his father?"

"Even as I did," answered Hassan. "I sold my father and bought me a robe with the money."

The beauty of the Sultan's daughter was darkened by a frown.

"Tell me, bold stranger, how can a man ride his mother?"

Hassan replied: "I sold my mother, and got me a horse with her price."

Then the Sultan's daughter beat with her hands upon the arm of her golden chair.

"Answer me this! I caught a goose for my dinner, I plucked it, and yet it flew away."

Hassan could find no answer to this riddle, but he begged for twelve hours in which to think it over, and this the old Sultan insisted should be given to him. So Hassan made his way to the nearest khan, and sat him down to think. Now, although he knew it not, the Sultan's daughter disguised herself and followed him at a distance, and when she had seen where he went, she returned secretly to the palace.

The khan was kept by an old woman. When she heard that Hassan was a stranger in Stamboul, she said that he might sleep that night on the floor on condition that he would open the door to her daughter, when she came early in the morning to light the fire and make ready for the day's work. To this Hassan willingly agreed; and when night came he wrapped himself in his cloak and lay down, not to sleep but to think. For death seemed to him very near.

At midnight there was a soft tap at the door, and he opened it. A girl stood outside, wrapped in a thick cloak and a veil. She paid no heed to the untidy room nor to the dying fire, but sat down on a little stool, and gazed earnestly at Hassan. Seeing his sorrowful face, she tried him with clever questions and with soft words, until at last she drew from him his trouble: the twelve hours the Sultan had granted him would soon be over, and he had still no glimmering of an answer to the third riddle. Presently the girl went away; and after she had gone Hassan found a handkerchief which she had dropped lying just outside the door.

With early dawn came the old woman who grumbled loudly because her daughter was ill and could not do her work, and so she herself must rise early to do it.

"But your daughter was here not long since," said Hassan, as he set about helping her. "I let her in as we agreed. It is true she did no work, but see, here is the handkerchief she dropped."

"Oh, son of a hundred donkeys!" cried the old woman angrily. "Do such as we trouble ourselves to use handkerchiefs? This is the toy of some great one, which of a truth you have stolen!"

"The third answer!" cried Hassan, filled with joy and understanding. He rushed from the khan, while the old woman screamed after him that he was mad.

The Sultan's daughter received him as before, sitting on a high golden chair beside her father's throne.

"Listen," said Hassan, standing at the steps of the throne. "I caught a goose for my dinner, and it flew away after I had plucked it. Yet it left one feather in my hand—*this!*" And he laid the handkerchief at her feet.

Thus were the three riddles answered, and Hassan and the Sultan's daughter were married amid great rejoicings. Hassan at once freed his father and mother from slavery, and sent for them to come and live with him in Stamboul. And the old Sultan sent men in haste to Jerusalem to behead the unfriendly Pasha, whose head was lifted up on the city walls, as he had thought to do with the head of Hassan.

* These tales were told to the writer by a Moslem in Jerusalem. Previous tales in the series appeared in THE NEAR EAST Nos. 451, 453, 470, 484 and 490.

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## THE "'TIS-AS-IF-I-HAD-EATEN-IT" MOSQUE.

The Turkish name of this mosque is shorter and prettier than its English equivalent; but as its full meaning might not be understood at a glance if given in the language of the worshippers, I have ventured a literal translation. One does not know that any guide-book gives its name in Turkish or any other language, or if any casual traveller to Constantinople has ever seen this mosque or heard of the story of its building. It is a mosque, not in ruins but still in good and regular standing, or, perhaps I should say, still a place of worship and used by the Faithful of Scutari on Fridays and what are the "week days" to them. Scutari, just across the Bosphorus from Stamboul, has its great cemetery, its *tekkeh* of Howling Dervishes, its goodly great mosque (Buyuk Djami), and its Chinili mosque; but aside from these outstanding attractions there are many out-in-the-open and also hidden-away places of interest that go uninspected because unadvertised and unknown.

Only a few years ago, before the American College for Girls was moved from Scutari to another and perhaps more commodious hilltop at Arnaoutkeuy, across the Bosphorus, Professor D——, a lady with all the lore, and a great liking for the people and places of the land, pointed this mosque out to a little party of interested friends, the writer among the number. Professor D—— has a kind heart, bright, ingratiating ways, and the speech of the people at her command. This gives her the "open sesame" to the people—the so-called common people who are most susceptible, as are common people the world over, to kindness, and the Moslem man or woman likes to give as well as receive. Whether it was the *caiqueji* who used to row her boat, or the *hamal* who carried her boxes up from the scala, in return for a smile and a few words to them in their own language Miss D—— would be repaid (if she had time to stop and listen) by a proverb, a bit of local news, or a story—for they are intuitive, if not educated, the simple folk, and discovered quickly the little lady's bent for the history and tales of their land. I suspect, then, it was one of these humble friends of hers (though she did not tell me so) who told her the story of the Yeyeissem—as I remember the name—mosque.

It seems that many years ago there was a man in Scutari who had a great liking for rich and expensive food, rare viands, fruit that was out of season—who, in short, was very much of a gourmet. Combined with these very material tastes he had a pious heart, and an ambition to be helpful. But, though a well-to-do man, he could do little in the way of alms-giving, or erecting monuments, because of his selfish indulgence in the most costly food that could be procured.

The two natures in him—the desire to be generous and his delight in the good things of the table—were antagonistic, and did not give him the peace of spirit he desired. The thought was constantly in his mind: how could he do some great thing to acquire merit and to benefit his fellow-men, and at the same time pander to his own exacting appetite? There was not money to do both.

One day, he was seized with a sudden inspiration (we will not lay it to an attack of severe indigestion), and he said to himself: "Why can I not look at every good thing I should like to eat, and say: ''Tis as if I had eaten it,' and take the money these dainties would have cost me and build a mosque to the glory of Allah with it?" This inspiration no sooner came to him than he began to act upon it! He began to live on the simplest fare. He would be seen to gaze at the costly food offered on the streets, or at the bazaars, and would be heard to say: "'Tis as if I had eaten it," and would then pass on. The money thus saved soon enabled him to begin his pious undertaking, and the Yeyeissem, the "'Tis-as-if-I-had-eaten-it" mosque in Scutari, is a monument to his piety and his self-denial to this day.

M. A. P.

## MODERN EGYPT.

Lecturing at the London School of Oriental Studies on November 1, Mr. D. A. Cameron said that although Egypt occupied a unique position on one of the great trade routes of the world her people had never been traders. Since a long time prior to Alexander, her trade had always been in the hands of Greeks or other foreigners. After the founding of Alexandria there was a period of about three hundred years, ending with the death of Cleopatra and Egypt's submission to Rome, another three hundred years until the Roman Empire divided and Egypt fell under Byzantium, and then another three hundred years, making nine hundred years in all, of trading. Then the Arabs took possession of the land, after which little trading was done. After six hundred years Saladin conquered the country and established the military caste of the Mamelukes to rule over it, and, when Venice arose, she offered to become the agent of the Mamelukes for trading to Europe. Thus immense wealth was brought both to Venice and Egypt. This period was ended partly by the opening up of the route to India round the Cape of Good Hope, and partly by the conquest of Egypt by Sultan Selim of Turkey: who not only destroyed every title-deed, making the country his own, but diverted trade northwards through Smyrna and Constantinople. The Turks remained in power, thoroughly mismanaging the country, until about 1800, when Mehemet Ali rose to eminence during the turmoil caused by the Napoleonic invasion. He was the Turkish Pasha, but he established his own army and, following the example of Selim, gradually acquired all the cultivated land of the country. It was during his time that Thomas Waghorn reopened the route to India. Steamers were brought to Suez and other steamers to Alexandria, and letters and passengers were conveyed from one port to the other. A railway was built about 1856. About that time Ferdinand de Lesseps, then French Consul in Cairo, revived the project for a ship canal through the isthmus, and this was eventually opened in 1869.

Mr. Cameron described the beginning of the cotton industry in Egypt; he said it was this that enabled Mehemet Ali to maintain an army to fight the Sultan. When Mehemet Ali died he left Egypt a semi-independent principality to his grandson Ismail; who carried out great schemes to develop the country, but brought it to bankruptcy, partly because of the rapacity of European contractors and partly by his own criminal extravagance. The revolt of Arabi led to the British occupation, which brought the régime of Lord Cromer with a new policy—one of sound finance, patience, hostility to grandiose schemes, and a determination to spend every penny available on irrigation. Lord Cromer reduced the taxation on the fellaheen, and protected them from the native landowner on the one hand and from the foreign money lender on the other. This policy had been continued by his successors. The Egyptian question was not really a political question; it arose from the lack of initiative of the Egyptian people. The country had always been in the hands of foreigners.

## MR. BOURCHIER ON THE BALKANS.

On October 27 Mr. J. D. Bourchier delivered a lecture at Cambridge, to the Cambridge branch of the British Institute for International Affairs, on the prospects of peace in the Balkans. After describing the various unsuccessful efforts which had been made in the past to bring the Balkan peoples together, he explained the circumstances which led to the formation of the Balkan League of 1912. One of the principal obstacles to co-operation between the Balkan States had been the insistence of Bulgaria on the application of the principles of autonomy and self-determination to Macedonia, while Greece and Serbia demanded partition and annexation. At the root of this difference was the circumstance that the Bulgarians possessed the majority in the country and could therefore count on the popular vote. The Balkan League could not have been formed had not Bulgaria partially yielded on this question by conceding Uskub and part of Northern Macedonia to Serbia. The League effected the overthrow of Ottoman domination in the Balkan Peninsula, but the lustre of this great achievement was dimmed by disputes among the Allies over the partition of the spoil and the demand of Serbia for a revision of her treaty with Bulgaria which would enable her to annex a larger portion of Macedonia, led to the second Balkan War, which resulted unfavourably for Bulgaria, owing to the unexpected intervention of Rumania and the invasion of her territory by that power. The Treaty of Bucharest which followed mutilated the Bulgarian nation and sowed the seeds of all the calamities which subsequently befell the Balkans and Europe. The third and still greater mutilation of the Bulgarian race accomplished by the Treaty of Neuilly may therefore inspire us with the most serious misgivings. The temple of Peace has been erected on insecure foundations, for no stable settlement can be hoped for in the Balkans so long as the principle of nationalities is ignored. Already we see the "happy and victorious nations," as M. Take Jonescu describes them, combining with a view to the retention of the spoil—a circumstance which demonstrates the sense of insecurity which prevails amongst them.

## THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

A Council meeting of the Arab Horse Society was held at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, on November 3, Mr. S. G. Hough (Vice-President) being in the chair. A large number of entries were accepted for the Arab Horse Stud Book, Vol. II., and the Arab-bred Register. Preliminary arrangements were made with regard to the Arab and Arab-bred classes for the next Show at the Agricultural Hall, London. The following new members were elected:—Bromwich, Mrs. M. A., Kenfield Hall, Petham, near Canterbury; Cadbury-Brown, Major H. W., Rotchfords, Wormingford, Essex; Clark, Mrs. H. V. Musgrave, White Hart Hotel, Lewes; Denne, Mrs. L. G. L., Waverley, Harold Road, Deal; Lewis, Capt. C. C., Political Officer, Gurneh, Mesopotamia; Lewis, Mrs. C. C., c.o. Capt. C. C. Lewis, Gurneh, Mesopotamia; Lytton, the Hon. Anne, Crabbet Park, Crawley, Sussex; Lytton, the Hon. W., Crabbet Park, Crawley, Sussex; Munck, Capt. Edward, 8, Redcliffe Gardens, S.W.; Owen, A. M., Woodhouse, Oswestry, Salop; Stack, Lieut.-Colonel Charles A., c.o. Messrs. Grinlay and Co., 54, Parliament Street, S.W.; Strickland, Mrs. M. H., Clermiston House, Corstorphine, Midlothian; Summerhayes, R. S., The Lodge, Silverdale Road, Eastbourne; Wilmot, A. M., 3, Trewartha Park, Weston-super-Mare.

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## DISTRESS IN TURKEY.

We published last week a letter from Lord Lamington and others drawing attention to the widespread suffering and distress prevailing at this time among the Moslems of Turkey. The following are extracts from a report by the Rev. Dr. Frew on the conditions prevalent among the people among whom the British Red Crescent Society's agents have been working. The address of the B.R.C.S. is, 18, Sloane Street, S.W.1.

I very much regret that my statement of the condition of things among the Turkish refugees is not one of improvement, but the reverse. Besides the thousands in the direst misery in the South of Asia Minor, we have added distress in the North, owing to the Greek occupation of Thrace.

The conditions in the South are still very terrible. Many thousands are yet in the districts to which they fled after the Greek occupation. There they remain without houses, packed like animals in old, disused, tumbling-down barracks and ruinous buildings, with no fuel but the green wood they gather, and which they must burn in holes they dig in the centre of their hovels. . . .

In the North we have the additional care of the thousands who are arriving in Constantinople fleeing from their fear of the Greeks in the newly-occupied territories. They come in the direst misery, leaving everything behind. They arrive, in most cases, with their shoes dropping off their feet, and no clothing but what they are wearing. Among the most pathetic things I have ever seen is the calm patience with which the Turks bear their sufferings. Recently, whilst visiting one of the refugee camps, I found in a broken-down, disused building near the old Seraglio Palace in Constantinople, in a corner between two walls, a dear old Turkish woman—a widow with no one of her own left in the world, yet sitting there in the open air with no mattress under her and no cover over her head. She pleasantly smiled, and was so grateful for our visit and what we were able to do for her. But the Turks are nearly all like that—given any kind of shelter and food they seldom complain. We at once got for the old woman a mattress and blanket and some other comforts, and tried to make her a little more comfortable. Unfortunately she is only one of thousands. The Turks are unusually attached to their children, and it is heartrending to see Turkish mothers—the father often killed or lost, they don't know where—with their babies at their breasts seeking nourishment they cannot give. Tears are in their eyes sometimes as they show you the poor little wan and sickly faces of the little ones they fear they must very soon lose. There is something almost painful in the gratitude of the mothers for the milk and the little nourishment we are able to give. Very many have died, and many more must die if we cannot continue the help begun. We have distributed cases of milk for the babies and many other absolute necessities—but they are so many, and our funds are limited. . . .

What makes the position so much worse is that there are so many thousands of destitute women and orphans from the war, and very many are still in a nearly destitute condition who were refugees just after the settlement of the Balkan War. Stamboul has been so burned down by the devastating fires of recent years that these houseless people have occupied all available places after the fires, and have to remain there, as almost nothing has been done to rebuild on the old sites.

We found some hundreds of people in a great old ruinous building that was long years ago a bakehouse. Windows gone, doors broken, flooring rotten, cold as the grave. Yet here you would find a family of six in one corner, almost always with one or two sick of some sickness due to the hardness of the way they must exist. Frequently they have no mattresses at all; they must sleep on the old boards; frequently they have not even covering, and they try to keep a little warmth by lying close together. . . . Often a new grief is added to the already stricken family, when death takes their beloved. Yet they are so resigned with it all. "It is God's will," they say. But surely it is not meant that they should suffer so.

One of the worst features, and growing every day, is the misery caused by the dismissal of the Government officials in the Greek occupied territories. Before leaving Constantinople I recently visited a large number of these in an old ruinous mosque and medresseh (college). Here were Turkish men, with their wives and children, who had occupied positions in the Government service, suddenly turned out of their work and forced to return to Constantinople to add to the already too-large number of people in distress. . . . So here you find these educated people herded together, with their bundles of clothing and other effects round them, in the most unhealthy conditions, and driven to be dependent on the help that may be given by such a society as the British Red Crescent.

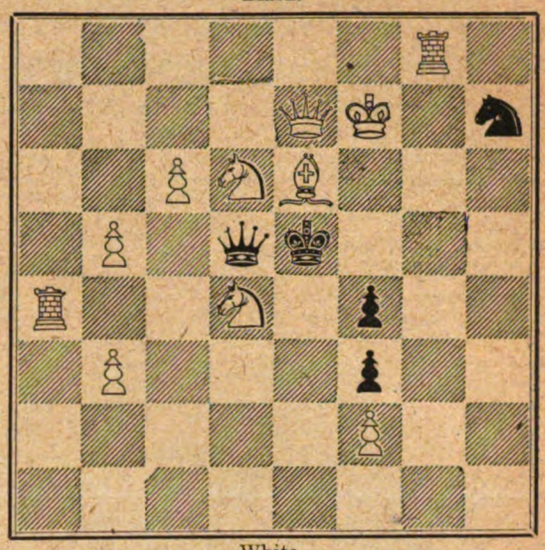
Besides these, there are some fifteen thousand refugees from the Adrianople district who fled to Bulgaria. The Turkish Government have asked for some help for these, and we gave Lt.5,000 out of the money lately sent. . . . The Committee give the most painstaking attention to insure that only the needy are assisted and that everything is put to the very best use. I visited all the various places where the refugees are located and have aranged that the work shall be carried on during my absence. Much has been done, and a great deal of distress relieved, but a great increase of help must be received if those we have been helping are to survive this winter. . . .

And so, in God's name, I appeal for His children's need. May the blessing of the Almighty fall on all who have come to the help of the needy. (Signed) R. FREW.

## CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 25.

Black.



White.

White to mate in two.

The above problem by C. E. Lindmark took the second prize in one of the recent competitions of the G.C.C.P. Club.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes under date October 26:—M. Kostitch, the famous chess-player, has been visiting Belgrade, where he played eight simultaneous games with the best local players without looking at the boards. Of these, he won seven, the eighth, against M. Pavlovski, a Russian, being undecided.

On October 26 Sir George Thomas gave a simultaneous display at the Imperial Chess Club. Out of the twenty-one games played, he won ten games, drew seven, and lost four.

It is worthy of note that even now, with the wealth of text-books available, it is by no means a unique occurrence for a first-class player to be "caught out" in the opening. A week or so ago there was an instance of this in the City of London Chess Club's championship, when a player opening with the Ruy Lopez, which had always previously served him in good stead, allowed himself unwittingly to be lured into the Riga Variation, which ought to lose for Black, but of which he knew absolutely nothing except its name—knowledge which was, unfortunately, of little service, and down he went in nineteen moves, for the first time for many years.

CARO-KANN.

It was semi-officially announced in Belgrade on November 5, that on the following day Yugoslav troops would take possession of the territories accorded to the Yugoslavs under the Bulgarian Peace Treaty

On the night of October 21-22 the Kamar Bridge camp, on the Tank-Jandola road, was raided by a party of 150 Wazir tribesmen, who escaped with stores and other loot, leaving one of their number dead.

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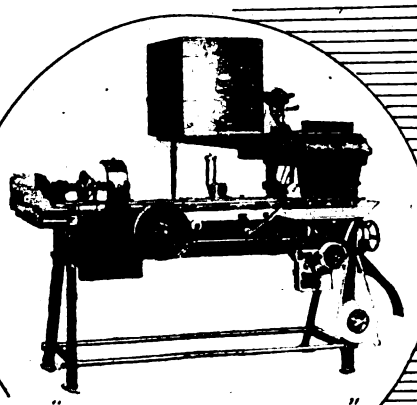

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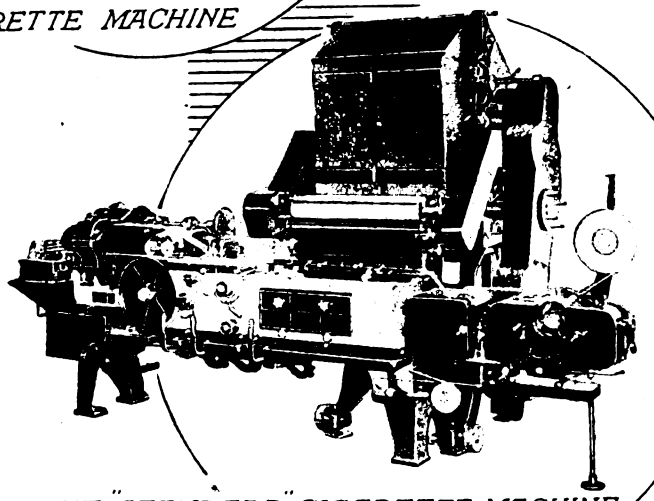

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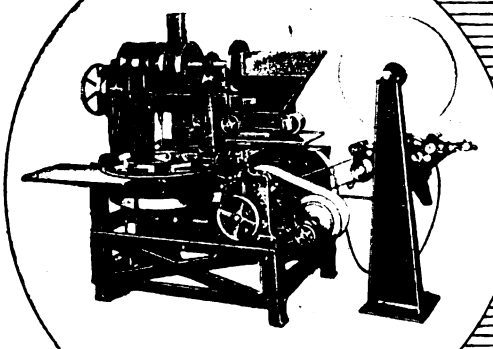

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

After all the criticisms and the representations that have been made it might have been thought that there would have been a general improvement in the postal services to the Near East. On the contrary, serious ground for complaint is still to be found in many directions. Between some Near Eastern centres and the United Kingdom the service admittedly is fairly satisfactory, but in some cases it is as unsatisfactory as ever. Smyrna is a case in point. It appears that papers from London take anything over twelve days to reach Smyrna at the present time as against seven to ten days for French papers. As I have pointed out before, this state of things is not the fault of the British authorities, but of our friends over the Channel, but where the British postal organisation is to blame is in not making effective representations. It is really Gilbertian that while these irregularities continue in the mails the International Postal Congress should have been discussing an increase in the rates. For what?

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The view held in some quarters that the outlook for the shipping industry is unfavourable will evidently have to be revised in the light of last week's announcement by the P. and O. This time it is proposed to pay on the company's Deferred stock a dividend of 6 per cent., with a bonus of 3 per cent., making 15 per cent. for the year, free of tax. In addition, it is proposed to make a similar distribution to that of last year in Deferred stock, making the total distribution for the year 21 per cent., as against 18 per cent. for the previous year. Truly a result on which the shareholders are entitled to be congratulated.

***

There is, however, another aspect to this return, and one which cannot be ignored. The cost of passages between this country and India has risen enormously since 1914, and the effect of this has been to inflict grave hardship on all British subjects in India who, for health's sake alone, must come home at specified periods. As matters stand at present, it needs no prevision to foresee that many men will simply have to forego their leave in the United Kingdom for lack of means to pay the fares. The grievance is one which rankles in every club in India, and has found expression in columns of letters in the Indian Press. The position will not be ameliorated by the news of the company's proposed distribution. No doubt the P. and O. is fully able to justify its action, and it may be assumed that an explanation will be forthcoming at the general meeting. A statement is certainly needed.

***

I am indebted to a correspondent for an extract from a letter recently received from Zagreb drawing attention to an excellent opening for British trade in that region. "We would mention," the letter runs, "that the markets for skins and leather are two of the most interesting in this province, and the merchants engaged in this trade have made large profits both during and since the war, and we would strongly recommend you to write your friends in England to take advantage of the excellent business in this branch of industry now existing in the country.

***

British traders are so accustomed to criticism that the whole-hearted tribute to our business methods in the Near East in a pamphlet issued by the Guaranty Trust Company may well come as something of a shock. It is certainly a new experience for them to be told that they are regarded by a friendly rival as the chief competitor in the Near East markets, and if they told the truth many of our merchants and manufacturers would have to admit that the praise is rather higher than they deserve. There is no question that with few exceptions they are now taking a much keener interest in the Near East, but it is only after the openings in that region have been literally forced to their notice time after time over a long series of years.

***

The most important matter discussed with the British authorities by M. Titulescu, the Roumanian Finance Minister, has been the question of financial assistance. M. Titulescu is now on his way back to Roumania to lay before his Government various proposals that have been made by the British Government. It is understood that as the result of the negotiations that have taken place, the plans for a loan are well advanced, and it may be hoped that there will be no unnecessary delay in arriving at an agreement on the subject, since it is obvious that assistance of this character will indirectly be of the utmost assistance to British manufacturers.

***

The forthcoming resumption of Messrs. Thomas Cook and Son's Nile Steamboat Services is an event of outstanding importance for Egypt, and one on which all concerned are entitled to congratulations. Before the war the tourist was one of Egypt's two main sources of wealth. Armageddon naturally put an end to all sight-seeing activities, and this and other factors led many people to take a very depressed view of the outlook for the country. But the place of the tourist was taken by the soldier, and under wartime conditions Egypt's prosperity went up by leaps and bounds. Now Egypt is no longer one of the great centres of military activity, and the country is once again in need of the throngs of fashionable folk who flocked to Cairo in the pre-war seasons and went on gay excursions up the Nile. That the stream of tourists will soon be flowing in its normal vigour cannot be doubted, and it will be good for Egypt in more ways than one to be diverted by the influx of wealthy visitors.

***

That eleven out of twelve European countries should this year be presenting Budgets which show considerable deficits —Czecho-Slovakia is the one exception—is a portent of no small significance. It needs no emphasis that the first step to financial reconstruction is that Budgets must be made to balance, and, concurrently, there must be an end to inflation. At present the States in question are continuing to increase their indebtedness, and the printing presses are still in operation. That process, if continued, can have but one end, which is too obvious to need particularisation. The Brussels Financial Conference served one extremely useful purpose in emphasising the only lines on which the countries affected by the war can possibly hope to recover their position. It was held too late to have much influence on the finances of the States in question for the current year, but in the next six months or so we shall have evidence before us as to the extent to which the advice offered is being followed. Clearly, in the circumstances, it would be too much to expect that next year the eleven deficits will have been adjusted, but unless definite signs of progress are to be seen it will be impossible to take other than a very serious view of the outlook.

***

Complaints are again forthcoming of attempts to cancel orders for cotton goods on a large scale. The difficulty has arisen owing to the marked fall in values, which amounts in some cases to as much as 50 per cent., and with the market outlook extremely unsettled, importers desire to hold their hands until the outcome of events is clearer. The cancellation is naturally a serious matter for Lancashire, and it is understood that steps are being taken with a view to combined action on the question.

COMMENTATOR.

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

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# COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, October 31

**Agrarian Co-operative Congress**

Yesterday the congress of the Agrarian Co-operative Societies was opened in the Slavianska Beseda Hall by Professor Danieloff, president of the Administrative Council. Subsequently the members were welcomed by M. Athanasoff, Minister of Railways, and M. Tourlakoff, the Finance Minister, who have promised their support to these useful societies which are supplying articles of the first necessity to their members at low prices.

**New Import Regulations.**

The Direction de Prevoyance Social announces that the Cabinet Council has decided to allow the unrestricted importation of certain necessary goods not ranking as articles of the first necessity.

**Cheap Bread**

The commission appointed by the municipality of Sofia to determine the composition of the cheap bread for State officials and the poor have decided that the proportions of the flour shall be 84 per cent. wheat and 16 per cent. of rye and maize. The bread will be sold at two levas instead of 3.60 levas per kilogramme. Bread made entirely from wheat is sold at five levas per kilogramme.

**Bulgarian Cereals on the Antwerp Market.**

Bulgarian cereals are now being sold on the Antwerp market as Bulgarian produce, instead of figuring, as hitherto, among the Danubian cereals. This has resulted in their realising better prices than cereals from neighbouring countries. Bulgarian maize, incidentally, has been found to be better than the Argentine product.

**An Early Winter.**

Within the last day or two the temperature has fallen to seven degrees under zero, and a deep snow covers the ground. The cold is intense, and many of the rivers are already frozen. It is twenty-eight years since the temperature fell to such a low point in October.

**General News.**

The telegraph and telephone material purchased in Germany during the war is expected here shortly.

The congress of the Agrarian League, which was to be held on November 21, has been adjourned to December 19 to enable the Prime Minister, M. Stambolisky, to be present.

The Cabinet Council has decided that henceforward supplies for the Government are only to be obtained by public tender.

## USE OF TRACTORS IN MOROCCO.

With a view to encouraging the use of mechanical aids in agriculture, the Grand Vizier of Morocco has decreed that the bonus granted for the cultivation of land by motor traction should be increased from 50 francs to 60 francs per hectare.

## JAPANESE COMPETITION IN EGYPT.

The value of Japanese imports into Egypt for the seven months ending July 31 was £E809,831 in excess of that for the corresponding period of 1919.

The principal increases were in cotton hosiery, £E286,237; silk cloths, £E272,311; chinaware, £E54,524; lamp chimneys, £E13,157; glass beads and bracelets, £E15,061; metals, £E23,864; miscellaneous (principally toys and combs), £E37,071. The principal decrease was in paper, £E19,528.

It is stated that the Egyptian Government have opened a credit of two millions for the extension of cereal cultivation.

The Greek currant crop is estimated at 95,000 tons, or 32 per cent. less than the normal.


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## INDIAN RAILWAYS.

### Committee on Administration.

The Secretary of State for India has appointed a committee to consider various questions in connection with the administration of the Indian railways. The Committee will be composed of:—

Mr. W. M. Acworth, Barrister-at-Law, Member of the Royal Commission on Canadian Railways, 1916, and of other bodies of enquiry concerned with railways (chairman); Sir Henry Burt, K.C.I.E., C.B.E., President of the Indian Railway Board, 1914-15, Government Director of Indian Railway Companies, India Office, 1915-19, Chairman of the Bengal and North-Western and other Indian Railway Companies; Sir Rajendranath Mukherji, K.C.I.E., of Calcutta; Sir Arthur Anderson, C.I.E., C.B.E., President of the Indian Railway Board, 1919-20; Sir George Godfrey, Agent of the Bengal Nagpur Railway Company; Mr. Srinivasa Sastri, Elected Member of the Viceroy's Legislative Council; Mr. E. H. Hiley, C.B.E., formerly of the North-Eastern and Great Northern Railways, and later General Manager, New Zealand Government Railways; Mr. C. F. Beadel, of Calcutta (as representing European commercial interests in India); Mr. Purshotamdas Thakurdas (as representing Indian commercial interests); and one additional member. The secretary will be Mr. T. Ryan, C.I.E., Indian Finance Department and Member of the Indian Munitions Board.

The terms of reference are as follows:—1. To consider, as regards railways owned by State, the relative advantages, financial and administrative, in the special circumstances of India, of the following methods of management:—(a) Direct State management; (b) management through a company domiciled in England and with a board sitting in London; (c) management through a company domiciled in India and with a board sitting in India; (d) management through a combination of (b) and (c); and advice as to the policy to be adopted as and when the existing contracts with the several railway companies can be determined.

In considering the question of the East Indian Railway, the Committee will take note of the decision to remove the management of that railway to India, which was arrived at when the contract with the present company was extended on the amended terms in 1919. 2. To examine the functions and status and constitution of the Railway Board, and the system of control exercised by the Government of India over the railway administration, and recommend such modifications, if any, as are necessary for the adequate disposal of the railway business of Government. 3. To consider the arrangements for the financing of railways in India and in particular the feasibility of the greater utilisation of private enterprise and capital for the construction of new lines. 4. To report whether the present system of control by Government of rates and fares and the machinery for deciding disputes between railways and traders are satisfactory, and, if not, advise what modifications are desirable. 5. To make recommendations that may seem germane to the enquiry.

## MACHINERY REQUIREMENTS IN ROUMANIA.

The following particulars of the machinery and tool requirements of the flour and milling industry of Roumania are given in a recent article in a Bucharest contemporary:—

The urgent requirements of the small mills of Old Roumania are as follows:—487 different engines, 211 portable steam engines, 2,100 millstones, 4 wagons of driving belts, 251 drilling machines, 7 wagons of hammers, files, and miscellaneous tools, 120 roller grinders for maize and wheat, 120 "Eureka" dressing machines for wheat, 120 dressing machines for semoline, 120 weighing machines, 120 elevators, 2,850 zinc casks, 4 wagons of sheets (4 to 6 millimetres thick) for cisterns.

In Bessarabia, Bukovina, and Transylvania the same requirements exist. The urgent requirements of the large mills of the whole country consist of boilers and steam engines. Diesel engines, silk cloth for sifters, implements for repair shops, driving belts, spare parts of machines, rivets, screws, driving wheels, etc. Milling machinery needed includes elevators, fanning and winnowing machines, roller grinders, millstones, and sacks.


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*General Manager:* GEORGE MOUSTAKAS. *Manager:* G. A. KARYSTINAKIS.

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# BRITISH TRADE WITH EGYPT.

## A Promising Market.

(From a Correspondent.)

Egypt presents the only market in the Near East at the present time which can be entered by United Kingdom merchants and manufacturers without a thought of adverse exchanges, which of itself should be enough to guarantee enterprise on the part of the most laggard of British exporters. But important as this factor is, the market has other and more substantial claims to attention. As part of the Empire, in Egypt if anywhere in the Near East, British goods ought to be pre-eminent, but there is no prospect of this being so unless British traders pursue very different methods to those adopted in pre-war days. It cannot be sufficiently emphasised that no efforts will be too great to obtain a strong and permanent hold on the market, which is bound to increase in importance in a very marked degree in the future. Before the war the market was not only considerable but extremely comprehensive, and as its requirements are bound to expand with the increased wealth of the country, it follows that its development is certain. Admittedly the immediate outlook is none too promising, for Egypt has not been able to escape the world-wide depression, and like so many other centres has been visited by a commercial crisis arising from an undue congestion of goods. But that is merely a passing phase, and it may be taken for granted that Egypt's wonderful recuperative capacity, combined with favourable developments in neighbouring centres, will soon impart to the market its normal vivacity, and the fact that the present is not the most favourable time for entering the market should not deter British traders who may be thinking of entering this field. For if one thing is certain, it is that they cannot establish themselves there too soon.

The enormous expansion that has taken place in Egypt's trade since 1914 is well brought out in the statistics given in the recent Blue Book on Egypt and the Sudan. The figures, of course, have been greatly inflated by the rise in prices, but, allowing for that factor, it is only possible to draw the conclusion that, on the whole, Egypt's trade is in a very healthy position. Taking the imports, the returns show a decline until 1916, when there was a sharp rise from £E18,474,098 to £E30,072,213, and while the figures for the next year were much the same, 1918 saw a very large increase, the figures being £E48,054,377. There was a decline the following year, but for the first seven months of 1920 the figures were £E58,303,252, as against £E23,104,633 for the corresponding period of 1919. Given that that average is maintained, it is obvious that the figures for the whole year will not fall far short of £E100,000, a total which, read in the light of increased values, will still give figures very substantially above those of the last few pre-war years.

The rise in exports has been no less marked, and from 1914 onwards there was a steady expansion from £E24,091,796 in that year to £E75,888,321 in 1919. For the current year the figures up to the end of July are £E67,398,233, as against £E26,727,043 for the corresponding period of the previous year, so that here, too, it is evident that a high level will be reached. The phenomenal rise in the price of cotton has, of course, been the dominant factor in the increased value of the export trade, and in view of the slump in cotton in the last two months, it is impossible to suggest the probable total that will be attained by the exports for the year on the basis of the increase in the first seven months. Here, too, however, it is evident that the position is anything but unsatisfactory, and that once again there will be a trade balance in favour of Egypt. That has, as a matter of fact, been the case, with the exception of 1918, ever since the commencement of the war, which of itself plainly indicates Egypt's potential purchasing capacity. It is impossible in these times to look far into the future with any confidence, but knowing the cotton position, is there any valid reason to suppose that a prolonged slump in the price of cotton is possible until there has been a vast extension of the cotton-growing area? In other words, Egypt should be assured of favourable trade balances for several years to come.

Before concluding this article there is one matter which must be touched upon, and that is the possible effect of any changes that may be introduced in the political status of Egypt. British traders are apt to take fright at obstacles that do not exist, and it may well be that the negotiations that have taken place have led them to some extent to discount the prospects in Egypt. It may be said at once that, so far as can be seen, there are no grounds for supposing that, if the proposals that have been made are carried into effect, British trade interests will suffer to any great extent. The contrary is much more likely to be the case, for in the better atmosphere resulting from agreement it is probable that much greater opportunities will be open to British enterprise.

# RESUMPTION OF EGYPT'S TOURIST SEASON.

## Dawn After the Darkness.

It is with the greatest pleasure we announce to our readers in Europe, America, and Egypt the decision of the British Government to permit Messrs. Thos. Cook and Son to resume their world-famous Nile Steamboat Services from January, 1921. We have to think back to the winter season of 1913-14 to recall the unique social, political, and financial connection of Messrs. Thos. Cook and Son with the land of the Nile. All who knew Egypt in pre-war days know how much international goodwill, gaiety, and hard cash were poured into her sunny lap through the enterprise of this greatest of tourist agencies, and the approaching resumption of its Nile services may be regarded as a fact of political significance. Two immediate considerations, apart from the cessation of the Great War, have doubtless influenced the Government in authorising the essential purchase by the firm of the necessary coal—namely, the favourable prospect of the Milner-Zaghloul Conferences, and the temporary—we will hope, permanent—coal peace in Great Britain. It would, of course, be ridiculous to pretend that Egypt has not benefited much more by British military and political effort in the Great War than she would have by six years continuation of the Cook Nile Services; at the same time we are confident that the most ardent Egyptian Nationalist never desired his country to be deprived of the golden showers annually conferred by the Cairo Tourist Season, which in pre-war days had a fame not second even to that of Nice and Monte Carlo. These past happy winters are now to be restored; our dragoman friends, Abdullah and Ali, with their ivory smiles, will again salute on the steps of Shepheard's Hotel such Grand Dukes and Grand Duchesses as may have tired of Europe; and the merchants of the Khan Khalil will begin to think more of purchasers than of politicians. Egypt, Messrs. Thos. Cook and Son, and the British Government are to be congratulated on so significant an approach to "normalcy."


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*Paid-up Capital - £T. 2,000,000*
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**Industria Forestiera din Transilvania.—Capital, 12,000,000 Lei**
**Industria Chimica Romana.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei**
**Tipografia Gutemberg.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei**
**Casele Populare.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei.**
**Crucea Societate pentru comertul si industria de vestminte si odoare bisericesti.—Capital, 1,000,000 Lei**
**Minele de Aur din Romania.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei**
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**AREA (after Peace Treaties of 1919) 122,282 sq. miles.**

In 1914 the cultivated area was (according to an estimate of Dr. Colesco) 34,475,750 acres; of which 13,074,922 were ploughed lands, 468,670 were vineyards and orchards, 1.436,960 were meadows, 2,948,472 were pastures, and 5,705,750 were forests.

**POPULATION. About 17,400,000.**

**IMPORTS (1915). £8,533,234.**

United Kingdom, £848,997; Austria-Hungary, £3,718,182; Belgium, £43,230; Germany, £3,575,159; France, £660,287; Turkey, £558,238; Italy, £762,023.

**EXPORTS (1915). £21,742,379.**

United Kingdom, £2,238; Austria-Hungary, £13,576,255; Belgium, £2,343; Germany, £7,044,803; Turkey, £443,325; Italy, £37,838.

[NOTE.—In 1914 the Imports from the U.K. amounted to £2,231,773, and the Exports to it to £1,433,535.]

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## ENGINEERING.

### A Drum Tilter.

Particulars are to hand of a new form of can, barrel, or drum tilter, which has a number of good points, chief amongst which are its lightness and the ease with which it can be manipulated. It entirely obviates all the usual disadvantages attending the pouring of liquids from one container to another, and it prevents any waste through splashing. It consists of a cradle or carriage made of light sheet metal, which is fixed to the can by means of a couple of ordinary clips. There is no trouble involved in the fixing, and the tilter can be removed, when necessary, in a few seconds. The cradle has two curved runners, somewhat resembling those of the old-fashioned rocking chair, and by means of these the can may be tilted forward far enough to enable the liquid to flow. By this device there is no labour in lifting or balancing a heavy drum, as all the weight is borne on the runners. At present, two sizes are supplied, to fit five-gallon and ten-gallon drums.

### Electric Fires.

I understand from the representatives of a number of electricity supply stations with whom I have been in correspondence that there is just now a great rush to purchase and instal electric fires and radiators, and I have been asked to mention that, in addition to other well-known advantages, the electric fire generally has this peculiarity: The heater is made in sections, with one, two, or three switches to it, and heat is regulated by switching on or off the required number of sections. Each or all of these when switched on gives its full heat at maximum efficiency. The gas fire, on the other hand, is regulated by turning the whole of the heating element up or down. At first sight, writes a correspondent, "it appears as if the gas fire gave a finer regulation than its electric competitor," but that fine degree of regulation is achieved at the cost of efficiency, because the gas fire only gives the most heat for the least gas at a particular degree or rate of gas consumption, so that when the stove is working at other rates, less efficient results are obtained. Turning down a gas stove to reduce heat does take something from the efficiency with which the gas used is converted into heat.

### Motor Ships.

It is not surprising to learn, in view of the present fuel situation, that many shipowners are considering the conversion of their steamers to motor vessels, as this course would not only result in a number of incidental economies, but would also render them independent of coal supplies and labour troubles. In the current issue of our always interesting contemporary, the *Motor Ship*, a complete description is given of a tramp steamer, which has just been converted to motor power by the installation of a powerful Diesel engine of the type recently described in THE NEAR EAST. This vessel is of the ordinary tramp type, a cargo carrier pure and simple, and before the change-over she had a deadweight carrying capacity of 5,000 tons, which was increased to 5,300 tons by the change. This increase, of course, was brought about by the saving in space effected, and also by the reduction in weight through the removal of the heavy boilers and other parts of the steam-drive equipment. The difference in fuel consumption is little short of remarkable, as four tons per day of oil fuel has taken the place of from 18 to 20 tons of coal per day. As a further instance of the economy effected, it may be pointed out that it has been possible to reduce the engine-room staff from thirteen to eight men. In the same issue of the journal mentioned is a full description of the first of six motor ships built for the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. The machinery of this vessel has considerable technical interest, in view of the fact that the reversing gear of the Diesel engines is electrically operated instead of being worked by compressed air in the usual manner. The object of this is to economise the compressed air supply.

### Humber Progress.

I hear that about 150 of the principal motor dealers throughout the United Kingdom accepted the recent invitation of Humber, Ltd., to their works at Coventry, to inspect the models of cars and motor cycles which are on exhibition at the Olympia show.

They were welcomed to lunch by Lord Russell, chairman of the company, who presided, and an opportunity was given for a general review of the Humber policy. In the discussion which followed many useful and instructive points were raised, and replied to, by Col. Cole, O.B.E., managing director. At the subsequent dinner at the Masonic Hall, over which Col. Cole presided, expressions of goodwill and loyalty were voiced by the guests, who were very enthusiastic in their praise of the 1921 models.

In these times of reported motor trade depression, Humber, Limited, have reason to congratulate themselves on the fact that their products are more popular now than ever, and so far they have been unable to meet with the demand.

### A Big Mining Dredger.

An electrically-operated ladder dredger, with buckets of 20 cubic feet capacity, has recently been completed and put into operation in California. This machine, which is capable of dredging to a depth of 45 ft., possesses many interesting features, not the least of which is the stiffening of the hull by two steel and timber trusses. The hull, it may be mentioned, is of wood, and measures 152 ft. in length by 68 ft. in width, the depth of the hull being 13 ft. The inclined head frame or gantry at the bow is 58 ft. in vertical height, built of timbers 24 ins. in width by 30 ins. in thickness, seated in castings bedded on oak beams which transmit the load to the bottom booms of the trusses. The end of the ladder frame is suspended from this gantry, and the stern gantry is 76 ft. high, built up of 20 by 22 in. timbers. From this gantry is guyed the head of the 140-ft. inclined conveyor discharging the tailings.

The dredger is intended for gold mining use, and from a detailed description which recently appeared in an engineering journal, it appears that the vertical spuds or beams which rest on the bottom and anchor the dredger in position, are 70 ft. long and 64 in. by 40 in. in section. These are built up of 30-in. rolled joists and four one-inch cover plates. The buckets are eighty-three in number, and are of manganese steel secured to the chain by 7½-in. steel pins. The ladder drive is through a double chain of cut gears, the first set being of the herring-bone type, with main gear wheels 16 ft. in diameter. It is understood that the gold-saving tables have an area of 4,400 sq. ft., and the buckets discharge into a hopper feeding a rotary screen 9 ft. in diameter and 54 in. in length. One of the chief reasons for the massive construction adopted is that the dredgings consist of heavy gravel, in which are very large numbers of heavy boulders.

The electrical equipment consists of a 500 horse-power electric motor for the ladder drive, and fourteen other motors ranging from 15 to 300 horse-power, whilst there are three small tool motors of about 5 horse-power each. Current at an e.m.f. of 2,300 volts is delivered by a cable connected to a transmission line, and suitably stepped down by means of transformers.


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## LANCASHIRE COTTON.

### Business Again Restricted.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

Since a week ago the tone of the market has tended to become quieter. A good deal of the falling off in business has been due to the easier tendency in American cotton rates. This movement has upset traders, and at the time of writing values in futures in Liverpool are getting very near the low point touched about three weeks ago. Free operations have also been checked by financial stringency at home, and delays in remittances from abroad. The official estimate of the Egyptian cotton crop by the Alexandria Produce Association of 6,000,000 kantars is rather less than expected, and certainly looks poor when it is remembered that a few months ago a yield of 7½ millions was anticipated. Prices continue steadier, and some Lancashire spinners have recently bought rather more freely. Raw cotton in the United States is in plentiful supply, and the weakness in values is largely due to growers wanting to sell. In Egyptian yarns rather more inquiry continues to be met with, but users are slow to place orders of any importance. Some very fair lines have again been booked in piece goods for Egypt, Turkey, and the Levant. Sized materials have attracted attention, and some useful lots have been sold in printed and dyed goods. India shippers have continued to confine their attention to light fabrics such as dhooties, mulls, and jaconets. Only sorting up orders have been mentioned for China. Comparatively little has been done for South America. Home trade buyers remain cautious. In American yarns for home use the demand has been distinctly slower. Ring beams have been well held, but lower figures are now being taken for crops. Moderate orders have been reported in extra hard descriptions for the Levant, and some producers are now more favourably situated.

## TENDERS INVITED.

**Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—**

**Egypt.**

(*The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked* (*L*) *are to be obtained.*)

Twill, Calico, etc.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders as follows :—(1) Twill.—100,000 yards of khaki twill and 90,000 yards of grey twill, for cavalry shirts. (2) Calico.—30,000 yards of grey cotton calico. Tenders are due on November 18, and are to remain open for seven days. (3) Canvas.—5,000 yards of canvas W.P., chocolate colour. (4) Canvas.—25,000 yards of canvas W.P., chocolate colour. (5) Canvas Dowlas.—3,000 yards of canvas dowlas, 27 ins. Tenders are due on November 19, and are to remain open for seven days. (6) Tarlatan.—70,000 yards of tarlatan, white. Tenders are due on November 22, and are to remain open seven days. (L.)

Harbour Works.—The Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the construction of the superstructure of wall of Quays Nos. 14 and 15. November 15. (L.)

**Greece.**

Paper.—The Greek Minister of Finance, Athens, invites tenders for the supply of paper. Specifications, etc., may be seen at the offices of The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2. November 16.

Argentiferous barytes concessions in the island of Melos.—The Direction of Mines of the Ministry of National Economy at Athens invites tenders for the above concessions, which belong to the Greek State, and are estimated to contain 10 million tons of argentiferous barytes, with a maximum quantity of silver per ton of ore estimated at 2,140 grams and an average quantity of 164 grams. There are experienced miners on the spot, and there is a very good harbour; but there is a scarcity of fuel and spring water in the island. The terms of tender may be seen on application at the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.

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The Banks of Bengal and Bombay have increased their minimum rate of discount to 6 per cent.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended October 16 amounted to £18,012.

The directors of the Bank of Roumania announce an interim dividend for the current year of 6s. per share, payable December 1.

The Egyptian Coastguards and Fisheries Service will sell by auction, at or about the end of November, sponges valued at an approximate sum of £E15,000, which have been fished from the sponge beds on the Mediterranean Coast between Alexandria and Salloom.

Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt.—The debenture-interest coupons and also the debenture bonds (drawn for redemption) due November 11 will be paid on or after that date by the bankers of the company, Barclays Bank, Limited, Lombard Street, E.C.

## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

### Forthcoming Sailings.

Anchor-Brocklebank Line s.s. Malancha, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on November 27.

Anchor-Brocklebank Line s.s. Maidan, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (also loading at Hamburg and Antwerp), will leave London on November 24.

Anchor-Brocklebank Line s.s. Mahanada, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (also loading at Hamburg, Rotterdam, and Antwerp), will close for cargo at Middlesbrough on November 27, and London on December 9.

Cunard Line s.s. Tyria, for Gibraltar, will close for cargo at Liverpool on December 2.

Cunard Line s.s. Pavia, for Gibraltar, Malta, Corfu, Piræus, Salonika, Constantinople, and Constantza, will close for cargo in London on November 16.

Ellerman Line s.s. Trentino, for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on November 27.

Ellerman's City Line s.s. City of Cairo, for Colombo and Calcutta, will close for cargo at Liverpool on December 7.

Ellerman's City Line s.s. City of Karachi, for Bombay and Karachi, will close for cargo at Liverpool on December 21.

Ellerman's City Line s.s. City of Manchester, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Liverpool on December 22.

Henderson Line s.s. Amarapoora, for Port Said and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Glasgow on November 15 and at Birkenhead on November 24.

Bibby Line s.s. Lancashire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on December 1.

Harrison Line s.s. Student for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, and Mombasa, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on November 25.

Johnston Line s.s. Grantley for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna and Constantza, will close for cargo at Liverpool on November 20.

Johnston Line s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila, will close for cargo at Liverpool on November 20.

Clan Line s.s. Ethelwynne for Bombay and the Persian Gulf, will close for cargo at Manchester on November 22.

Clan Line s.s. Clan Macbeth for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on November 18.

Holt and Co.'s s.s. Lycaon for Port Said and Singapore will close for cargo at Glasgow on November 18.

Holt and Co.'s s.s. Bellerophon for Port Said and Singapore, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on November 16.

Moss Line s.s. Amasis for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria, accepting cargo for transhipment to Moroccan, Algerian, Cyprus, and Syrian coast ports, will close for cargo at Liverpool on November 27.

Moss Line s.s. Karnak for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on December 3.

Papayanni Line s.s. Serbino for Malta and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on November 20.

Papayanni Line s.s. Maronian for Algiers, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on December 11.

P. and O. s.s. Alipore for Bombay, taking cargo for Persian Gulf ports, will close for cargo in London on December 4.


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# YUGOSLAVIA'S COAL AND LIGNITE RESOURCES.

## Modern Equipment Required.

An interesting survey of the coal and lignite resources of Yugoslavia appears in the American Consular reports from the United States Minister at Belgrade, based on a report of an engineer who visited the mines enumerated during the first half of the present year. We give the following extracts:—

The Maslavara lignite mine, owned and operated by the State, is located about 42 kilometres east and south of Banja Luka, on a privately owned railroad. The deposit comprises an area of some 60 square kilometres. The northern outcrops are near Dobridje and the deposit extends south-east to Vares Slatina. The maximum thickness at Rahulja is 7 metres, which includes 1 metre of rock. The product is jet black, and when mined a large portion of good lump coal is produced. Production for the first four months of 1920 was 6,638 tons. The total present daily production is about 150 tons, but this force and the equipment could produce 300 tons if there was sufficient transportation.

The Kreka coal mine, also owned and operated by the State, is connected by a railroad to the Sarajevo-Brod railroad at Dovi. The chief markets for the coal are the railroad, the municipality of Tuzla, and various local industries along the Sava River and in the Voivodine. For lack of adequate transportation large stocks have accumulated at the mine. The coal-bed extends for 6 to 7 kilometres north-east, and is from 10 to 15 kilometres long. There are three beds of coal at Kreka and four beds at Bukinje, a new mine about 3 kilometres from Kreka. At Poslovina, the top bed is about 18 metres thick, and the two lower beds about 16 metres. At Bukinje, the top bed is about 16 metres thick, the two centre beds about 20 metres, and the bottom bed about 14, this last being of coal of a quality inferior to that of the other beds. Production in 1920, up to May 27, was 94,079 tons. It is stated that with adequate transportation 1,300 tons would be produced. The Bukinje mine, when developed, will replace the Kreka mine, in which underground transportation has become an expensive item.

The Bela Crkva lignite coal deposit can be reached by automobile in about five hours from Belgrade. The coal is lignite, which is claimed to contain from 2,800 to 4,000 calories as mined, 5,600 calories air dried, and to contain 24 per cent. of moisture and no sulphur. The deposit, as tested, varies in thickness up to 10 metres. A second bed of coal has been found in some places 10 metres below the bed examined, but its thickness has not been determined. This mine has not been developed as yet, but it is stated that a market could readily be found for its output in north-west Serbia. If a railroad were constructed across the Drina River to connect with the railroad system in Bosnia, it might also find a ready market in the factory district north of Sarajevo.

The Aliksar mine, owned and operated by the Serbian Navigation Co., is reached by automobile by going 4 kilometres north of Brza Palanka on the public road, and thence by following the narrow-gauge railroad 5 kilometres west to the mine. The coal beds lie in lenses of various sizes connected by coal of varying thickness, sometimes only a few centimetres thick. Few data are available, but it is stated that the first lense is from 15 to 20 metres thick. The mine is about 6 kilometres from the river, where there are adequate docks for loading coal in river boats. The car is run alongside the lighter and the coal shovelled by hands from the car into the chute leading to the hold. Three men unload about fifteen 5-ton cars per day. The mine needs extensive repairs to existing equipment as well as new equipment, including shovels and picks of a design suitable for coal mining, and a drilling machine to prospect in advance of the mining. Two tons of explosives, it is estimated, will suffice for one year's operations.

The coal deposit of the Ugljovic mine, a strip pit, is estimated to be 20 metres thick, to contain very little sulphur, and only 5 to 6 per cent. of ash. The output averages about 700 tons per month, but is expected to increase to 500 tons daily as soon as the railroad is completed to Raca. Ninety men are now employed in this mine.

The Rtanj mine is situated at an elevation of about 800 metres on Mount Rtanj, where there are nine consecutive outcrops of coal beds. The coal is transported as mined to Nirovo, and stored in bins along the Zajecar Paracin Railroad. Better equipment is needed at the mine.

The Laush mine is located on the western edge of Banja Luka, and is served by a spur from the standard-gauge railroad from Banja Luka, connecting with the Sudbahn and other standard-gauge lines. This is the largest producing coal mine situated on a normal-gauge railroad in Serbia, Macedonia, or Bosnia, and would be an excellent mine for producing coal for export. The coal bed covers an area of about 80 square kilometres, and varies in thickness from 1 metre to 8 metres. The coal is very splintery, jet black, and tarry, and when mined produces a good percentage of lumps. The output for the first four months of 1920 was 8,180 tons, produced in 97 working days by an average of 235 men. This coal is used largely by brick and flour mills in Croatia, Ossek, Zagreb, and Sissek, as well as to supply local needs.

The coal of the Petrovac region is classed as anthracite in accordance with Serbian classification, but it has the appearance of a very soft bituminous coal, which weathers rapidly into very small pieces. The region is evidently capable of development.

The Tressababa mine is located about 8 kilometres south of Najecar at the end of the standard-gauge railroad, which terminates at Prahovo, on the Danube River. This mine is owned and controlled by the Serbian National Bank and by private individuals.

The present workings are on the bank of the Timok River, but outcroppings have been found 11 kilometres away. There are apparently six beds of coal, only four of which have thus far been found to contain lenses large enough to exploit. Two beds are being exploited. The average thickness of the lenses is about 4 metres, and one lens has been tested to a depth of 125 metres. The beds vary from a few centimetres to 20 metres wide. The coal contains from 6,000 to 6,500 calories, and is good for blacksmithing and mine-railroad use. There were in April approximately 3,000 tons of coal in stock awaiting for transportation to Prahovo. As mined, the coal is in very small pieces, and the officials claim that it would have a much wider use if it were briquetted. It finds a ready use in local manufacturing plants equipped with mechanical stokers. The employees number about 250 men, who produce between 50 and 60 tons per day. It is estimated that the Germans mined 10,000 tons of coal from this mine during their period of occupation.

The Bogovina mine, of which the concession is owned by M. Savach, its operator, is located about 3½ kilometres from the Paracjo-Zajecar narrow-gauge railway and 6 kilometres from Bogovina. The coal is of the ternary formation, and contains from 6,000 to 7,000 calories. For the period of December 16 to December 31, 1919, the output was 3,700 tons. Of the 500 men employed, only about 375 reported for work each day. Black powder is preferred as an explosive, although some dynamite is also used, both being obtained in small quantites from the war department. Most of the coal is taken out, however, by heavy, clumsy picks. Light picks have been ordered through a British company in Belgrade. Other equipment is needed.

The Zenitza mine, owned and operated by the Yugoslav Government, is managed by Dr. Kurtz, at Sarajevo. The mine is located at Zenitza, on the Sarajevo-Brod 76-centimetre-gauge railroad. It is equipped throughout with large power units and high-power machinery. Production for the first four months of 1920 was 90,400 tons. The coal is uniformly thick, but contains a large percentage of a whitish rock which adds materially to the expense of mining. The mine is well organised for the method of working employed. Much of the coal is used by the steel mill at Zenitza.

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India General Navigation and Railway. Interim dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, less tax, on ordinary shares for half-year, payable November 27.

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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—The tone of the market has generally been very firm. All varieties of currants have been in good and increasing demand. Sultanas are also in strong request, but prices here are a shade easier. Large supplies of figs are available, and prices are very reasonable. The outlook generally seems favourable for buyers, and it would appear that stocks of most varieties of dried fruit will be adequate for the Christmas trade.

Coffee.—The demand has improved. Transactions include Costa Rica (bold greyish) 105s. 6d. to 115s. and East Indian 108s. 6d. to 111s. 6d. The futures market has ruled quiet and easier. Quotations are: December, 58s. 6d.; March, 57s. 6d.; and May, 57s. 6d.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake has risen 6d. to 23s., but cotton-seed cake remains unaltered at 13s. Other transactions include Indian cottonseed cake at 11s. to 12s., Egyptian cottonseed cake at 12s. 9d. to 13s. 6d., while coconut cake has been done at 16s.

Sugar.—The free market has been steady. West Indian crystallised has declined to 81s. to 83s., while American granulated has dropped 14s. to 95s. White Mauritius is quoted at 94s. There has been a good demand for home refined at the official prices.

Oilseeds.—Business has declined. Indian linseed has been done at 36s., while La Plata has come to business at 31s. 6d. Rapeseed is firm, with Toria at 36s., and bold Ferozepore at 35s. Cottonseed is quieter. Indian has been done at 13s. 5d., while Egyptian stands at 19s.

Seed Oils.—With the exception of linseed, which has declined 5s. to 66s., prices are practically unchanged. Refined rape oil is firm at 92s., the crude variety being quoted at 75s. Turpentine is higher at 123s.

### Current Prices.

*General Produce.*—Bacon, 231s. 9d. cwt.; butter, 400s. cwt.; cheese, 172s. 6d. cwt.; chillies, 140s. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 6½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 122s. 6d. cwt.; coffee, (Costa Rica), 115s. cwt., East India bold, 111s. 6d. cwt., Mocha, 147s. 6d. cwt., Santos, 75s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 104s. 6d. cwt.; eggs, 40s. per 120; ginger (washed cochin), 63s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 217s. cwt.; lard, 164s. 3d. cwt.; nutmegs, 1s. 1d. per 110's to 180's; pepper (Singapore, black), 6d. lb., and Muntok white, 1s. 3d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 136s. 6d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 44s. 6d. cwt.; sago (small pearl), 33s. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 112s. cwt., No. 1 cubes, 116s. cwt., white Java, 110s. 6d. cwt., Mauritius, 94s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 142s. cwt.; tapioca (Singapore), 2d. lb.; tea (Indian), 6½d. lb., Ceylon 6½d. lb., and Java, 4d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 121s. 6d. qr., English white, 94s. qr.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £175 ton; bismuth, 12s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £89 17s. 6d. ton., electro wire bars, £100 10s. ton; gold bars, 117s. 11½d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 225s. ton; hematite (mixed), 260s. ton; nickel, £230 ton; platinum, 520s. oz.; plumbago, £37 10s. ton; quicksilver, £15 10s. bott.; silver bars, 52½d. oz.; spelter, £39 5s. ton; tin, £159 10s.; wolfram, 24s. 6d. unit.; zinc sheets, £57 10s. ton.

*Chemicals.*—Acids:—Boric, 75s. cwt.; oxalic, 2s. 1½d. lb.; citric, 3s. 5½d. lb.; tartaric, 2s. 7½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £31 1s. 9d. ton; benzole (standard), 3s. 5d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £27 10s. ton; borax crystals, 41s. cwt.; cream of tartar, 240s. 6d. cwt.; glycerine (crude, 80 per cent.), £105 ton; industrial (1.250 per cent.), £155 ton; lead (red), £56 10s. ton; white dry, £63 10s. ton; potassium—bichromate, 1s. 11½d. lb.; chlorate, 10d. lb.; caustic, £105 ton; nitrate, £70 ton; permanganate, 3s. 6d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 10½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £34 ton; quinine, 4s. 1½d. oz.; sodium:—crystals, 190s. ton; bicarbonate, £14 ton; bichromate, 1s. 2½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £16 5s. ton; chlorate, 5½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £32 10s. ton; hyposulphite, £36 10s. ton; prussiate, 1s. 2½d. lb., and nitrate, £24 5s. ton; sulph. copper, £41 ton; sulph. iron, 160s. ton.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton (American good midd.), 18.52d. lb.; Egyptian, F.G.F. Sakel, 43d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £31 10s. ton; Indian, £36 ton; oils:—linseed, £71 3s. ton; soya, £67 5s. ton; cotton, £52 ton; olive, £21 10s. gallon; ground nut, £78 ton; palm, £56 5s. ton, and rape, £75 ton; palm kernels, £37 ton; petroleum, 2s. 3d. gallon; rape (Toria), £33 15s. ton; rubber—plantation, No. 1 crêpe, 1s. 4¾d. lb.; smoked sheet, 1s. 3¼d. lb.; fine hard Para, 1s. 6d. lb.; turpentine, 123s. cwt.

## DECLINE IN RAW FUR PRICES.

The report of the London Fur Trade Association on the October raw fur skin sales states:—The cost of dressing, dyeing, manufacturing, and materials is higher than ever, and, therefore, the fall in prices of manufactured goods will be very much less than in the price of the raw skins. Business has been far from active since the May sale, partly due to seasonable quietness, but chiefly due to financial conditions and industrial unrest. A certain amount of pressure was brought to bear from the United States, but unsuccessfully, with the object of securing the postponement of these sales, as has been done in America. The range of values established will form a basis for future operations for the fur trade in all countries.

Prices as a whole again show a decline. The collections, however, consisted mostly of stale goods. The high values of last January, brought about solely by reckless American speculation, could not possibly last. A safer and sounder basis of prices had to be found, and the sooner this was done the better. The quotations given show the course of prices of the articles which are most interesting to the home trade, and the fluctuations are based on the last May sales.

Australian opossum, declined 25 per cent.; Wallaby, best grades 10 per cent., lower grades 50 per cent.; silver fox, full May prices; cross fox, little lower than May; blue fox, declined 25 per cent.; red fox, best grades 20 per cent., lower grades 30 per cent.; white fox, 20 to 25 per cent.; beaver, 40 per cent.; otter, 25 to 30 per cent.; lynx, 30 per cent.; marten, 50 per cent.; Russian sable, best grades full May prices, lower grades 20 per cent. decline; ermine, declined 20 per cent. on average; chinchilla, not sold; stone marten, declined 25 per cent.; baum marten, 15 to 20 per cent.; skunk, better grades 35 per cent. decline, lower grades 40 per cent. decline, collection almost entirely stale skins and off colour; civet cat, declined 30 per cent. to 40 per cent.; American opossum, best grades 40 per cent., lower grades 50 per cent.; brown musquash, 40 to 45 per cent.; southern musquash, 40 per cent.; black musquash, 40 per cent.; raccoon, 40 per cent.; mink, best grades 10 per cent. to 15 per cent., lower grades 40 per cent.; squirrel, 30 per cent.; kolinsky, too few for comparison; fitch, declined 40 per cent.; white hare, 35 per cent.; wolf, best grades 10 per cent., lower grades, 30 per cent.; black bear, 25 per cent.; brown bear, 35 per cent.; grizzly bear, unaltered; South American fox, best grades 30 per cent. decline, lower grades 40 per cent. decline; mole, declined 50 per cent.; nutria, poor collection, lower grades 30 per cent. decline.

The statutory meeting of the Phœnix Oil and Transport Company will be held on Monday, November 15.

The Sultan of Egypt has conferred the Grand Cordon of the Nile on Sir Paul Harvey in recognition of his eminent services to Egypt as Financial Adviser.

Sir Edmund Wyldbore-Smith (formerly Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trade) has been elected a member of the board of B. S. T., Limited, in place of Sir Philip Lloyd-Graeme, M.P., who has resigned owing to his appointment as Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade. Sir Edmund Wyldbore-Smith is a director of the Suez Canal Company and the Metropolitan Carriage Wagon and Finance Company.


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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

DAMAS, September 30.

There have been important arrivals of cereals, principally wheat, from the interior during the month. The amounts received have, however, not been sufficient to affect the active demand from the Lebanon and the coast.

As we forecasted in our previous report, quiet is re-established in the Hauran, and business is taking its normal course. However, transactions in manufactures are still restricted, as the demand for the interior is still lacking, and buyers are holding aloof because of the fall of prices in Europe.

STAMBOUL, October 30.

There has been no improvement in the market. Some transactions for the Crimea and Roumania have had very little effect on the commercial position.

The fall in prices increases in manufacturing countries and has now reached from 35 to 40 per cent. for certain commodities compared with the quotations six months ago.

Our merchants who possess considerable stocks are endeavouring to get rid of them. Conditions are not favouring business with Roumania. The railway strike, followed by the general strike, has put an end to business, and the fall in the lei has removed all prospect of profit.

Colonial Produce.—Sugar.—It is becoming more and more evident that the crops will be very abundant in producing countries. Prices have fluctuated on the New York market, but the tendency is to fall. Java sugar in transit is quoted 20 to 21 dollars per 100 kilos, as against 24 for the last two weeks, while produce in Customs is quoted £T47-48 per 100 kilos.

Coffee.—A higher level has been reached during the last few days on the principal markets. It is due to large purchases by speculators. However, prices have remained stationary. Rio is quoted Ps. 40-48 per oke, and Santos Ps. 48-55 (both in transit).

Rice.—The market continues weak, and the price is low. Saigon, which costs 190 francs per 100 kilos, c.i.f. Constantinople, has fallen to 170. American rice has also declined from 22 dollars to 17 per 100 kilos.

Exports.—The market has been very weak. The fall in prices continues and is accentuated.

Opium.—The sales of the week amount to thirty cases at Ps. 11.20-11.50 fine and Ps. 9.80-8.85 druggist.

Mohair.—275 bales have arrived this week. There have been no sales. Prices have undergone a fresh decline to Ps. 85-90 extra, Ps. 75-80 I., Ps. 65-70 II.

Wool.—One hundred and sixty bales have arrived this week. There have been no sales. Prices are stationary.

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The imports of coal into Alexandria from January 1 to October 22 amounted to 412,818 tons. The corresponding figures for last year were 37,828 tons.

Of the total tonnage of 16,013,000 tons which passed through the Suez Canal in 1919 Great Britain's share amounted to 11,355,000 tons.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended October 23 amounted to £16,081.

It is announced that the general strike at Bucharest which was declared by the trade unions last month has come to an end, largely owing to the prompt measures taken by General Averescu, the Prime Minister.


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## COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

### P. and O.

The directors of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company recommend a dividend on the deferred stock of 6 per cent. for the six months, together with a bonus at the rate of 3 per cent., both free of tax, making, with the interim dividend of 6 per cent. paid in May, a total distribution on the deferred stock of 15 per cent. for the year. They also propose to make a distribution in the neighbourhood of £205,000 of deferred stock to the deferred stockholders registered November 23, 1920. Dividend warrants will be posted on December 14.

### Algerian Oilfields.

The report of the Algerian Oilfields for the year ended September 30, 1920, states that the issued capital at September 30 stood at £106,731, divided into 1,067,314 shares of 2s. each, 307,612 shares having been issued for cash during the year. The total production from the leased area in Algeria was 672,028 kilos. The new mining laws adopted by the French Chamber have now been made applicable to Algeria, and it is confidently expected that the Société Algerienne des Petroles de Tliouanet, in which the Algerian Oilfields is largely interested, will shortly obtain the concession applied for, as the application is now before the Conseil d'Etat. The position in regard to the company's property remains as at the date of the last report. The additional capital subscribed has enabled the directors to take up a substantial interest in Trinidad Esmeralda Estate, Limited, who own the well-known Esmeralda property in the Tabaquite district, in the island of Trinidad. The estate consists of 262 acres, and is freehold, no royalties being payable. The necessary drilling plant has been purchased and delivered. Drilling on No. 1 well started on October 7 last. A cable has since been received by the Trinidad Esmeralda Estate Company reporting that the first oilsands have been encountered at 60 ft., and drilling is being continued. The technical advisers of the company, in view of this result and from the further geological work that has been carried out, express themselves as extremely confident that the company will meet with every success.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cable received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated November 2:—During the week ending October 23 light showers fell in places. More rain badly wanted everywhere in the Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Mysore, Central Provinces, United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and in parts of Central India, especially in Gwalior, and Bundelkhand and in Madras. In the Central Provinces drought for four weeks has caused serious failure of autumn crops, and in several districts of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh rice is considerably damaged. Elsewhere prospects of standing crops fair. During the week ending October 30 rainfall general in Mysore and South-Eastern Madras with heavy falls on Coromandel Coast and local in the rest of Madras and Assam and Bengal. Exportable surplus of rice raised by 50,000 tons, half of which available for sale to foreign countries. Recent rains have greatly improved paddy prospects in Lower Burma.

All India crop forecasts (1920-21), 1,448,000 acres; ground nuts (first forecast) (1919-20), 1,274,000 acres; (1920-21), 18,228,000 acres; cotton (second forecast) (1919-20), 18,892,000 acres; (1920-21), 2,221,000 acres sesamum (second forecast) (1919-20), 2,170,000 acres; (1920-21), 2,669,000 acres; sugarcane (second forecast) and 1919-20, 2,729,000 acres.

Bombay cotton market deadlock unchanged, but brokers and shippers have resolved at a meeting that business in new cotton would be commenced only when so decided upon by a general trade meeting. This is generally regarded as a hopeful sign. Ready cotton quiet. Fine M G Oomra number three spot rate 280. Calcutta jute market inactive but prices steady. Hessians very dull with declining prices, demand being generally small and non-existent for export. Heavy goods dull with no business. No change in bank rates.

## ON 'CHANGE.

### Markets Depressed.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday.

The improvement recorded last week has not been maintained, and again prices have given way a little in a number of directions. Government securities, as a whole, have been fairly steady. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent., Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855, and Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1898, are unchanged at 60, 68, and 60 respectively; Turkish 3½ per cent. Egyptian Tribute Bonds have, however, declined sharply 2¼ points to 51¼.

Where changes have taken place in Greek securities, they have been in the downward direction. The 5 per cent. 1881 and 1884 have both dropped 2 points to 50. The 1890 Loan is unchanged at 52, and Fundings and the 1910 and 1914 Loans are also unaltered at 50, 37, and 50½ respectively. The 1902 Loan is, however, 1½ points up at 45.

Banks have been rather weak, with the exception of Agricultural 3½ per cent. Bonds and 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds, which are firm at 58 and 60 respectively. Imperial Ottoman Banks have eased off ¼ at 9¾, and the National Bank of Egypt are a like amount down at 17¾. Land Banks are again lower at 4⅜, a drop of 3-16.

Declines have to be recorded almost all along the line in land shares. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments are unchanged at 3½, Beheras are ½ lower at 12¾, but the preference shares are unchanged at 65s. Egyptian Consolidated Lands have been a specially weak spot, touching 1s. 9d., a drop of 4½d., while Delta Lands are 1s. 3d. down at 12s., and Egyptian and Foreign Trust have shed 3d. at 12s. 9d. Gharbieh Lands are a further ⅛ down at 2½, New Egyptians have fallen 4s. to 26s., while Union Foncières are ¼ down at 3½. A significant exception to the general tendency is provided by Sudan Plantations, which have firmed up ⅛ to 5.

Among Miscellaneous securities Abyssinian Corporations are unchanged at ¼, as are Alexandria Waters at 7. Morums are again 6d. down at 16s., while Egyptian Salts and Sodas have shed a further 1s. 3d. at 39s. 9d.

Oils have weakened in sympathy with other markets. Anglo-Egyptians have eased off ⅜ to 3 5-16, while Roumanian Consols are 6d. down at 21s.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97 7/16 |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 36·00-37·00 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 117-119 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·8⅛-1·8⅜ |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 222-224 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·8⅛-1·8⅜ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 460-475 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅜ | 3·34-3·38 |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 57·00-58·55 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 247½ |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 30 |

The Credit Foncier d'Algerie et de Tunisie has opened branches at Fedalah (Morocco) and at Bou Arrada, Gaffour, and Madhia (Tunis).

The Romano-Americana Oil Company, at Bucharest, is increasing its share capital from 37,500,000 lei to 150,000,000 lei.

The receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Limited, for the week ended October 10 amounted to £E16.890, making the total for the year £E248.227.


# BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

Telegrams: "TRABANQUE, LONDON."

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.)
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# LEVANT MARKET REVIEW.

We give below some further extracts from the market review of the National Bank of Turkey for September:—

**British Trade in Motors.**

Since the commencement of the year there has been a large influx of American cars, and a goodly number of Italian manufacture have also been sold; rather more than 650 cars have been registered in Pera. With scarcely an exception, the foreign car is not giving the satisfaction expected. This is partly due to the shocking roads in, and for miles around, the town, the condition of which has to be seen to be believed.

There is . . . a demand for good light cars of the popular "Tin-Lizzie" persuasion, and it is quite frankly stated that the preference leans towards those of British manufacture, which are, unfortunately, conspicuous by their absence.

**Tobacco Crop Reports.**

At the commencement of the harvest, various predictions were current concerning the size and quality of the 1920 tobacco crop.

To accept any of these prognostications would have been premature, since various factors, i.e., weather, shortage of labour, and insecurity in certain regions, were of great importance as affecting the success of the crop.

Now that the picking has been completed in almost all the centres of production, and the local buying has commenced, it is possible to give a considered opinion on the quantity and quality in the following important centres.

*Kavalla-Drama-Serres-Xanthi.*—The crop, as far as quantity is concerned, which was expected to be very considerable in view of the area sown, is now valued at 8 million kilogrammes; the bad weather and hail seriously affected the plantations. As regards quality, it has been also affected by the weather, and the higher grade tobaccos are much inferior to those of last year. The lower grades and refuse are abundant.

*Smyrna.*—The crop is now estimated at 12 million kilos., of which about eight to nine million kilos. is in the territory forming the autonomous state. The quality is not very good, and, with several buyers about, the higher grades are fetching a big price.

*Samsoun.*—Insecurity, shortage of labour and bad weather have had a very unfavourable effect on the crop. In quantity it barely reaches a quarter of the pre-war yield, and its quality has been much affected by the rains which fell just at the moment when the picking and drying was going on. A large part of the leaves are thus left scarcely ripe and dark green in colour.

*Broussa-Balikesser.*—The crop here is about three million kilos., is of medium grade and goes to the factories which consume large quantities of this quality.

**Demand for Boots.**

There is a great demand for a strong, rough boot, resembling the Army pattern, for use among the poorer and peasant classes. For a town boot there is also a demand, and principally it must look good and smart, and be cheap; the American at present holds the market. British-made goods would sell well, but a representative should first be sent out here to study the needs and style, and it would be necessary for him to pay particular attention to the shape of the foot in this part of the world.

**Improved Outlook in Roumania.**

There are distinct signs of improvement in almost every branch of trade, and a great demand for goods in general. In the retail shops the ruling prices for almost every commodity are very high in view of the shortage of stocks.

With regard to British goods, they have to contend with considerable competition from Italy, Switzerland, and Spain, each of which, and especially the first two, seem to be able to put a very much cheaper class of goods on the market, and while they are admittedly inferior in quality, they nevertheless suit the present means of the population, for the difference in quality is more than balanced by the difference in price.

There are three very important points for the British merchant and manufacturer to remember if they wish to trade with Roumania:—1. It is absolutely essential to quote c.i.f. Roumanian ports. Local merchants will not look at f.o.b. quotations, as the majority will not go to the trouble of calculating freight, expenses, etc. 2. It is little or no use trying to sell goods from samples, patterns, etc., while the goods are lying at Constantinople or elsewhere. At the present time of transport difficulty, buyers distrust both railways and shipping. 3. To import goods into Roumania, all foreign firms must have a Government licence, whereas a Roumanian firm does not require this.

Business generally is hampered also by the prohibition of export of money of all sorts, though there is reason to believe that this prohibition will be cancelled in the near future as far as foreign values are concerned. There is every hope that the exchange may improve slightly in the near future, which will be one of the strongest factors in the development of external trade.

# COMPANY MEETINGS.

## MORUMS ORIENTAL STORES.

The first ordinary general meeting of Morums Oriental Stores, Limited, was held on November 4 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, Mr. D. Stoner Crowther presiding.

Mr. P. Nichols (one of the joint secretaries) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the profit on trading for the fifteen months ended June 30 amounted to £79,378 6s., from which had to be deducted commissions to managers, interest, discount charges and depreciation on fixtures and fittings, amounting in all to £12,012 7s. 10d., leaving a net profit in Egypt of £67,365 18s. 2d. Of this sum a certain portion—namely, £7,008 0s. 10d.—being the profit allocated to the period prior to the incorporation of the company, which was effected on June 6, had been carried to general reserve, after charging there against the interest incurred by the company on the purchase consideration payable to the vendors. After taking into account a small item for transfer fees, which they would see appearing on the credit side of the profit and loss account, there had also been deducted £14,340 1s. 5d. in respect of directors' fees, London office expenses, and estimated provision for taxation, the latter item absorbing approximately £9,000 and including a small amount which it was thought they might be called upon to pay for excess profits duty. This left them accordingly with an available balance of net profit of £46,017 15s. 11d., which they proposed should be appropriated in accordance with the recommendations set out in the report. Turning to the debit side of the balance-sheet they would notice their authorised and issued capital was £500,000, of which £300,000 was represented by preference shares and £200,000 by ordinary shares, the former having been issued to and subscribed by the public, while the latter were taken by the vendors in part payment of the purchase price. As regards the creditors and credit balances, they represented mainly liabilities in respect of stock purchased and included in the item of stock on the credit side of the account. Shareholders might be interested to know that they had branches situated in the following towns:—Cairo (two), Alexandria, Mansourah, Tantah, Jaffa, and Jerusalem, while they contemplated opening a small shop in the immediate future at Port Said. They would, he was sure, agree that they might consider the results of their first year's trading as satisfactory. The turnover had increased appreciably during the year under review. If, on the one hand, Egypt had had her full share of the abnormal prosperity enjoyed by the world's trade since the Armistice, she had, on the other hand, experienced a full measure of the social and political unrest equally prevalent. They had not altogether escaped the labour unrest that has been rife throughout Egypt, but they had always kept in mind the interests of their staff, and were ably seconded in that by their general manager; notwithstanding their already heavy expenses, they had increased salaries and wages in order that their employees might be fully able to cope with the increased cost of living, and they believed that the relations between their management and staff were now on an excellent footing.

They would appreciate that their branches being situate at a great distance from their sources of supply—which, he might add, were principally in this country—their programme of buying had to be prepared and orders placed many months before the goods would actually be required for sale in their stores. In addition to that, until quite recently, they had had to cope with great difficulties as regards obtaining delivery and very grave delays in obtaining shipping accommodation. In the last few weeks conditions had undergone a great change. Goods in considerable quantities had come on the market, and wholesale prices had in many articles fallen appreciably, but he did not think that to-day anyone could safely forecast how long such conditions would last, or what changes might take place in the near or distant future; anyhow, he did not pretend to be able to do so. The greater part of their stocks were of recent delivery, and were, they believed, well bought through their buying agents, Morums Export, Ltd., under the personal direction of their general manager and his buyers, with full experience as to local requirements. Consequently, they anticipated that in the next five months, which were generally the best in the year, they would dispose of the greater part of these goods at satisfactory prices.

Mr. W. Cyril Tomlinson seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

CROWE & STEVENS,
*Steamship Agents and . . .*
*Commercial Representatives,*
PATRAS, PIRÆUS, ATHENS,
SALONICA.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 498.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *An Annual Balkan Conference?*

From its inception, ten years ago, one of the aims of THE NEAR EAST has been to promote harmony and co-operation between the States of South-Eastern Europe. As the decade has had an almost continuous record of war, with the inevitable intensification of animosities, it has called for a strong faith to believe that the goal could and would be reached. Within the last few weeks this goal has come into sight with a suddenness and, it may be said, with a clearness that could not have been anticipated six months back. The alliance between Czecho-Slovakia and Yugoslavia; the Entente that links Roumania with both, while Greece is ready to be a party to the same understanding; the Treaty between Italy and Yugoslavia; and the tacit acknowledgment of all these countries that Bulgaria, under the post-war régime, having purged her war-crime, has qualified to be reinstated in the fellowship of Balkan nations—clearly we have here a set of conditions that need merely to be co-ordinated to ensure not only the lasting peace of South-Eastern Europe, but also the systematised co-operation of forty-five millions of people in the work of reconstruction. One or two political questions, no doubt, still await adjustment, but it is in the economic sphere that closeness of touch between the various States is most required. A conference of representatives of all the Governments—to be attended, let us say, by the Prime Minister and two other Ministers of each country—would be invaluable for attaining the end in view. If the experiment were tried, we feel confident that there would be a desire to hold such a conference annually. The gathering would, in all probability, effect more than formal treaties of alliance; it would certainly tend to clear the air of mutual suspicion that is so hard to dissipate without full and frank discussion.

### *The Greek Elections.*

At the moment of writing, reports from Athens are preparing us for the possible defeat of M. Venizelos's party at the General Election. If this forecast should prove correct, it is to be hoped that people both in Greece and outside will keep their heads. M. Venizelos will have been defeated because, owing to his long absence from Greece in connection with the Peace Conference, he has not been able to keep in touch with public feeling in his own country, and has not realised how his position was being undermined by the mistakes of his sub-ordinates. Eighteen months ago it was pointed out in these columns that the strength of the so-called Royalist party in Greece was not fully appreciated. A year later it was suggested that the Royalist character of the Opposition had been largely merged in a more constitutional programme, based on the shortcomings of the Government charged with the task of carrying on in the absence of the Prime Minister. Further encouragement was given to this constitutional opposition by the regrettable policy of arrest and imprisonment indulged in so freely until it led to the murder of M. Jean Dragoumis by soldiers in the chief residential street of Athens. It is necessary that the lesson of past mistakes should be emphasised now in case the Opposition, if it comes to power, should fail to profit by the experience of the Venizelists.

### *Greece's Political Future.*

Greece must bear in mind that the Allied Powers cannot be expected at once to take kindly to the possible political eclipse of the man who for two years or more has dominated, if not the councils of Europe, at least the men who have been responsible for the official policy of the Allies. It is a matter for regret that M. Venizelos should have narrowed the issue of the Greek elections to purely personal limits, as probably the best development for the country would have been that the Opposition should be returned to Parliament in such strength that M. Venizelos would have been compelled to purge his Government of its elements of weakness, and to put an end to the breach that has divided Greece into two bitterly hostile camps. If, however, the Opposition come into power, we can but hope that the able moderate men of the different parties will maintain control, will seek a dignified solution of the dynastic question, will avoid the extremist policy which will have brought about the undoing of the Liberals, and will prove that their concern for the welfare of the Hellenic world was genuinely based on conviction and patriotism, not on political opportunism. For they can assure themselves of a very brief spell of power if they try to perpetuate the political vendetta and pay more attention to personal interests and the spoils of office than to a sound constructive policy in home and foreign affairs. A Coalition Ministry would probably be the most statesmanlike course.

### *British Policy in Persia.*

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs is expected to speak in the House of Lords on British policy in Persia, while these pages are being printed. It is hoped that Lord Curzon will leave the past to take care of itself and will devote himself to enunciating the future policy of the Government. Opinions, as we

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have seen, will differ as to whether what has happened in the Middle East was an inevitable corollary of the war and the delay in the settlement of Peace terms, or whether it might have been avoided. In an interesting letter published in this issue Major Ormesby-Gore again urges that responsibility can be established and continuity of policy secured only by making a Middle Eastern Minister and a separate Department responsible for the direction of policy and control of British expenditure and administration for the whole expanse of territory stretching from Egypt and the Sudan to Persia. With regard to Persia itself, we suggested last week an early withdrawal to Ispahan with a view to enabling Persia to right herself by a gradual consolidation of strength and the establishment of settled government in the south. Experience and common-sense alike are against the possibility of any Persian Government making good in Teheran, and we hope that the British Government will abandon the attempt to retain troops so far north.

### *The Egyptian Delegation.*

In the middle of last week it was announced that Zaghloul Pasha and the other members of the Egyptian Delegation had decided to return to Paris, and that something like a breakdown in their negotiations with Lord Milner had taken place. That Zaghloul Pasha, and possibly some of his companions, wished to discuss immediately certain "reservations" suggested during the delegates' recent visit to Egypt is admitted, and that Lord Milner considered that such discussion should be postponed until formal negotiations were opened between the two Governments, British and Egyptian, appears to be a fact. But for the very reason that such negotiations have not yet been opened up, and cannot be opened up, until Lord Milner's report is presented to our Government and considered by them, it is at least premature to take the view, as has been done by many people, that the fate of the negotiations as a whole is imperilled. The Zaghloulite Delegation has served a good purpose, and in some ways has served both its own country and Great Britain well; but it holds at best a semi-official position, and if it should take up the attitude that it would have nothing more to do with the matter until the reservations were taken into consideration, Lord Milner's report could—and doubtless would—still be presented to the Cabinet, and by them considered. That done, it would be for the Egyptians as a nation to say whether they wished matters to proceed, and if they so decided, the subject of the "reservations" could then, but not before then, be brought up.

### *"Independence" Demonstrations.*

If we wished to discover the true explanation of the latest manœuvre of Zaghloul Pasha and his companions, we should probably have to seek it elsewhere than in London; but for the time being, at least, we have no such wish. Speaking at a luncheon given in Cairo on the anniversary of the first more or less official demand for Egyptian independence, Rushdi Pasha advised his audience not to be perturbed by the suspension of negotiations, and his advice was excellent. Unfortunately the day was not allowed to pass without anything worse than a public luncheon and speechifying. The students went on strike, and organised demonstrations which resulted in the usual damage to property; the crowd is reported to have shown great hostility to the Sultan and the English; and the street urchins added to their usual imprecations a new one: "Down with Salisbury!" In the evening a British officer was fired at and dangerously wounded. Such occurrences can hardly be regarded, outside Egypt, as demonstrating the fitness of the Egyptians for self-government.

### *Turco-Armenian Armistice.*

Shortly after we went to press last week news reached London that hostilities between the Turkish Nationalists and the Armenians ceased on November 7, when an armistice was concluded. In view of the great pressure to which they were subjected on both sides, the Armenians cannot be blamed for coming to terms; and, indeed, as reported, the terms themselves are sufficient to prove that no other course was open. The Armenians are to withdraw to the western bank of the Arpa Chai, giving up the Karabagh and Zangezour district to the enemy. A study of the map will show what this means to the Turko-Bolshevist combination, and unless Georgia receives strong support from the Entente, there may soon be no barrier at all between the enemy forces. The Turks, it is announced, are to occupy Alexandropol and the surrounding district pending peace negotiations, and "will be responsible for the maintenance of order and the security of the inhabitants." What those unhappy people's feelings must be on finding themselves faced by such a prospect it is not difficult to imagine. It is reported that an ultimatum has been addressed to Georgia, and that Georgia has pluckily replied by ordering a general mobilisation.

### *Armenian Frontiers.*

It is somewhat ironical that at the very time when Armenia's boundaries are, temporarily, at any rate, contracted, we should be told that "the final report of the Special Commission appointed by the American State Department to study the Armenian demarcation question will shortly be presented to the President." There seems to be some danger that the work of demarcation may be rendered unnecessary by the elimination of the Armenians. The best hope that we can see is that the gloomy reports are greatly exaggerated, as those regarding the massacres at Hajjin are now known to have been. At the latter place, according to official news, no massacres at all occurred; only non-combatants surrendered; a column numbering about 300 Armenians broke through the Turkish forces and reached Sis; while other bodies fled to the mountains, where they continued their resistance. Thus, while the situation of the Armenians both in Armenia proper and in Cilicia is extremely bad, it looks as if their friends were, for quite comprehensible reasons, making it out to be even worse than the reality. The wisdom of this policy is open to question; but it is clear that on this occasion there is a wolf in sight—or, rather, actually within the fold; and unless the shepherd's friends go to his help, the flock must inevitably suffer very heavily.

### *India and the Agitators.*

The Government of India has, in our opinion, done well to publish the explanation of its policy towards the agitators which appeared last week. It is true that its motives could be inferred from its actions by any careful student, but then the public is sometimes careless, and the growing volume of criticism has been marked by occasional failures to appreciate the obvious. The Government had, in fact, a difficult choice to make: it could have entered on a campaign of drastic repression against the virulent body of agitators who have tried to wreck the policy accepted by Parliament, or it could trust the new-found political sense of India to endure this agitation without serious injury. The latter alternative was chosen, and the claim is now made that India has in great measure justified the confidence reposed in her. The agitators have, in fact, failed in the attempt to stampede the educated class, and have turned to the nurses and the schoolboys, so that the possibility of serious disorder remains, and the enlightened members of the public are now called upon to go further, and, having resisted agitation directed against themselves, check the more immediately dangerous movement among the general population. It is too early to pass final judgment on such a policy, but it is well that the public should be placed in a position to realise its nature and object. The Government had to choose between risks. Drastic repression might easily have united the educated classes in uncompromising opposition, and thereby enabled the agitators to realise their designs. Forbearance might have led to an outburst of public disorder, and unhappily the possibility still exists, but the outburst has not yet occurred, and that fact is by itself significant of much. There are some grounds for anticipating that the culminating point of the agitation will be marked by the elections to be held next month, and no one at this distance is in a position to predict the results of such a novel experience for the people.

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# THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday evening.

**The Unknown Warrior.**

When first the idea was suggested of burying an unknown soldier from the Western Front in Westminster Abbey, there was a quite perceptible undercurrent of objection on the ground that it was sentimental, theatrical, and even morbid. I am bound to say that all those objections were silenced by the magnificent ceremonial of last Thursday. The unknown warrior was symbolic, but the symbol was worthy of the reality, and the homage paid by the great on Armistice Day, and by the public on the day following, showed that the whole people entered into the meaning of the occasion with reverence and thankfulness.

The day itself was one of those perfect autumn mornings in which London looks like the city of a dream; the next morning was foggy, and the new Cenotaph, which replaces the temporary structure of last November, was almost lost in mist. The simple yet massive dignity of the monument is extremely impressive, and goes some way to redeem English sculpture from the degradation which its statues have brought upon it. The spot, which a bare year ago was nothing save a street refuge in Whitehall, is now sacred soil, and will ever remain so. It may be fifty years before the last widow lays the last wreath of personal memory of a lost comrade there.

**The Guildhall Banquet.**

The Lord Mayor's Show this year was the poorest thing in pageants ever seen, but the Guildhall banquet which followed was by common consent admirably done, and the Prime Minister's optimistic speech silenced even his most jaundiced critics—who, to tell the truth, are not in the City. Mr. Lloyd George was perfectly right in striking a bright note. There are indications that the worst part of the reconstruction period is over, and the industrial temper is a good deal less ragged than a few weeks ago. Unemployment is a serious problem, but it is not increasing; and although Mr. H. G. Wells has been trying to make our flesh creep by predicting that Bolshevism will undermine Western civilisation, his reputation as a prophet is not what it was, and the general tone of foreign affairs is fairly cheerful.

One would not, however, be very surprised to see an outbreak of the old Tariff Reform controversy at home again in the near future, owing to the increased import of German dyestuffs and toys; the Free Traders are doing their best to kill—and if that fails, to delay—the Anti-Dumping Bill, and the advocates of key industries in this country are becoming rather restive.

**A Labour Defeat.**

Some part of Mr. Lloyd George's good spirits may have been due to the defeat of Labour at the November municipal elections. It was only to be expected, for Labour has got itself identified with increasing rates, and the glorious simplicity of the old cry of "Down with the rates" is usually good enough for these elections. There have been several meetings of protest recently against extravagant municipal expenditure, and it is, roughly speaking, true that the expenditure has been greatest and the rates highest where Labour rules. According to their spokesmen, that is partly because Labour, knowing something about conditions of employment, pays its municipal employees properly, and partly because Labour happens to rule in the poorer localities, where the rates are always heavier in any event.

There is probably something in this, but the real fact is that Labour is under the weather at the moment. The miners' strike, the *Daily Herald* exposure, and similar happenings have not only divided the Labour right and left wings, but have alienated other support which the party, both municipally and in the Commons, hoped to obtain. It is rather amusing to see the emergence of a Whig and Radical aspect in the Labour party as in the old Liberal party—human nature is very much the same whatever its label—but the general impression is that political Labour is rather less strong than it was a year ago, and its interest is to avoid a general election for the next year or two, until it has got more and better candidates. No party will ever be able to rule England that accepts the disgruntled and disappointed members of other parties, and Labour's confession that it put up that absurd person, Mr. Joseph King, in the recent by-election at Ilford because it had nobody else was a frank admission of its real weakness.

**Ireland.**

The only Parliamentary event of the week was the fact that the Home Rule Bill was read a third time in the Commons. The speeches, especially that of Sir Edward Carson, were more hopeful, and the whole situation is at least momentarily brighter. The hunger-strike of the Cork prisoners is to cease, and there are those who profess to hope that the era of murder and reprisals is nearly over. We shall see.

**The City.**

With the conclusion of the coal strike, the City seems to have revived, and stockbrokers' clerks no longer think it necessary to perambulate Throgmorton Street with the gloomy air of a professional hangman. Several new issues have been floated, but some new Water Board stock was left high and dry, about three-quarters of it not being applied for. The City still predicts national bankruptcy if Mr. Chamberlain stays at the Exchequer, but that is "pretty Fanny's way"; to judge by the number of palatial new offices they are putting up in and around Moorgate Street, one would say that money breeds as well as ever.

**What is a Bank?**

Most people know a bank when they see one—"the place where they won't lend you money when you want it," as an impecunious acquaintance once described it—but, according to Mr. Walter Leaf, who is the head of one of the great banks (or one of the heads, for their boards of directors are like hydras in these days), it is a very difficult thing to define a bank. There is a demand both from the Government and the public for legislation in order to stop the bucket-shop and the mushroom type of institution that preys on the credulous and ignorant, but no definition as yet suggested appears to be satisfactory. One of the difficulties is that, even if the word "bank" is copyrighted, anybody could still open an office and call it the London Bankers' Trust, or some such high-sounding name, and still be within the law—and the profits, too, no doubt.

A similar difficulty cropped up years ago with the dentists. The qualified men demanded protection from the quacks, and were given the sole right to call themselves "dental surgeons." Forthwith every quack put

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on his plate "dental surgery," and the public could hardly be blamed for not telling the sheep from the goats.

**The Female Cigarette.**

The idea of controversy and heated recriminations in so discreet and modest an organisation as the Young Women's Christian Association strikes one as almost incredible; and when it is added that the trouble is that some of the young women want to dance, play cards, and even smoke, and that the—well, the not-so-young women in the Association will not let them, it seems time to draw a discreet veil over the remainder of the proceedings. But a split there has been, and the Y.W.C.A. is now divided, like a railway train, into smokers and non-smokers. And as in the average modern train, most of the women seem to be in the smokers.

**The Acquittal.**

The Greenwood trial, which kept England on tenter-hooks for ten days, has ended with the acquittal of the prisoner, and Mr. Greenwood, following the example of Mrs. Asquith, is writing an account of his life for one of the Sunday papers. The Crown has been criticised for prosecuting when the evidence was so weak, but the Crown probably did not reckon on the fact that so many witnesses would be proved inaccurate in the box, and certainly was unprepared for the admission of the doctor who attended Mrs. Greenwood that he had confused opium with morphia. On the evidence the jury could come to no other conclusion.

**A War Office Story.**

Many of the stories of the War Office are merely *ben trovato*, but the latest one seems to be true. A discharged soldier, who applied for his pension, was informed that he was officially dead. When he disputed it, he was referred to his grave in France, with his name and number on it. From this there appeared to be no appeal, but it is said that when the income-tax people present their little bill to the soldier he will make the obvious retort. Unfortunately, that particular class of official is lacking in a sense of humour.

**The Week's Books.**

I have been reading with interest "A Naturalist in Himalaya" (Witherby), by Mr. R. W. G. Hingston, in which the author has embodied some very curious observations on the habits of ants and spiders, and particularly on the geometrical instinct which the latter show in building their snares.

Rarely does one come across a more melancholy book than "The People of the Ruins" (Collins), by Edward Shanks. It gives us a picture of England two hundred years hence, and at first I was disposed to envy posterity because, according to the author, the population of London had shrunk, and one had a momentary vision of being able to get about more comfortably, even if one had to wait a couple of centuries to do so. Unfortunately posterity appears to have overdone it, for only one train comes into London a week, and civilisation is practically extinct. The ruler of England is a man of Jewish extraction called the Speaker, and he has two enemies, the Chairman of Bradford and the Chairman of Wales, who refuse to pay taxes. Eventually the Speaker is defeated, and perishes miserably on Bignor Hill. This is not a book to read when you are in the dumps, but it leaves me with the impression that Mr. Shanks, who is a dramatic critic in his idler moments, will be heard of again. I can quite understand that a prolonged bout of first-nights would produce the profound pessimism that this book shows.

In "The Practice and Theory of Bolshevism" (Allen and Unwin) Mr. Bertrand Russell, the mathematical pacifist, gives a not altogether favourable account of his visit to Russia, which will rather disconcert those admirers of the Soviets who had expected him to return more enthusiastic than he went.

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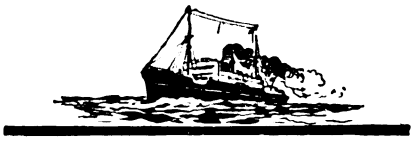

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, November 1.

**Sultan's Visit to the Provinces.**

His Highness the Sultan paid a State visit this week to Damanhour. He proceeded from Alexandria by motor-car, and was given a very good reception all along the road and in that ancient town, where he visited the schools and hospitals and laid the foundation stone of a new Mosque. This is the first occasion on which his Highness has visited a provincial town since his accession to the throne, three years ago, and coming at the present juncture it is not unnatural that a certain political significance should be attached to his visit to Damanhour, which it is understood is intended to be the prelude to other, more extended visits in the provinces in the near future. Although his Highness will not return to Cairo until the end of the month, the Residency and the senior British officials are moving up to Cairo this week, and Lord Allenby, when he arrives about the middle of the month from Constantinople, will only stay sufficiently long in Alexandria to call on the Sultan.

**The Mixed Courts Incident.**

As foreshadowed in my letter last week, a Decree was signed yesterday by the Sultan extending the powers of the Mixed Tribunals for another six months from to-day. The Decree, however, contains a mention to the effect that Dutch subjects are excepted from the jurisdiction of the Mixed Courts until such time as the Dutch Government has signified its adhesion to the proposal to extend the powers, and a supplementary Decree to this effect has been published. The last occasion on which a similar exception was made was in February, 1916, when Italy refused her assent unless an additional judge were granted her. On this occasion the exception is due to a misunderstanding on what is purely a technical point, and it therefore has no political significance.

The misunderstanding, it appears, is due to the fact that the Egyptian Government insists on having the final say with regard to the selection of foreign judges. These may be nominees of the foreign Government concerned, but in principle they must be *personæ gratæ* with the Egyptian Government, who must have the right, if it sees fit, to withhold its acceptance of the nominees. In this case it is understood that the Egyptian Government has not objected to the person of the judges proposed, but that the Dutch Government maintains that its selection should not be subject to the veto of the Egyptian Government.

There is little doubt that the point of view of the Egyptian Government is the correct one; for although the foreign judges are chosen in the proportion laid down for the foreign countries signatory to the Capitulations, they are not really representatives of their country, but are officials of the Egyptian Government; and such being the case, it is only right that the latter should have the final decision in the matter of their selection. It is not thought that any long time will elapse before a satisfactory settlement is arrived at and the necessary decree can be issued.

**Al Azhar and its Inmates.**

Ever since the political troubles started at the end of 1918 a very prominent part has been taken in the spreading of propaganda, etc., by the students and officials of Al Azhar. A law has now been published forbidding the Ulema from making speeches or drawing up or distributing circulars calculated to distract the students from their studies or interfere with public order; while religious students are, in addition to similar prohibitions as regards speeches and circulars, forbidden to join political parties or associations, under penalties, varying from a warning to expulsion, laid down in the law.

This law has given rise to a certain amount of adverse comment, on the score that it interferes with the liberty of individuals; but there is no doubt, in view of past events and of what transpired in the course of the conspiracy trial, that matters have reached a point where it has become necessary for some such action to be taken in the case of the officials and students of Al Azhar. For, after all, in adopting religion as their career, they profess to have done with politics, and, because of the religious nature of their duties and their studies, they are exempted from certain obligations to the State which fall to the lot of their secular comrades.

By the way, four weeks have now elapsed since the termination of the conspiracy trial, and as yet there is no news of the sentences on the twenty-four men convicted. It appears that the promulgation has been postponed owing to its having been deemed necessary to submit the papers to London. The reason of the necessity is not stated, although it is believed to have something to do with the legislation regulating Military Courts at the present moment.

**The Political Situation.**

The controversy with regard to the proposed agreement and the attitude of the Egyptian Delegation continues. The telegraphic report from London published by an Alexandria vernacular paper to the effect that there was a serious disagreement between the members of the Delegation and imputing certain remarks to Zaghloul Pasha has been contradicted by a telegram from the latter. In fact, people ought at the very outset to have regarded the telegraphic report as suspect in view of its publication in a paper which is known to maintain the closest relations with the man who is popularly considered to be at the back of the present opposition to the Milner-Zaghloul Draft Agreement. While the opposition attacks Zaghloul and his colleagues for lack of patriotism and for treachery in accepting an agreement which is "but a confirmation of the Protectorate," the Zaghloulite press bitterly attacks Said Pasha, who is understood to be directing the opposition, and accuses the present Cabinet of all manner of wickedness; and so the merry round of personalities, insinuations, lies, and rumours continues its healthy career.

**The Racing Season.**

On Saturday last the winter racing season opened with an excellent meeting at Heliopolis, and from now onwards until April we shall have no fewer than six race meetings every month, one Saturday meeting alternatively at Ghezireh and Heliopolis, and a fortnightly Sunday meeting at the latter. The most noteworthy feature of last Saturday's races was the extraordinary number of new horses, many of them of great promise. There is, indeed, no doubt that the continuation of racing throughout the war, which has materially improved the final position of the clubs, and so enabled them substantially to increase stakes, has given a tremendous impetus to horse-breeding, which is most welcome, particularly as just prior to 1911 interest in this direction appeared to be waning.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, October 31.

**An Echo of Klagenfurt.**

Although the Croats are Roman Catholics, they are very strong Nationals, and the Croatian language may be, and is already, used to a certain extent in church services. They look with some suspicion upon the Slovene Clericals, and as both these groups are regarded by the Orthodox Serbs as separatists the satisfaction of the latter may be imagined when they see the *Hrvat*, the organ of the Narodny Club, attacking Dr. Koroshets.

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The ground of complaint is the disaster of the voting in the plebiscite at Klagenfurt, for which they hold Dr. Koroshets responsible. He used to boast that the Slovenes were so well organised there that they were perfectly confident about the issue. The disastrous result shows that an unexpectedly large proportion of Slovenes there are partly or entirely Germanised. Dr. Koroshets would have been better employed in looking after the national interests in his own country and organising the people for the plebiscite than in gadding about Croatia, Bosnia, Herzegovina and Dalmatia. In fact, the *Hrvat* gives him a very nice snub, which is interesting as showing that the Slovene Clericals will play a lone game at the coming elections.

It is to be hoped, however, that they will not be too self-centred, for there are signs of alarm at the fact that all the anti-Slav elements in the country are endeavouring to organise themselves and form one *bloc*, sinking their own differences in their common object of hatred and malice. Such are the Magyars, with their programme of irredentism. They are the most energetic, the most determined, and the most bitter. Other hostile elements are the Germans, many of the Jews in the newly liberated provinces, and, in the south, the pro-Bulgar element in Macedonia, and the hostile Albanians, and, last, the Communists. It is anticipated that the latter will secure a heavy poll.

**Another Strike.**

There is another students' strike, not of the University this time, but of the Commercial Academy. The youths sent in an ultimatum to the authorities to the effect that they would strike unless a mess were provided for them or else an allowance of 300 dinars a month, which is not unreasonable, considering the fearful cost of living, which is every day getting worse. The director, M. Lukitch, met a deputation of them very sympathetically, telling them that the teaching staff were fully aware of the students' difficulties, but could not promise more than 125 dinars a month. He added, however, that they would arrange to give some lectures and concerts to raise some funds for them. The students were not satisfied with this answer, and declared their strike, and marched off to the Ministry of Commerce, where they were told that they would not be received without their director. They accordingly returned to the school and reported to the director, who advised them to return to work. But they went out and held a meeting, where, after some debate, it was resolved to return to duty. So the strike fizzled out, and in a few days the director will take them to the Ministry, where, let us hope, they will get their reasonable demands satisfied.

**Serbia and Greece.**

Affairs in Greece are watched with sympathy in Belgrade, where the sad and premature death of the young King made a painful impression. The Crown Prince has gone to Athens, whence he is shortly expected back. More than anybody else, Serbia has good cause to dread the possibility of the return of ex-King Constantine.

**The Minister of Finance.**

The Minister of Finance, M. Kosta Stoyanovitch, who, it will be remembered, tendered his resignation the other day because the Minister of Communications, Dr. Koroshets, refused to sign a decree on the grounds that he wishes his district of Slovenia exempted from its operation, has now retracted, as M. Vesnitch has succeeded in persuading the Clerical leader to sign. Thus what might have led to the break up of the Coalition on the eve of the elections has been averted, but it is instructive as showing the difficulties encountered by M. Vesnitch in handling his composite team.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, October 30.

**The King's Death.**

The slight improvement observed in King Alexander's condition during the early part of last week was not, unfortunately of a long duration. On Friday, his Majesty had another attack of extreme violence, and Madame Manos, who was always in attendance by her husband's bedside, immediately summoned the doctors,


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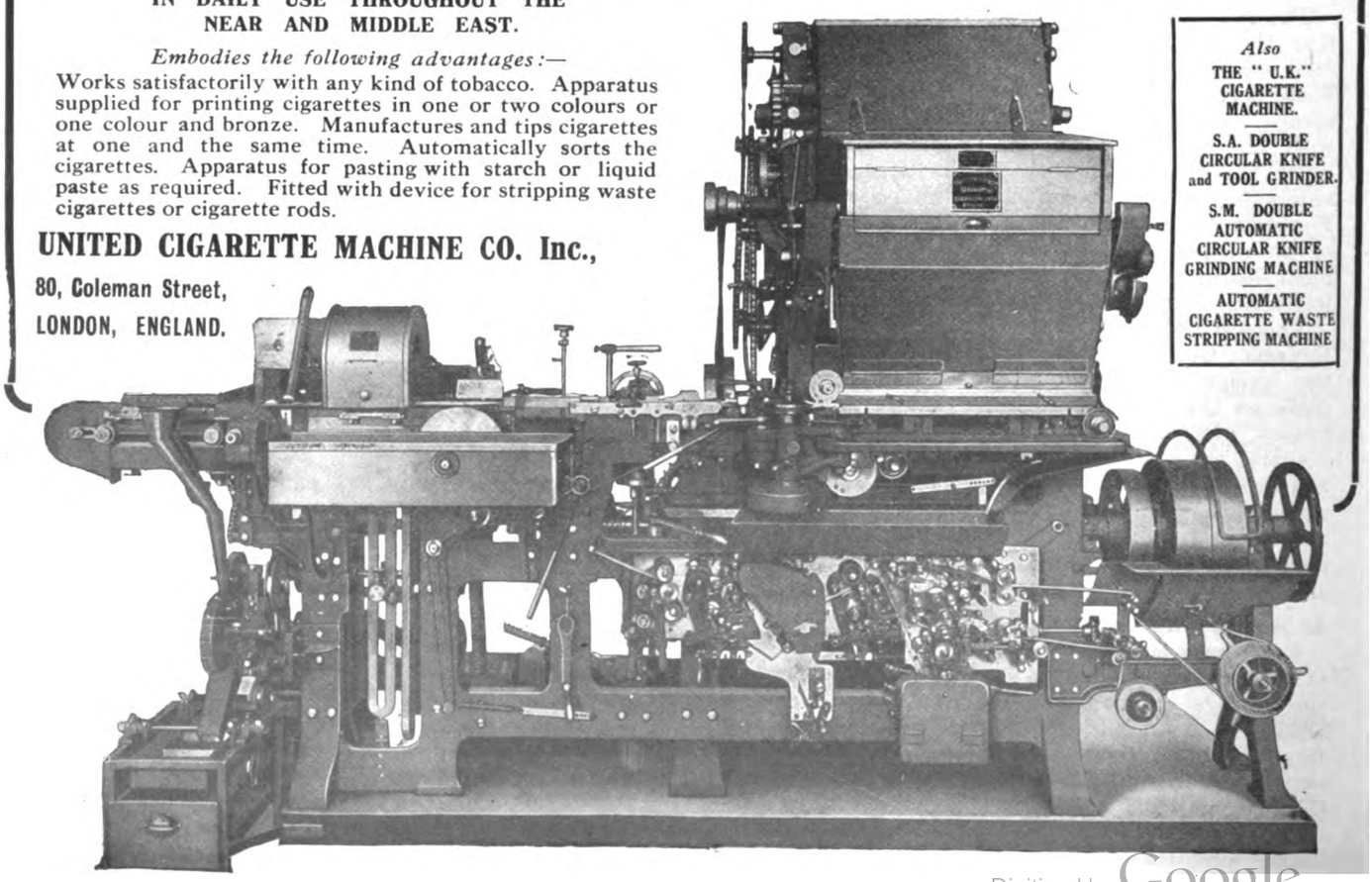

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who thought, for a moment that the end had arrived. This new crisis lasted about three hours, after which the King, completely exhausted, was able to get a little sleep. On Monday morning he was in a state approaching absolute insensibility, and although all hope was now lost, science still fought stubbornly to prolong his life. At 2 o'clock, while in a semi-conscious condition, the King was given Holy Communion. Shortly before four he regained consciousness, and noticing his wife kneeling by his bedside, tried to put his arms round her; but the effort proved too much for him, and falling back on his pillows he became delirious, shouting: "Where is my wife, I want my Bic." These were his last words. At 4.10 p.m. on Monday, he died.

The Dowager Queen Olga, who was expected in Athens on Monday morning, did not arrive till Tuesday, only to be told that her unfortunate grandson was no longer amongst the living.

**His Life.**

The late King was born at Tatoi, on July 20, 1893, and was the second son of ex-King Constantine and ex-Queen Sophie. He was proclaimed King of the Hellenes on June 14, 1917, after his father had been deposed. During his short but happy reign, one of the most glorious pages was added to the history of his kingdom by the signature of the Treaties of Neuilly and Sèvres, which transformed Greece into a great and powerful nation.

King Alexander's romantic love affair with Madame Aspasie Manos commenced long ago, at a time when he, a young careless prince, had no aspirations to the Throne, and never dreamt that he would one day be called upon to fill the highest position in the country. But even then the late monarch remained true to his old sweetheart, and although both his "entourage" and public opinion were opposed to such a match, and urged him to marry one of his own exalted station, Alexander declared most emphatically that it was his intention to make Mlle. Manos his wife. No priest, however, would undertake to perform the ceremony without the license of the metropolitan and without the special license of the Minister of Justice demanded by the law in the case of Royal weddings. The young pair finally succeeded in getting married on November 3 last year at the house of Miss Manos's sister, the ceremony being performed by a Serbian priest.

The deceased King was a very keen sportsman, and was considered one of the most capable motorists in Greece.

**The Election of the Regent.**

The Chamber had originally been convoked for Thursday morning (October 28), but as the majority of the deputies had already commenced their electoral tour, and were unable to return to Athens in time, the sitting was postponed until the same afternoon. When it was opened, at 4 o'clock, 140 out of 336 deputies were present.

M. Venizelos, announcing the death of King Alexander, declared that, in accordance with the Constitution, the successor to the Hellenic throne was the late King's young brother, Prince Paul, but in the absence of the new King, and in accordance with the Constitution, the election of a Regent would be necessary. The Greek Government had instructed its representative in Switzerland to convey its condolences to the Prince on the death of his brother, and to inform him of his succession to the throne, at the same time intimating that his coming to Greece would not take place before the General Elections have proved whether the Government still enjoys the full confidence of the Greek people.

M. Pope, an Independent, expressed his astonishment at this decision, and maintained that nobody had a right to prevent, even temporarily, a legitimate king from performing his functions, thus leaving an open door by which the Government could, if thought necessary, come to new decisions with regard to the vacant throne. He was immediately followed by M. Chrysostalis, an Opposition member, who declared that although he greatly admired Admiral Coundouriotis (the proposed Regent), he would refuse to vote in his favour, as he considered that the dynastic question ought to be settled in a more radical way, *i.e.*, in conformity with the wishes of the Greek people, and without taking any notice of the "irreconcilables."

M. Venizelos, replying to M. Pope, explained that the election of a Regent was a constitutional proceeding, and that ex-King Constantine's pretensions to the Throne, which existed even before King Alexander's death, would, if continued, create grave difficulties. It is essential that in becoming King, Prince Paul should have his father's consent and be recognised by him as the legitimate King of the Hellenes. The nation, added M. Venizelos, is not disposed to tolerate the abnormal situation which would be created by having two kings, one on the throne and another outside, the latter always plotting and scheming against interior order and the security of the country. M. Chrysostalis, continued the Premier, has indeed been quite clear in his declarations. He asks us point-blank to recall the ex-King. M. Venizelos went on to explain that it was not his (the Premier's) "irreconcilable" friends who prevented him from accepting such a solution. Even should these agree to the ex-King's return, he himself would never consent to a solution which would result in nothing less than an internal war in the country. At the end of his speech M. Venizelos declared that he hoped to be able to set out at some length the Government's point of view on the dynastic question during his electoral tour.

The Chamber then proceeded with the election of the Regent. Out of 140 deputies present, 137 voted in favour of Admiral Coundouriotis. As soon as the result was made known a delegation consisting of five deputies, all descendants and bearing the names of famous generals who fought in the Greek revolution in 1821, proceeded to the Admiral's house to announce the tidings and accompany him to the Chamber. The Regent, attired in his admiral's uniform, and wearing the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Saviour, took the oath of allegiance to the Hellenic Constitution, in the presence of the Metropolitan and the Holy Synod.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, October 31.

**Parliament.**

It has now been definitely decided that Parliament will open on November 28.

The resignation of the Minister of Industry and Commerce, M. Taslauanu, has been accepted. General Averescu has taken over the portfolio himself, and to satisfy public opinion has made drastic alterations in the conduct of this Ministry, the principal being:—(1) No import or export permits will be issued without his signature. (2) All permits, as soon as they are granted, will be published in the *Monitorul Oficial*. (3) There will be a special information department to deal with callers, thereby preventing loitering in the different offices and vestibules. (4) He will personally receive the general public only on Fridays between eleven and twelve noon.

**General Strike.**

The great general strike threatened by the Socialist and Labour Party, as mentioned last week, has not succeeded as they expected it would. This was partly due to the measures taken by the Government, reintroducing Martial Law and the Censorship, and enforcing the Regulation of Labour Bill in arresting all leaders and instigators. The motive of the strike being more political than economic, the strike itself was not generally understood by the labouring classes. An important reason for the partial failure was that the strike was inaugurated at the wrong time, in that the majority of the working classes did not feel inclined to sacrifice their funds in this way, as the winter was coming on and they would have to provide themselves with the necessities of life.

The only stoppages were on the railways and in a few factories, and then only for a matter of forty-eight hours or so, during which time a few special trains were run, and the Simplon Express missed only one day. The chief towns did not suffer from lack of bread, light, or water, which was feared by the general public; and ordinary municipal life was uninterrupted.

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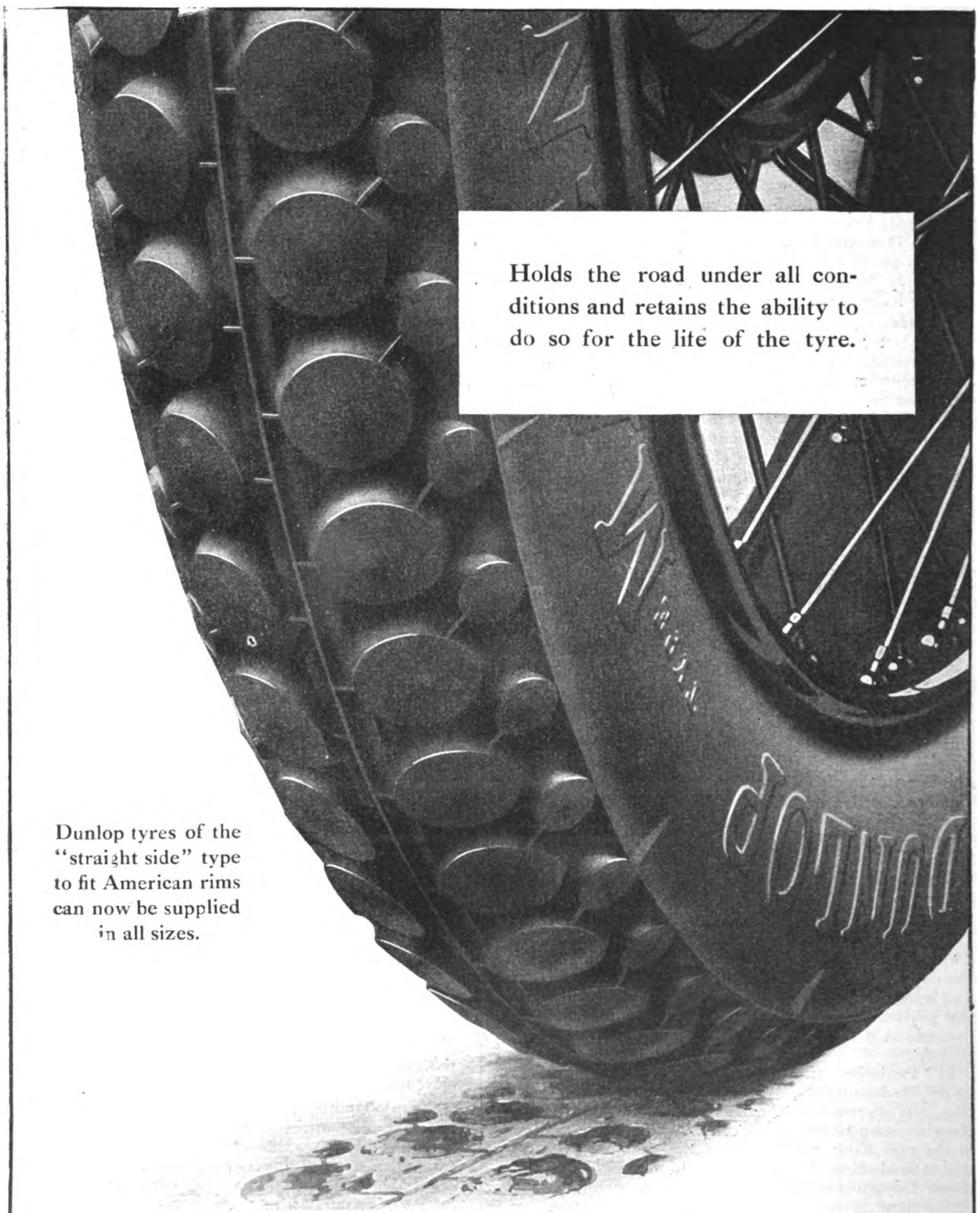

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At the time of writing, although the situation is improving, the various questions have not been settled.

**Opening of Czernowitz University.**

Last Sunday, October 24, the opening of the University at Czernowitz took place in the presence of the Royal Family, State officials, and representatives from foreign countries. The King delivered a suitable speech, and on this occasion gave 100,000 lei to be used as a fund for the support of poor students attending this University.

**Personal.**

The King has returned to Bucharest from Sinaia for the purpose of receiving the credentials of the British Minister, Sir Herbert Dering, who arrived from Sofia a short while ago, and also of the new Greek Minister, M. Nanu.

The Court has gone into mourning for three months, owing to the deaths of the Queen's mother and of the King of Greece.

**Fire at Constantza.**

A violent fire broke out the other day at Constanza, destroying a whole quarter, and leaving 100 families homeless. The damage is estimated at two million lei.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, November 7.

**The Vazoff Jubilee.**

The national celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary of the activities of the national poet, Ivan Vazoff, concluded last Tuesday with a dinner and reception given in his honour by King Boris. This was the first reception held by his Majesty since his accession, and a very brilliant company attended it. At the conclusion of the dinner the King proposed the toast of the Poet's health, and took advantage of the opportunity to appeal to all present to unite in working for the welfare of the Bulgarian nation. M. Vazoff replied in a moving speech.

**The Occupation of Tsaribrod.**

On November 2 the Yugoslav Minister for Foreign Affairs telegraphed to the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry that, in virtue of the Peace Treaty, the Yugoslav Government had determined to take possession of the territories ceded to it, and that orders had been given to the troops and officials of Yugoslavia to enter them on the 6th inst., although the delimitation has not yet been completed on the spot by the commission appointed for the purpose. The Bulgarian Government immediately made representations both at Belgrade and at Paris, expressing its surprise at this unexpected decision, which will create unnecessary suffering for the inhabitants of the districts concerned, and will be an obstacle to that restoration of friendly relations which Bulgaria so earnestly desires. The reply also drew attention to the fact that the communication from Belgrade contradicts the latest communication of the Yugoslav Legation at Sofia, by which the Yugoslav Government announced that the occupation would be accomplished side by side with the establishment of the frontiers by the Commission. As this delimitation has not been effected yet, and as members of the Commission have themselves raised questions which ought to be settled conformably with the Treaty, the Bulgarian Government requested that action should be postponed, considering that the occupation should take place, not according to a decision of the Yugoslav Government, but on the lines of the Treaty and in conformity with the decision of the International Commission charged with the work of delimitation.

On the 4th inst. Dr. Trumbitch replied that the decision of his Government to occupy the territories in question was quite in accord with the Treaty of Neuilly, and that it could not be modified, because it had already come into force. The Bulgarian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, in reply to this message, stated that it had no intention of opposing the decision taken, but considered it its duty to protest against it, for the reasons already stated. The Bulgarian Government has informed the Entente representatives here that, in order to avoid any incident, it has ordered the frontier authorities to withdraw without offering any opposition.

The occupation of Tsaribrod began yesterday morning. Early in the morning three cavalry soldiers entered the town, and a little while later two companies of infantry from the garrison at Pirot. At the time the town was as if dead, and not a single citizen was to be seen in the streets. According to the latest semi-official reports several Bulgarian families, chief among them that of M. Emanuel Natcheff, a Deputy of the Chamber, and president of the permanent commission of the Sofia County Council, wished to take the train for Sofia, but were stopped by the Serbian authorities, who arrested them.

At yesterday's sitting the Chamber adjourned as a sign of mourning for the loss of Tsaribrod, and the news of the occupation was announced here by the tolling of bells. All theatres and other places of amusement have also been closed for three days.

**Roumania and War Criminals.**

The High Commissioner here of the Roumanian Government announces officially that his Government has informed the Bulgarian Minister Plenipotentiary, M. Nedkoff, that it will not press for the extradition of Bulgarian war criminals, according to the Peace Treaty, on condition that they shall be strictly tried in Bulgaria. The Roumanian Government hopes that the Bulgarian Government will take measures to punish these criminals, and will communicate the names of the persons to be tried.

## CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, October 16.

**The Cyprus "Question."**

A breakdown in telegraphic communication again deprives Cyprus of daily news at a time which the "Union" party still regard as critical. Opinion and feelings in the Unionist camp are much divided. The advanced leaders and the pro-Unionist papers lament that weeks go by and that no meeting of returned delegates and the local Committee has been held to decide whether the three members still in London (the Archbishop, M. Theodotou, and M. Constantinides) should remain or return. Consequently no directions have been sent, and the delegates may probably return. They repeat that the members should never have made the deplorable mistake of returning to Cyprus at all. That they did so was due, they say, to the island Aid Committee. They still pin their faith on the Mission's influence, and hope that the error of returning before a final settlement will not be repeated. The Bishops of Papho and Kition support this view. When the Archbishop returned in the summer with other members, one speaker at a meeting went so far as to propose that the gates of the Archbishop's palace should be closed to him, so that he should be compelled to return by the same ship that brought him to the place "to which the voice of the people calls him." The reverend prelate, acting on what he concluded was the popular will, made hurried preparations for a return, and did not even take the eight days in Cyprus which the other members desired to take, but started for London alone. The papers referred to and their supporters entirely ignore or conceal the fact that the members of the deputation who recently returned had very good reasons for doing so after the plain hint given them by M. Venizelos. The members of the Mission, which includes the ablest of the Cyprus leaders, certainly did all they could in London, and they know far better than those at home how matters stand. It would, of course, be quite inexcusable that more money should be wasted over a deputation that has carried out its duties; and this is understood by the party which holds—as most sensible Cypriots now do—that nothing more can be accomplished in London.

The Turkish community, while naturally anxious as to the outcome of the wearying Cyprus agitation, has continued to regard the situation quite calmly, and has been persuaded that the British Government is not likely to commit a second time the error of offering Cyprus to Greece, especially having regard to the present unfortunate circumstances of the kingdom, its political factions, and ominous unrest. It has trusted with complete confidence to the pledges given by Mr. Churchill, when in Cyprus, and to the subsequent promises of the British Government that its interests would be fully respected. On learning the statement of Colonel Amery in the House of Commons that "no change is contemplated in the State of Cyprus," the Moslem community wrote in August to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, expressing their gratitude. The Chief Secretary has, by direction of the Secretary of State, under date September 20, communicated the receipt of their letter. Irfan Bey, M.L.C., has just made this known to the Ottoman community, and great satisfaction has been caused.

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

*The columns of* THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

## BRITISH POLICY IN PERSIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Your admirable leading article on British Policy in Persia, in your issue of November 11, raises the question as to whether the continued maintenance, at great expense to the British taxpayer, of British troops in Persia is justified. Why are these troops there? Are they the outposts of a military scheme for the defence of India and Mesopotamia against Russian or Tartar invasion, or are they merely a local garrison for the purpose of maintaining in power in Teheran a Government which you describe, probably correctly, as a corrupt and effete bureaucracy? If the former is the reason, the responsibility for the present policy rests with Mr. Churchill and Mr. Churchill alone. But Mr. Churchill has several times made it clear that it is not he, but his colleagues in the Cabinet, who have dictated our policy in the Middle East, and that his function is merely to arrange for the necessary distribution of troops to give effect to that policy. After reading Mr. H. G. Wells's descriptions of the present state of Russia, the plain civilian will find it hard to believe that the Russian Government have the material or military resources which would enable them to send a formidable expedition into Persia, much less across it into Mesopotamia or Baluchistan. One is forced to the conclusion that the British troops are being retained in North-West Persia for the purpose of "bolstering up a clique which it is not in the interests of either Great Britain or India to support," to use the Aga Khan's trenchant phrase.

There is a good deal of misgiving in this country regarding the necessity or desirability of the Anglo-Persian Agreement at all; but if that agreement is to be construed as involving obligations on our part to maintain a particular party in power in Teheran, such misgivings will be greatly increased. We have got to cut down our national expenditure everywhere, and especially in the Middle East, so the decision on this question is urgent.

The trouble lies mainly in the difficulty of fixing responsibility for British policy and expenditure in the Middle East. I am inclined to agree with the Aga Khan when he says that it has been "without coherence and without clear direction." The India Office has had its own Arab and Middle Eastern policy, and the Foreign Office another policy, and ever since the Armistice we seem to have been drifting. You say in your article that the mistakes of the Mesopotamian administration were of "local origin, the result of the authorities being left without instructions." This is true of Egypt in 1918 and during the first months of 1919, but I do not think it can be fairly said of Mesopotamia. Sir Arnold Wilson's system of administration was built up with the assent and encouragement of Whitehall. Everything—appointments, salaries, etc.—were all carefully supervised and controlled by the Mesopotamia Department of the India Office and by the Middle Eastern Committee of the Cabinet, under the chairmanship of Lord Curzon. Sir Arnold Wilson merely carried out the policy which was directed and regulated in detail by Whitehall. But all the time the Middle Eastern Committee of the Cabinet seem to have been pursuing two policies. We were constantly proclaiming our intention to set up an Arab Government and an Arab Administration, while in fact we were covering the country with an extremely efficient and energetic British bureaucracy, which in a remarkably short time had already achieved great material results.

It is no reflection on Sir Arnold Wilson's work to say that, carried out as it was under the direction and responsibility of Whitehall, it tended to become more and more inconsistent with the other policy of setting up at as early a moment as possible a native administration. It cannot be maintained that the policy now being pursued by Sir Percy Cox and Mr. Philby is a continuation of the policy of the Government between November, 1918, and June, 1920. It is a complete revolution. The point is not so much which policy is right, but how it came about that Whitehall spoke, or rather telegraphed and wrote, with two different voices. Does it not lie in the fact that there has been no real Ministerial responsibility, no coherence, and no comprehensive unity in British policy and British administration in the Middle East since the Armistice? Of this I am certain: that there never will be clear responsibility, coherence or continuity until there is a Middle Eastern Minister and a Middle Eastern Department, which will take over from the Middle Eastern Committee of the Cabinet the direction of policy and control of British expenditure and administration in Egypt, Sudan, Palestine, all Arabia, Aden, Mesopotamia and Persia. At present Ministerial responsibility for policy and administration in the Middle East is divided between Lord Curzon, Lord Milner, Mr. Montagu, and Mr. Churchill. This means that no one man is responsible, and we are drifting and twisting while departmental rivalries and departmental vested interests are growing. The only road to peace, retrenchment and reform in the Middle East is unity of command. We must have a Middle Eastern Department under a separate Minister without further delay.

I am, etc.,
W. ORMESBY GORE.

House of Commons,
Armistice Day, 1920.

## BALKAN RUMOURS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—A statement in one of your recent numbers (September 30) moves me to appeal again in your columns for fair play.

Your Athens Correspondent, under date September 11, says: "According to information received from Kirk-Kilissè, the leading Bulgarian citizens of that town, accompanied by a Bulgarian priest, visited the Greek Governor of the region and declared that all the Bulgarian families of Kirk-Kilissè were desirous of reverting to the Greek Orthodox Church."

Kirk-Kilissè is the remotest corner of Eastern Thrace, where the inquisitive eye of the foreigner rarely penetrates. Such a statement for the majority of your readers will undoubtedly portray, as is expected and intended, the pleasant and easy condition of things ruling throughout the territories lately annexed to Greece. Eastern Thrace has been evacuated only lately by the French, and many foreigners have rightly appreciated the conditions ruling there between Greeks and Bulgarians; besides, the country is crossed in all its length by a railway and possesses very large commercial wealth, and is, therefore, frequently under the possibly critical foreigner's eye. The same may be said of Macedonia.

Against the above-cited statement of your Athens Correspondent I will boldly set another one, dated September 28 last:—

"A part of the Bulgarian population, on the advance of the Greeks, escaped into Bulgaria. The greater part, unwilling to sacrifice its possessions and hoping against hope, remained in the country. In Gumurdjina and Dedeagatch districts there are sixty unmixed Bulgarian villages with only one priest. This poor, devoted man performed his duties by travelling secretly by night from village to village. After repeated imprisonments and beatings, he was one day found murdered. The prominent men are repeatedly subjected to imprisonment and beatings, and complaints only bring further punishments; rare is the Bulgarian who has not undergone ill-treatment at the hands of the Greek police. ——, of Xanthi, was beaten so cruelly that the police authorities had to envelop the body in raw sheep skins until he recovered to return home." (The list of the cruelly ill-treated is too long for your columns, and the giving of it will only do further harm to those I would aid.) "Many young men have simply disappeared, leaving no trace behind them. Bands are formed under selected leaders, which travel from village to village to 'baptise,' as the saying goes, Bulgarians into the Greek Patriarchate Church. The ceremonial of the 'baptism' is cruel beating until the extortion of a declaration or signature renouncing the National Church for the Greek. On August 30 last one leader of a band, Anghel Kostov, a renegade sold to the Greeks, called upon all the Bulgarians in Xanthi to present themselves and receive baptism. Only a very few presented themselves. The authorities are careful to avoid extremes in towns where unsympathetic foreigners may be met."

A comparison of the two statements will, I think, give your readers an idea of the real condition of things brought about by the Peace Treaty.

Your readers may not be aware that the numerical strength of the Greeks, as proclaimed from the housetops, is not based upon the number of Greeks proper. The number of such is insignificant. They systematically claim as Greeks all who recognise the Greek Patriarchate Church within the old territories of the Turkish Empire, in which the Greek Patriarch enjoyed great and special privileges—the Caucasian, the Laz of Trebizond, the Caraman of Central Asia Minor. The language of the two last is Turkish; they do not know a word of Greek, but, belonging to no particular nationality capable of organising a

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State of its own, they are considered by the Greeks as Greeks, because they are subjected to the spiritual rule of the Greek Patriarch of Constantinople. Not so many years ago the Arabs of the Antioch Patriarchate were considered as Greeks. Not many years ago the entire Bulgarian nation was known to the world as Greek, as long as it was subjected to the spiritual jurisdiction of the Greek Patriarch.

Thus, the Bulgarians in the territories lately annexed to Greece are terrorised into receiving baptism into the Greek Patriarchate Church. After such baptism they are proclaimed as "Bulgarophon" Greeks, who have forgotten their original language for the "crude, uncultivated" Bulgarian.

The methods of the Greeks and Serbians as regards the Bulgarians in their new territories are the same; the object to attain for both is the same—denationalisation by terror. An impartial inquiry can only confirm my statement.

Inquiries have been instituted as regards the conduct of the Bulgarians; inquiries have been instituted as regards the conduct of the Greeks and the Serbians; but while the inquiry as regards the Bulgarians was made in the absence of the accused and made capital of against them, those made as regards the Greeks and Serbians were not taken notice of, because of the damaging effect against the interests of allies. Have not the inquiries into the conduct of the Greek troops in their Smyrna campaign and that of the Serbians in Montenegro been suppressed? I have read in your columns of two relief missions being refused admission into Montenegro by the Serbian authorities. What does it mean? Bulgaria, on the other hand, has always demanded, begged for, an impartial inquiry as to all accusations advanced against her.

Principles have been declared; upon principles have the recent Peace Treaties been concluded; all desire a settlement with durable peace, and yet nothing is done to remove the most glaring injustice, to mitigate, at least, the cruel condition of existence to which the Bulgarians are every day subjected under Greek, Serbian, or Roumanian rule. And the Peace Treaties provide for the protection of minorities!—I am, etc.,

P. M. MATTHEEFF.

Sofia, November 2.

[We publish M. Mattheeff's letter because it is obviously written in all good faith, and gives a point of view which is, no doubt, widely held in Bulgaria to-day, as in the past. If the countries of the Balkans are ever to reach a good understanding, they (and their friends) must first make themselves well acquainted with each other's views. If there is any truth in the statements quoted by M. Mattheeff, it is certain that the acts complained of will have been the work of local officials or their irresponsible agents, and in no way represent the policy of the Greek Government. In view of the satisfactory relations existing between the Greek and Bulgarian Governments, due in part to the personality of the Greek representative at Sofia, M. Panourias, we must suppose that the state of affairs described by M. Mattheeff will already have been brought to the notice of the Hellenic Government.—ED.]

## THE GREEKS IN ANATOLIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—With reference to Mr. Mosconas's criticism of that part of my article published in THE NEAR EAST of September 30, and referring to certain results of the Greek occupation of Anatolia, it is a matter for regret that the remarks in question should have been construed to signify an opinion that *any* massacres whatever are a "bagatelle." The statement that I was imbued with neither pro-Turk nor anti-Greek sentiments was neither a condescension nor a confession, but was made simply because in the Near East the possibility of maintaining a non-partisan point of view is seldom taken into consideration.

With regard to massacres, the history of this unhappy corner of the world—from time immemorial to the present day—is largely an awful record of outrage and reprisal, often upon a wholesale scale, the perpetration of which is a stigma peculiar to no one nation in the Balkan Peninsula. It was therefore unwise to believe that any one of these rejuvenated nations was fitted to assume a task which would offer numerous and irresistible temptations; which none of the Great Powers, for various complex reasons, was willing to assume, and which would have taxed the moral and material resources of any one of them. It yet remains to be seen whether Anatolia will prove a source of weakness or of strength to Greece; but it is not too much to say that certain incontestable advantages which have hitherto accrued from the Anatolian adventure have not been reaped by Greece or by Great Britain. To repeat what apparently escaped the notice of my critics: "Every Englishman is convinced that Greece has a great future," but that conviction does not necessarily preclude criticism, both as to the wisdom of involving Greece unnecessarily in what may prove to be a ruinous adventure, and as to the employment of methods which are reprehensible, whether in regard to Armenians, Greeks, Bulgarians, or Turks, and more especially when the British are held to be responsible by a not inconsiderable or unimportant section of the population of the British Empire itself.

Mr. Mosconas is deceiving himself, if he really thinks that the Smyrna affair was merely a matter of "regrettable incidents"—a synonym, by the way, for "bagatelle"—and that it is finally settled. The sequel is even now in process of unfolding, and few dare prophesy how long the bloodshed will continue—the blood shed being that of the unhappy peasantry, Moslem and Christian alike, whose misfortunes are exploited for political purposes. The occupation of certain parts of Anatolia by Hellenic troops is followed by what is known as "clearing up" operations. It is in the course of these operations, as a rule, that the trouble occurs. The proofs for which Mr. Mosconas asks rest in the archives of more than one High Commission in Constantinople, and are no better and no worse than the proofs advanced by the other side in support of the case against the Turks. Practically nothing is heard of the Turkish side, partly because the Greeks have not repeated their mistake at Smyrna, when there were numerous independent witnesses present, and partly because the Turks, deservedly, have a "bad Press." Personally, I have not the slightest intention of lending even my feeble assistance to one side or the other in the political game of exploiting "massacres." For that reason I decline to give details of events that have come to my personal knowledge from first-hand sources. I will confine myself to citing the most recent case of which I am aware, and the facts of which are well authenticated—namely, the events that occurred at Zindan, near Yalova, on August 25, 1920. The result of what then occurred was counter-outrage, followed by reprisals, and the spread of violence throughout the whole district, which before the advent of the Greeks had been as quiet as an English countryside, in spite of the proximity of the Nationalists, who, however, never actually set up their misrule in that particular district.

I am indebted to Mr. Lykiardopoulos for his naïve confirmation of my forecast of the nature of the Greek defence; but it is unfortunate that he is apparently unaware of the fact that, in controversies, personal insults prove nothing but the inconsequence of the person who offers them.—I am, etc.,

YOUR CONSTANTINOPLE CORRESPONDENT.

Constantinople, October 31, 1920.

[This correspondence is now closed.—ED.]

## ALBANIA: A PLEA FOR SETTLEMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—As friends of both Italy and Albania, we have already expressed our sincere satisfaction at the amicable settlement arrived at between the two countries. The first step towards Balkan peace was made when Italy renounced her claim to Albanian territory. We hope that a similar understanding may now be come to with Yugoslavia and Greece.

On the grounds that Italy was to acquire territory in Albania, Yugoslavia and Greece asked for territorial compensation.

Dr. Trumbitch, Foreign Minister for Yugoslavia, however, declared magnanimously, when Yugoslavia was offered part of neutral Albania by the Supreme Council, that his Government did not wish to profit at Albania's expense; that his Government's attitude had been determined by the fact that Italy had taken Valona; and that his Government would be willing to renounce claims for territorial compensation on Italy's evacuation of that port.

Italy has evacuated Valona and renounced her claim. Nevertheless, Yugoslav forces still occupy a large tract of Albanian land within the frontiers delimited in 1913. We trust that Yugoslavia will now display the same spirit of moderation shown by Italy and withdraw her forces from these regions, and so enable the thousands of destitute refugees from the villages of the occupied districts who are now starving in Scutari, Tirana and Elbasan to return to their homes.

M. Venizelos also has stated in the past, upon more than one occasion, that the situation would be changed if Italy surrendered her claims to Albanian territory. Greek claims were largely a result of Italian claims. With the disappearance of the latter, the former should now vanish, and the Greek forces at present massed on the Albanian frontier should be withdrawn.

The Assembly of the League of Nations is to take place on November 15. We trust that the League of Nations will grant the requst of the Albanian Government for the admission of Albania to full membership of the League.

The secret diplomacy of to-day does not deal mercifully with small nations. It is only by full publicity and the

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recognition of international justice that a small country like Albania can hope to live, and we earnestly hope that the self-interest of stronger Powers will not be permitted to prevent Albania's admission to the League.

We are, etc.,

| | |
|---|---|
| Aubrey Herbert, M.P. (President) | Evan MacRury. |
| Lamington (Vice-President). | Henry W. Nevinson. |
| Harry Barnes, M.P. | W. Ormesby-Gore, M.P. |
| John Clifford. | George Paget. |
| C. W. Cunnington. | J. C. Paget. |
| M. E. Durham. | George F. Phillips. |
| Walter Guinness, M.P. | Treowen. |
| Samuel Hoare, M.P. | M. Precha. |
| Cuthbert James, M.P. | Robert H. Whitehead. |

The Anglo-Albanian Society,
November 10, 1920.

## MUSICAL NOTES.

### Hofmann.

Of all things during the present season, the recitals of M. Josef Hofmann will probably be the most unforgettable. For pianoforte playing pure and unalloyed, I have never heard anybody's so lovely as his; but his interpretations also are most wondrously beautiful. There is but one fault one can find, and that is that he does not play enough "big" music; he is too content with trifles, delicious though they be, of Chopin and Liszt; and in his programmes so far there has been too little Beethoven and no Bach at all. But, this omission apart, there is nothing but to acknowledge him as a supreme master. In no comparable way has the exquisite poetry of Schumann's "Carnaval" ever been shown, at any rate recently; before the dreamy loveliness of such playing criticism is in abeyance. Chopin's Scherzo in B minor, again, was both perfect and utterly beautiful. These things he played in his recital at the Queen's Hall on November 8. With Chopin's C sharp minor waltz I was a little disappointed, for he did not bring out its inner melodies as he had done in a previous recital. Scriabin's "Poème" (Op. 32) was played with unusual clarity: the shadows which play across the half-light of this Slav genius were scarcely noticed. After Hofmann had finished his programme, he most generously gave a series of encores, chiefly Chopin and Liszt, and these were even more wonderful than the first items. His finger staccato in some Liszt was literally amazing; I shall never hear anything of its kind so glorious again. Hofmann is an extraordinarily great player. His consummate artistry is never exhibited at the expense of his abilities as a pianist; and in spite of (for it is not often because of) the facility of his technique he is never less than a poet. No more satisfying genius is imaginable, for his playing and its colours are indeed of the stuff from which dreams are made.

Before he returns to America Hofmann is giving another recital at the Queen's Hall on November 23.

### Another Pianist.

Mr. Arthur Rubinstein, who gave a pianoforte recital at the Wigmore Hall on November 11, has a great reputation, but I do not understand quite how it has been made. His name may go for something with one class of people, or race, and his ability and delight in the playing of very modern composers may go for more with another kind of people; but, all the same, he is not a master. As an artist he cannot be ranked high—this was obvious from his very practical, even Protestant, interpretation of César Franck's "Prelude, Chorale, and Fugue"—and at most he can claim to be but a pianist. And even there in Chopin, where such claim should most easily be justified, he showed a technique that was by no means infallible, a lack of variety in tone, and an absence of colour. The "Berceuse" was very unpoetical. With Mlle. Germaine Taillefer, a composer of talent, he played Chabrier's "Trois Valses Romantiques," but they were exceedingly commonplace. Unfortunately I was unable to hear him in pieces of Poulenc, the much-boomed Frenchman; of Prokofieff, the young Russian from whom it seems that popularity is at some distance; and of de Falla, the noisy but cheerful Spaniard. I believe that Mr. Rubinstein does these things very well; he is certainly the kind of player who can more easily adore the new than worship the old.

### Langham Choral Society.

In leaping straight from Coleridge-Taylor's "Hiawatha" to the "Faust" of Berlioz, the Langham Choral Society, which is in but the second year of its existence, invited at once praise and blame. Praise, because by their enterprise they have removed from Southern choirs the dusty halo of safe mediocrity, and because of their excellent choice of "Faust"; and blame, because of the practical certainty that they would not be technically equal to so exacting a work. In their performance of it at the Queen's Hall both these things were merited. The combination of romance, satire, and general *diablerie*, which are the dominant properties of "Faust," was not fully appreciated by the choir (and it was certainly above the heads of the audience); but, the youth of the choir taken into consideration, it was a very satisfactory rendering that Mr. Hugh Marleyn, the conductor, secured.

The orchestral parts were done extremely well. The "Hungarian March," for instance, which, of course, is not proper to the "Faust" legend itself, was played with dazzling, if perhaps illegitimate, effects; and the "Ride to the Abyss" was gloriously spirited in its Dæmonic exaltation. Mr. Marleyn is an extraordinarily alert and enthusiastic conductor, but not even his fine efforts could at all times infuse into the choir the spirit of the thing. The drinking students' song, for example, sounded as if from throats "gone dry"; and the grotesqueness of the "Amen" fugue was entirely missed. Of the soloists Miss Bessie Jones, as Margaret was never less than satisfying; Mr. Tom Kinniburgh as Brander need not have been quite so indistinct; Mr. Ellisdon has an excellent Mephistophelian voice, but his training is as yet incomplete—the hard impact of his consonants in juxtaposition and the falsity of his vowels are evidence of this; and Mr. Arthur Jordon as Faust failed to realise the pyschological stages of the character he was portraying. Though his diction is a rare joy, his lack of variety in tone-colour makes of him a sadly monotonous singer. But it is far easier to point out deficiencies than to dwell on the excellences of this performance. If this society has the enthusiasm and patience necessary for the tackling of Berlioz it has also a future. Already it has helped to remove the reproach of sterility which is the possession of most Southern choirs; already it has shown anew that in choral singing, perhaps more than in anything else, freshness and determination are the main factors in achievement. It deserves, therefore, to be very heartily congratulated.

Andante.

## PALESTINE WAR MEMORIAL.

On Mount Scopus, outside Jerusalem, a war memorial, the model of which was recently exhibited in the Royal Academy, is now being erected. It is being built of granite obtained on the spot, and the total cost will be £20.000. There is to be a rest hall inside the memorial, and it will be lined with brass tablets inscribed with the names of the fallen and missing. The memorial is not symbolic of any creed, in view of the fact that Christians, Jews, Mohammedans, Sikhs, and most other religious denominations were represented in the Palestine campaign. Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby is anxious that the whole amount necessary to pay for the memorial should be subscribed before the end of the year. The members of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force raised £12.000 towards the cost, and the Nizam of Hyderabad has sent a donation of £3.000 "as a token of the esteem in which he holds the prestige of the British arms in the field."

Lord Allenby concludes a letter in which he sets out the facts given above as follows:—"Owing to the increased cost of labour and material during the past two years, it is necessary to increase the fund to £20.000. I appeal to the British public generally; to all those who served under me during the Palestine Campaign, and to the relatives of the fallen, to do their utmost to obtain that amount in order that the monument, when completed, may be worthy of those, irrespective of creed and nationality, who made the supreme sacrifice. Donations will be gratefully acknowledged on my behalf by Messrs. Coates and Co., 21a, Old Change, London, E.C.4."

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"THE REBUKE OF ISLAM." By W. H. T. Gairdner. (London: United Council for Missionary Education. 3s. net.)

II.—"THE GOLDEN APPLE." By Kathlyn Rhodes. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 8s. 6d. net.)

## I.—THE REBUKE OF ISLAM.

Some ten years ago the author wrote a first edition of this book entitled "The Reproach of Islam," but he found when too late "that an undesigned double entendre lurked in the original title." What he meant was that "Islam was a perpetual reminder to Christendom of the latter's failure truly to represent her Lord," and so now in the fifth edition he has chosen this new title, which avoids all ambiguity.

Mr. Gairdner has spent many years as a missionary in Cairo, and has a thorough knowledge, from both study and practical experience, of the subject he discusses. Even those who most disagree with him cannot accuse him of ignorance, and most will acknowledge that he endeavours to be just. Again and again he points out those weak points in Christianity—past and present—to which Islam is a standing "rebuke." In the first two-thirds of the book the author describes the marvellous spread of Islam and its elements of strength; whence it came; how it came and how it works. The whole subject is very clearly treated, with moderation and restraint. Very specially does he emphasise that it was the failure of Christianity in the seventh century which was largely responsible for the success of Islam. "The pages of the Koran itself bear silent testimony to the shameful fact that the only way by which the 'Christianity' of that time and place reached the Arabian prophet was through the false 'gospels' and other literature of some heretical sects, which denied the divine Sonship and the redeeming death of Christ, and through the religious romances of the Church which ignored both." Different circumstances might have made Mahommed a fiery reformer *inside* the Christian Church.

The success of the first leaders of Islam was marvellous, and must have been a convincing argument to many who hesitated at first to recognise its divine origin. "In only eleven years after the prophet's death the Moslems had utterly vanquished the two great Empires of the seventh-century world." Thence they rolled Westward, absorbed all North Africa and overflowed almost all Spain. Eastward they overthrew the great Christian cities of Balkh, Bokhara and Samarkand, and within the century reached the outskirts of China itself. "Arabia was converted into one huge depôt for breeding and training soldiers: for the unlimited supply of female slaves (captured in war) swelling the enormous harems of these Moslem lords led to such increments of population that the prodigious wastage of life in the campaigns was easily met, and more than met. And so an apparently unending flood of soldier-Arabs rolled, wave after wave, from the breeding ground and training camp of the peninsula to share in the treasures of the conquered countries and find new homes in lands unimaginably richer than their own."

When the first ebullition of energy of the Arabs had expended itself, the Turks, in the eleventh century, and the Mongols in the fourteenth, successively carried it on. The former brought Islam to India, the latter, after almost overwhelming Islam at the time of Jenghiz Khan, became in time its most fanatical supporters and greatly extended its Empire. During the last hundred years, Islam has rapidly spread itself all over Africa, partly by war, but as much at least by slave traders, merchants and trained propagandists. "Every Moslem is proud of Islam, loves Islam in his own fashion and therefore *stands for* Islam wherever he goes." Far otherwise is it with every Christian!

The literature of Islam is enormous, as is necessary to a system which should cover the whole of life. The mystical side of the religion is here treated more fully than in previous editions. In the chapter on "How it Works," Mr. Gairdner lays stress upon the weakest point of Islam—its unadaptability to changing and progressive thought, and this very specially with respect to women. The Moslem treatment of women, which in the days of their aggression may have been a source of strength, is now in a world of higher ethical ideals a distinct weakness. The history of missions to Moslems, with the exception of some sporadic efforts in the Middle Ages, is a comparatively recent one. It is the "impossible-possible problem," and how it is to be tackled is the problem which is treated with glowing enthusiasm and faith in the latter part of the book.

## II.—EIGHT AND SIXPENCE COLOURED.

Stevenson, in his famous essay, "Penny Plain and Twopence Coloured," tells us that he could never understand the child who would deliberately forego the pleasure of illuminating his own pasteboard figures and scenery and "stoop to twopence coloured." All the world, however, is not gifted with that power of imagination that can of itself give wonderful colours to the plainest things. Nor has it the insight to realise, with regard to that great branch of literature which we call fiction, that there is more actual pleasure and amusement to be had out of a quiet, faithful rendering of human life and its emotions—which, like real life, the reader must in a measure translate to himself by the light of his own outlook and experiences—than out of an imitation clothed in the gaudy trappings of sensationalism. A great many will decide at once for the cheerful attraction of the garish colours, and so we are told on the cover of "The Golden Apple" that over a million copies of Miss Kathlyn Rhodes's novels have been sold.

To begin with, we seem to have received our money's worth in good bright splashes of paint. There are two women who play an important part in the story. One is Lady Lucia Holland, a widow who has only just escaped being divorced by her husband's sudden death. She wears ermine wraps and looks like Helen of Troy. (In the end, when she is murdered in the desert for her pearls, her last thought is "Now I shall never be old.") The other is Valerie Rivers, a young girl who is, we are told, exactly like a modern version of Atalanta. It will be seen how neatly the golden apple can be introduced in both cases. Lady Lucia is in love with the young Englishman, who is "good-looking in a bold, masculine kind of way—good features, well built." He is in love with Valerie, who is very nearly trapped into marrying an Italian count who has debts, smokes thin black cigars, and glides about in a car driven by "a slim, reckless-looking Neapolitan." All these gaily painted puppets are presented to us against the background of Cairo and its surroundings, and there are plenty of descriptions, such as "The sky was one vast jewelled dome, and amid the splendour of the heavens the moon hung like a magnificent silver lamp suspended from a chain of stars."

If we are to take the term "novel" at its very lowest valuation—that is, something which, together with a cigarette or a box of chocolates, is considered as an adjunct to a garden chair in the shade or an armchair by the fireside—we might think that in this kind of material could be found justification for the sale of the million copies, as readers might here find something to carry them away for a time from the often uneventful life of every day. But, having read the story, we are forced to the conclusion that there must be greater talent, knowledge, and true understanding than this author possesses to make even a tale of such admittedly unreal people worth while. There is no sense in repeating that Lady Lucia was the most beautiful and fascinating woman of her generation if, even with the greatest desire to do so, we cannot believe it for a moment, and a dark Italian villain to be really amusing must be a little more vital than real life. It is also difficult to think of Count Paolo as anything but a figure cut out of stiff paper. As for the stupidity of the hero and heroine, and the way in which they deliver themselves respectively into the clutches of the villainess and villain, we defy the most good-natured reader to bear with them patiently. We are not in a position to tell whether this is really a fair example of Miss Rhodes's work, and cannot judge whether it is likely to add many more thousands to her total "sale."

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"A Consulting Surgeon in the Near East." By A. H. Tubby, C.B., C.M.G., M.S., etc. (London: Christophers. 15s. net.)

"Ahasuerus: A Persian Play. B.C. 500." By David Mackinnon. (London: Arthur H. Stockwell. 3s. 6d. net.)

"The Secrets of the Self" (Asrar-i-Khudi). By Sheikh Muhammad Iqbal. Translated from the Persian, with Introduction and Notes, by Reynold A. Nicholson, Litt.D., D.U. (London: Macmillan and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Ritchies in India: Extracts from the Correspondence of William Ritchie, 1817-1862; and Personal Reminiscences of Gerald Ritchie, 1853-1890." Compiled and Edited by Gerald Ritchie. (London: John Murray. 21s.)

"The Church and Faith of Armenia," by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Abel Abrahamian, LL.D., with a preface by the Lord Bishop of Gloucester, 1s. 6d. net; "The Baqubah Refugee Camp," by Brig.-Gen. H. H. Austin, 2s. 6d. net; "Cypriote Shrines," by H. C. Luke, illustrated with the author's photographs, 2s. 6d. net; "The Redemption of Saint Sophia: An Historical and Political Account of the Subject," by Rev. J. A. Douglas, B.D., with an introduction by Rt. Rev. Bishop Charles Gore and six coloured plates by A. E. Henderson, F.S.A., 4th edition, 2s. net. (London: Faith Press.)

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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL

**TO-DAY.**

November 18 (New Style).
November 5 (Old Style).
Rabia I., 7, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem calendar.
Kislev 7, 5681, of the Jewish calendar.

General Gouraud has arrived in France.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania arrived in London last week from Eton.

Viscount Chetwynd left last week for India in the steamship Mashobra.

Viscountess Ridley, with her son, Viscount Ridley, is leaving shortly for India.

Sir Charles and Lady Bedford have left for India, and intend to return to London in March or April.

Mrs. Alec Tweedie, the authoress and painter, is expected in Cairo in the middle of November.

During the absence in England on sick leave of Mr. Ronald Storrs, Captain Law is acting for him in Jerusalem.

Lieut.-Colonel Capitaneano, Roumanian Military Attaché to the Legation, has arrived in town and taken up his duties.

The Jam Sahib of Nawanagar and Sir William Meyer left last week for the Assembly of the League of Nations at Geneva.

The Raja and Ranee of Pudukota have arrived in London, and are staying at 7, Park Lane, for several weeks. (Telephone, Mayfair 2758.)

Sir Horace Rumbold arrived at Trieste last week on his way to Constantinople, where he will take up his duties as British High Commissioner.

Sir John, Lady, and Miss Norton-Griffiths have come up to No. 3, Buckingham Gate, for the winter. (Telephone number: Victoria 5861. Flat O.)

At the School of Oriental Studies Professor T. W. Arnold is delivering on Tuesdays a series of lectures upon "The Fundamental Principles of Islam."

Lieutenant-Colonel Claude Rome, 2nd Dragoon Guards ("Queen's Bays"), and the Hon. Mrs. Claude Rome have left for Egypt on their way to India.

Captain the Hon. J. M. Balfour will act as Deputy Financial Adviser to the Persian Government during the absence of Mr. Sydney Armitage-Smith in London.

Sir Murdoch Macdonald, Adviser in the Ministry of Public Works, and Brig.-Gen. Sir Gilbert Clayton, Adviser to the Ministry of Interior, have arrived in Egypt.

The marriage of Miss Zervudachi, daughter of M. Emmanuel Zervudachi, and of Major Sophocles Venizelos, son of the Greek Premier, will take place in a few months' time.

General Sir Charles Harington, the new President of the Inter-Allied Committee of Control of the Turkish Army and Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces, arrived in Constantinople on November 8.

To-day, at 4.30 p.m., Major F. M. Bailey, C.I.E., will, under the auspices of the Central Asian Society, give a lecture on "Turkestan Under the Bolsheviks." The meeting-place is at 74, Grosvenor Street, W.1.

The Greek Minister, M. Caclamanos, left London last week for Geneva, where, as a member of the Greek Delegation, he will attend the general assembly of the League of Nations. He will be absent from London for some weeks.

The annual sale of Serbian rugs and embroideries and other articles, suitable for Christmas presents, organised by the staff of the Serbian Relief Fund, was opened by the Duchess of Somerset at 5, Cromwell Road, on November 16.

Mr. P. J. Hartog, late Academic Registrar of the University of London, left for India last week to take up his appointment as the first Vice-Chancellor of Dacca University. Mrs. Hartog and their two young children follow in a week's time.

Temporary Major A. J. Hughes, Royal Engineers, has been appointed an Additional Companion of the Indian Empire Order in recognition of meritorious service in Mesopotamia under the command of the late Lieutenant-General Sir Stanley Maude.

Mr. and Mrs. Dhunjibhoy Bomanji, of Bombay and Windsor, who are returning to India shortly, were presented to the Queen on November 12, and her Majesty thanked them for their generosity and interest in the ex-Service men of Windsor.

The marriage of Edwin Herbert Samuel, eldest son of the Right Hon. Sir Herbert Samuel, G.B.E., High Commissioner for Palestine, and Lady Samuel, with Hadassa, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Grasovsky, of Jaffa, will take place at Jerusalem on December 6.

The marriage of Kenneth J. Nicolson, M.C., son of Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Nicolson, Kilmacolm, Renfrewshire, N.B., with Mignon, daughter of the late Allen Shuttleworth, A.M., Indian Navy and Imperial Forest Service, Bombay, and of Mrs. Shuttleworth, Church Crookham, Hants, is arranged to take place in Bombay on November 24.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major George Cave Slacke, I.A., Burma Commission, only remaining son of Mr. F. A. Slacke, C.S.I., and Mrs. Slacke, of 25, Boyne Park, Tunbridge Wells, and nephew of Viscount Cave, and Margaret Lilian, eldest daughter of the late Rev. Sydney S. Scott, Government Chaplain, India.

Among the passengers by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamship Morea, which left London last week for Egypt, India, and Australia, are the Bishop of North-West Australia, Sir Robert and Miss Highet, and Lady Schuster. Sir F. and Lady Young and Brigadier-General G. R. Cassel are joining the ship at Marseilles, and Lord Loughborough will embark at Bombay for Sydney.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Mr. Ernest John Heinz has been appointed Persian Consul at Cardiff.

The *Temps* understands that M. De France has been promoted to the dignity of Ambassador, while keeping his position as High Commissioner in Constantinople.

## OBITUARY.

Prince Choua es Saltaneh, uncle of the Shah of Persia, died last week in Teheran.

## TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

*The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—*

BATOUM. PERSIA. EGYPT. ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY. INDIA: Government Contracts (Fair Wages Clause).—Pre-War Army Pensions.—Arms Act (Rules).—Auxiliary Force Bill (Voluntary Enrolments).—Royal Artillery Officers (Ordnance Department Pay).—Bengal Civil Fund Annuitants. ITALY AND ALBANIA. LEAGUE OF NATIONS: Albania. S.S. "ANCONA." (November 8).

PERSIA: British Advisers.—Anglo-Persian Agreement. MESOPOTAMIA: Rolls Royce Chassis.—Operations. (Cost). INDIA: Machine Gun Corps.—Troops (Repatriation). BRITISH PRISONERS, BAKU. BATOUM. (November 9).

INDIA: Dyer Fund.—Officers' Pensions.—Sedition Sentences (Remission).—Civil Service.—Army Chaplains (Pay).—Army Reorganisation.—Tea.—Extra Territorial Army Service. MESOPOTAMIA: Local Levies. EGYPT: Milner Mission.—Sudan.—Foreign Rights. ALBANIA. MONTENEGRO. PALESTINE AND SYRIA. INDIA: Civil Service (Leave). MESOPOTAMIA (Executions). (November 10).

NICÆA (MASSACRE). LEAGUE OF NATIONS: China and Hedjaz. PERSIA (BRITISH FORCES). MESOPOTAMIA: Supplementary Estimate. SERBIA. INDIA: Army Pensions (Lieutenant-Colonels).—Officer Prisoners, Kut (Field Allowance). CILICIA. (November 11).

Professor G. Elliot Smith, F.R.S., will delivery a lecture on "The Royal Mummies," on behalf of the Egypt Exploration Society, in the lecture room of the Royal Society, Burlington House, on Thursday, November 25, at 8.30 p.m. Tickets will be sent gratis (if a stamp is enclosed to cover postage) on application to the Secretary, Egypt Exploration Society, 13, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF.

Twenty yearly scholarships have been established for Dalmatian students in Padua University.

H.M.S. Centurion has arrived at Constantinople from Batoum with the Baku prisoners.

By eighty-three votes to two the Archbishop of Belgrade was elected Patriarch of Serbia at Belgrade Cathedral on Friday.

A Press campaign has been started in Jerusalem against the proposed removal of the railway bridge across the Suez Canal.

Latest newspapers received from Busreh state that the biggest fire in the history of the neighbourhood occurred on October 7 at Ashar.

Tourists are now allowed to travel overland from Algeria to Morocco. General Lyautey officially welcomed the first party to reach Marrakesh from Algeria.

Sir Herbert Samuel formally opened the new post office at Jaffa on October 21, and despatched the first telegram from there at 11.47, it being received at Government House at 11.50.

The Egyptian Supplies Department has given permission for the exportation of 20 tons of beans and 20 tons of lentils to the Hejaz per month, in return for which sheep and butter to an equal value will be exported from that country.

Sir Auckland Geddes has bestowed the Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire (G.B.E.) upon Mr. Morgenthau, the former American Ambassador to Turkey, in recognition of his services to British civilian and military prisoners during the war.

In accordance with the Allied request to President Wilson to fix the Armenian boundaries, the final report of the Special Commission appointed by the American State Department to study the Armenian demarcation question will shortly be presented to the President.

Dr. Harold Stiven, the Principal Medical Officer of the Egyptian Government Hospital, Port Said, who has been on leave in Great Britain, is sailing with Mrs. and Miss Stiven on the s.s. Caledonia from Marseilles on November 21 to resume his duties.

"It is stated," says the *Egyptian Gazette* of October 25, "that four Egyptians of the party opposed to the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement have left for Europe this week, with a view to starting propaganda there against the Egyptian Delegation's policy. They will proceed to London."

On November 26, at 5 p.m., the annual general meeting of the Anglo-Hellenic League will be held at King's College, Strand. The chair will be taken by the Hon. W. Pember Reeves, and an address will be delivered by his Excellency Monsieur J. Gennadius, G.C.V.O., the President of the League.

The Palestine Advisory Council has passed a resolution urging that the northern frontiers of Palestine should comprise the lower portion of the River Litany and all territories in the Jordan and Yarmuk valleys and all their rivers, and requesting the High Commissioner to take the necessary steps.

An official telegram from India says that at a Wana Waziri *jirga* held on October 20 efforts were made to arrange mutual support between recalcitrant Mahsuds and Wana Waziris to resist the British advance on Wana and the road contract scheme. On October 25 a gang of 150 Waziris left Wana for Derajat.

The battleship Conqueror is ordered to leave Portland on or about November 30 for a voyage to the Mediterranean with relief crews. Captain C. M. Staveley, C.M.G., late of the High Commissioner's Staff at Constantinople, will join the ship on November 23 to command her on this trooping voyage, and also to act as Senior Officer of the Portland Reserve while at that port.

Bulgaria has, through her Prime Minister, M. Stambolisky, applied for admission to the League of Nations. The application points out that the Bulgarian people were not responsible for King Ferdinand's actions, and that they broke with him as soon as possible: and it adds that Bulgaria has now a Government which has given proofs of its desire to work for world-peace.

In accordance with the Note sent to the German Government by the Reparations Commission demanding that the Government should state the extent to which Germany can fulfil the claims of France, Belgium, Italy, and Serbia in the matter of cattle, horses, and sheep, the German Government instructed an expert committee to attend the sitting of the Commission in Paris on November 15.

Having considered the suggestion that the Malta Dockyard and naval establishments should be used by a private firm for building and repairing merchantmen, and also the proposal that the Admiralty should extend its operations to Malta so as to include the construction and repair of merchant vessels, the Admiralty has come to the conclusion that it is impossible to contemplate either of these undertakings.

Dr. Comanos Pasha, president of the League of the Holy Sepulchre in Cairo, has cabled to the High Commissioner in Palestine protesting against the usurpation of the Shrine "Our Father" by the Latins, and relying on the assurance of the Commissioner for the maintenance of Greek rights and privileges. He has expressed his confidence in the impartial intervention of Sir H. Samuel to avert any unlawful act. The High Commissioner replied assuring him that the question was having his careful consideration.

## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

# WHERE TO STAY.

**For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—**

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# THE NEAR EAST.

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*Telephone No.: 618 London Wall.*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1920.


## THE TREATY OF RAPALLO.

Italy and Yugoslavia have composed their differences by formal agreement, and the world is freed from one more anxiety. By the Treaty of Rapallo, signed at Santa Margherita de Ligure on November 12, the two countries record their mutual desire to establish between themselves a *régime* of sincere friendship and of cordial relationship for the good of the two peoples. The long-drawn controversy over Fiume and the Adriatic question is thus laid to rest, provided always that d'Annunzio can be brought into line with the official policy of the Italian Government. His latest exploits imply that this point cannot yet be taken for granted. Certainly the Italians have no reason to find fault with the compromise. They obtain, with few modifications, the Istrian frontier line accorded to them by the Treaty of London, and have had to abandon little more than their shadowy claims to Dalmatia. Fiume, the chief bone of contention, is recognised by both parties as an independent State; but in the abbreviated texts of the Treaty that have reached this country it is not specified whether any understanding has been reached as to the form of the administration, or whether the independence of Fiume State is to be guaranteed by other Powers than Italy and Yugoslavia. As Fiume territory will march with Yugoslavia, it is to be extended by a narrow strip of the coast as far as Mattuglie, six miles to the north-west, to enable the independent State to be contiguous with Italy. Of the Quarnero islands Cherso, Lussin, Lagosta and Pelagosa go to Italy, as does also Zara, the one Italian town in Dalmatia, with the suburbs of Eritto and Boccagnasso. Within two months after the Treaty comes into force a conference composed of experts belonging to both countries is to be convened for the purpose of submitting as early as possible definite proposals for the establishment of cordial relations between the two peoples, especially in regard to financial and economic affairs. A further convention will be summoned with the object of developing intellectual relations between the two countries.

It is in the clauses referring to their future relations that Yugoslavia and Italy will find the advantage of an agreement reached by friendly negotiation over any award by arbitration. The latter, indeed, would have led to an earlier settlement and might have avoided the d'Annunzio complication, but it would almost inevitably have left the two Governments estranged. One result of the protracted controversy has been that both nations have had occasion to realise that they stand to gain more by a settlement of their disputes and the establishment of good relations than by insistence upon the strict letter of their original claims. As the Yugoslav Government has had to make the greater sacrifice, it is entitled to the greater credit for the satisfactory issue, and both from his own countrymen and from the Italian side we shall hope to find that the signal services rendered to the cause of peace by Dr. Trumbitch, the Yugoslav Minister for Foreign Affairs, have gained the recognition they deserve. In spite of Ministerial crises and Cabinet changes, Dr. Trumbitch has been left undisturbed as Yugoslavia's plenipotentiary for the negotiations with Italy; and his sound good sense, his breadth of view, and his conciliatory methods have at last won the day, with the support accorded him by his Prime Minister, M. Vesnitch. In view of the extent to which passions have been roused on either side, it has required courage on the part of the Yugoslav Government to affix their signatures to the Treaty of Rapallo, but in this action we find a most hopeful augury for the future both of Yugoslavia and of the whole of the Balkans. As the agreement falls short of Yugoslav expectations, it will have to be justified by the assurance that the advantages to be gained from it outweigh the sacrifices that it has entailed. In other words, the Yugoslav Government must boldly proclaim the doctrine that friendly relations with neighbouring States and opportunities for economic development are of far greater value to Yugoslavia, as well as to most countries at this juncture, than hard-and-fast ethnical frontiers. Both Italy and the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes have good reason to emphasise this fact to-day. In the case of the latter we may hope that the removal of the war menace which has kept the Army so long mobilised on a footing out of all proportion to peace requirements will be followed by a marked increase of production and a general transference of national thought and activity from home and foreign politics to the more urgent problem of domestic reconstruction.

The statesmanship shown by the Belgrade Government in coming to an agreement with Italy will give rise in many quarters to the hope that other outstanding questions in which Yugoslavia is interested will be settled in an equally broad-minded spirit. There was no occasion for any mention of Montenegro and Albania in the Treaty of Rapallo, as Italy, although personally interested in both countries, could not arrogate to herself the functions of the Entente Powers or of the League of Nations. But it will be strange if the Italian Government on the strength of the ties of kinship between its own Royal House and the Montenegrin Court does not take advantage of the close relations now subsisting between Rome and Belgrade to recommend a satisfactory solution of a difficult and delicate problem. The anomalous position in Montenegro is recognised both by the Yugoslav Cabinet and by the Entente Powers. Even the British Government have announced that they are "taking steps to secure that they are placed in possession of independent and reliable evidence as to the conduct of the (pending) elections," and they add: "The future attitude of His Majesty's Government towards the question will depend upon the result of the elections, and on whether they are satisfied that those results duly represent the wishes of the majority of the Montenegrin people." In face of such a statement it would be impossible for the Yugoslav Government to take up the attitude that the affairs of Montenegro are solely the concern of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. There is no desire to suggest any settlement that would tend to weaken the Triune Kingdom: indeed, the sole object of many of those who are pressing for an equitable solution is to safeguard the Kingdom against internal disruptive forces in the future. If three days' negotiations could settle the Italo-Yugoslav controversy, a three-hours' conference would surely evolve a settlement of the Montenegrin question. It is equally desirable that there should be no further delay in deciding upon the frontiers of Albania, which are at present a matter of dispute between the Albanians and the Serbians in the north and with the Greeks in the south. So long as Italy and Yugoslavia were at loggerheads there was some excuse for paying little attention to minor points of controversy; now that the two countries are reconciled and have come to an agreement with one another, the liquidation of all outstanding questions becomes a matter of urgency in the interests of each individual State and of the Balkans as a whole.

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# THE BRITISH IN MESOPOTAMIA

## AN ARAB VIEW.

"What you are doing in Mesopotamia shows the bankruptcy of British policy in Asia. No one regrets it more than I do. You English have little idea how the Arabs to-day regard you."

The speaker was an old acquaintance, a native of Baghdad, whom I had originally met in the Victoria Hotel at Damascus in 1912. We had had many talks then about Turkish misrule and the future of the Arab peoples, for besides being a Manchester goods merchant, Abbas, as I will call him (that is not his real name) was an ardent patriot. During the war I had run up against him both in Palestine and Mesopotamia. He was engaged in important liaison work between us and the Arabs. A philo-Arab myself, as were nearly all the British officers who came into contact with that fascinating people, I was glad to see him again like this in London, and at once haled him off to my club, where it was over the luncheon table that he made the remark quoted.

"Don't you think," I said, "that the Arabs are suffering from the general world unrest rather than from any specific grievances?"

He shook his head. "Look at me," he replied. "You know how I was heart and soul with you during the war. You know how enthusiastically I supported the Arab Government at Damascus. For my connection with that government I am to-day under sentence of death from a French court-martial. If I returned to Syria the French could put me up against the nearest wall. You smile. I don't mean to give them the opportunity. But you cannot deny I have a specific grievance. And there are many hundreds in the same case as I am."

"After all," I urged, "you should not make us responsible for what has happened in Syria."

"The Arabs do, however," said Abbas. "And, besides, you have behaved in much the same way in Mesopotamia. It was enough for any Baghdadi to be a supporter of the Ameer Abdullah, the son of the man with whom you negotiated about Mesopotamia in 1915, for him to be regarded as a suspect by your officials. You know what that means: you are a marked man; at any moment you may be arrested and deported to Bombay. There was quite a colony of us there. And your friends are frightened to associate with you lest they share the same fate."

"Don't you think things will settle down now that Sir Percy Cox is in Baghdad?"

"It is possible the country will become quiet for a time. But that will be due, not to Sir Percy Cox, but to the 100,000 men you have there."

"Mind you," he added, "I believe Sir Percy Cox is sincere in his desire to set up an Arab Government; but I do not believe that he or any other Englishman can do it—especially now that the Arabs no longer trust you. I do not believe that he or any other Englishman realises the intensity of Arab feelings on the matter."

No one could have mistaken the strength of Abbas's sentiments as he puffed at his Egyptian cigarette.

"You have followed our case. You know how we were working for our independence before the war, how our ablest men were risking their lives and fortunes in the cause. You know how, in 1915, the British Government promised to the Shereef of Mecca, the natural leader of the Arab peoples, that our independence would be the reward of successful co-operation. We came in and played our part in the common victory. And what is the result? Instead of our being free and united, some are under British rule in Palestine (there was no talk of a home for the Jews in 1915 when you were hard pressed and wanted our co-operation), others are under the French in Syria, and the rest under British rule in Mesopotamia. We are actually worse off as a race to-day than when we were under the Turks. Then we were at least united; we returned Arab members to the Ottoman Chamber; even the Turkish garrisons were mainly Arab troops and were under Arab officers. The Turks in all had perhaps 30,000 men in all the Arab countries. You and the French to-day have the best part of a quarter of a million. It sounds grotesque, and we laugh at it here, over this table. But what does it mean? Simply that you can only make good, and keep your hold over us, by force. If we object, you, or the French, condemn us to death. If we go on objecting, you call us rebels and bomb our villages. The French use 80,000 men to eject Faisal, whom we elected as the head of our government, from Damascus. You refuse to take any notice of the only demand we Mesopotamians have made for a member of the Shereefian family in Mesopotamia.

"How can you expect us to have confidence in your professions about setting up an Arab State in Mesopotamia? We understand that you would like a stucco building, with an Arab Council of State, which would make us believe we had a native government, and so keep us quiet while your officials ran the country. But when you were serious with us, when you wanted our help in war, you asked King Hussein. Why don't you ask him to-day? Supposing there is a question of a new Russian Government. Do you ask an Englishman or a Frenchman to go to Russia and set it up? If a Russian cannot do it, it cannot be done at all. The case is exactly the same in Mesopotamia. If King Hussein cannot establish an Arab State, certainly no Englishman can.

"I am talking to you as an English friend. I try to explain your policy to my compatriots, because I have all my life worked for an understanding between the Arabs and the British. You could have helped us enormously. And you must not forget that we form the central *bloc* of Islam, and the Shereefian family themselves are the hereditary rulers of Mecca, where every good Mohammedan goes once in his life. As friends we should have been the guardians of the peace of Asia. As enemies there is no limit to the harm we may not do each other."

MID-EAST.

## THE ROYAL VISIT TO INDIA.

The Duke of Connaught on the occasion of his forthcoming visit to India, in place of the Prince of Wales, will embark at Marseilles on December 18 in H.M.S. Malava (Captain H. T. Buller, R.N.). The following is the programme, in outline, of the visit:—Port Said, December 23; Aden, January 1; Madras, January 10 to 15; Nagpur and Central Provinces, January 18 to 27; Calcutta, January 28 to February 3; Agra, February 5 to 7; Delhi, February 7 to 15; Rawal Pindi, February 16 to 18; Bombay, February 21 to 28. The inauguration of the Chamber of Princes, and of the Council of State and Imperial Legislative Assembly, will take place respectively at Delhi on February 8 and 9. The Duke of Connaught will re-embark at Bombay on February 28, and, returning by the same route, will disembark at Marseilles on March 16. The following staff appointments have been made by his Royal Highness on the occasion of the visit:—Chief of the Staff, the Earl of Cromer; Chief Secretary, J. L. Maffey, Esq. (Indian Civil Service); Military Secretary, Brigadier-General R. B. Worgan; Comptroller of the Household to His Royal Highness, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Malcolm Murray; Physician to His Royal Highness, Colonel Sir E. Worthington; extra Equerries-in-Waiting, Captain Dudley North, R.N., and Captain the Hon. F. Needham (Grenadier Guards); A.D.C.'s, Major C. O. Harvey (38th King George's Own Central India Horse) and Captain F. S. Poynder (9th Gurkhas); Police Officer, Mr. D. Petrie (Indian Police).

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## A CENTRAL ASIAN FEDERATION.

An interesting discussion took place at the meeting of the Central Asian Society at 74, Grosvenor Street, W., on November 10, the occasion being a lecture by Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah. The lecturer proposed a union of the khanates of Central Asia with Afghanistan; this, he said, would make a barrier preventing the passing of Bolshevism into India. He objected strongly to a recent remark of Lord Curzon that Afghanistan had something like independence. Afghanistan, he said, had complete independence. The present attitude of the Afghans was friendly towards this country, and nothing should be done to estrange them. Another matter to which he alluded was the Khyber Pass; it was a pity, he said, this was open only two days a week.

Sir Edmond Barrow (who presided) said the reason the Khyber Pass was not open throughout the week was because there were only a certain number of people to guard it; these would soon be worn out if they were on duty every day.

Colonel C. E. Yate, M.P., said that if an alliance could be formed between Afghanistan, Persia and Bokhara, it would result in stability throughout Central Asia, but his experience of those three races was that it was very difficult to make them combine. There was no love lost between them. We all wished to see an independent Afghanistan, but that independence rested largely on what the British Government had done in guaranteeing the country against foreign interference.

Colonel Pemberton said he was in Central Asia thirty-eight years ago, and no one then could have dreamed that the present state of affairs in that part of the world would arise. It would depend on the people and ruler of Afghanistan as to how far we could co-operate in the good government of that country. The Khyber Pass would be opened at once if the Afghan Government could curb the violence of the local tribes, and railways could span Afghanistan from end to end if that Government would give assistance and encouragement instead of exercising a veto.

Col. A. C. Yate, the hon. secretary of the C.S.A., writes:—

"On Thursday last the Central Asian Society bade farewell and God-speed to a subject of the Afghan Monarchy, who, during the last three years, had certainly left his mark both on periodical and journalistic literature in this country and also on the minds of those experts in Middle Eastern affairs with whom he has been brought into contact. We see leaving us now to return to Kabul a young Afghan student who has spent four or five years at the University of Edinburgh, and whose knowledge of the English language has attained a standard unprecedented, as far as I know, for a man of his nationality, and coupled with this linguistic achievement we note that he has acquired a very enlightened and broad-minded view of the part that his native land is to play in the sphere of Middle Eastern politics of the future.

"It is not without a smile that we see the first Afghan who ever lectured in English, or perhaps any other language, to a British audience, challenge a statement made a bare month ago by the British statesman who is at once the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the Hon. President of the Society before which the remark was made. It is on record (in *The Times*, it seems, but I have not time to verify it) that on the occasion of the Central Asian Society's dinner on October 12 last, the chairman, in the great speech of the evening, referred to Afghanistan as having or claiming 'something of independence.' It was to that 'something' that Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah took exception, asserting that Afghanistan had been independent, at any rate, ever since the great Ameer Abdurrahman Khan came in 1880 to the throne of Kabul.

"When some three years ago I took up the *Edinburgh Review*, and read in it a very well-written article by an Afghan named Ikbal Ali Shah, setting clearly before the British public the firm attitude adopted by the Amir Habibullah Khan at the time when Turkey entered the war on the side of the Central Powers—an attitude which kept Afghanistan quiet, as long as Habibullah lived—I wrote to Mr. Harold Cox and asked to be placed in communication with the writer. The result has been that Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah has twice, as a member of the Central Asian Society, expounded to that Society his views on the political position of his native land, and now, in leaving England, leaves behind him with the C.A.S., and in a measure with the British public, a memory which will be recalled with appreciation and pleasure. In the discussion which followed his lecture on the 11th—a discussion in which Sir Edmund Barrow, Sir Mortimer Durand, Colonel C. E. Yate, Colonel E. St. C. Pemberton and others took part, and a notable discussion it was—I, for my part, confined myself to a few remarks on the position which Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah had even for himself in the last two or three years as the pioneer and champion of Afghan nationality and independence in this country. I should have added then what I will add now, that, when the arrival of an Afghan Legation in London proves indisputably the independence of that Monarchy, I shall expect to see it accompanied by Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah as one of its secretaries; and, if then the present Government is still in power, as seems by no means improbable, it will fall to the lot of the statesman who recently was inspired to extend to Afghanistan only a qualified independence to receive the Envoy of Afghanistan as the representative of a genuinely independent Power.

"I may add, in conclusion, that the ideal which has been for some time looming before Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah's mind is a federation of Afghanistan, Persia and the Turkistan Khanates and Turkomans, a federation which if solid can stand up to a Russia, be it Bolshevist, Republican or Monarchical."

## PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

### The Adriatic.

The *Manchester Guardian* of November 12 blesses, if a little reservedly, the terms of the Adriatic settlement:—

It is as good a compromise as could have been hoped for, and it has the inestimable advantage of having been reached by the two parties themselves in friendly discussion. That is clearly the most desirable way with litigants who are neighbours and who have every interest in being good neighbours. What matters most for future peace is not so much the political control as the economic use of the port of Fiume. On this essential point no details of the agreement are yet available. Fiume is to be independent. With certain variations as to frontiers, this solution had already been urged by President Wilson, and also, in a common scheme, by France and Great Britain. Both suggestions had this in common: that they proposed to entrust the League of Nations with the control of a free port to be created at Fiume. It is a solution which we wish may yet be adopted, for the outlet at Fiume is as necessary to the Hungarians and to others as it is to the Jugo-Slavs. It would clearly be to the ultimate advantage of the various users of the port, no less than to that of the townspeople themselves, that the freedom of a gate so essential to their well-being should be under international guarantee.

On the same subject the *Daily News* of November 11 says:—

The importance of the news that Italy and Jugo-Slavia have finally settled their difference over Fiume and the adjacent territory is much greater than will be readily appreciated by a world that has long since turned from the dragging quarrel in weariness. So long as the Fiume controversy persisted a centre of potential disturbance was maintained in one of the notorious danger zones of Europe, and even apart from the threat of war that such conditions inevitably constituted the interruption of transit and the diversion of the normal channels of communication are and have been for two years a serious aggravation of the economic difficulties of south-east Europe. The precise details of the settlement are a secondary affair. There have been half a dozen solutions put forward, any one of which would have served well enough if the two Powers concerned would have agreed to accept it. In the final event Italy gains her strategic safeguards in the Adriatic, and Jugoslavia, it must be assumed, sufficient guarantees of access to the sea. Congratulations are due particularly to Count Sforza and Dr. Trumbitch for the part they have played in the successful negotiations.

The *Daily Telegraph* of November 12 describes the terms of the agreement as "fair and honourable," and congratulates the statesmen both of Rome and of Belgrade.

Dr. Trumbitch and his colleagues have acted wisely in concluding an agreement which is in many ways favourable to their country, even if it does not give quite all that the more ardent asserters of Illyrian aspirations desired. The alternative was a permanent quarrel with the great nation with which Jugo-Slavia cannot afford to live at enmity. The vexed question of Fiume is settled; at least, we hope it is settled, though we have still to learn what D'Annunzio has to say upon the point. We trust that this pugnacious literary gentleman and his truculent armed levies will be placated by the announcement that Fiume will be constituted a small independent Republic. Italy will be able to keep a watchful eye on the miniature State, for her frontier will be conterminous with that of the Fiume territory, and she receives the commanding position of Monte Nevoso, which dominates this tract. She receives the Istrian Islands, as well as the whole of that wedge of land which includes, of course, Trieste and Pola. Hungary, it may be observed, is thus

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cut off from the sea, and her commerce will have to make its way to open waters either through the port of Fiume or through Italian or Jugo-Slav territory. An economic convention between the two southern kingdoms and the Governments which have superseded the Austro-Hungarian monarchy should be one of the next stages in the reconstruction of Central Europe. Italy and Serbia hold the keys of the Adriatic, and they must use their power with moderation if the peace and prosperity of the Danubian and Carpathian regions are to be maintained. Save for the northern corner and the recognition of the autonomy of the ancient little Venetian town of Zara, the Jugo-Slavs obtain the greater part of Continental Dalmatia. This is a really important, and even an unexpected, concession. The population of the Dalmatian uplands is mainly Slavonic, but the towns of the seaboard were originally colonies of Venice, and are still largely Italian in sentiment and language. So are the larger islands, as is known to every tourist who has taken the coasting trips among these southern fjords and sauntered about the quaint little cities where the relics of Imperial Rome lie alongside of the campaniles and the winged lions which recall the memories of the Queen of the Adriatic. It is no slight sacrifice for Italy to abandon all hope of reclaiming this ancient and storied strip of island-fringed shore Serbia ought to be satisfied, for she comes very well out of the transaction. She has now quite as much territory as her people can comfortably occupy, a fine coast-line with several excellent harbours and a useful maritime population. She should devote herself to living in amity and concord with all her neighbours, repairing the ravages of war and developing the resources of a diversified and fruitful country. She has got rid of her ancient oppressors, Turk and Austrian; she is large and strong enough to be immune from further aggression; and she can, if she pleases, become a prosperous, modern State, more intent on industrial and commercial progress than on the perplexed politics and incessant warfare with which she has been preoccupied for too many centuries.

**Turkey.**

In some comments upon the present plight of Armenia, the *Glasgow Herald* of November 9 makes the following remarks concerning the internal situation of Turkey:—

Nowhere is there any sign of a strong and active desire to put Turkey in the position that a self-respecting nation ought in such circumstances at least to make some effort to occupy. The last Grand Vizier, Damad Ferid Pasha, may have been honest in his intentions, but even he could not see his way to taking any practical steps towards crushing the Nationalists unless the Allies lent Turkey between four or five millions sterling and otherwise substantially assisted her to do what she ought to have done herself months ago. Things have now come to a pass, both in Constantinople and Asia Minor, when it may become necessary sharply to remind the Porte that a rider to the Treaty of Sevres provides for the eviction of the Turks from their European capital in the event of continued recalcitrance. If neglect to ratify the Treaty forthwith and failure to compel or induce Kemal to desist from attacking Armenia were met by the intimation that after a certain date Constantinople would no longer be Turkish, it is probable that the Porte and Nationalists would quickly modify the impotence and the arrogance which they are respectively displaying.

**The Middle East.**

The *Glasgow Herald* of November 3 is pessimistic about our Eastern prospects. "The news from Mesopotamia," it says, "forms the sole ground for optimism on the Middle Eastern situation." It quotes the recent hopeful remarks of Sir Percy Cox on the subject, and applauds his invitation of the Naqib to co-operate with him. It proceeds:—

This is a wise step, and one which will do more to render Mesopotamia peaceful and friendly than all the admittedly excellent work of our flying columns. To many the step may seem premature, but in point of fact it comes not a moment too soon. Arab opinion from el-Arish to Basra was in a state of dangerous ferment, thanks mainly to the annexationist colonial policy of General Gouraud, and was on the eve of welcoming an alliance with Mustafa Kemal, whom recent successes in Cilicia and in Armenia proper have in a measure reinstated as a popular saviour. It comes at a time when even the Italian missions at Adana must recognise that agreement with the Kemalists is impossible. To the recent feelers inspired by the French and Italians but sent out from the Government at Constantinople, Mustafa Kemal has replied by demands which are entirely out of keeping with the Treaty of Sèvres. He will not consent to negotiate unless before negotiations begin Smyrna and the Straits Zone are replaced under Ottoman suzerainty, Thrace is made autonomous, and radical alterations made in the financial and economic clauses of the Treaty. To such demands there can only be one answer, and whether our Allies like it or not there can be no peace in the Middle East until the Nationalist menace is removed and an end put to Bolshevik aggression, aggression in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia and Persia on which Mr. Krassin's querulous notes are remarkably and significantly silent. The first step to that end is to conciliate the Arabs, whom Allied diplomacy has consistently played with and abused, and Sir Percy Cox's bold action in Mesopotamia is an excellent beginning. One can only hope that General Gouraud will read the lesson that it contains for his administration.

**Articles to Note.**

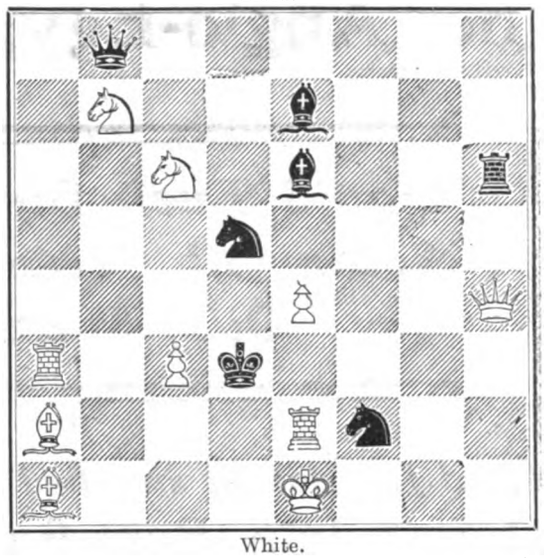
"Palestine To-Day" in the *Morning Post* (November 1 and following days).

"India and Empire Defence," by Major-General Sir George Aston, K.C.B.; and "Palestine," by Mrs. Rosita Forbes, in the *Fortnightly Review* (November).

"Veiled Kafiristan," by Ikbal Ali Shah, in *Chamber's Journal* (November).

## CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 26.
Black.



White.

White to mate in two.

The above problem by H. Weenink was awarded a prize in a recent competition of the G.C.C.P. Club.

Samuel Reschewiski, the youthful Polish player, recently gave a simultaneous exhibition at West Point Military Academy, when he encountered eighteen opponents, seventeen of whom he defeated, drawing the remaining game.

The preliminary heats of the City of London Chess Club Championship are now well advanced. Mr. H. Jacobs leads in Section A with 3½, Sir G. A. Thomas is first in Section B with 4, while in the remaining section Mr. Ross leads with 3½. The scores given are in all cases out of four games. Mr. R. H. V. Scott, who is in Section C, lost to Mr. Barlow, but has won his remaining games.

The Metropolitan Chess Club Championship began on Saturday, but a number of games due for that day were not played, and the results of the rest are not yet to hand.

This season the London League matches are twenty boards a side, and, from what I have seen of them so far, are being played with all the pre-war enthusiasm. It is too early to forecast the probable winners, but it may be said now that the Metropolitan Chess Club, which invariably takes a leading place in this competition, appears to have a more than useful side.

CARO-KANN.

Yugoslav Socialists, who have broken away from the Communist section of their party, have issued a manifesto stating that the dictatorship of Moscow must never be permitted to smash Socialism.

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The very satisfactory news is forthcoming from our Bucharest Correspondent that a further substantial contract for locomotives has been placed by the Roumanian Government with a famous Glasgow firm. This follows on various other contracts that have been obtained by British interests, and it is evident that in Roumania, at any rate, our merchants and manufacturers are succeeding in making considerable headway. Special importance attaches to the latest contract, since it was obtained in the face of serious competition from America. It will be noted that Canada has again succeeded in obtaining a very substantial order for locomotives, a fact which will give rise to nothing but satisfaction, since the order is kept within the Empire. Canada thoroughly deserves the success she is now obtaining in this region, for after the war she was among the first to realise the great scope that existed for the development of trade with the Near East, and, realising, acted upon it. It is to be hoped that our business firms will not be above taking a lesson from our great Dependency in this respect.

***

Unfortunately, what is happening in regard to Roumania is far from being general, and from several quarters reports are forthcoming of contracts that have been lost for one of two reasons: either because delivery in good time could not be guaranteed, or because the quotations were considerably higher than those of our foreign competitors. The second factor, I gather, has had less weight than the former, since whatever other countries can do they cannot equal the quality of British goods, a fact of which our customers are perfectly aware. But however great may be the desire to give British productions the preference, where time is the all-important object obviously the question of delivery must outweigh all other considerations. Our manufacturers are, of course, powerless in the matter, which is entirely due to the present industrial position. The remedy is in the hands of the workmen, and it is to be trusted that no efforts will be spared to bring home to them the necessity of increasing output if our pre-war markets are to be regained.

***

I referred recently to the ambitious projects that the French have in view for the development of Morocco, and for which a new loan is being raised for an amount of 744,140,000 francs. A recent issue of the *Bulletin Officiel* of Morocco gives detailed particulars of the works on which this money is to be expended. 44,690,000 francs are allocated to the construction of Government buildings; 376,000,000 francs are to be devoted to public works, 280,000,000 of which is for the development of ports, the remainder being for roads and the exploitation of the extensive phosphate deposits; and 159,000,000 francs are assigned to the development of the natural resources of the country, the principal item under this heading being 90,000,000 francs for the development of agricultural and industrial water power. The balance of the loan is for education, public health, the postal, telephone, and telegraphic services, and art and historical monuments. The period required to carry out the works in question is estimated to be ten years, and provision is made for the realisation of the money as required.

***

The same issue of the *Bulletin Officiel* gives details of the terms of the new concession for a broad-gauge railway system in Morocco. The concessionaires are La Compagnie Generale du Maroc, the Paris-Lyons and Mediterranean and the Paris-Orleans railway companies, and La Compagnie Morocaine. Six lines are to be constructed, namely, from Petitjean on the Tangier-Fez line to Kenitra, from Kenitra to Casablanca, viâ Rabat; from Kenitra to Souk el Arba and Arboua, from Casablanca to Marrakesh, from Settat, or some neighbouring point of the Casablanca-Marrakesh line, to Oud Zem, or some place near there; and from Fez to the Algerian frontier. The concession is to remain in operation until 1999.

***

Needless to say, the effect on the economic welfare of Morocco of these projected developments will be immense. In the short period in which France guided the destinies of Morocco before the war great progress was made, and a point had been reached when a really comprehensive programme of constructional development was required. During the war anything of the kind was, of course, out of the question. It was then a question merely of keeping things going, and restricting constructive undertakings to the most necessary works. It is a proof of the vitality of our Ally that so soon after the conflict she should find herself able to proceed on such extensive lines with her work of civilisation.

***

The passing of the last Budget meant the realisation of the objects for which the Association to protest against the duplication of income-tax within the Empire was formed, and last week the culmination of its efforts was marked by a complimentary luncheon given to the Chairman of the Association, Sir F. W. Young, Mr. Frederick Dutton, the late Chairman, and Mr. Henry Bull, the late Treasurer. These three gentlemen have been the leaders in a strenuous struggle to remove an injustice which weighed heavily on the most enterprising class in the community, and, as Lieut.-Col. L. S. Amery, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, pointed out at the meeting, was one of the greatest obstacles to free movement and settlement in the Empire and to trade.

***

Considerable importance attaches to the Egyptian cotton law which has just been promulgated prohibiting the mixture of established with other varieties of cotton between the picking and the final ginning, and the mixture of an established variety of cottonseed with seed of another variety. Hitherto the question of seed production has left much to be desired, as there has been a tendency in some cases to give a preference to the more prolific varieties at the expense of quality. The new law is designed to further the use of sound seed, and is to be cordially welcomed as an initial step towards a much-needed reform.

***

In another column will be found particulars of the remarkable outburst of commercial activity in Roumania since the Armistice. Almost every country can show striking figures with regard to the formation of new companies in the past two years, but Roumania's record in this respect is specially noteworthy. In 1916 there were 430 companies in existence, with an aggregate capital of 722,750,000 lei. By August 31 of the present year the number of companies had almost doubled, while the total capital had risen to 4,482,272,000 lei, an increase of about 3½ milliard lei! The promise which this development holds out for the future of Roumania needs no comment.

***

After touching 1s. 5½d. a few weeks ago, there has been a marked improvement in the rupee exchange, which at the time of writing stands at 1s. 7⅝d. The improvement is due to a slight improvement in the general position; but, without wishing to earn a reputation for pessimism, I must say that it seems doubtful whether this improvement is likely to be maintained, for there are too many adverse features to be taken into consideration to inspire any confidence on that score. When India is in a position to export freely once more the exchange will be automatically supported; but at present that is out of the question.

COMMENTATOR.


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# Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

## EGYPT.

Cairo, November 1.

### Increased Imports in August.

According to the Customs statistics just received, foreign trade with Egypt was fairly brisk during August. Imports amounted to £E8,707,460, and exports to £E2,195,411, as compared with £E3,737,811 and £E5,293,116 respectively a year ago. Imports for the eight months are £E40,000,000 and exports £E37,000,000 above what they were at the same date in 1919.

The principal imports during the month have been:—Boots and shoes, £E73,863 (one-third each from United Kingdom and Switzerland); wheat, £E302,523 (two-thirds from Argentine); flour, £E760,522 (equally from Australia and United States); raw sugar, £E32,719 (from Cuba); kerosene, £E215,713 (half from Roumania); oil-fuel, £E200,800 (half from American sources); timber for construction, £E275,037 (half from Sweden); railway sleepers, £E66,399 (from United Kingdom); coal, £E887,354 (75 per cent. from United States and 25 per cent. from British Possessions); nitrate of soda, £E35,093 (from Belgium); household soap, £E59,858 (50 per cent. each from Palestine and United Kingdom); medicinal preparations, £E49,141 (45 per cent. from France and 33 per cent. from United Kingdom); cotton textiles, £E1,334,859 (80 per cent. from United Kingdom and 10 per cent. from Italy); cotton hosiery, £E80,712 (35 per cent. from Japan); woollen and worsted cloths, £E159,581 (80 per cent. from United Kingdom); silk cloths, £E143,851 (60 per cent. from France and 25 per cent. from Japan); jute sacks, £E103,115 (from British India); iron and steel rails and fittings, £E156,295 (90 per cent. from United Kingdom); iron or steel parts, bars, angles, girders, sheets and hoops, £E165,636 (50 per cent from United Kingdom and 45 per cent. from Belgium); tobacco, £E276,177 (40 per cent. from Greece and 25 per cent. from China).

The principal exports were:—Hides, skins, and leather goods, £E34,602; cotton seed, £E182,647 (to United Kingdom); cotton seed cake, £E23,410 (to United Kingdom); sugar, £E145,412 (50 per cent. to India); cotton seed oil, £E24,472 (to Turkey); raw cotton, £E1,602,711 (60 per cent. to United Kingdom, 15 per cent. to United States, 10 per cent. to France, and 5 per cent. to Italy); cigarettes, £E70,464.

Trade between Egypt and the Sudan fell off slightly, imports amounting to £E110,574 and exports to £E303,811, against £E151,504 and £E318,814 respectively. The chief items in imports were:—Bullocks, £E39,530; and sheep, £E23,820; while exports to Egypt were mainly:—Sugar, £E145,753; cotton textiles, £E57,726; and tobacco, £E16,682.

Port Said, November 5.

### Electricians' Strike Settled.

The strike of Messrs. Worms and Co.'s electricians, which has lasted some days, has at last been settled, and, it is believed, to the satisfaction of both parties. While it lasted considerable delay and inconvenience were caused to many ships, as without the electric light they could only transit the canal in daylight, and when night came had to tie up to the bank, which was reminiscent of the old days when ships took three days to get from Port Said to Suez.

### Arrival of Largest Bucket Dredger.

The largest bucket-dredger in the world, the Silurus, under the command of Captain W. Rodrick, has just come through here on her way to Bombay, where she will be employed by the Bombay Port Trust. She has had considerable bad weather coming out here, but has come through it without serious damage. Built in Renfrew in the early days of the war, when the Silurus was finished she was placed in the Gareloch, as it was not deemed safe to attempt to send her to India on account of the submarine menace. During some bad weather she capsized, and for over three years was lying bottom-up in fairly deep water. Eventually she was put into the hands of a large salvage firm, who were successful in raising her, and she is now on her way out—let us hope to have a long life of usefulness in India. It is understood that she can lift 2,500 tons of mud per hour, and can carry an hour's work in her hold, supposing that no hoppers are available.

### Failing British--German.

Considerable quantities of German goods, mostly hardware, have made their appearance in the town. One retailer complained to your correspondent that he could not get English goods, though he had had them on order for over six months, and to supply his customers with something he had had to purchase German goods. He showed the writer two aluminium saucepans—one German and one English made: the former was as tissue paper compared to thick strawboard, and in the obvious wearing qualities there was no comparison. But, as he plaintively said, "If I have not something to give my customers, they will go elsewhere and still be supplied with German goods; but I want to stock English goods *when* I can get them."

### Miscellaneous.

We are now beginning to feel the effect of the coal strike, as there appear to be considerably fewer ships making their appearance in the port, and those that do come are proceeding at the most economical speed so as to save coal.

Although it was said some months ago that passages to Egypt in the autumn would be impossible to obtain, yet residents here are finding their way back, and have exciting tales to tell of their perils by sea and land, mostly the latter, in getting here.

## ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, October 31.

### Orders for British Locomotives.

The Ministry of Communications has been authorised to sign a contract with the International Corporation of Canada, Ltd., Montreal, for the purchase of 300 locomotives of the consolidation type. A further contract has been made with Messrs. Wm. Beardmore, Ltd., of Glasgow, for sixty locomotives.

### Aerial Services Inaugurated.

Aerial services have been started between the following towns: Bucharest — Craiova, Sibiu — Constantza, and Galatz—Jassy. The services will be conducted with military aeroplanes, which will carry urgent official correspondence from different Ministries. Services are also being inaugurated between Sibiu—Cluj, Jassy—Chisinau, and Jassy—Czernowits.

### Withdrawal of Banca Generala Notes.

The Ministry of Finance has issued instructions for the withdrawal of the one thousand lei stamped notes issued by the Banca Generala existing throughout the country. These will be changed into Banca Nationala notes of the same value. The exchange will take place at the Banca Nationala, Bucharest, and its branches, and the last date on which this can happen is November 5, after which all 1,000 lei Banca Generala notes will be null and void. As soon as the thousand lei notes are so changed a start will be made on the Banca Generala notes of less value.

### Commercial Activity Since the Armistice.

Immediately after the termination of hostilities commercial activity in Roumania developed considerably, and showed itself by the formation of companies of all descriptions. Thus in 1919 128 companies were established, with a total capital of 499,105,300 lei. During the period January 1 to August 31, 1920, 168 further companies were started, with a total capital of 1,640,206,900 lei. These figures do not include the increased capital of the old companies, which represents a very high figure. It may be

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noted in this connection that up to August, 1916, before Roumania entered the war, 430 companies were in existence, with a total capital of 722,750,000 lei; while on August 31, 1920, 843 companies were in being, with a total capital of 4,482,272,000 lei—that is to say, from 1914 to 1920 the total capital has increased by 3½ milliard lei.

The scheme for electrifying the railways in Transylvania is on the point of being applied. At present the authorities are studying the building of the electric line from Brasov to Sibiu, which will be facilitated by employing the Olt and Jiu rivers for motive power. Next autumn work will be started on the electrification of the Ditro-Piatra-Nemtz line. The preliminary work will be begun next spring.

**Export of Gold.**

For the time being it has been decided that the Minister of Finance should have the sole right to sell the gold produced by the State mines. Therefore arrangements have been made that all the gold in ingots now in possession of the Ministry of Industry, and that which is stored at the General Secretariat at Cluj, will be deposited at the Central Public Treasury Warehouse.

The gold will be exported and sold abroad, as the negotiations for the purchase of this gold by the National Bank were fruitless. The National Bank maintained that the State was obliged, as per agreement, to hand over all the gold which it possesses, while the Government contended that the bank only had a right to demand the gold found in the old kingdom. They therefore could not allow the handing over of the gold found in the new territories on the ground that the question could only be settled by fresh concessions and agreements on both sides.

**Small Surplus of Cereals.**

According to the approximate calculations made by the Minister of Agriculture, owing to reduced production and smaller areas under cultivation this year, Roumania will only have available for export about 12,000 wagons of barley and 58,000 wagons of oats from the whole country, the remainder of the stock being needed for internal consumption, and as seed for this autumn's and next spring's sowings.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, October 31.

**Business as Usual.**

An amusing incident occurred the other day, which throws light upon at least some of the causes of the high prices which are oppressing everybody. On the Terazije there is a little shop dealing in "products of Uzhitsa"—that is to say, chiefly hams and smoked meat. The price of ham there is 50 dinars a kilo. One morning the proprietor was horrified to learn that a rival in the same line of business had bought a big parcel of hams on the market, and was disposing of them at 40 dinars, to the great benefit of the public and good and fair profit to himself. The man on the Terazije at once bought the whole lot at 40, and started to retail it at 50.

**Plebiscite and Plenty.**

Before the plebiscite in the Celovatz (Klagenfurt) area there was a great scarcity of flour, meat, and other necessary foods. But now that Zona A has voted for incorporation in Austria a huge quantity has suddenly appeared on the scene, for it appears that the would-be profiteers do not hanker after kronen. Consequently, it is reported that something like forty wagon loads of flour, lard, sugar, and other necessities will be returned to Liubliana, to the great contentment of the population of that pretty and pleasant district.

## CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, October 16.

**General News.**

The Government is offering corn for sale at the various tithe stores, eleven in number, exclusively for use as seed, at the following rates: Wheat, 15s. the bushel; barley, 5s. 6½d.; and oats, 4s.

Winter hours have been started on the one railway that Cyprus possesses. The service is limited to one train a day each way between Nicosia and Famagusta, and between the former and the West terminus at Evtykhou. The train from Famagusta leaves at 7.30 a.m., reaching Nicosia at 10.30.

The weather has been generally favourable. There have been some heavy rains, causing damage to gardens in the hills; but they have brought up a welcome growth of pasture, of which flocks were in much need.

## EGYPT'S IMPORTS OF PIANOS.

**Good Opening for British Manufacturers.**

From the statistics supplied by the Customs Administration it appears that 260 pianos were imported into Egypt between January 1 and July 31, as against 33 in the corresponding period of 1919. Of these 260 pianos, Germany supplied 86, United States of America 40, Italy 28, United Kingdom 11, France 9, and other countries 86.

Although Germany heads the list, it is considered by the piano trade in Egypt that the United States of America will in future be England's most formidable competitor, the German pianos being of inferior make (says H.M. Commercial Agent at Cairo). Payment for pianos from all countries, at present, is cash against documents; the granting of credit would certainly lead to enhanced business. British prices are 20 per cent. higher than prices of other countries.

Owing to the general slump, the demand for pianos is only fair, but there is every reason to suppose that an annual average of 300 pianos can be maintained. Grands, upright grands, and baby grands are in demand; selling prices are from £150 to £300. There is a fair demand for upright pianos; selling prices from £50 to £130. There is no sale whatever for upright or cottage pianos, tropical model.

The prospect of extending the trade in British pianos is good, but it cannot be too strongly impressed on British manufacturers that they must advertise on a large scale in order in the first instance to bring their wares before the public. Local agents should be given a definite sum yearly for the purpose, and not be left to advertise out of their own pockets.

The geographical position of Egypt, midway between East and West, might be taken advantage of by manufacturers, as orders from clients in India and Australia might be met from the stocks in Egypt when it was not possible to supply immediately from England, thus pleasing the customer and giving the firm a good advertisement for quick delivery.

## AMERICAN COMPETITION IN EGYPT.

The imports into Egypt from America during the period January 1 to July 31 show an approximate increase of £E3,000,000 over the corresponding period of 1919. The principal increases were in flour and wheat, £E1,594,842; coal, £E1,167,212; metals, £E495,705; yarns and textiles, £E111,928; nails and screws, £E18,808; industrial tools, £E7,477; steel work, £E14,742; tinplates, £E30,127; typewriters, £E19,657; agricultural machinery, £E33,957; other machines, £E62,576; motor cars, £E258,599; motor cycles, £E11,665; spare parts for motors, £E10,880; iron bars, £E9,099; cotton hosiery, £E87,011; silk hosiery, £E4,811; cotton clothing and ready-mades, £E8,218; and woollen ditto, £E2,200. The principal decreases were in kerosene (£E717,479) and tinned goods (£E58,986).

The directors of the India General Navigation and Railway Company have declared an interim dividend of 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares and 2½ per cent. on the preference shares, payable November 26.

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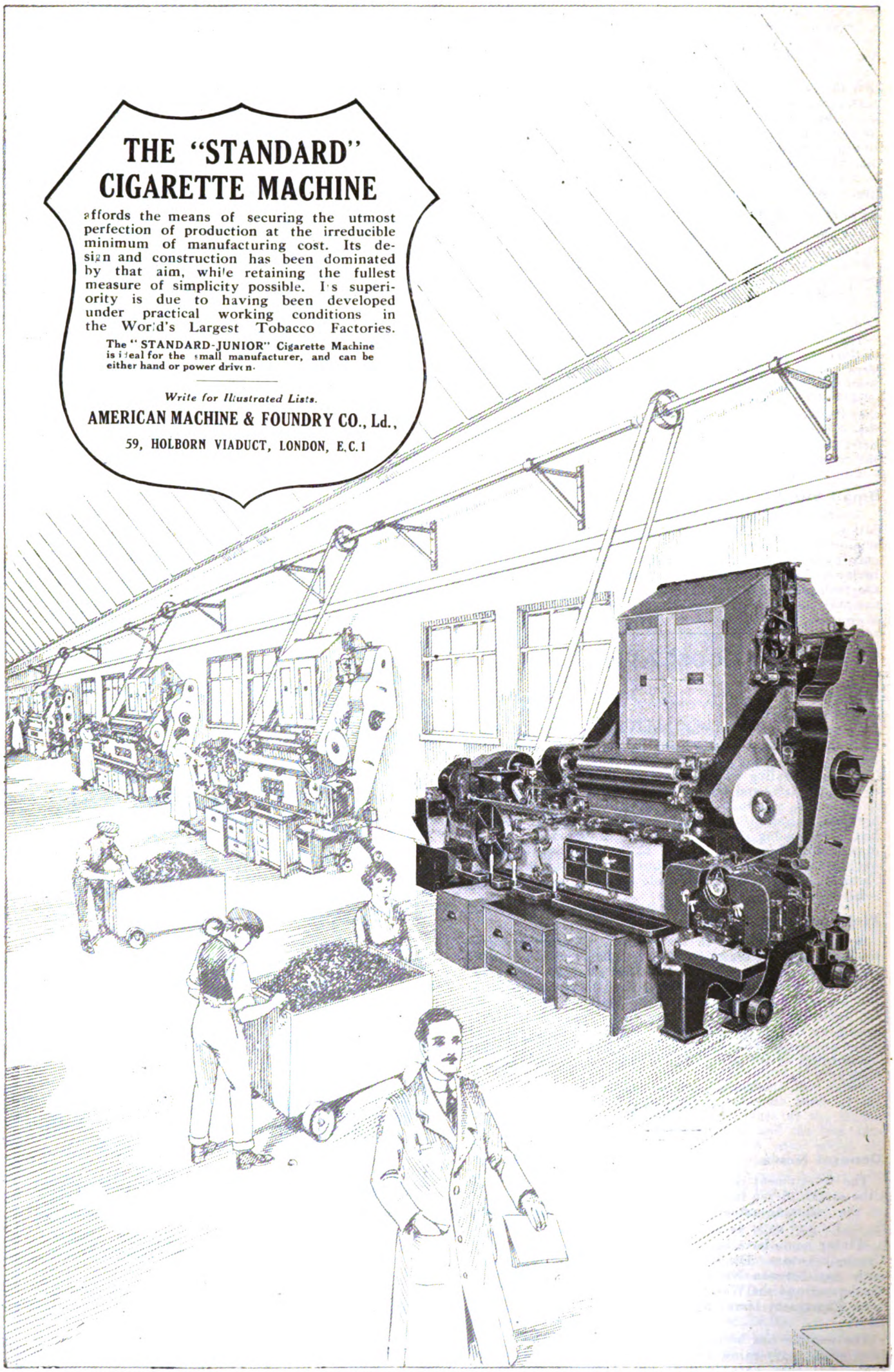


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# PROPOSED SUDAN RAILWAY.

## A COTTON-GROWING AREA.

**By Sir John Randles, M.P.***

The question of a railway to tap the Kassala region of the Sudan has been taken up energetically by the Lancashire members of the House of Commons, because of the importance of increasing the supply of cotton. It is not, of course, a new project. In the schedule of the pre-war Sudan Loan Bill provision was made for the expenditure of £1,600,000 on the extension of railways, the intention being to continue the El Obeid railway through Kassala to Thamiam almost midway on the Port Sudan line between Port Sudan and Atbara, and but for the war it may be presumed that the line would now be in operation.

Now, as readers of THE NEAR EAST are aware, the cotton problem has become much more accentuated in the intervening years owing to the increasing demand in America for cotton, coupled with a decrease in the area under cotton. If, therefore, the project was deemed desirable in 1914 it goes without saying that the need for it is now very much greater.

The area which would be served by the railway is suitable for the best varieties of Egyptian cotton. Mr. B. Crapper, who visited the Sudan last year, reported to the British Cotton Growing Association on the Gash Delta at Kassala that "the river irrigates each year about a quarter of a million acres of excellent cotton land, which grows Sakel cotton of good quality. The population there is relatively large, and the only drawback to the immediate development of this area is the absence of means of transport." Besides cotton, the district is reported to be a good one for the cultivation of cereals. Developments on these lines hinge on the provision of communications, a need which the present project, which I believe I am right in saying has been reported favourably on by General Allenby, is intended to fill.

The Sudan Government is willing to build the railway, but without the guarantee of the British Government it would not be easy to finance the scheme. The question Lancashire members have had to consider was whether the project was one for which we could urge the assistance of the Treasury, and we have come to the conclusion that if it is suitable it is one which ought to receive our fullest support. The Empire Resources Development Committee are interesting themselves in the question, and it may be that we shall be able to co-operate with them in putting the case before the Government. At the moment we are waiting for the decision of the sub-committee of the Empire Resources Development Committee, and when we know what their view is we shall be in a position to decide on our course of action.

Before the war the cost of the railway was estimated at about £1,500,000. But, of course, conditions are now entirely changed, and it is believed that to-day the work would require the expenditure of at least three or four millions. There are two schemes for the railway—the one a line from Kassala to Atbara, the other a line from Kassala to Thamiam. The latter, which provides direct communication with Port Sudan, is the favoured project. The terrain, it may be pointed out, presents no engineering difficulties of any consequence. It is a level, easy route, with few bridges, and it is not thought that the line will take any great time to construct. The railway would, of course, be worked by the Sudan Government.

Those who may cavil at the expenditure involved may be reminded that time and again it has been proved that railways such as the line proposed invariably pay. In the densest cities you have lines run at a loss, but in a promising area which is being opened up the case is altogether different. "There is no doubt," Mr. Crapper stated in the report to which I have referred, "a railway would pay immediately on completion. The distance from any existing connection is 250 miles, and it is the united opinion of all in authority in the Sudan that the railway ought to be put in hand immediately." The Government, it may be added, has already made itself responsible for a loan of £6,000,000, and so long as it is responsible for the Sudan it cannot allow necessary works of development to be held up through lack of financial assistance. In the present case the needs of Lancashire provide a double reason for support. All that is required is that the loan should be guaranteed, for then the money can be raised at a very much lower rate than would otherwise be the case.

* In an interview.

## TRADE IN INDIAN OILSEEDS.

The report of the Indian Committee of the Imperial Institute on the trade of India in oilseeds, has been published by Mr. John Murray, price 6s. net. The volume emphasises in a striking way the vast importance of the Indian oilseed industry. The total annual production of oilseeds of all kinds in India is probably well over 5,000,000 tons in quantity and £50,000,000 in value; in normal times approximately one-third of the output is exported.

No other country produces in commercial quantities so great a variety of oilseeds. Of the ten chief of these, viz., linseed, ground nuts, cotton seed, rape seed, castor seed, sesame seed, copra, mowra seed, poppy seed, and niger seed, India supplies no less than 30 per cent. of the total amount entering commerce. Before the war about one-third of the total quantity of oilseeds exported from India came to the United Kingdom, the chief kinds being cotton seed, linseed and castor seed. Certain other oilseeds, such as ground nuts, sesame, copra, and mowra, were shipped mainly to France, Germany, and Belgium.

Various suggestions are made by the committee with a view to extending the trade in Indian oilseeds with the United Kingdom and developing the British oilseed crushing industry. It is considered that a free choice of the raw material produced within the Empire should be secured for this industry, if necessary by a system of rationing and licensing in the producing country. If further assistance is required an import duty should be imposed on oils and fats of all kinds imported to the United Kingdom from foreign countries. The Committee consider that the latter method would be more satisfactory than a preferential export duty on Indian oilseeds.

A memorandum on the effect of import tariffs on the oilseed crushing industry, by Mr. J. W. Pearson, Chairman of the Seed-Crushers' Association of the United Kingdom, is appended to the report. The volume also contains a detailed account of the Indian trade in oilseeds, prepared at the Imperial Institute for the committee.

Mr. A. Baerlocher, hitherto commercial director of the Egyptian Salt and Soda Co., Ltd., has been appointed director-general of the company.

The India Office announces that those members of the Committee of Railway Inquiry appointed by the Secretary of State for India who are at present in England will leave for India on November 24.

Mr. J. G. Vella has been appointed manager for Egypt, the Sudan, Palestine, Syria, and Cyprus of the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation of London in succession to Mr. M. G. Harris, who has been appointed general manager of the Levant branch.


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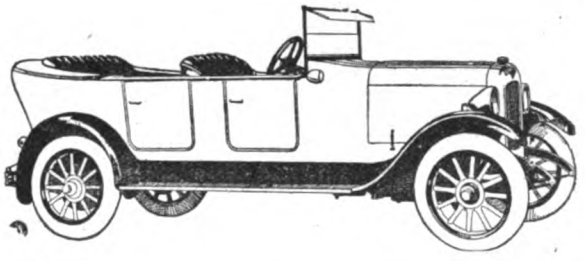

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# ENGINEERING.

## THE 1920 MOTOR SHOW.

### I.—General Impressions.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Probably the strongly-worded criticisms which appeared in the Press last year regarding the crowded state of Olympia had much more to do with the decision to hold this year's show in two portions than most people imagine. The authorities decided that the exhibits should this year be divided between Olympia and the White City; they made arrangements for dual tickets and for charabanc rides, and, although one says so more in sorrow than in anger, gave painful but unmistakable evidence that the motor industry of this country has developed far more rapidly than has the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. It has been freely rumoured that, so far as attendance is concerned, this year's show has been more or less of a failure, and some colour is lent to this view by the altogether absurd decision of the society not to publish the attendances. By the time these lines appear it is possible that figures may have been given out to the Press; if so, I anticipate that they will prove, roughly, to be one-half of those of last year.

I would like it to be clearly understood that I do not consider the show was a failure. I would like it to be equally well understood that, in my opinion, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders unwittingly did their utmost to make it a failure. The criticisms of last year were directed against the inadequacy of the accommodation. I fancy the criticisms of this year, if anyone is so unkind as to make any, will be directed against the whole arrangements.

It has been said that the division of the show and the transport provided was the best possible compromise that could have been made. Looking back, one wonders whether this was so. It is, of course, easy to criticise; but then, in this case, no one wants to criticise. Every motoring writer naturally wishes to do all he can to help the industry, but every motoring writer has also a duty to his public, and I for one should consider I was not doing that duty did I not urge on the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders the necessity for studying the comfort of the public in every possible way. To my mind, the public is paramount; the whole well-being of the British motor industry depends on the British public, and I sincerely hope that the arrangements for next year's show will be very different and conceived in a far more up-to-date and business-like spirit.

#### The Personal Element.

There was another point which struck me, and this I would commend to the notice of individual exhibitors. Up to the last year there was a very strong personal element noticeable in the show—a friendliness, a *bonhomie* which this year was noticeable by its absence in the case of far too many of the smaller firms, as well as in several of those whose names have been household words. The conducting of the stands was too often left to salesmen who were unknown to old clients. I think this was a mistake. The personal element in business is always of value—perhaps more so in the motor industry than in any other—and I am certain that those firms whose principals, men whose names are household words in the trade, were present in person on their stands reaped an immense advantage over their less far-sighted competitors.

There is no need here to go into any details as to the show itself, or the attendances, or the thousand and one points which provided "copy" for the newspapers during its run. They have all been dealt with, and to my mind all that has to be done now is to deal with the principal exhibits, and to point out wherein they were superior to those of last year or where they fell short, if any did, of the standard set a year ago.

#### The Wonderful Napier.

To my mind, by far the most interesting and representative exhibit in the whole of the show was that of Messrs. D. Napier and Sons, Acton Vale, London. Last year I expressed practically the same view. Since then I have been able to inspect and test a number of Napier chassis and engines, and in my opinion the Napier car is one of the finest productions of the motor industry of this country, and is superior in every respect to the best car turned out by makers in any other part of the world. Beyond doubt the Napier is in a class of its own.

It is common knowledge now that the firm had some difficulties to overcome through a strike of coach-builders, which interfered with the completion of the show bodies. They consequently showed a 40-50 six-cylinder Napier chassis, a similar chassis fitted with a Cunard torpedo body, and one with Cunard four-seater saloon body. These cars would, in the ordinary course of events, have been delivered and running on the road, but by the courtesy of the buyers delivery was postponed in order that the cars might be shown at Olympia. My friend Mr. H. T. Vane, told me before the show that he felt that these models would be amongst the finest exhibits, and in this he was certainly correct.

The four-seater saloon body shown was of the owner-driver type, in which there was no division between the front seats. The lines of the body harmonised perfectly with the clean lines of the chassis, and that the car was a "quality" production was evident at the first glance. The body was constructed of wood framework with aluminium panels. Dome-shaped wings were fitted, and the appearance of the car was enhanced considerably by the V-shaped wind screen, the top half of which is divided so that the occupant of the seat beside the driver can be effectively screened even when the driver's window is open.

The interior of this saloon was arranged on luxurious, although eminently serviceable, lines. The seating was arranged to accommodate two persons on the front and two on the rear seat, the front seats being of semi-bucket shape constructed on an entirely new principle. Both seats can be moved backwards or forwards, being independently adjustable, and they can be tilted so that the angle of the seat cushion and back rest can be altered to suit the convenience of each passenger. They can also be arranged to hinge, by which means easy access is afforded to the rear of the saloon. Further consideration for the comfort of the passengers is shown by the provision of arm slings and pulls for those in the rear seats, electric lighting, and even electric cigar-lighters and ash trays. The rear of the saloon is provided with two windows which can be screened by silk curtains which match the upholstery.

The car is painted a handsome blue, whilst the wings, wheels, and upper portion are in black. The carriage is beautifully upholstered in dark-blue leather, with deep springy cushions and thickly padded backs. The seats are wide and low and very comfortable. The waist-line of this handsome car is panelled in polished mahogany, whilst the bottom half inside the doors is padded and upholstered in leather, having deep pockets for carrying maps, etc. A luggage grid is fitted to the rear of the car, which slides completely out of sight when not in use. The wheels are Rudge Whitworth detachable, and the electrical equipment is C.A.V. lighting system and engine-starter. I may mention that this car was built specially for Mr. H. T. Vane, C.B.E., managing director of Messrs. D. Napier and Son, Ltd., for his own personal use.

#### Another Notable Exhibit.

The second Napier exhibit was a similar chassis with a torpedo body, designed to give a stream-line appearance, with the style and originality of design which gives the Napier so distinguished an appearance. In this there was accommodation for six persons, and the seats are built low, with an absolutely correct slope. The body has aluminium panels, and a Cape hood, covered with waterproof material, is fitted. Detachable side curtains are provided, which extend right forward to the wind-screen, with celluloid windows where necessary, and these can be readily adjusted at the first sign of rain. An envelope cover is provided for the hood when down, whilst the wind-screen is of the flat type with both halves arranged to hinge outwards.

This car is painted white, with wings and wheels in black, and upholstered in black leather. It has deep springy cushions and thickly padded backs, giving the greatest comfort. It is realised that with a touring-car it is often desired to drive long distances without a stop, and with this type of body on a 40-50 h.p. Napier chassis, with its special springing and patent anti-rolling device, the greatest comfort is provided, so that long runs may be accomplished without passengers feeling the slightest fatigue.

I noticed that the electrical equipment on this car provides a lighting system with electric starters, two electric horns, two head and two side lamps, a dash lamp, and the usual tail light, and the road wheels are of the detachable type made by Messrs. Rudge Whitworth.

I regret that exigencies of space prevent me from dealing with the Rolls-Royce, Vauxhall, Lanchester, Daimler, and other exhibits this week, but I hope to describe them fully in succeeding issues of The Near East.


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**POPULATION. About 17,400,000.**

**IMPORTS (1915). £8,533,234.**

United Kingdom, £848,997; Austria-Hungary, £3,718,182; Belgium, £43,230; Germany, £3,575,159; France, £660,287; Turkey, £558,238; Italy, £762,023.

**EXPORTS (1915). £21,742,379.**

United Kingdom, £2,238; Austria-Hungary, £13,576,255; Belgium, £2,343; Germany, £7,044,803; Turkey, £443,325; Italy, £37,838.

[NOTE.—In 1914 the Imports from the U.K. amounted to £2,231,773, and the Exports to it to £1,433,535.]

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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—Business has continued to be animated. Currants have been in special demand, notably fine Vostizzas, which have been done at increased rates. Sultanas have been in greater request, and as supplies are inadequate prices have shown a tendency to rise. Arrivals of Smyrna natural figs have been of excellent quality, and they are being taken up freely.

Coffee.—The demand has been restricted, and only small sales were concluded. Transactions include Costa Rica (bold greyish) at 99s. 6d. to 114s. 6d., and East Indian at 85s. to 130s. The futures market has been irregular. Quotations are: December, 56s.; March, 54s.; and May, 54s. The main factor in the prevailing dullness is, of course, the fact that to all intents and purposes Central Europe is still out of the market.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake has risen 13s. to 36s., while cottonseed cake remains unaltered at 13s. Other transactions include Indian cottonseed cake at 11s. 9d. and Egyptian cottonseed cake at 17s. 6d.

Sugar.—The free market remains steady. West Indian crystallised is unaltered at 83s., while American granulated is unchanged at 95s. White Mauritius has been done at 94s. There has been a good demand for home refined at the official prices.

Oilseeds.—Business has declined. Indian linseed has been done at 36s., while La Plata has come to business at 28s. 3d. Rapeseed is lower, with Toria at 34s. 6d. and bold Ferozepore at 32s. 6d. Cottonseed is quieter. Indian has been done at 11s. 9d., while Egyptian stands at 17s. 6d.

Seed Oils.—Prices have declined considerably. Linseed has been done at 60s. Refined rape oil is firm at 92s., and the crude variety is unchanged at 75s. Turpentine is 13s. lower at 110s.

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon, 216s. 9d. cwt.; butter, 336s. cwt.; cheese, 170s. cwt.; chillies, 140s. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 5½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 140s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica) 110s. 6d. cwt., East India bold 117s. 6d. cwt., Mocha 147s. 6d. cwt., Santos 77s. 6d.; currants (Vostizza), 103s. 6d. cwt.; eggs, 42s. per 120; ginger (washed cochin), 63s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 218s. cwt.; lard, 164s. 3d. cwt.; nutmegs, 1s. 1d., 110's to 180's; pepper (Singapore, black) 5½d. lb., and Muntok white 1s. 2¾d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 136s. cwt.; sugar (granulated) 96s. cwt., No. 1 cubes 100s. cwt., white Java 94s. 6d. cwt., Mauritius 94s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 142s. cwt.; tapioca (Singapore), 2d. lb.; tea (Indian) 6¾d. lb., Ceylon 6½d. lb., and Java 4½d. lb.; wheat (Australian) 121s. 6d. qr., English white 94s. qr.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £175 ton; bismuth, 12s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard) £91 7s. 6d. ton, electro (wire bars) £99 ton; gold bars, 119s. 7d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 225s. ton; hematite (mixed), 260s. ton; nickel, £230 ton; platinum, 520s. oz.; plumbago, £37 10s. ton; quicksilver, £15 15s. bottle; silver bars, 53⅝d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.) £37 17s. 6d. ton; tin (standard), £262 12s. 6d. ton; wolfram, 24s. 6d. unit; zinc sheets, £47 ton.

*Chemicals.*—Acids: boric 75s. cwt., oxalic 2s. 0½d. lb., citric 3s. 5½d. lb., tartaric 2s. 7d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £31 6s. 9d. ton; benzole (standard), 3s. 5d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £27 10s. ton; borax crystals, 41s. cwt.; cream of tartar, 235s. cwt.; glycerine (crude, 80 per cent.) £105 ton, industrial (1,250 per cent.) £155 ton; lead (red) £56 10s. ton, white dry £63 10s. ton; potassium: bichromate 1s. 9½d. lb., chlorate 9½d. lb., caustic £105 ton, nitrate £70 ton, permanganate 3s. 4½d. lb., prussiate yellow 1s. 10½d. lb., sulphate (90 per cent.) £34 ton; quinine, 4s. 1d. oz.; sodium: crystals 190s. ton, bi-carbonate £13 15s. ton, bi-chromate 1s. 1½d. lb., alkali (58 per cent.) £16 5s. ton, chlorate 5d. lb., caustic (70 per cent.) £31 10s. ton, hyposulphite £36 ton, prussiate 1s. 2½d. lb., and nitrate £24 2s. 6d. ton; sulph. copper, £41 ton; sulph. iron, 160s. ton.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton (American, good midd.), 18.03d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £26 5s. ton; oils: linseed £60 ton, soya £67 5s. ton, cotton (crude) £51 10s. ton, olive 21s. 6d. gallon, ground nut £90 10s. ton, palm £56 15s. ton, rape (crude) £75 ton, palm kernels £37 6s. 3d. ton, petroleum 2s. 3d. gallon, rape Toria £34 7s. 6d. ton; rubber: plantation (No. 1 crêpe) 1s. 2¾d. lb., smoked sheet 1s. 0¾d. lb., fine hard Para 1s. 5½d. lb.; turpentine (American), 110s. cwt.

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The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works is to send a mission of Egyptian engineers to the United States to obtain experience in building with iron and concrete.

The directors of the Indian Electric Supply and Traction Company have declared an interim dividend of 3 per cent. on the ordinary shares, payable November 26.

During 1919-20 the cotton exported from Egypt amounted to 737,857 bales, compared with 718,309 bales in 1918-19; 345,461 bales were exported to the United Kingdom, a decrease of 114,313 bales. On the other hand, exports to the United States amounted to 257,265 bales, an increase of 162,003 bales.

## LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

The better feeling in the market has not been maintained. Since a week ago the amount of business passing has tended to fall off. The attitude of buyers has been affected by the continued easier movement in raw cotton rates, and owing to the probability of lower values orders have been held back. There is a good deal of anxiety with regard to the future state of business, and trade on international lines is very seriously upset by the financial stringency and the marked irregularity in exchange rates. It is said that some growers of Egyptian cotton are holding supplies back for better prices. Shipments from Alexandria are decidedly smaller than last year. There is no particular change in the crop outlook. Lancashire spinners have again purchased sparingly. Some special orders have been booked in Egyptian yarns for thread-manufacturing purposes, but ordinary qualities remain quiet. There has not been any general activity for Near Eastern markets. Fabrics have attracted some attention for Constantinople, and dyed goods have been in request for certain outlets of the Levant, but no real change for the better can be recorded in the demand. Operations for India have been on much the same lines as during the last week or two. Calcutta has continued to purchase dhooties and other light fabrics, but demand has not broadened in grey staples. More looms are being started in Great Harwood and Blackburn. The demand for China has been flat. Rather poor news has been received from South America. Burnley manufacturers of printing cloths cannot obtain relief. Prices in American yarns have favoured buyers, and owing to the restricted turnover spinners have lost ground. There has been less demand in extra-hard descriptions for the Levant, but a few more offers have been mentioned in bundles for India.

## "CONCERNING COTTON."

We have received from Messrs. A. J. Wilson, Ltd., of Clerkenwell Road, London, the well-known advertising agents, a beautiful publication, profusely illustrated in colour and black and white, descriptive of the world-wide textile activities of the Amalgamated Cotton Mills Trust, Ltd., London. This great concern, formed in October, 1918, is an amalgamation of the following important Lancashire and Yorkshire firms:—Horrockses, Crewdson and Co., Ltd.; Eckersley, Ltd.; Robert Hyde Buckley and Sons, Ltd.; Acme Spinning Co., Ltd.; John Ashworth (1902), Ltd.; Mill Hill Spinning Co., Ltd.; Thomas Moss and Son, Ltd.; Redmayne and Isherwood, Ltd.; Haslams, Ltd.; Riversdale Mill Co., Ltd.; John Kershaw and Co., Ltd.; Bolton Heald Co., Ltd.; Cellular Clothing Co., Ltd.; and the Haslam Weaving Co., Ltd. The trust owns nearly sixty spinning mills and weaving sheds, and in magnitude far exceeds any similar venture. These mills are equipped with nearly two and a-quarter million mule equivalent spindles, with nearly 18,000 looms daily turning out cloth, employing some 18,000 men and women. The large, artistic brochure before us, with its delicate designs from fairyland, the courts of honour, and the playgrounds of Cupid, providing a setting for photographs of the huge textile works and mills of the Amalgamated Industries, makes a fascinating and informative art-work for which Messrs. Hudson and Kearns, Ltd., the London art colour printers, are to be congratulated. We understand that H.M. the King has accepted a presentation copy.

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A Government loan of £10,000 has been secured by the colonists of Rishon-le-Zion, Beer Jacob, Gederah, and Mazkeret Batia.

A coalfield concession at Colomb, Ain-Sefra, Algeria, has been applied for by the Chemins de Fer Algériens de l'Etat.

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## RECORD SOWING OF EGYPTIAN COTTON.

The Ministry of Agriculture states that 1,827,868 acres are under cotton (says a Reuter message from Cairo) as compared with 1,573,662 acres in the year 1918-19, which is a record. Of this total 69.5 per cent. is sakellaridis. It is provisionally estimated that the crop will reach 6,187,000 kantars. The Ministry's statement refers to the difficulty of getting reliable returns, as many growers are under-estimating their crop, in the hope of inducing an increase in price, which is at present relatively low.

## ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Ormsby-Gore asked the Prime Minister on November 15 whether the concession for the further development of the Mosul and South Kurdistan oilfields had been granted to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, and, if so, on what terms?

Mr. Lloyd George: The answer is in the negative.

## CATALOGUES REQUIRED FOR EGYPT.

A new Department has recently been formed by the Egyptian Government for the purpose of promoting Egyptian trade and industry. One of the main objects of this Department is to keep a complete set of catalogues of trades and manufactures of all kinds for the benefit of the Egyptian traders and public. The Department of Overseas Trade has received a request from this Department, through His Majesty's Commercial Agent at Cairo, to invite British firms to send copies of their catalogues for this purpose. Any United Kingdom firms interested in the proposal should address communications to The Controller, Egyptian Bureau of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Finance, 12, Sharia el Fahmy, Babel Luq, Cairo.

Copies of the fares and freight rates on the Palestine Railway may be consulted at the Shipping and Transport Section of the Department of Overseas Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2.

Indian Treasury bills outstanding on March 31, were: Rs52,96,60,000; issued from April 1 to November 6, Rs.91,15,60,000; total, Rs1,44,12,20,000. Discharged from April 1 to November 6, Rs45,29,60,000; outstanding on November 6. Rs98,82,60,000.

British Overseas Bank.—Transfer books of "A" Ordinary shares will be closed from November 22 to December 4.


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## TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—

**Egypt.**

Iron or Mild Steel Bars.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for iron or mild steel bars. November 24.

Pump Foundations and Power House.—The Inspector of Projects, Western Delta Division, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of pump foundations and power house for new Aboukir pumping station. November 30.

**Greece.**

Argentiferous barytes concessions in the island of Melos.—The Direction of Mines of the Ministry of National Economy at Athens invites tenders for the above concessions, which belong to the Greek State, and are estimated to contain 10 million tons of argentiferous barytes, with a maximum quantity of silver per ton of ore estimated at 2,140 grams and an average quantity of 164 grams. There are experienced miners on the spot, and there is a very good harbour; but there is a scarcity of fuel and spring water in the island. The terms of tender may be seen on application at the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.

**Bulgaria.**

Driving Belts. Length of Railway Track.—In connection with the projected erection of large flour mills at Bourgas, Bulgaria, certain supplementary material, such as driving belts for power transmission, and a length of railway track with necessary sleepers, will probably be required. Offers in this connection should be made to the Credit Central, 6, Rue Francois Ier Paris, which company is stated to be dealing with the requirements of this scheme.

## NEW COMPANIES.

**Holmwoods and Back and Manson.**

Holmwoods and Back and Manson, Ltd., has been registered as a private company with a capital of £25,000 in £1 shares. Objects : To adopt agreement between Holmwood and Holmwood of the first part, H. C. Back, N. B. Manson, and J. F. Curningham (carrying on business as Back and Manson) of the second part, E. S. Holmwood and P. C. Y. Holmwood of the third part, and this company of the fourth part, insurance brokers, etc. Registered office : 37-41, Gracechurch Street, E.C.

**N. Jureidini.**

N. Jureidini, Ltd., has been registered as a private company with a capital of £100,000 in £1 shares. Objects : To take over the business of N. Jureidini, at 59, George Street, Manchester, traders between England, Syria, Egypt, or elsewhere, shipping merchants, dealers in cloth, silks, precious stones, soap, cutlery, and merchandise of all kinds. Subscribers (each with one share) : B. S. Brown, Wigan, cotton spinner; N. Jureidini, Didsbury, shipping merchant. Solicitor : T. Ellis, 18, King Street, Wigan.

**British Danubian Trading Corporation.**

The British Danubian Trading Corporation, Limited, has been registered with a nominal capital of £100,000 in £1 shares. Objects : To enter into an agreement with the British and Hungarian Bank, Limited, to open up and promote commercial relationship between the United Kingdom and Hungary, Austria, Russia, Roumania, Czecho-Slovakia, Jugoslavia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Poland, or other countries, to carry on business as bankers, financiers, concessionaires, merchants, prospectors, etc. The first directors are :—Godfrey C. Isaacs, Marconi House, W.C. ; Lieut.-Colonel Adrian Simpson, C.M.G., 77, Ashley Gardens, S.W. ; Major Stephen Alley, M.C., 26, Hans Crescent, S.W. ; Simon de Krauz, Vice-President British and Hungarian Bank, Budapest ; Alexander Fleissig, general manager of same bank. So long as Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Ltd., hold at least 25,000 shares, they may have three nominees on the board, and one of such nominees shall be chairman. So long as the British and Hungarian Bank, Limited, hold at least 25,000 shares they may have two nominees on the board. Solicitors : Steadman, Van Praagh and Gaylor, 4, Old Burlington Street, W. Registered office, Marconi House, Strand, W.C.

## ON 'CHANGE.

### Markets Subdued.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Monday Night.

The present position may be characterised by the one word uncertainty, and until the outlook in general is more settled it would seem hopeless to look for any great improvement. During the past week the foreign exchanges have been one of the chief factors in depressing the markets ; another is the knowledge that the Government will shortly have to find £50,000,000 by way of interest on loans, and that will presumably entail a further recourse to the Bank. That brings within view the prospect that, dear as money is now, it may be dearer still in a few months' time.

The markets have closed to-night on a very dull note, particularly foreign bonds, which weakened considerably on the news from the Crimea. The report of the result of the Greek elections has also provided a disturbing influence. Government stocks, however, remained fairly steady with the exception of National War Bonds.

There are few fresh developments in other markets. Industrials as a whole continue to droop on the adverse trade position ; and there are several shares in this section that look cheap at present levels. Oils have weakened on realisations, in which the Continent appeared to take a leading part. Rubber shares continue their downward course, but, despite the fall that has already taken place, many of the shares look overvalued on the present outlook. Of course, the buyer who is prepared to wait for three or more years would probably find them cheap at the present levels. But those who care to do that are naturally few and far between.

Turning to Near Eastern securities, Turkish Guaranteed 4 per Cent. are half a point up at 68½, while Turkish 3½ per Cent. Egyptian Tribute Bonds have risen to 53, at which they are 1⅝ up. Greek securities have been depressed. The 5 per Cent. 1881 Loan has dropped two points to 50, while the 5 per Cent. 1890 Loan is slightly lower at 49¾.

Banks have eased off a little in some cases. Agricultural 3½ per Cent. Bonds are ⅜ lower at 57⅝, but the 3½ per Cent. Guaranteed Bonds are unchanged at 60. National Bank of Egypt close at 17⅛, a decline of 1/16.

Lands are rather firmer. Delta Lands are 6d. up at 12s. 6d., while Egyptian and Foreign Trusts have firmed up 1s. to 13s. 9d. New Egyptians are unchanged at 25, as are Sudan Plantations at 5.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions Abyssinian Corporations have shed 6d. at 4s. 6d., and Morums are 3d. down at 15s. 9d.

Oils are rather better, Anglo-Egyptians being ⅛ up at 68s. 9d. Roumanian Consolidated are unchanged at 21s.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97 7/16 |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 37·40-38·00 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 123-125 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·7½-1·8½ |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 245-250 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·7⅛-1·8½ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 450-465 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅜ | 3·37-3·38 |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 58·15-58·55 |
| Prague | Kronen to £ | 24·02 | 320 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 247½ |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 30 |
| Vienna | Kronen to £ | 24·02 | 1,220-1,260 |
| Warsaw | Marks to £ | 20·43 | 1,350 |


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*Manager*, A. G. M. DICKSON.

*London Manager*, P. C. WEST. *Secretary*, G. DE B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation is prepared to assist in the development of the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and offers exceptional financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their export and import trade.

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It invites enquiries, and will endeavour, where necessary, to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

*Branches :* BATOUM. BELGRADE. DANZIG.

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## COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

### Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

The report of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company for the year ended March 31 shows gross earnings of Rs.6,57,56,972, an increase of Rs.36,70,194, while working expenses were Rs.3,84,96,350, an increase of Rs.77,26,852, leaving net earnings Rs.2,72,60,622, a decrease of Rs.40,56,658, or nearly 13 per cent. Passenger traffic increased by 2,489,162, and the amount received was more by Rs.27,85,362. Goods traffic shows an increase of 337,033 tons, and the freight received for it shows an increase of Rs.11,38,930. The proportion of working expenses to gross receipts was 58.54 per cent., compared with 47.95 per cent. in the previous year. The company's share of the surplus profits amounted to Rs.13,03,953, which produced £136,149. The directors recommend a further dividend of ¾ per cent. and a bonus of 1½ per cent. for the year, both less tax at 4s. 9d. in the £. With these payments the whole return for the year on each £100 stock will be 8 per cent., less tax. After providing for income-tax, for adding a further sum of £8,000 to depreciation of investment account, making the total of that account £25,000, and for the annual contribution to the compassionate grant fund, the balance at credit of the surplus profits account at the end of 1920 will be about £226,000, as against £222,527 for the previous year. Meeting, Gresham House, E.C., to-day, noon.

### Oriental Gas.

The report of the Oriental Gas Company for the year ended June 30 states that the gas rental is higher by £10,360 than that of the preceding year, while expenditure on coals, purification, and wages shows an increase of only half that amount. The amount yielded by the sale of residual products is higher by £3,517. During the year the exchange value of the rupee yielded a profit of £26,428. In result the balance of revenue account carried to the credit of profit and loss, after allocating £10,000 to the renewals suspense account, is £29,090. Expenditure on capital account has been reduced by £20,886. The directors recommend a dividend at the rate of 4½ per cent., less tax, making 8 per cent., less tax, for the year.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated November 8:—During the week ending October 30 light rain fell in parts of North-Eastern India and moderate to good in South-Eastern India. More rain needed in the Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Rajputana, the Central Provinces, and in parts of Central India, Bombay, United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and Bihar and Orissa. During the week ending November 6 widespread rain has fallen south of Peninsula, and local rain in Lower Burma. Hesla-Manharpur (*i.e.*, extension to coalfields) detailed broad gauge railway survey (170 miles) by Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company sanctioned. Bombay cotton market deadlock unchanged; bazaar determined not to do business under control of cotton contracts board. Fine M G Oomra number 3, spot rate Rs. 290. Calcutta jute market very steady, though business limited. Hessians dull, with no demand, and prices falling. Bank rate is 6 per cent. in Bengal, Bombay, and Madras.

Land Bank of Egypt.—The annual general meeting will be held at Alexandria on December 7.

Banque Franco-Serbe.—The London address has been removed to more commodious premises at 30, Coleman Street, E.C.2.

The directors of the Bank of British West Africa announce an interim dividend to September 30, 1920, of 4 per cent., less tax, payable December 1.

Assam-Bengal Railway.—The accounts for the year ended March 31 show that the gross receipts amounted to Rs.1,12,60,772 and the working expenses to Rs.88,71,377, the ratio of working expenses to receipts being 78.78, as compared with a ratio of 76.24 in the previous year. The usual half-yearly dividends of 3 per cent. have been paid.


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CIRCASSIA ABOUT DEC. 18.

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16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.


## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

### Forthcoming Sailings.

Anchor Line s.s. Circassia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Glasgow on December 4, and at Liverpool on December 11.

Anchor Line s.s. Elysia, for Bombay, will close for cargo at Glasgow on November 23, and at Liverpool on December 1.

Cunard Line.—A steamer for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina, will close for cargo at Liverpool on December 18.

Ellerman Line s.s. Serbino, for Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria, will close for cargo at Liverpool on November 20.

Ellerman's City Line s.s. City of Lahore, for Bombay and Karachi, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on November 26.

Byron Steamship Co.'s s.s. Lord Harrington, for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna and Constantza, will close for cargo at Liverpool on November 27.

Byron Steamship Co.'s s.s. Maid of Athens, for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna and Constantza, will close for cargo at Liverpool on December 7.

Moss Line s.s. Limoges, for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Algiers, Cyprus, and Beyrout, will close for cargo at Liverpool on November 25.

Papayanni Line s.s. Malatian, for Malta and Alexandria (also taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Jaffa, Haifa, Cyprus), will close for cargo at Liverpool on December 4.

Power Line s.s. Pangbourne, for Morocco (taking cargo for Tangier, Larache, Rabat, Casablanca, and Mogador), will close for cargo in London about the end of this month.

Anchor-Brocklebank Line s.s. Malancha, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on November 27.

Anchor-Brocklebank Line s.s. Mahanada, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (also loading at Hamburg, Rotterdam, and Antwerp), will close for cargo at Middlesborough on November 27, and London on December 9.

Cunard Line s.s. Tyria, for Gibraltar, will close for cargo at Liverpool on December 2.

Ellerman Line s.s. Trentino, for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on November 27.

Ellerman's City Line s.s. City of Cairo, for Colombo and Calcutta, will close for cargo at Liverpool on December 6.

Ellerman's City Line s.s. City of Karachi, for Bombay and Karachi, will close for cargo at Liverpool on December 21.

Ellerman's City Line s.s. City of Manchester, for Calcutta, will close for cargo at Liverpool on December 22.

Bibby Line s.s. Lancashire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on December 1.

The s.s. Mobile (formerly the Hamburg-American intermediate liner Cleveland) has been acquired by the Byron Steamship Co. from the Government. It is intended to run her in conjunction with the National Line Service between Greece and the United States. The vessel has a gross tonnage of nearly 17,000 tons, and a speed of 15 knots per hour.

Moss Line s.s. Amasis, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria, accepting cargo for transhipment to Moroccan, Algerian, Cyprus, and Syrian coast ports, will close for cargo at Liverpool on November 27.

Moss Line s.s. Karnak, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on December 23.

Papayanni Line s.s. Maronian, for Algiers, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on December 11.


**W. MORPHY & SON,**

*Steamship Agents and Commercial Representatives,*

**ATHENS, PIRÆUS, PATRAS, SALONICA.**


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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 499.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *The Changes in Greece.*

The situation in Greece in its international aspect is discussed elsewhere in this issue. Here it is only necessary to refer briefly to the course of events in Athens. On November 17 M. Venizelos formally resigned and left the country for France. M. Rallis undertook to form a Cabinet, and shortly afterwards Admiral Condouriotis resigned the Regency, and the Queen Mother Olga became Regent. In view of the efforts that are being made to commit Great Britain to an extreme policy towards Greece, it is of interest to note that M. Venizelos, in the message that he issued before his departure, warned his own followers against an intransigent attitude. He counselled them to subordinate the interests of party to the interests of the State, and added that he was convinced that they would submit without bitterness to the popular decision. The British and French Governments have been so badly informed regarding the real position in Greece, that they may well pause to find out whether their reading of events four years ago was accurate in every respect. Practically every one of the Allied actors in the Greek drama of those days—soldiers, sailors, and diplomatists—has passed into the wilderness of official displeasure, and it would be illogical on the part of the two Governments to hold now that their judgment, on which they had perforce to act then, was of necessity infallible.

### *Great Britain and Cyprus.*

The Cyprus Deputation will not have enhanced its reputation by the message that it has sent to the British public as "a parting shot" from Marseilles. The delegates state that they are "exceedingly disappointed at this grossly unjust decision of the British Government" not to contemplate any change in the political status of Cyprus, and announce their intention to continue their struggle for union with Greece. Great Britain has not had much cause in the past to find fault with the methods of the Cypriot "Unionists," and it is to be hoped in the interests of the island that this threat does not presage different measures. Possibly when the delegates reach Cyprus and learn what has happened in Greece, and find time to reflect upon the attitude of the Moslem world towards the concessions already made to Greece at the expense of Turkey, they will decide in their own minds (for they are all highly intelligent men), even if they do not admit it, that the British Government could adopt no other course. It is evident that the surrender of Cyprus at this juncture would gravely prejudice British interests in the Near and Middle East. The Cypriot "Unionists" will be well advised if, instead of an unintelligent reiteration of their request for union, they study the international situation with a view to discovering, or possibly helping to create, a set of circumstances that would justify the gift of the island to Greece without affecting the British position in the Eastern Mediterranean or exciting Moslem misgivings.

### *Fresh Fighting in Armenia.*

The truce between the Armenians and the Turkish Nationalists was of very brief duration. On November 11—according to a message sent off on that date by the Armenian Minister for Foreign Affairs, but only received in London on November 19—the Turks suddenly put forward fresh conditions. In addition to asking that the entire Treaty of Batoum should be put into force, they demanded that quantities of war material and numbers of locomotives and wagons should be handed over to them. This was too much for the Armenian Government, who renewed the struggle, with a determination to continue it to the end. As far as it is possible to make out from the confused and somewhat contradictory reports available at present, they concentrated their forces between Alexandropol and Erivan, and, striking swiftly, reoccupied the former city, compelling the Turkish army to retreat towards Kars. On the other hand, a telegram received in Geneva states that Erivan, the capital, has been lost to the Kemalists. Taking all things into account, the former report is more likely to be correct than the latter; though, of course, both may be true.

### *Armenia in the Commons.*

In the House of Commons last week the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs announced that direct territorial communication appeared to have been established between Bolshevist Azerbaijan and Anatolia, but (he added) the railway passes via Tiflis, and does not in any case extend into Anatolia. Since then we have been informed that the Turkish Nationalists have demanded the free use of the Georgian railways, and that Georgia is prepared to grant it, if the Turks do not insist on the cession of territory for which they had asked at the same time. It is particularly unfortunate that at this critical time the Georgian Cabinet should be in danger of breaking up, as a result of charges of corrupt practice being brought against one of its members. These things minimise any feeling of confidence that may have been inspired by Mr. Cecil Harmsworth's statement quoted above; and though he assured the House at the same

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time that "any ultimate menace to British interests in the East from co-operation between Nationalist Turks and Russian Bolshevists will be met if and when it arrives," we are not put entirely at ease by that confident statement. The co-operation between the Nationalist Turks and the Russian Bolshevists has already brought about results not at all pleasing to the Entente, and we must confess that so far we have seen very little evidence of preparations for meeting the menace, near or distant.

### *Russians at Constantinople.*

The defeat of General Wrangel and the evacuation of the Crimea have resulted in the influx into Constantinople of close upon 100,000 refugees. The plight of these poor people must be pitiable indeed. British, French, and Americans are doing their best, officially and unofficially, to help them; but the problem of providing for them is a huge one; and the crowded state of Constantinople, and the unsettled conditions in that city, will intensify its difficulties. Unpleasant stories are current of earlier refugees from Russia accepting charity which subsequent events showed that they might well have refused; but in this case the chances are that most of the refugees will have had to depart so hurriedly that they will, in fact, need all the help that can be given them. A conference, held in Paris on November 19, decided that it would be advisable to distribute the refugees as far as possible among various centres in Serbia, Bulgaria, and Greece. The measure would probably be a wise one, for many reasons. Meanwhile, it is understood that part of General Wrangel's gallant force will be stationed at Gallipoli and at Lemnos, and that they hope shortly to renew the struggle against the Bolshevists.

### *Lord Curzon on Persia.*

As was expected, the House of Lords, on Wednesday of last week, discussed the situation in Persia—or, rather, a few peers asked for information and expressed opinions on certain points of Persian policy, and Lord Curzon then made a statement of some length. Unfortunately he held out little hope of any withdrawal of the limited kind that we should like to see. According to the view advanced by him in a very able speech, the present situation has been brought about entirely by conditions that arose in the war, and we are retaining our small force in North-Western Persia as a protection against the further spread of Bolshevism. But he also made it clear that the retention of General Ironside's force was rendered necessary very largely by the collapse of the Persian Cossacks and the lack of trustworthiness —to put it mildly—of their Russian officers. Indeed, Lord Curzon said bluntly that the Russian commanding officer had been "engaged in a violently anti-British propaganda in Persia, and was more than suspected of extensive peculations at the cost of the Persian Government." These things will come as no surprise to many people; and they undoubtedly go far to explain the policy hitherto pursued by our own Government in this region; but whether they will satisfy its critics is not so certain.

### *The Agreement and the Megliss.*

In any case it is obvious that such a policy cannot be continued indefinitely; for, friendly though the British people feel towards Persia, they cannot be expected to go on much longer paying the piper unless they may have some voice in calling the tune. In other words, if the Anglo-Persian Agreement is formally approved by the Persian nation and ratified by the Megliss, Persia may reasonably expect help from us; but if the Persians will not have the Agreement—as we are told in many quarters is the case—they cannot expect us to help them further. As Lord Curzon put it, there must be a two-sided and not a one-sided obligation, and if Persia is unwilling or unable to play her part, we cannot out of mere altruism indefinitely continue ourselves, and she must be left to take her own course. Lord Curzon regards the Agreement as the sole possible guarantee for the continued stability of Persia; and upon the whole we are inclined to share his view; but we find it less difficult than he professed to be to "imagine any Persian Government or Parliament or group of men acquiescing in any other solution." The matter is apparently to be put to the test ere long. The British Government has informed the Government of the Shah that it is tired of delays, and that it expects the Megliss to be summoned and the Agreement submitted to it before the commencement of the New Year. It is for Persia, he concluded, to decide on her own destiny. For her own sake, we sincerely hope she will not allow any irritation over details to influence her decision.

### *Indian Politics.*

The past week has yielded fairly definite indications that India as a whole is reacting against the excesses of the Extremist campaign to wreck the new constitution at the outset. From one centre we hear of stalwarts weakening, and proposing that the plan of campaign should be reconsidered. From others come reports that men whose attitude has hitherto been doubtful are coming off the fence on the constitutional side. Large bodies of parents have been forced to think seriously by the aberrations of their undergraduate sons, and have condemned in unmistakable terms the agitators who are responsible; and some of the leading agitators themselves are courting a mild martyrdom at the hands of the administration they have attacked. It is still doubtful whether they will succeed in this latest attempt; for, as we indicated last week, the authorities have good grounds for their policy of restraint, and the most substantial argument we have heard against that policy is that it is unfair to the new popular Ministers to start them on their career under the threat of unconstitutional opposition. There is some force in the contention that the old bureaucracy should take the responsibility of clearing the course, and they would probably be right to do so if they had at their disposal the time-honoured Indian methods, which, barbarous as they were, had at least the merit of putting opponents permanently out of action. Seeing, however, that such methods are barred by English humanitarian sentiment, and that the modern substitutes of internment or imprisonment in comfortable conditions have been shown by experience to be ineffective, it will certainly be better if recourse to them can be avoided, or at the least delayed, until the discredit of the agitators is complete.

### *The Labour Question.*

No signs of improvement are yet visible in the other outstanding Indian problem of the moment, the attainment of a reasonable degree of tranquillity in the industrial world. Strike follows strike almost all over the country, and the very ease with which settlements have been reached in some cases shows that the dislocation of industry was absolutely unjustifiable. Probably there are some grounds for the allegation that the workers are being exploited by political agitators, and we notice that at the meeting of the Indian Railway Conference held last month the chairman declared definitely that the railway strikes were generally the work of outsiders who had something to gain by fomenting strife; but such outside interference will not suffice to account for the whole trouble, the facts being that general dissatisfaction prevails, and that agitators are quick to take advantage of it. For ourselves, we do not think employers are justified in refusing to negotiate with disinterested advocates of the workers' interests; there are a few such men, and their efforts have often made for peace, but in the heat of conflict it is sometimes not easy to distinguish well-meaning but excitable philanthropists from plausible fomenters of discord, and the true solution lies in bringing masters and men so closely together that no room may be left for interference from outside. We are glad to see that this policy has now been adopted formally by the Board of Industries, whose chairman, Sir Thomas Holland, insisted before the Railway Conference on the need for establishing closer personal relations, and urged the institution of committees on the lines of the now familiar Whitley Councils. Public opinion in India appears to be crystallising in favour of such a policy, and in this respect the last year or so has marked a definite advance; what is wanted now is vigorous activity on the part of the railway managers and other large employers.

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# THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday evening.

**Food and Health.**

The House of Commons concerned itself last week with agriculture and health. The Government has laid down the principle that we must grow more food at home—which meets with the approval of everybody except those few fanatics who see in this the preparation for another war—and, consequently, it intends to see that landowners cultivate their land properly. It has always been perfectly obvious that the country could produce a great deal more than it does, and the war woke us up in that respect. Lord Lee, who runs the Board of Agriculture, and is a very forcible person, intends that we shall not go to sleep again, and the farmer and landowner are being prodded into increased industry for their own and the common good. They are both suspicious and obstinate, and the House of Commons is always rather difficult when agriculture is forced on its attention; but the country as a whole approves, and the Bill is having an easier passage than was expected.

The House, however, revenged itself for its complaisance as regards food by mutilating the Health Bill. It is prepared reluctantly to admit that corn may be produced from the soil, but it utterly refuses to believe that the Ministry of Health can produce health, or anything but bureaucrats, whom it regards as parasites. (The growing jealousy between the paid politician and the paid official is an interesting sign of the times.) The House distrusts Dr. Addison, who is Minister for Health, both because he is an expert and because he is apologetic; the doctors distrust him because he wants a State medical service; and the public distrust him because he hints that they are a C3 lot, who can be vastly improved if only they will let him feel their pulse. So the bulk of his omnibus Bill was eviscerated, and we breathe again.

Meanwhile there is a move on foot for increasing the salaries of Cabinet Ministers. A few people have sneered, but at the depreciated value of money a heavily taxed £5,000 a year is not enough for a first-class man in a dangerous trade like politics, when business offers higher salaries and better security. It is rather a delicate matter for the Government to raise its own wages, but it will have to be done sooner or later.

**The Dublin Murders.**

A feeling of horror and detestation has passed over the whole country at the news that a band of armed assassins broke into hotels and private houses in Dublin on Sunday morning, and there murdered fourteen officers and ex-officers in cold blood and wounded many more. Assassination is the weapon not of policy but of revenge, and wholesale assassination can hardly be other than a confession of despair.

The world has so recently seen the doom of a political theory which ignores morality that it will not for one moment be deceived by the plea that the policy of Sinn Fein can be independent of the common ethics of civilisation; nor is it possible to condone an act so planned. A single murder may smirch the best of causes, but it will hardly ruin the worst, for fanatics cling to the skirts of every movement. But wholesale murder such as this gives evidence of settled plan and forethought; and unfortunately it comes at the very moment when there seemed some reason to believe that the Irish situation was improving. It would be difficult even for the optimist to retain that hope after the work of this dreadful Sunday.

But it is the peculiar tragedy of Ireland that it comes at such a moment; for it will tend to complete the alienation of her long-tried friends, and to convert the political isolation which Sinn Fein desires into a moral isolation, like that which surrounds a city of the plague. It seems almost as though there were some perverse and malicious fate brooding over this unhappy country, which mocks every intention of goodwill and turns desire to bitterness.

Not a week ago Nationalists and Ulstermen were both speaking of a truce of God; it may well prove too late for that. Those who appeal to terrorism in the name of freedom may not pay the price of crime themselves; but the people which suffers these things in its name pays a double penalty, for it both loses its hope and forfeits its self-respect.

**Mr. McKenna on Finance.**

Mr. McKenna, who is now chairman of the London Joint City and Midland Bank, in an address before Manchester University, challenged what is known as the quantity of money theory, on the ground that during the year ended last June prices rose about 27 per cent., while purchasing power has not risen in proportion. This unorthodoxy has led to a technical discussion among statisticians, in which the ordinary person soon gets lost; the average man is more interested in Mr. McKenna's point that there is a close connection between prices and taxation, and his dictum that the world is now called to choose between solvency and disarmament. The huge expenditure on armaments, he declared, which is 20 per cent. of the world's total expenditure, is not merely exhausting the world, but actually destroying it. The margin between surplus and deficit is in nearly every case smaller than the defence bill. The speech appears to have made considerable impression.

**The Drapers on Bankers.**

What the bankers think about business is challenged, however, by what business thinks about the bankers, which is quite another story. The noticeable undercurrent of dissatisfaction at the policy of the banks in restricting credit came to the fore a few days ago, when a trade association of drapers put their case before the bankers. The drapers, like a good many other wholesalers and retailers, are loaded up with goods which the public will not buy at present prices, and naturally, as they do not want to sell at a loss, this means holding on to the goods, which means accommodation by the banks to meet overhead expenses. This the banks are altogether disinclined to do, as they are already committed to more loans than they care about, and although they have done their best to reduce existing overdrafts, the amount out at loan has increased rather than diminished in 1920, in spite of the 8 per cent. interest.

But their policy is slowly but surely operating to bring down prices, although the real fall is not likely to occur till next year, when some hopeful souls believe we shall get back to Armistice level. There is, of course, no prospect whatever of a return to pre-war rates; indeed, one writer on economics has recently attempted to show that the depreciation of money is continuous and permanent after every great war. That is not to say, however, that the present inflated levels can last; and a newspaper was arguing two or three days ago that the day of deliverance for the consumer is already at hand, founding its contention on the fact that the price of a steak-and-kidney pie in a London teashop has been reduced from 11d. to 10d. I confess that a penny off a meat pudding strikes me as not very substantial ground for a general conclusion about prices; a point of more importance in reducing the cost of living is the knowledge that the foreign exchanges are gradually moving nearer to parity, while the British debt to the United States is steadily being paid off.

When that transaction is completed the Treasury will be a good deal easier in its mind; and it redounds much to Mr. Chamberlain's honour that, in spite of the natural clamour on the part of those whom the shoe has pinched rather tightly, he has adhered to his determination to pay off this very considerable sum. It has greatly increased British prestige abroad, and in years to come it will entitle Mr. Chamberlain to rank among the really great Chancellors of the Exchequer, among the Peels and the Gladstones. We may be poor, but we are almost offensively honest in these days.

**Dean Inge on Disaster.**

The Dean of St. Paul's has again been making our flesh creep. He declared at a meeting of the Eugenics Education Society that "nineteenth-century England was a going concern—twentieth-century England is a

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gone concern"; he "does not see a crumb of comfort for his own class, and many of our best families will inevitably disappear from the earth; we are breeding from our worst stocks, and our best are being squeezed out of existence." The old definition of a pessimist is that of a man who lives with an optimist, and one remembers that the Bishop of London, who has close official relations with the Dean, is a pronounced optimist.

But worse remains behind. Dr. A. T. Schofield, an authority on mental diseases, has been addressing the Royal United Service Institution, and he declares that as a result of spiritualism he has come across cases of "the most terrible fate that could befall a human being—absolute possession by an unclean spirit"; he instanced "a patient on whom hardened asylum nurses declined to remain in attendance because of utterances which they regarded as coming straight from the pit of hell." Dean Inge, not to be outdone, at once delivered another lecture, in which he characterised the State as "an unintelligent demon" which some stupid people worshipped, but I gather that his demon is not Dr. Schofield's demon.

Almost on the same day that he proclaimed there was not a crumb of comfort for his own class, however, it was announced that Lady Diana Manners, who comes of a ducal house, was to become a cinema star. "The greatest of all film producers" declared that Lady Diana was "the greatest film artist in the world; she is so sensitive in the nostrils—that's where film genius shows." Whether the Dean will consider this a crumb of comfort is not yet known.

**The Jutland Controversy.**

For the past three years there has been a controversy among naval men and others as to the policy of the Battle of Jutland. Mr. Arthur Pollen, who has led the critics of Lord Jellicoe, has practically accused him of pusillanimity, and declared that "a knock-out blow" could have been achieved which would have shortened the war by two years; the best defence that I have seen was contributed lately by Admiral Bacon to *The Times*, where he declares that had it not been for Jellicoe's strategy the result might have been a defeat and not a victory for the British fleet, with disastrous consequences.

There is, of course, no question even among the critics that Jutland was a British victory; their contention is that it might have been decisive, like Trafalgar. The parallel seems unfortunate, since the Napoleonic War continued ten years after Trafalgar, and its darkest moments were precisely during those ten years. However that may be, the Government has now decided to publish papers, but it is suggested that these will not be of much use to the controversialists, since they will not include the secret instructions of the Admiralty. The fact is, that there is a fundamental difference between the two schools of critics, the one holding that everything should have been risked in order to obtain absolute victory, the other that the Grand Fleet, as the basis of the whole Alliance which won the war, should have been used cautiously and not unnecessarily risked for a problematical or even probable gain. It is not, of course, possible to argue the whole subject here—nor am I sufficiently acquainted with naval strategy to do so—but it seems clear that Lord Jellicoe and the Admiralty belonged to the conservative school, while those who criticise him would seem to stake all upon the hazard of the throw. It is a difficult question of politics and war, on which the disputants are capable of writing endless volumes, to the profit of the publishers and, one hopes rather than believes, the edification of the public.

**Current Literature.**

The most important book of the month is clearly General Ludendorff's "The General Staff and Its Problems" (Hutchinson). His account, which is heavily documented, makes it clear that the General Staff anticipated as early as 1910 a war in which Germany would be in conflict with England, France, and Russia; the decision to invade Belgium was already made by December, 1912. Ludendorff did not believe that the submarine war had any effect on American intervention; he seems to have drawn the rather dubious conclusion that America would have come in anyhow, and that it made little difference. The Americans in action, he said, "are certainly smart, but we have beaten them hitherto, even when we were very inferior in numbers. Our men are not anxious about the Americans. They are about the English." A more imaginative race would have realised that the Americans would soon have learnt from experience of European war.

"The Experiences of a Dug-Out" (Constable), by General Sir Charles Callwell, is notable for its frank criticisms, particularly of the "business men" in Government departments. "He makes himself master of some gigantic building or some sets of buildings. He then sets to work to people the premises with creatures of his own. He then, with the assistance of superior grades amongst the creatures, becomes wrapped up in devising employment for the multitudinous personnel. He talks in moments of relaxation of introducing business methods in Whitehall. But that is absurd. You could not introduce business methods into Whitehall, because there is not room enough; you would have to commandeer the whole of the West End, and then you would be cramped."

OCELLUS.

## EX-KING CONSTANTINE'S POLICY.

We have received from M. Streit, formerly Foreign Minister of Greece, and at present one of the most active members of ex-King Constantine's entourage, a cable, copies of which, we understand, have been sent to several papers. It is dated November 12, was despatched from Lucerne, and reads as follows:—

"I contest in every point all the assertions concerning King Constantine's policy contained in M. Venizelos' recent electoral speeches, by which he completely distorted the [facts regarding] Greek neutrality. Specially, having been Minister for Foreign Affairs in Greece till the first months of the War, I am able to deny formally the fact alleged now in these speeches that King Constantine before the War had undertaken any engagement which could prevent the freedom of foreign policy of our country. The Governments concerned know, from an official communication made to them after the Armistice, that at no moment during the War was any obligation assumed by King Constantine to fight by the side of the Central Powers, or imposing upon Greece a neutral attitude. No negotiations at all ever took place on such kind of [? regarding any such] obligation. As to internal policy, it is equally false that King Constantine has ever claimed divine right. The truth is that during the discussion concerning Greek participation in the Dardanelles expedition, when M. Venizelos told the King that he (Venizelos) would bear the juridical responsibility of this act, the King replied that he knew that according to the Constitution he was not responsible. But the King, as every other person, feels himself morally responsible towards God and his conscience. After the large publicity given to M. Venizelos' speeches, I expect that newspapers anxious to keep impartiality imposed upon them towards public opinion will not refuse to publish present declaration. Best thanks.

"STREIT."

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, November 8.

**The Political Situation.**

The news that a hitch had occurred in the negotiations between the Milner Mission and the Delegation came as a very great surprise to everyone in this country, and at the same time it appears to have created great disappointment among all elements, with the exception, of course, of the Opposition, who are by no means as numerous as those in favour of the agreement, and who are beside themselves with joy at the prospect of the Delegation failing. The causes of the hitch particularly have surprised most people, because as far as one can gather, except in certain isolated cases, there had been no intention of making reservations *quâ* reservations to the acceptance of the draft proposals.

At every meeting held by the four delegates who recently visited Egypt certain "desires" were expressed; and in signifying on each occasion their acceptance of the project those present at these meetings intimated that they wished the Delegation to put forward those desires and make every effort to get the British Government to accept them. There was no question of "reservations" at the time, and even if they had intended those desires to become reservations there was certainly no intention that the putting forward of those reservations should bring into question the acceptance of the project as a whole. There is no little indignation out here that Zaghloul Pasha should have made acceptance of the basis of agreement conditional on the British Government's agreeing to those reservations, and that he should have taken such a stand on the matter as to make a rupture imminent.

The question of the abolition of the Protectorate is, of course, a very important one, and the statement in Zaghloul Pasha's cable to the Cairo Committee that Lord Milner had categorically refused to entertain any idea of this has had a somewhat bad effect, for it is not understood how the existence of an alliance between Great Britain and Egypt can be compatible with the existence of a Protectorate over the country. The report of Lord Milner's attitude on the question has simply served to confirm in the minds of the Egyptians the main criticism made by the Opposition, that the proposed agreement is merely a confirmation of the Protectorate. All of us out here, of course, labour under the difficulty of having only telegraphic summaries or reports from interested quarters on which to base our comments; and, in fact, Egyptian opinion, such as it is, is similarly handicapped. We must, therefore, wait until the mail arrives with the full and authentic details, but in the meantime there is no doubt whatever that the prospect of a rupture, with the consequent possibility of a prolongation of negotiations, and the evidence, from the discussions in the House of Lords, that there is a strong opposition in England, have had a depressing effect on the people: for it is generally agreed that the present state of affairs has lasted only too long for the good of the country, and it has been a great relief to all to feel that the time was approaching when a term would be set to the inertia which has come into existence, and when everyone would be able to devote their energies to more remunerative objects than politics.

**Belated Arrivals.**

The long-expected s.s. Caledonia arrived last week at Alexandria with over 400 passengers, among them many Government officials who, owing to the delay in the departure of that steamer from England, had been forced to overstay their leave. Among the arrivals were Major-General Sir Lee and Lady Stack, Sir Paul and Lady Harvey, Sir Gilbert Clayton, and General Blakeney. Sir Paul Harvey, as previously announced, will not resume his duties as Financial Adviser, in which post Mr. Ernest Dowson, Under-Secretary of State for Finance, will continue to act: but he will take over the duties of Vice-Chairman of the Cadre Commission, the Chairman of which, Mohammed Shafik Pasha, has just resigned.

**The Cadre Commission.**

This Commission was appointed over a year ago for the purpose of elaborating a reclassification of the various grades of Government officials, in order to bring these grades and the salaries attaching to them more into line with present-day conditions and afford officials a clearer and more reasonable prospect of promotion. Pressure of work has, however, prevented the members from giving the proper amount of time to this question; and it was clear that if the great task confronting it was to be completed within the near future, the only course would be for at least a certain proportion of its members to devote whole-time to it. It was therefore decided to offer the Vice-Chairmanship to Sir Paul Harvey and to second one or two other officials from the Government service specially for work in connection with the Commission.

During the last month or so various articles have appeared in the local Press giving details of the decisions come to by the Cadre Commission, but these statements are entirely inaccurate. The fact is that various sub-committees have reported on the particular work entrusted to them, and it is these reports that have found their way into the local Press. The Commission has, however, by no means adopted, nor is it bound to adopt, the proposals contained in these reports. Indeed, it is understood that these reports will only now be studied for the first time by Sir Paul Harvey, and it is quite possible that material changes may be made in the recommendations referred to, especially as some of the Departments have not yet submitted their proposals for the reclassification of their own staff.

**Horticultural Show.**

The Horticultural Society of Egypt held its first show of the season in the Ezbekia Gardens on Friday last. On this occasion it was a chrysanthemum show, and considering the unusually high temperature and the fact that so many residents are not yet back, there can be no doubt of its success. Noteworthy among the new varieties was the "Princess of Wales," which was brought this year from England, and promises to do very well in this country. There was also a very satisfactory display of foreign fruits grown in the country by private effort and of fruits and vegetables preserved by a special process of the Horticultural Section of the Ministry of Agriculture. The society appears to be making considerable progress, judging by the increase in the number of subscribers, and the success of last Friday's venture augurs well for the fate awaiting the other shows to be held during the coming winter.

**Races at Ghezireh.**

The first race meeting at Ghezireh on Saturday last was as great a success as the meeting held the previous week at Heliopolis. There is a special fascination about the Island Club, the surroundings of which are reminiscent of English racecourses. Being on grass, it introduces an element of variety which adds to the interest of the racing, and, as was the case on Saturday, the races at Ghezireh are always one of the most popular fashionable fixtures. Considerable improvements have been made since last year: the members' enclosure has been enlarged, the paddock has been made much more comfortable, and in general the facilities are better. The day's racing was excellent, and went a long way to confirm the impression already made that there is an abundant amount of new blood which should henceforward provide excellent sport.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, November 11.

**Winter Hardships.**

After a fortnight of cruel and bitter winds, worse than any in the memory of the oldest inhabitant, we are now having a spell of fine, dry sunny weather, with hard frosts at night. The trees are stripped, and an early and hard winter is anticipated, to make up, doubtless, for the

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exceptional beneficence of last season. Meanwhile, to cheer us all up, prices are climbing, and rapidly, too. All commodities have risen within the past few weeks, owing chiefly to the energies of the Minister of Finance. Wood for fuel, which cost 80 dinars a metre last winter, is already 110, not delivered, so the outlook is not so very cheery in view of the hard winter anticipated.

**The Occupation of Tsaribrod.**

The formal occupation of Tsaribrod is now complete. At dawn on the 6th Serbian troops marched across the old frontier into the town; one contingent marched on to the new frontier, while the other remained in the town. At nine o'clock the first civilians arrived, including the Nachelnik, or Governor of the Province, to whom his Bulgarian colleague handed over the town. According to reports in the Serbian Press, the inhabitants were all out in the streets in their Sunday best, and the Nachelnik received the prominent natives. The whole affair passed off without incident. For some time previously the irreconcilable element had been migrating into Bulgaria. A newspaper states that the Serbian authorities received a telegram from the Acting Prime Minister of Bulgaria, M. Dimitrieff, protesting against the occupation of the territory on the grounds that it will perpetuate bad blood between Bulgaria and Serbia and prevent future friendship, and maintaining that the whole thing is in violation of Clause 29 of the Treaty of Neuilly.

Whatever the future of this district may be, although it has been Bulgarian since the Berlin Treaty, the population is more Bulgar than Serb only in that it has been so politically educated for these forty years. The boundary line between the two peoples is very ill-defined in this region, indeed as far east as Vidin, and very many of the inhabitants, especially the older men, preserve the memory of the *slava*, which is the pride and specific feature of the Serb, but anathema to the Bulgar.

**The Austrian Monitors.**

It is reported that the British, French, and Italian Ministers have presented a joint Note to M. Ninchitch, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, repeating the decision of the Allies to divide the Austrian monitors among the other Danubian States—that is, to cede three to Roumania and two to the International Danube Commission. M. Ninchitch is said to have answered that this Note can only be replied to by the Government when the Prime Minister and Dr. Trumbitch, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, return from Italy. But feeling is strong on the subject. The Serbs maintain that these monitors are war booty, taken by Serbian troops, and that there can be no question about their distribution. It is asserted, too, that they have the support of a binding resolution of General Franchet d'Esperey, who was Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies in the Balkans. Although it is realised that Italy is considered one of the Great Powers, there is a very natural resentment at her participation in such matters in view of her openly hostile attitude towards the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

**The Policy of Dr. Koroshets.**

Dr. Koroshets, leader of the Slovene Clericals, has made a speech in which he has declared his policy. This is for a highly decentralised system, each province to have its own legislature as well as its own executive, with a central Parliament for what we might call Imperial affairs. He concludes that the wide autonomy will best meet the wishes of the people, while a federative system would weaken both the provinces and the entire State itself.

**Personal.**

H.R.H. the Crown Prince Regent has left his villa on the Topchider Hill and returned to Belgrade for the winter. As the new palace is not yet ready for occupation, King Peter is remaining in his villa at Topchider, and Princess Helena, with her children, is returning to Belgrade.

M. Cheradame, the well-known French publicist, has been visiting Belgrade, and has now proceeded to Zagreb.


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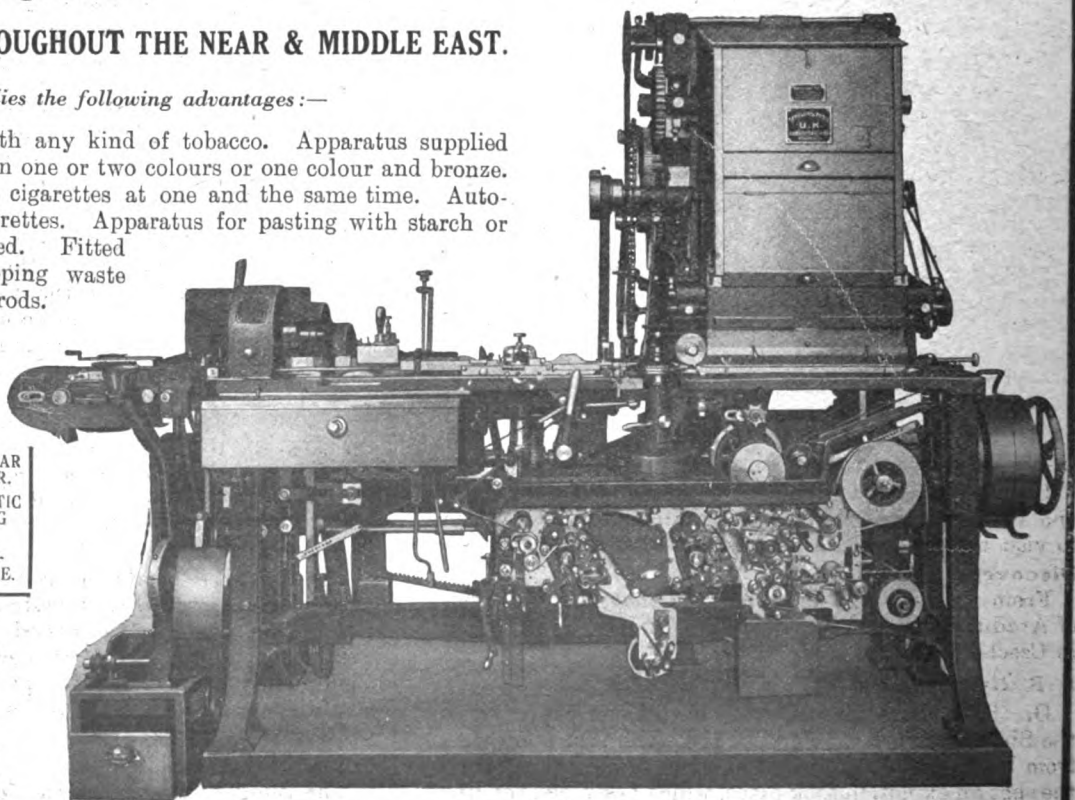

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## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, November 7.

**Franchise Bill.**

The Parliamentary Committee which is studying measures of electoral reform have now finished the preliminary work in connection with the Franchise Bill, which will be brought before Parliament at the next session. One of the chief points of this measure is that voters will be grouped according to special constituencies, which will consist of areas representing 250,000 votes, and will be quite independent of county boundaries. Hitherto members of Parliament have only been elected from whole county areas, which in the case of larger counties has, since the adoption of universal suffrage, resulted in giving the rural population a too great preponderance over the more educated townspeople in returning members. Under this new Bill every constituency will contain an equal number of votes—*i.e.*, 250,000, as above mentioned—who will return five members—that is, one for every 50,000 voters.

There is still a divergence of opinion as to how the franchise is to be exercised; whether the old system of each party having a list of candidates should be adopted, or whether candidates should be chosen individually. It has been left to Parliament to decide. In connection with the Franchise Bill it is further intended to give the Roumanian Senate more scope in governing than it has enjoyed hitherto, and also a more predominant character as compared with the Chamber. Senators will be elected by two categories of voters:—1. The ordinary electorate of the people, based on universal suffrage. 2. A special class, which will embrace the chief institutions of the State. The former class will be able to elect one senator for each constituency, making a total of seventy senators; while the second category will consist of Universities, Churches of all denominations, the High Courts of Justice, chambers of commerce, agricultural syndicates, banks with more than five millions capital, former Ministers and Under-Secretaries of State, etc.

**Bessarabian Treaty.**

When the agreement between the Great Powers definitely assigning Bessarabia to Roumania was signed great rejoicings took place throughout the country, especially in Chisinau, the capital of Bessarabia. The Prime Minister, General Averescu, was present, and the event was celebrated by a service in the cathedral at Chisinau, followed by a banquet. The local Press praised M. Také Jonescu and M. Vaida-Voevod as being the two principal figures in bringing about the Treaty. The part taken by M. Vaida-Voevod was the beginning of negotiations with the Powers, while the work was completed by M. Také Jonescu.

**M. Take Jonescu.**

After an absence of two months, during which time he visited most of the Entente capitals, M Také Jonescu, the Foreign Minister, has returned to Bucharest, accompanied by Mme. Jonescu. He was welcomed and loudly cheered at the station by an enthusiastic crowd. M. C. Argetianu, the Minister of the Interior; M. Gracianu, the Minister of Public Works; the Under-Secretaries for Foreign Affairs and Finance and other State officials, as well as members of the Democratic party, were present at the reception. M. Také Jonescu, after acknowledging his welcome, went to his house in Strada Atenei, which has been completely restored after being destroyed by the Germans during the occupation.

**Queen Marie's Journey.**

Last Sunday the Queen, accompanied by Prince Carol and Princess Marie, left by the Simplon for Switzerland to visit the grave of her mother.

**Discovery of Radium.**

From Transylvania it is reported that in the district of Arad radium has been discovered similar to that found in Czecho-Slovakia.

**A Railway Accident.**

On the night of November 2 an accident happened to the Simplon express. The line some thirteen kilometres from Bucharest was mined, and when the Simplon passed the spot an explosion took place, which destroyed the line for forty metres. Fortunately the train managed to cross in time, and only the last wagon suffered any damage. This was the Ministerial wagon, and was carrying the Minister of the Interior, M. Argetoianu. Nobody was seriously hurt, but one person sustained bruises owing to the sudden stop of the train. The incident is thought to be a deliberate attempt on the life of the Minister of the Interior, who was the chief opponent of the strikers during the recent general strike.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, November 14.

**The Outlook: Official View.**

On November 9 the Minister of Commerce, Dr. Raico Daskaloff, on behalf of the Cabinet, made a statement to the representatives of the Press. It was known, he said, that in accordance with the Treaty of Peace the army and the cadre of officers must be reduced. The Government has given many proofs to the victorious Powers that it is making every effort to fulfil loyally all the engagements of the Treaty; and faithful to this principle, in voting the clauses of the present Budget, it decided to exercise the clauses of the Treaty relating to the military forces. By a vote of the Chamber at the second reading the allotment for the Army was made the minimum prescribed by the Treaty. As a result an appreciable portion of the cadre of officers must be detached from the Army. To give employment to the officers dismissed, the Minister went on to say, the Cabinet had authorised the Ministry of Public Instruction to establish in Sofia a special eight months' course of instruction for teachers. Thus the officers will be equipped as teachers for the elementary (or progymnasial) schools.

The taxation imposed on general revenues is not well understood, but it is most equitable, and will eventually be appreciated. It does not touch the small farmers, but those of the middle class will have to pay from 250 to 300 levas annually. The Government's policy on taxation is the gradual exchange of the unjust indirect taxation with progressive revenue tax (income tax).

The obligatory labour has been applied successfully in mending the roads, the construction of fountains, the building of schools, and so forth. At many places the people have asked for an extension of the compulsory labour service.

For the amelioration of the hard lot of the State official the Government has decided to ask the Chamber to grant a credit of 50,000 levas, which will be utilised for the increase of salaries during the current six months of he financial year.

**The Entente and Tsaribrod.**

On November 9 the diplomatic representatives of Great Britain, France, and Italy called at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and announced, on behalf of their respective Governments, the decisions reached by the Conference of Ambassadors regarding the occupation of territories to be ceded under the Peace Treaty. The Ambassadors have decided that the Delimitation Commission may allow the interested parties to take possession of the territories allotted to them under the Treaty *pari passu* with the demarcation by the Commission; and that without the written authorisation of the Commission no occupation can take place. This decision has been communicated also to the Belgrade Government, which, in spite of the communication of the Delimitation Commission and of the protest of the Bulgarian Government, and without waiting for the decision of the Ambassadors' Conference, wished to create a *fait accompli* by sending troops to occupy territory around Tsaribrod and Basilograd, which though added to Yugoslavia by the Treaty has not yet been demarcated.

The British delegate to the Delimitation Commission, Colonel Gill, arrived here yesterday. The work of the Commission has been suspended owing to the premature occupation of disputed points by the Yugoslavs. The Commission has drafted a report to the Ambassadors' Conference at Paris, and will await their decision before continuing its work.

**Postal Matters.**

The Budget Commission has decided to increase postal and telegraphic charges as follows:— Postcards. 30 stotinki; letters, 50 stotinki; and telegrams with

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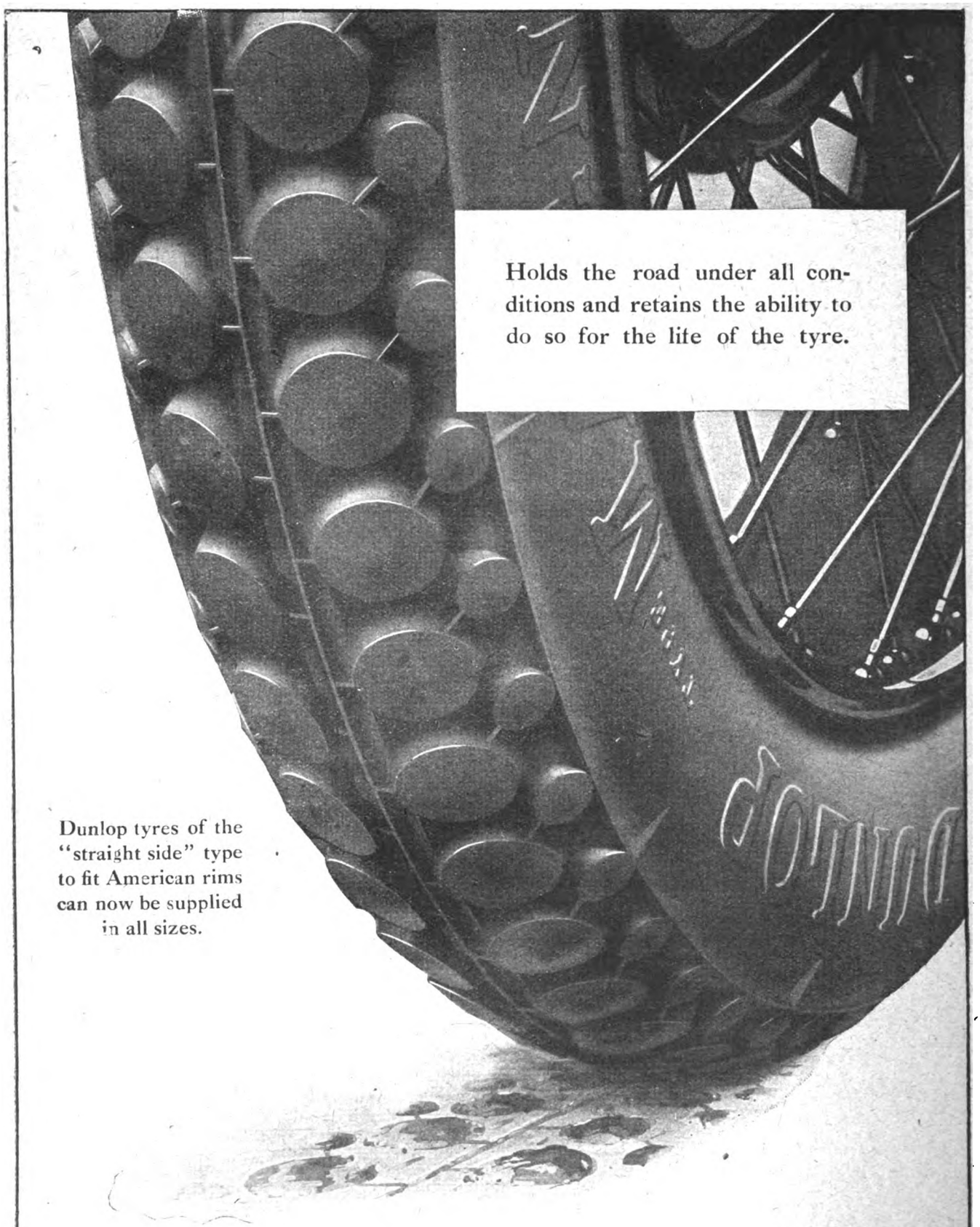

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# DUNLOP

## THE NEW MAGNUM TYPE

TRADE MARK


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the kingdom, 30 stotinki per word. In paying for telegrams abroad the rate is calculated at 1,320 levas, equivalent to 100 frs.

The Direction of Posts and Telegraphs announces that postal parcels and correspondence for Tsaribrod, Basilograd, and other places occupied by Yugoslav troops can no longer be accepted.

**A New Census.**

The Government has decided that a new census of the whole kingdom shall be taken at the end of this year. Officials are to be sent out by the Direction General of Statistics to each prefecture to supervise the work.

**Collision on the Danube.**

In the early morning of November 10 the s.s. Boris, of the Bulgarian Navigation Company of the Danube, while crossing from Vidin to Lom, carrying passengers and goods, came into collision with the Roumanian s.s. Bratiano. The force of the collision was very great, and the Bulgarian boat sank. Fifteen women and children among the passengers were drowned.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, November 6.

**King Alexander's Funeral.**

King Alexander's body was embalmed shortly after his death, and two days later it was brought to Athens and placed in the Cathedral. As the funeral was not taking place until Friday afternoon thousands of people were able to see their young Sovereign for the last time. During Thursday and Friday morning the best florists in Athens were busily engaged in decorating the interior of the Cathedral with the flowers which had been sent in memory of the dead king. It is estimated that over 500 wreaths of roses, chrysanthemums, and violets had been received up to Friday morning. A huge anchor, made of chrysanthemums and other flowers, with a small Union Jack attached to it, was placed near the coffin by Vice-Admiral Sir George Hope on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief, the Admirals, the officers, and the men of the British Navy. Another anchor was placed by Rear-Admiral Chetwode on behalf of the British Naval Mission to Greece.

At 12.30 on Friday the State officials and other important personages commenced arriving at the Cathedral. The Dowager Queen Olga, accompanied by her Chamberlain, arrived shortly before one o'clock, followed almost immediately by the late King's widow, Madame Aspasia Manos, and the burial service then commenced. The Archbishop of Athens officiated, assisted by several Bishops who had journeyed to the capital from various parts of the kingdom in order to attend the ceremony. At the conclusion of the service the coffin was carried by officers and evzones of the Royal Guard to a gun carriage and covered with the Greek colours, on which was placed the Royal Crown. The cortége then started from the Cathedral in the following order. In front were the wreaths of flowers sent by Royalties, by distinguished foreign personages, and by the Greek Government; then followed the Naval Cadets, the military bands, the Holy banners, the Archbishop of Athens with the Bishops, and five officers carrying on cushions the late King's decorations. Then came the King's remains, surrounded by his A.D.C.'s and drawn by fifty bluejackets, and immediately behind his horse: followed the Regent, Admiral Coundouriotis, the Regent Crown Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia, the Crown Prince of Sweden, the latter's uncle, Prince Eugene, and the Diplomatic Corps. Behind came two Royal carriages, with the Dowager Queen Olga in the first and Madame Aspasia Manos in the second. These were followed by the Council of Ministers, the ex-Prime Ministers, the deputies, the superior officers of the Army and Navy, and so forth. The cortége passing through Metropolitan Street, Amelia Boulevard, and University Avenue, turned into Patissia Street. When the Polytechnic College was reached the coffin was placed in a motor-car and conveyed to Tatoi, where King Alexander was buried by the side of his grandfather's grave.

**The Political Situation.**

The gloom cast over the country by the King's illness had almost made one forget that we were on the eve of the General Elections. All demonstrations, speeches, and meetings which are usually so much in evidence during the last two or three weeks preceding the elections had been cancelled. The elections themselves had to be postponed until November 14 owing to the King's death, which necessitated the return to Athens of the majority of the candidates for Parliament, then on tour in their respective constituencies. Now, however, with the great day approaching fast, the electoral campaign is in full swing again. Demonstrations of the Venizelists and Royalists are announced for next week, speeches are delivered and meetings held almost every day. M. Venizelos has already commenced touring the principal towns of Greece in order to explain to the people the importance of the elections. During the week he visited Patras, Syra, and Corinth, in which towns, according to the Venizelist Press, the reception met with exceeded all expectations. The Premier has returned to Athens to-day, and will leave again to-morrow for Volo and Salonika, only to be back on Wednesday in order to attend the big demonstration of the Liberals which will take place on that day.

The reproduction of the ex-King Constantine's photograph in one of the anti-Venizelist papers last Tuesday evening was largely responsible for a "scrap" between followers of the two rival parties outside the Ministry of the Interior. Several revolver shots were fired, causing a momentary panic in Stadium Street, which was at the time crowded with people. On arrival, however, of strong armed forces order was re-established, and the crowds were dispersed by a fire-engine which turned its hose pipe on the demonstrators. It was a bitterly cold night, and this sudden shower bath proved very effective. During the fight an ex-army captain was dangerously wounded by a revolver shot and died in hospital on the following day.

## CYPRUS.

CYPRUS (Undated).

**Advance of Education.**

While so much attention is being bestowed on scholastic matters in the island, the outlook for young men who have been students or taken degrees in law, medicine, etc., abroad, is not very promising. Advocates and medical men are now here in abundance, and there is fairly good practice for most of them; besides which, as already reported, there is now a call from Greece. Also, well-educated Cypriots hold positions in banks and mercantile houses, both in and outside the island. But the supply may become far more than the demand. Egypt is not so accessible as it was to Cypriot emigrants, and America still kindles visions as a happy hunting ground, in spite of all the warnings given. The last *Phone tés Kypron* publishes two typical letters from two well-educated young Cypriots who desire to pursue scientific studies in America. One, from Marseilles, narrates his deplorable delays and difficulties. He was directed that he must proceed to Cairo to have his passport *vise* by the American Consul there, but on arriving at Port Said the Harbour Master informed him that this was not necessary: he could get it done at Marseilles or in Greece. This was confirmed by the U.S. Consul at Port Said. Arriving at Marseilles, he was informed that the passport should have been dealt with in Egypt. In vain he protested and explained. He was told he must either go back to Egypt or telegraph at a cost of 300 francs (for four persons). Ten or twelve days were required for these formalities, and only after twelve days in Egypt and more than twenty in Marseilles could he proceed. About fifty Cypriots were in this plight. He urges his countrymen not to leave the island until they are perfectly sure as to the requirements, and not to trust to any local agents. The other correspondent writes from South Bethlehem, U.S.A. He had endless troubles and hardships before reaching America. Arriving at New York, he admires the towering houses, the rails and trams, directed as if by invisible hands. He leaves after three days for South Bethlehem, a small town about two hours from New York. He admires the beauty of the country, the green and fertile expanses, the woods and streams. The climate reminds him of Cyprus. Living is terribly dear, and one must not be fastidious in taking up work. He has found employment in a steel company, working 10½ hours a day.

The censorship over the Press has been raised, but warnings have been given to the directors of newspapers that they must refrain from publishing news that is likely to create unrest or arouse racial feelings.

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

*The columns of* THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

## BRITISH POLICY IN PERSIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Major Ormesby-Gore writes in your issue of the 18th inst. with considerable force upon the desirability of a Middle Eastern Department. Permit me to remind your readers that, so far as I have information, no responsible person has any objection to the scheme. Indeed, it is not too much to add that in Lord Curzon, Lord Milner, Mr. Montagu, and Mr. Churchill the proposers will find active supporters. Nor is it true that Lord Curzon is running the "Eastern Show," although, of course, his opinion carries weight for the reason that he knows the East. To know the West is one thing, and to fathom the East is quite another.

All these remarks about the British Foreign Minister are in a measure due to his great declaration of policy in the Upper House the other day. Let me at once add that for more than one reason it was a memorable speech. It has explained many obscurities. But one notices that to some it still remains a mystery why British forces are kept in Persia "*at the expense of the British taxpayer.*" Your correspondent is correct when he says that they are kept there as outposts to check Bolshevist aggression. Have the repeated landings at Enzeli and Astara been already forgotten?

Not only are the British forces there to act on behalf of the British, but also to protect Persia against Bolshevists. These forces, as Col. C. E. Yate, M.P., pointed out at the Central Asian Society, have performed great deeds. The Russian menace is no bogey or journalistic figment, and I dread the day when Wrangel's troops are no more and the Red wave sweeps eastwards. I cannot agree with your correspondent when he asserts that Mr. Wells tells us that no harm may be expected from the demoralised Bolshevists. The great writer would have had to tell a different tale if he had journeyed down to Tashkend. The Red menace is very real.

The whole question of Middle Eastern policy rests not upon what one has read, but entirely upon what one has seen and gone through. Colonel A. C. Yate, Sir Mortimer Durand, and others would tell you something which can assist morally and materially in arriving at a sound judgment. And in this connection I might add that for Britain it is the Empire or nothing; hence you have to consider chiefly how a certain line of policy will suit Imperially. It is, therefore, very important that we should safeguard ourselves against dangers likely to destroy the Empire. Some may ask whether the independent existence of smaller nations should be sacrificed at the altar of British Imperial interests. But let us remember always that no Empire was built—and certainly no Empire was retained—through megalomania. The Russian Empire is a case in point. Before the Revolution of 1917 the Russian Empire was even greater in extent and strength than the British Empire, and where is that Holy Empire to-day?

We should, therefore, do well to act in the interests of Persia, assist that country, protect it, and educate the subjects of the Shah to stand on their feet. The Persians are people of considerable natural talents, and would one day, very soon, be a great people. But that day will only come when Persia has a disinterested helper; and that friend they will doubtless find in the British.—I am, etc.,

SIRDAR IKBAL ALI SHAH.

University Union, Edinburgh, November 19.

## THE JOURNEY TO MARSEILLES.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Some friends of mine booked passages to Bombay three months ago by the P. and O. mail steamer Narkunda, timed to leave Marseilles on November 6. They were then told that every seat in the special train was engaged, and had to make their own arrangements for the transit through France. So they left London by the Paris express at 7.30 a.m. on November 4, allowing 48 hours for the land journey. Subsequent happenings are told in the following extracts from a letter posted at Port Said:—

Our train was packed with passengers bound for the Narkunda; and on its arrival at Paris not a single porter, hand-cart, or taxi was visible! We were most fortunate in being met by two French friends, who extricated us from the bewildered mob, raised a hand-cart—Heaven knows whence—piled our luggage thereon, enlisted the service of a smart *douanier* to clear it, and intercepted a taxi which had deposited passengers at the station. In ten minutes or so we were speeding towards the P.L.M. station, while our fellow-passengers were still struggling unaided with mountains of luggage. Many of these unfortunates must have missed the steamer. On reaching Marseilles we spent hours in searching for quarters, but found every hotel full. At last we secured a small bedroom, in which we played "Box and Cox" till nightfall, when we were able to board the Narkunda.

It is high time that suitable arrangements were made to provide a reasonable degree of comfort for passengers who join their steamers at Marseilles.—I am, etc., yours obediently,

November 16. F. H. S.

## RUSSIAN TURKESTAN UNDER THE BOLSHEVISTS.

On November 18, before the Central Asian Society, at 74, Grosvenor Street, Major F. M. Bailey told the story of his experiences in Russian Turkestan in connection with a mission sent there by the British Government in 1918. He said that at the outbreak of the revolution the Austrian prisoners of war there had been reduced by typhus, starvation, or other causes from 110,000 to about 30,000. These were set free and invited to join the Red Army. The Magyars joined in great numbers, but other nationalities, notably the Germans, generally refused. He himself pretended to be an Austrian prisoner. These were of so many nationalities—Roumanians, Czechs, Poles, etc.—that if he met an Austrian prisoner of any one nationality, he could always pretend to belong to one of the others. At first the position of the Bolshevist Government in Turkestan was extremely serious, and, had its enemies acted in concert, it could have been brought to an end. In the January following the Armistice, an attempt was made at an anti-Bolshevist revolution. The leader, a man named Ossipoff, had been a Bolshevist Commisar. He was an adventurer and opportunist. He telephoned to the Government headquarters that trouble had broken out, and asking the Commisars to come immediately and confer. Eight came, and he shot them at once. The rebellion was suppressed, and the Bolshevists exacted a fearful revenge. Whole streets of the better class inhabitants had every man executed. Major Bailey said he was not in Tashkent when the affair broke out; he was driving into the town, but was turned back by the news, and hid in a village for a time.

The economic situation of the country he described as desperate. There was no machinery for collecting taxes, and the Government financed itself by printing paper money and levying contributions on people known to be wealthy. All houses were nationalised. A member of the Quartering Commission would appear and inform a resident that his house was required. The resident had to leave next morning, or at best within a few days, and had to find new quarters, perhaps with very unpleasant associates. To obviate this, several upper-class families would sometimes vacate their houses and live together, when if there were so many people packed into the house that it could hold no more, they were not likely to be disturbed. The Government did its best to force everyone to work. One night by raiding the square in the centre of the town, and all places of amusement, several hundred people were caught who could not prove that they were working. These were all sent some hundreds of miles up the railway line to cut fuel.

Of the attempt to force Bolshevist institutions on the Moslem population, the lecturer said that these desired none of it. Each village had nominally an executive committee, and in the Russian villages such a committee was actually elected, but among the natives this election was fictional. The *aksakal*, or village headman, was called "Comrade the President of the Executive Committee," and a house in the village bore a notice "Headquarters of the Executive Committee"; but there was really no such committee, and life was carried on much as previously. The chief effect of Bolshevist rule on the natives was that they were liable to be robbed by the Red Guards, or to have their property confiscated; they paid no taxes, as the Government had no means of collecting any.

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# MUSICAL NOTES.

### Two Women Pianists.

During the past week two pianists, Miss Myra Hess and Mme. Kanevskaya, both of whom are well known to the British public, have given recitals at the Wigmore Hall—on November 18 and November 20 respectively. Miss Hess has a mind and temperament for big things, and her programme consisted of three of Bach's Choral Preludes, arranged for the pianoforte by Busoni; a Beethoven Sonata (Op. 110), Brahms' Waltzes (Op. 39), and Franck's Prelude, Aria and Finale. No concession to popular taste here; nothing but exacting work both for pianist and audience! On the whole, Miss Hess carried through her scheme well; she began splendidly with the very beautiful "Wachet Auf" prelude—in which Busoni has for once written what others than himself can play—and she ended magnificently with the Franck. These, the first and last things, were surely her best: the dignity and sincerity of her interpretations of them were quite satisfying. Her reading of Beethoven was consistent, but it was too "nice," too superficially clear. Perhaps it is that the last sonatas of Beethoven are beyond a woman's complete comprehension. (I know of no explanation to these things, but there is little doubt that men, like Busoni, or Lamond, or even Hofmann, reach depths that women can never plumb.) The Brahms Waltzes were played very correctly, but missed that breathless charm which is their property and distinction. Miss Hess is what one calls a thoroughly well-equipped player; so thorough is she, indeed, that her readings do sometimes move.

Mme. Kanevskaya is a different type of player. She has not the correctitude, the endurance, or quite the dignity of Miss Hess; but she has, on the other hand, a warmth, a grace, and an exhilaration that are her own. From her Bach one expected much; for, apart from the absence of good, hard tone, her "Chromatic Fantasia" was excellent: in the Fugue she secured the grand climax, but a little muddledly. Again, in Schumann's Sonata in F sharp minor, Op. 11, she played very beautifully; her reading of the second and third movements was unusually lovely. There is surely something in her temperament which finds itself akin to Schumann, for her playing of him had sincerity, intimacy, and consequently conviction. It was through a perfect torrent of wrong notes, however, that she reached the end of Rachmaninoff's Prelude in G minor; yet it was undeterred that she proceeded to play two rather jejune pieces of Boris Levenson. I think she was tired when the time came (inevitably) to play Chopin, though her display in the Scherzo in B minor was very gallant. However, Mme. Kanevskaya is a true artist, and on anyone present at the first half of any recital she may care to give this fact will certainly impress itself.

### Elgar's Second Symphony.

The Quinlan concert at the Kingsway Hall on November 20 was noteworthy for the playing of Elgar's Symphony in E flat. It was with this symphony, without any question at all one of the greatest works of modern times, that Mr. Adrian Boult, the conductor of the British Symphony Orchestra, made good his name, and his performance of it on Saturday was remarkably fine. That it did not make quite so deep an impression as when given last year at the Queen's Hall was probably due to the fact that the British Symphony Orchestra are not yet so good as the London Symphony Orchestra, but of Mr. Boult's ability and unique understanding of it there was never at any time any doubt. The quite extraordinary beauty and strength of the first two movements were most vividly realised, and the colours obtained from the string and reed instruments were utterly gorgeous. There is, I think, a falling off in the third and fourth movements, particularly in the "Rondo," though in the last movement there are the great sonority which is one of Elgar's dominant properties and the unforgettable ending.

It was very pleasing to note that the brass of Mr. Boult's band is improving, for in the Prelude to Act III. of "The Mastersingers" the prominence which is allotted to it was a matter for joy, and not anxiety. The horn playing in this was really good, and justifies the hope that this orchestra may one day equal the best. Of the solo artists who took part in this concert, Miss Rosina Buckman and Mr. Peter Dawson, it is not necessary to say much. Miss Buckman is always reliable; but, owing to some misadventure, Mr. Dawson was compelled to sing as encores "Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes" and "When the Swallows Homeward Fly." At orchestral concerts we can do without these things, and if there is one thing in England that should be prevented it is that the British Symphony Orchestra should collect at its concerts the ordinary ballad-loving audience. One knows that if Mr. Boult has his own way the thing is safe enough; but it is obvious that the practice of engaging "star" artists has its dangers as well as its virtues.

### One Singer and Two Vocalists.

Three song recitals I have attended this week—Mr. Gervase Elwes at the Æolian Hall on November 15, Mme. Luia Juta at the Wigmore Hall on the 18th, and Mr. Gale Gardner at the Æolian Hall on the 19th—but only one, the first, with much pleasure. Mr. Elwes, whose recital consisted wholly of English songs, is a very beautiful singer, but the silvern tone of his voice can in an evening become monotonous. In certain types of song—in those, for instance, laden with sorrow or steeped in religious joy—he is glorious; the rich mellowness of his voice is exactly apt to the considered wisdom of the philosophy in such songs. It is in the passions between these extremes, in the lighter emotions, that shortcomings are noticeable; for there is a sameness in his interpretations which palls, a uniformity of method which inhibits the complete seizing of the peculiar spirit of each song. He did not make enough of P. Whitlock's "In the Forest," of Ivor Gurney's "All Night Under the Moon," of St. John Brougham's "What are Lips but to be Kissed?" and there was something missing in Rebecca Clarke's "Infant Joy" and in Felix White's "Sing Care Away"; but, on the other hand, he succeeded magnificently in such fine songs as Ireland's "The Three Ravens," M. Davidson's "Christmas Carol," Walford Davies' "Four Songs of London," and Peter Warlock's "As ever I saw." The Walford Davies songs did not impress one as much as they had done a few weeks before at their first performance; there is some exquisite writing in them, but they are fuller of intricate inconsistencies than the words of the poems either demand or allow. However, a recital by Mr. Elwes is a joy not readily forgotten; during his coming absence in America we shall probably remember him only too well, for we have no one who can quite fill his place.

There is not much to say of Mme. Juta. She has much volume, of the rather hollow kind, and less voice. Her word-painting is a fearsome affair, her choice of English songs most weird, and her justification of including Wagner and Brahms non-existent. But it must be said that her accompanist, Miss Daisy Bucktrout, did not help her overmuch; her playing of "Der Schmied," for example, was execrable. Very strange, because Miss Bucktrout generally plays very well.

Mr. Gale Gardner's programme was conceived on popular lines, and was sung as worthily. His enunciation is excellent, but his other possessions are not of the right kind. He has travelled down the wrong road, and, though he is certain of the non-musical public, cannot be seriously considered as an artist.

### A Publishers' Concert.

There is at the present time a very perceptible movement in favour of the publication and of the performance of modern British music, and it was very satisfying evidence of this that Messrs. Elkin and Curwen gave in the concert which they organised at the Æolian Hall on November 19. Much, no doubt, was due to the excellence of the two artists at the concert—Miss Ursula Greville and Mr. Percival Garratt—but in both the songs and the pianoforte music there was, apart from the interpretation given them, an obvious quality of fresh, sincere, and worthy thought. Of the two there seemed to be less essence in the pianoforte music: not even the reticent beauty of Mr. Garratt's playing could make a Prelude of Ethel Barnes and an Idyll of Albert Coates, for instance, sound important. But there was, on the other hand, very much that mattered in a tiny Prelude of William Barnes and in the vagrant loveliness of some Cyril Scott. However, it is the songs, where our young composers have had poetry to work on—and this is their distinction, that it is real poetry, and not the cheap verse that inspired their forbears, that has prompted their writing (in this programme there were but two songs out of about twenty which were not poems)—that most success has been achieved. There are inevitability and aptness in Martin Shaw's "Song of the Palanquin Bearers," in Christabel Marillier's "A Farewell," and (particularly) in Gerrard Williams's "The Dilemma"; there is the very breath of the poem in Francis Toye's "In Dorset," in Shaw's "Summer," and in Bantock's "A Feast of Lanterns"; and in Bainton's "Nightingale Near Wood," and in Percival Garratt's "A Last Invocation" there is, very definitely, genius. All the songs were sung by Miss Greville with that very rare intelligence which demarks her from her contemporaries; in some of her interpretations, indeed, and notably in Shaw's "Palanquin Bearers," in Gerrard Williams's "The Dilemma," and in Stanford's "Windy Nights," she reached a perfection that I know no other young artist capable of approaching. At the end of this concert the stars which shall direct the fortunes of British modern music appeared to be shining very brightly.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"A CONSULTING SURGEON IN THE NEAR EAST." By A. H. Tubby, C.B., C.M.G., F.R.C.S. (London: Christophers. 1920).
II.—"TALES OF ÆGEAN INTRIGUE." By J. C. Lawson, M.A., Fellow and Tutor of Pembroke College, Cambridge. (London: Chatto and Windus. 12s. 6d. net.)
III.—"BENGAL FAIRY TALES." By F. B. Bradley-Birt. With illustrations by Abanindranath Tagore. (London: John Lane, The Bodley Head. 15s. net.)
IV.—"THE WAR AND ITS LESSONS." By Annie Besant. (London: The Theosophical Publishing House. Cloth 4s. Wrappers 2s. 6d.)
V.—"THE RITCHIES IN INDIA." Compiled and Edited by Gerald Ritchie. (London: John Murray. 21s. net.)

## I.—A CONSULTING SURGEON IN THE NEAR EAST.

In the Army medical administration during the last war no more important step was taken than the appointment of distinguished hospital physicians and surgeons to the various armies as consultants, with the honorary rank of colonel. Free from the administrative duties which absorbed so much of the time and energy of the senior officers in the R.A.M.C., and with a wide experience as consultants and teachers in their special subjects, these officials filled a most important rôle and undoubtedly made for greater efficiency all round. Mr. Tubby very fully describes here the gradual evolution of the previously undefined duties which fell to their lot. Everything depended upon the personality of the consultant selected, and it is evident that the author of this book gradually created for himself and his office a most important position. It was not his duty to replace the medical staff on the spot, but to advise, select, inspect, and—in some cases, by means of conferences and lectures—to instruct. It was his duty to keep in touch with the very rapid progress which was taking place during the war in our ideas of military medical and surgical science, and to see that the newest teaching was available for even the busiest of army medical officers. With the assistance of his consultant colleague on the medical side, the late Colonel Sandwith, an up-to-date medical library was provided in Alexandria for the medical staff. To the consultant it fell to suggest and plan out lines of research. Mr. Tubby considers that in his sphere of work more use might have been made of his experience and advice in the selection of suitable men for special posts, as he states was done at home and in France That the consultant is an official in relation to war who has come to stay, anyone reading these most interesting pages will surely feel. Although a description of the duties of the consultant and the organisation of the special departments which arose in Egypt during the war forms the most important part of this book, there are many incidents of enthralling interest. Soon after his arrival in Egypt Mr. Tubby was ordered to Gallipoli, where he witnessed some of the severest fighting both at the "Beaches" and at Suvla Bay. Side-lights on the horrors of war are frequent. After speaking of the north-west wind, which blew from 9 a.m. to sundown, the author writes: "In these heavy dust-storms our men lived, worked, and fought day by day; scorched by the burning sun; parched by incessant thirst; tormented by swarms of filthy and disease-carrying flies; stricken with diarrhœa, dysentery, and typhoid fever, and nearly deprived of sleep. Nevertheless they carried on cheerily." Many explanations have been offered of our failure to break through at Gallipoli; this is what this surgeon says:—

"If I may venture on opinions as to the cause of our failure at Gallipoli, I should place, primarily, the prevalence of diarrhœa and dysentery; secondarily, the enervating effects of the climate on men fresh from home. Nothing else would have held in check the determination of our troops to break through the Turkish defences."

After the author's return to Egypt his regular, organised work began, and this he describes with a wealth of detail that will appeal to the members of his profession, both in and out of the Army, and perhaps especially to British residents in Egypt, many of whom are mentioned by name. He pays a warm tribute of admiration and respect to the late Colonel Sandwith, whose untiring zeal and sense of duty cost him his life. He is anxious that his readers should realise the great variety of enterprises—dental, orthopædic, pathological, splint-making, etc., which went on in Egypt—some scarcely recognised—under the Army Medical Department. A hurried visit to Khartoum and a short, but very privileged, visit to Palestine furnish material for a couple of interesting chapters.

To a friend who asked the author whether, if he had a similar offer of foreign service, would he do the same again, he replied "Many times." "To have been selected for so honourable a position; to have had such high ideals placed before one; to have striven to fulfil them; to have been given such great and extended opportunities of service, are prizes which fall to the lot of few professional men; for all of them my gratitude is profound. The fevered Dardanelles campaign, with its heroism in spite of all reverses; the long months of preparation in Egypt for the Palestine campaign, the successive triumphs, are and will be vivid memories. The glamour of the East, the contact with strange races and peoples, the making of new friends and the pleasure of working with younger men, have given a fresh zest to life."

E. W. G. M.

## II.—"I SPY," AS PLAYED BY A STRATAEGEAN.

"Thus it fell to my lot, too, to play a conscious part in the fashioning of Greek history, and to instigate and control in some measure the first march of events which had as their logical sequel the evacuation of a throne, the victory of Doiran, and the deliverance of Asiatic Greece from the dominion of the Turk."

Under the title "Commercial Candour," *Punch* from time to time pillories trade notices which convey a meaning altogether different from what the innocent writer intended. Many readers of this book will be reminded of *Punch's* heading when they follow our author, a distinguished classical scholar turned Naval Intelligence Officer, in his narrative of the way in which, for three or four years, he was continually hoodwinked, overdid his part, and it is to be feared, helped in the prodigious waste of the British taxpayers' money. Like the good man who wrote to the local paper to point out that his name was not Chammidge but Shammalovidoritch, he has only himself to blame for the fact being known. As the "Tales," however, covered a comparatively brief portion of Commander Lawson's war service, we are confident that his profound knowledge of modern Greek, his energy, and his resourcefulness achieved many more useful things for his country than some of the wild-goose chases that he describes or the altogether unpardonable arrest of two worthy men, on unsubstantiated and the flimsiest evidence, subsequently proved to be forged. Let us hope that he did help M. Venizelos to establish his authority in Crete, and that he was instrumental in saving Canea from the bloodshed for which the premature fostering of a "revolution" might have been responsible; but the reader is apt to be left with the impression that others than the Russian Consul had a taste, differently manifested, for red herrings. The Government Departments which Mr. Lawson trounces so unmercifully are certainly to be blamed for leaving Intelligence Officers without more definite instructions, the first of which should have been, check your information and do not believe everything that is told you. It is not difficult to reconstruct the position in Greece when a number of confiding Allied officers, tyros at the Intelligence game, were being "run" by a syndicate of their own secret service agents, who were for the most part in the pay of the Greek (Constantinist) Government. Things, however, have a happy knack of happening for the best. If the Greek Government had not known all about our Intelligence Officers' activities and if the Allied authorities had not known at the time that the Government did know, the publication of Mr. Lawson's book might have favoured the cause of ex-King Constantine, have prejudiced that of M. Venizelos, and been embarrassing for Great Britain. As things are, it is just a brightly written account of "What Daddy did in the Great War," and if those to whom the stories are addressed are not interested in and proud of what he did, and the games he played, they have either been badly brought up or are hopelessly precocious.

## III.—AN EASTERN GATE TO FAIRYLAND.

Fairy Tales all the world over have a foundation of similarity—a lover of fairy tales will feel at home in the reading of them from whatever distant land they have been

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gathered. The reason doubtless—apart from the fact that certain stock legends seem to have found a version in all parts of the world—being that there is after all only one Fairyland, wherever the gate that is unlocked for our entrance may be situated. It is always delightful to find a new gate and to be shown the particular beauties and curiosities on to which it directly opens, and we all know that some of the most wonderful sights and sounds of Fairyland are to be found on its Eastern borders.

This charming collection of fairy tales from Bengal is divided into three parts. The tales of Part I., "told by Babaghuray, the Traveller," are not concerned with fantasy and magic, but belong to that type of fairy story which deals with ingenious riddles, even more ingeniously solved, with the absurd doings of a simpleton, in this case generally a weaver, with unexpected pieces of good luck and with practical jokes. A very satisfactory example is the story of "The Four Swindlers," and the various daring robberies which they carried out in a neighbouring country, that they might judge whether its king was as clever as he was reported to be. They confessed their motive and returned the goods in the end, so very little harm was done. We were also pleased with the idea of the Brahmin's foolish son, who, having bought some live fish in the market and not wishing to carry them home himself nor to incur the expense of hiring a coolie, threw them into the canal with whispered injunctions to stop at the Ghat close to his father's house.

Part II. contains five stories concerned with the magical adventures of lovers seeking each other across the world, or overcoming other terrible difficulties. Twice they meet first in dreams.

In Part III. there are fairy tales of all kinds. We recognise "The Sleeping Beauty" in "The Petrified Mansion," and "Tom Thumb" in "The Man who was only a Finger and a-half in Stature," and find several familiar devices and adventures. The longer stories show an extravagance of imagination, and the fearsome adventures, through which the characters have to pass before the happy ending, are most bewildering to follow. Animals—tigers, monkeys, and so on—play an important and usually very benevolent part. The straightforward telling of the tales, without comment, is just as it should be.

Coloured pictures by a great Indian painter—most beautifully reproduced—are, of course, perfect illustrations for such a collection as this, and very wonderfully do they express the spirit of fairy romance from the point of view of the East. The frontispiece, showing the old Brahmin writing his couplet, as he walks along the road, and is seized by sudden inspiration, and the picture of Kala Paree and Nidra Paree, floating between heaven and earth, are exquisite. All this from a grown-up reader's point of view is, as we said, perfect, but we doubt whether the Western child who is given the volume will appreciate these illustrations. A child likes his fairy tale pictures to be quite definite, like those wonderful drawings by Henry Ford in Andrew Lang's Coloured Fairy Books, or if they are fanciful, to show the humorous fancy of Arthur Rackham. We feel that many children will condemn these illustrations, as we know that one little boy has done, as being "too misty."

## IV.—MRS. BESANT ON WAR AND PEACE.

In the four lectures printed in this booklet Mrs. Besant expounds her philosophy of the War, which is over, and of the Peace, which still lies so far ahead. It is needless to say that the lectures are marked by sincerity and by eloquence. They have weaknesses, too, especially in the regions of history and economics, which we fancy the writer has never had time to explore thoroughly, while the basis of theosophic doctrine may puzzle readers to whom it is unfamiliar; but, after all deductions have been made, there remains a powerful plea for the kind of reconstruction which the world most needs, not for startling changes in human institutions, but for a gradual uplifting of human nature itself. On this platform the creeds can meet, and none of them need be ashamed of this particular utterance.

## V.—THE GREAT THACKERAY CLAN.

This book carries on the tradition enshrined by Sir William Hunter in "The Thackerays in India," for it consists of the letters of William Ritchie, whose mother was a Thackeray, and the reminiscences of his son. Ritchies and Thackerays and Shakespeares jostle one another through the pages; the index shows twenty-four of the first, twenty-seven of the second, and twelve of the third; so that a reader who does not belong to the clan is tempted to wish for a chart of the pedigree, but recants when he realises that such a chart would be unmanageable, and is content to welcome the actors as they come before him. The first part of the book is perhaps the better, for William Ritchie—a Calcutta barrister from 1843 to 1862, and Legal Member of Council at the time of his death—was not only an able and attractive man but a good letter-writer, and he gives a definite picture of the social life of Calcutta before the Mutiny, with all its half-forgotten drawbacks and advantages. The earliest letters make the best reading. Then we have the brilliant young man, not yet overwhelmed with work, grasping the new life with both hands and eager to make his relatives at home understand it and enjoy it. Later on, the busy and successful barrister, with wife and children at his side, has less incentive to similar exertions, and it is the picture of Calcutta in the 'forties which gives the book its chief historical value.

Criticism of the son's reminiscences is almost disarmed by the writer's plea that they were intended primarily for domestic consumption. They sketch the life of a civilian in Bengal from 1875 to 1896, and have a definite interest of their own; but readers not belonging to the clan will feel that they are expected to know rather too much. They will meet hosts of attractive people, but they are in many cases told too little to enable them to enjoy the pleasures of the society, and they must be content to know that it was enjoyable. But the reminiscences are much more than a catalogue of names and dates, and every now and then we get a few details which will stay in the memory. There is, for instance, the present Lord MacDonnell, as a collector in Bihar in the early 'eighties, taking no exercise, "perpetually working at writing masterly reports," but always intelligent and sympathetic in discussing subjects which interested him, with "a fire in the sharp little eyes." Or there is Charles Davies, the recluse of Rhotas, "the end and aim of whose being was books and self-culture," courteous and distinguished in his nankin frock-coat, and pouring forth "a never-failing stream of beautifully turned sentences in modulated accents, accompanied by speaking gestures." Or—a very different figure—there is Sir John Hewett on the Simla cricket ground, with the pavilion half-full of his office "files," to which he would return after a good innings like a giant refreshed. Mr. Ritchie says he was excused fielding in those days; but, lest anyone should read a slur on his sportsmanship into this phrase, let it be added that in the present century Sir John was still holding catches on the "Flats" at Naini Tal, a place where other Lieutenant-Governors have been known to miss their chances. Such glimpses—and there are more of them—make the reminiscences interesting to readers outside the charmed circle, and, taken as a whole, the book is well worth reading.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Smith and the Pharaohs" and Other Tales. By H. Rider Haggard. (Bristol: J. W. Arrowsmith, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Arachne: A Play." By Adelaide Eden Phillpotts. (London: Cecil Palmer. 3s. net.)

"The New Jerusalem." By G. K. Chesterton. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Local Government in Ancient India." By Radhakumund Mookerji, M.A., Ph.D. Second edition. Revised and enlarged. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 12s. 6d. net.)

Mr. H. C. Luke, the author of some papers on "Cypriote Shrines," which were originally published in this journal, has now brought out these articles, with photographs, in book form. The Faith Press are the publishers, and the price of the work is 2s. 6d.

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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**TO-DAY.**

November 25 (New Style).
November 12 (Old Style).
Rabia I., 14, 1339, A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Kislev 14, 5681, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lady Edward Hay has left London for Government House, Jerusalem.

Sir Lee Stack, Governor-General and Sirdar, arrived at Khartoum on November 21.

Signor Garroni, the Italian Ambassador to Turkey, has left Rome for Constantinople.

Lady (Ratan) Tata has left York House for India, and will be absent for some months.

M. Beza, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London last week for Paris, on leave.

The Prince Regent of Serbia is stated to have expressed a desire to visit the King of Italy in Rome.

Dr. Mastny, the Czecho-Slovak Minister, is leaving London to-day for Prague on a special mission.

General Sir Charles Monro, the retiring Commander-in-Chief in India, and Lady Monro left Bombay last week.

The engagement is announced of Princess Helen, daughter of ex-King Constantine, to the Crown Prince Charles of Roumania.

Major-General and Mrs. Louis Vaughan have arrived from India on short leave, and are staying at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.

M. Mirza Agha Hariri, accompanied by his secretary, Mr. Harold Schofield, sailed on the 19th inst. by the s.s. Manora to India, on his way to Persia.

The Emir Zeid, youngest son of the King of the Hejaz, who is on his way back to Mecca, was entertained at luncheon by Lord Allenby in Cairo on November 21.

M. Frederic B. Vrany, who has been appointed Czecho-Slovak Consul in London, accompanied by Mme. Vrany, arrived last week from Prague to take up his duties.

Prince Mirza Mehdi Khan Ala-es-Saltaneh, G.C.V.O., has resigned his post as Persian Minister in London in order to be able to take the complete rest which he has been ordered after his recent illness.

Sir Horace Rumbold, until recently British Minister in Warsaw, has arrived at Constantinople, where he is to assume the duties of British High Commissioner in succession to Admiral de Robeck.

In view of the political situation in Greece, the Executive Committee of the Anglo-Hellenic League has decided to postpone to a later date the annual general meeting which had been arranged for the 26th inst.

Dr. M. Gaster will deliver a public lecture on "Greek Influence on Roumanian Literature" to-day at King's College, Strand, W.C.2, at 5.30 p.m. M. Boerescu, Minister Plenipotentiary of Roumania, will preside.

Colonel Sir J. Roper Parkington has purchased Broadwater Lodge, Wimbledon, which is now his permanent address, and that of Lady Roper Parkington, the Hon. Treasurer of the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund.

An engagement is announced between Bertram Elliott, Egyptian Civil Service, eldest son of the late H. W. Elliott and of Mrs. Elliott, of Great Abington, Cambridgeshire, and Edith Philippa, youngest daughter of the late Thomas Charlton, Clapham Park, S.W.

His Highness Vossough-ed-Dowleh, formerly Prime Minister of Persia, and Mirza Abdol Ghaffar Khan Emad-ol-Molk, Persian Minister Resident, and Madame Ghaffar Khan were entertained at luncheon last week by Sir John Bland-Sutton at his house in Brook Street.

Mr. S. de Bilinski, chairman of the Constantinople Board of the National Bank of Turkey, who recently came to London to undergo an operation for appendicitis, is making satisfactory progress. It is hoped that he will be well enough to leave the nursing home where he now is towards the end of the month.

The British Red Crescent Society acknowledges with thanks the following contributions in response to their appeal published in our issue of October 30:—Messrs. Zossenheim and Co., £10 10s.; Aneurin Williams, Esq., £10; J. A. Malcolm, Esq., £5 5s.; Mrs. C. N. Hughes, £5; Lady Gray Hill, £5; Miss Ford, £1 1s.; Lord Lamington, £1; Mrs. Wills, £1; Mrs. C. C. M. Sanders, £1; Anon., £1; B. Sheldrake, Esq., 10s. 6d.; Anon., 10s.; Mrs. Monkhouse, 2s. 6d.; D. Macintosh, Esq., 2s.

At the first ordinary meeting of the 167th session of the Royal Society of Arts, held on November 17, the candidates proposed for election as Fellows included the following:—Mr. Thomas M. Ainscough, H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in Inwia and Ceylon; Hon. Nawab Altaf Ali of Bogra, Mr. Alexander Cameron, Hon. Rao Sahib M. C. Chetty, Mr. J. R. Colabawala, H.H. the Maharaja of Darbhangai, Capt. P. B. Hebbert, I.A.; Mr. J. S. Hogg; S. Haider Imam, of Moradpur; Mr. Soorajmull Jallan, of Calcutta; Rao Bahadur Sardam M. V. Kibe, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Indore; Major-General Sir Wyndham Knight, K.C.I.E.; Mr. O. M. Nagersheth, of Bombay; Sir Robert Nathan, K.C.S.I.; H.H. the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar; Mr. W. F. Perree, C.I.E, President Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun; Mr. S. M. Ryan, late India Forest Department; Mr. T. Ryan, C.I.E., Indian Railway Board; Mr. Pratap Singh, of Morar; Mr. H. W. D. C. Taylor, of Calcutta; Mr. P. L. Tewary, of Sarila State; Professor S. P. Varma, of Jubbolpore; Lieut.-Colonel Sir Arnold T. Wilson, K.C.I.E.; and Mr. S. C. Williams, M.A., Vice-Chairman Calcutta Port Trust. The total number of candidates was 112.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. G. R. Radkoff has been appointed Secretary to the Bulgarian Legation in London.

General Papoulos is to succeed General Paraskevopoulos as Commander-in-Chief of the Greek Forces on the Anatolian front.

Mr. Vepa Ramesam Pantulu Vakil will succeed Mr. Justice Seshagiri Ayyar as Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Madras.

M. Radu Djuvara, formerly Director of the Consular Department at the Foreign Office in Bucharest, has been appointed First Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in London.

## OBITUARY.

Princess Fatima, sister of the Sultan of Egypt, died on November 18.

News has been received from India of the death from diphtheria, on October 16, while on an expedition to the regions between Northern Burma and Tibet, of Mr. Reginald J. Farrer, the novelist and writer of books on horticulture and travel.


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## TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

*The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—*

MESOPOTAMIA: Oil Fields. ARMENIA. CYPRUS. PERSIA. ITALY AND KEMALIST TURKS MESOPOTAMIA: Military Families (Evacuation).—Military Expenditure. INDIA: Army Officers (Pay).—British Army Officers (Land Grants).—Army Education Costs. (November 15.)

MESOPOTAMIA: Barbed Wire.—Native Casualties.—Rolls-Royce Chassis.—Expenditure. EGYPT. INDIA: Vice-Royalty.—Army Officers (Retired Pay).—Legislative Councils (Election Rules). TRADE AND COMMERCE: Anglo-Persian Oil Company. (November 16.)

INDIA: Inquiry Bureau (London).—Provincial Loan, Bombay.—Officers' Pensions.—Mr. Lajpat Rai.—Government Stores (Couchman Committee's Report).—Troops, North-West Persia.—Army Reorganisation.—Sedition.—Punjab Disturbances.—Deportation.—Indians, British Colonies and Protectorates.—Constitutional Reforms, Burma.—Rice (Control).—Shive Dagon Pagoda Hill. MESOPOTAMIA: Revenue and Expenditure. EGYPT: Milner Commission. GREECE, INDIA: Medical Service (Mesopotamia and Persia).—Constitutional Reform, Burma.—Powers of Search.—Printing and Publishing Regulations.—Imprisonment without Trial. MONTENEGRO. LEAGUE OF NATIONS: ALBANIA. MALTA. (November 17).

LEAGUE OF NATIONS: Hejaz.—Greece. PERSIA (COSSACK DIVISION). EGYPT: Martial Law.—Constitution. GREECE. INDIA: Army Reorganisation.—Departmental and Warrant Officers (Pensions).—Army Pay.—Royal Indian Marine. PERSIA. BAKU. EGYPT. PALESTINE. ALGECIRAS AGREEMENT. (November 18.)

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

French and Arabic have been recognised by the Governor of Lebanon as the official languages of the Lebanon.

The 5th Dragoon Guards left Colchester last week for Egypt. It is understood the regiment will relieve other troops in Palestine.

The Italian warship Libia will sail next February for Central America, Vancouver, Japan, and China, returning home via India and the Red Sea.

A rupture of the Turco-Armenian armistice of November 7 is reported owing to the action of the Nationalist Turks in presenting fresh and unacceptable demands.

A Beersheba telegram states that Abraham's wells are now equipped with modern pumping machinery, and are supplying water to the town of Beersheba. Early rains, adds the message, give promise of a good barley crop.

The Oriental section of the exhibition gallery of prints and drawings at the British Museum was closed to the public from yesterday. It will be reopened on Friday, December 3, with an exhibition of Japanese colour-prints.

It is reported that a rising of tribesmen and ex-soldiers of the Azerbaijan Army has taken place against the Reds in the vicinity of Lenkuran (123 miles S.S.W. of Baku). Some 3,000 to 5,000 men are involved, and are led by Selim Pasha, a Turk.

Syrian Arab delegates in Buenos Aires have appealed to the League of Nations against the "inhuman abuses" committed by Great Britain and France in Arabic territory, and demand the immediate evacuation of such territory and the abolition of mandates in the former Ottoman dominions.

It is expected that 3,000 students and professors will attend a Conference on International and Missionary Questions in Glasgow early in January, and make it not only the largest student conference ever brought together in Europe, but the largest to discuss these particular questions. Delegates will be present from various parts of Europe, including France, Holland, Bulgaria, Roumania, and Czecho-Slovakia.

It is stated by the Indo-British Association, London, that a cablegram has been received by that Association from the European Association, Calcutta, as follows:—"Following cable has been sent to the Prime Minister to-day: 'The European Association of India hears that it is possible that Montagu will succeed Chelmsford as Viceroy. Such appointment would seriously jeopardise co-operation between European and other Indian political parties. Trust rumour unfounded.—President, European Association.'"

The oil-producing interests of Great Britain have contributed £122,850 towards the £500,000 for which the University of Birmingham is issuing an appeal. The Anglo-Persian Oil Company, the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company, Viscount Cowdray, and Sir Marcus Samuel have given £25,000 each, Mr. D. Elliott Alves £12,500, the Anglo-American Oil Company £10,000, the Central Mining and Investments Corporation £250, and the Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, £100. Under the direction of Sir John Cadman, the School of Mining at Birmingham has established a high position, and from its department of petroleum technology, equipped with plant similar to that found at oil wells, students competent to deal with modern drilling machinery proceed to all the great oil fields of the world.

## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses. Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

# WHERE TO STAY.

**For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—**

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1920.


## GREECE'S CHOICE.

The defeat of M. Venizelos at the general election has created a situation of extreme embarrassment both for Greece and for the Entente Powers. We should like to think that the Greek Government and people, as well as Great Britain and France, are resolved at least on one course, that they will do nothing rashly or in a spirit of petty-mindedness. In the first flush of success the victors at the polls claimed the verdict as a declaration in favour of the recall of ex-King Constantine. The issue, indeed, was deliberately chosen by M. Venizelos, and he has accepted the interpretation placed upon the results by quitting Greece without waiting for the final returns. Fortunately the ex-King has been less precipitate, and has stated that he will resume the throne only at the direct bidding of a plebiscite. The delay allows time for thought; but the Entente Powers may feel obliged to declare their policy before Greece makes up her mind. What action, then, are the former to take? They are confronted with a fairly clear indication that, left to themselves, the Greeks will "plump" for the ex-King's return. Are Great Britain and France to veto such a step; are they to seek to influence Greece's decisions by threats of pains and penalties; or are they to stand aloof and silent? In our opinion there is a fourth course, which is better than any of these. The ideal solution, if it were possible, would be (as was suggested in THE NEAR EAST fifteen months ago, when it was apparent to any careful observer that Royalists and Venizelists were far more evenly divided than the latter would allow) that the country should have its popular Sovereign and M. Venizelos as his Prime Minister. Unfortunately, it is to be feared the personal feud between the two men is too bitter to make any such arrangement workable. The next best solution would be for the Entente Powers to make a virtue of necessity: they should raise no objection to the exercise by the Greek nation of its free choice, but they should require definite and public pledges of the ex-King as an antecedent condition to his acceptance, if Greece is to retain their practical goodwill. Beyond this the two Powers can hardly go without subsequent embarrassment to themselves. We know of no suggestion yet made in the French Press that ought to commend itself to enlightened British opinion. Great Britain suffered much from playing second fiddle to the French in Greece during the war, and from the mishandling by them of the negotiations which resulted in throwing King Constantine into the arms of Germany. There is no need to repeat the mistake to-day, and to follow the French in any attitude they may feel compelled to adopt as a result of having permanently alienated the sympathy of the Greek people, to whichever political camp they belong.

We are entirely unable to endorse all the harsh things that are being said and written about the Greek people for their attitude at the general election. The elimination of M. Venizelos from the political life of Greece will be a source of great weakness to the nation at this juncture, and it is difficult, perhaps, for the foreigner to understand how a man who has conferred such signal benefits upon his country could be not merely opposed, but actually defeated, in any constituency in which he stood. But apart from this one return it is idle to contend that in recording their votes the Greek people could attempt any adjustment of complicated international considerations with their verdict on home affairs. The public memory is proverbially short, and the Greek electorate was quite incapable, after three years, of revising its estimate of ex-King Constantine in the light of White Books or of the disclosures of private secretaries and others. All that it recalled of the critical days of 1917 would be the popularity of the monarch and the fact that he had been expelled by the very foreign Powers that had caused Greece to suffer so much by the blockade; against this it would set a host of unpleasant experiences for which it would hold the Government of the day responsible. Anyone who went about Greece with his eyes and ears open last year must have received evidence of the strength of the "royalist" feeling; this year he might have detected less insistence upon the return of King Constantine, but the forces ranged against the Government had been reinforced by the settled conviction of many that the Venizelist Government, whether on account of its leader's absence or for other reasons, had altogether run off the lines of constitutional procedure. If King Alexander had lived, it might have been possible to prevent the re-opening of the "Constantine question"; but with his death M. Venizelos found his hand forced, and at once accepted the challenge which he had refused so often before. It was too subtle an issue for a general election, and a "landslide" in favour of the exiled King is, perhaps, easier to understand than would have been a more evenly balanced result.

The touchstone in the settlement of the complicated problem must be the true interests of Greece, and these, we hold, will be consulted only if the present Greek Government and the protecting Powers take counsel together. There can be no question of the status of M. Rallis's Cabinet, and the whole matter should be amicably threshed out by the British and French Governments with the new Prime Minister. As the two Powers have allowed themselves to be so entirely misled as to the state of Greek opinion in the past, they cannot do better than to hear now what M. Rallis has to say on the subject before coming to any decision in regard to the succession to the Greek throne. We strongly deprecate any course which would tend to perpetuate the division of Greece into two bitterly hostile camps. Such a state of affairs could only assist the cause of unrest in the Near East. If, as has been suggested, the accession of the Crown Prince would offer the most satisfactory solution, it will only prove so if it is discussed in a friendly spirit and agreed upon by all concerned. There should, therefore, be no thought of any action on the part of Great Britain and France without reference to the Greek Government. The contention that the Treaties with Bulgaria and Turkey were made for the benefit of M. Venizelos, and not because Greece *qua* Greece was entitled to the territory assigned to her, may be true in fact, but we can hardly imagine any responsible statesman admitting it, still less acting upon it. There is much in these treaties which needs revision; but we should rather see Greece make the move from a sense of conviction than that the Allies should thus denounce their own actions and gratuitously insult the Greek nation. It is known that the acquisition of Thrace and the Smyrna territory aroused misgivings among some of the better-informed Greeks, who recognised the difficulty that the country experienced in administering efficiently its existing territory. An opportunity for rectifications will soon present itself, and if taken advantage of must necessarily enhance the prestige of the new Government. Its first concern, however, must be to ensure peace within the present frontiers of Greece. There must be not only a general amnesty, but a conscious resolve on the part of every Greek that at last bygones shall be bygones, and that the new régime will not repeat the mistakes of which it accuses the government of M. Venizelos.

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## THE EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS

The impression which seems to have been created in Egypt that there has been a deadlock in the discussions between the Nationalist Delegation and Lord Milner's Mission is hardly borne out by the facts of the case. As a result of the success with which the Egyptian Delegates met when they returned to Egypt to secure approval of the general terms of an agreement with Great Britain, they were inclined, on coming back to London, to press for a continuation of the discussions to a stage which would obviously have encroached upon the official negotiations that will precede the drawing-up of the final treaty. In particular the Delegates, or at least some of them, were anxious to obtain a formal cancellation of the Protectorate. On this point Lord Milner's Mission, we understand, refused to entertain a proposal which tended to modify the fundamentals of the previous agreement. The objection to the Protectorate came from extremist elements in Egypt, which were by no means entirely favourable to the Zaghloul Delegation It was, therefore, open to question whether the members would be well advised to identify themselves with a clamour that was not necessarily endorsed by the Moderates, whom they more directly represented. At best the question of the Protectorate was a controversy over a word. The aim of the negotiators was to prepare the ground for a treaty which would regulate the relations between Egypt and Great Britain on hard-and-fast lines. When the actual terms had been agreed upon, as being satisfactory to both parties, it would be immaterial whether some people chose to maintain that the Protectorate had been abolished or that it had been perpetuated. The only thing that will count will be the definite wording of the treaty. Accordingly the Delegates allowed themselves to be persuaded that the preliminary discussions had been advanced as far as was feasible, and they were advised to return again to Egypt with a view to creating a favourable atmosphere for the official negotiations. In Egypt they would be in close touch once more with Egyptian opinion, and would be able to decide to what extent fuller consideration of the subject by the public since they had left had strengthened their hands, or called for a further campaign in support of a policy on which they had set the seal of their own approval. With regard to the Protectorate, they would be able to find out whether the majority of the people were really as concerned over the word as they imagined, or whether in the light of subsequent developments there was not some misgiving lest Egypt might be left all at once too severely to its own resources. In either case the argument held good that it would be the wording of the treaty that determined the status of the country, and not popular interpretations of vague terminology. If the Delegates choose to maintain that the terms of the agreement nullified the Protectorate no one will challenge the expression of their opinion.

In Great Britain there can hardly be any doubt that people will see the wisdom of the Mission's contentions regarding phraseology at this stage. After very laborious negotiations a measure of understanding had been reached. To have the balance of that agreement upset by the grant of a new concession, even if Great Britain set no great store on the point, would merely encourage the extremists to make further requests, and there would be no finality. It was clearly a mistake on the part of the Delegation to lend itself to extremist clamour, and the fact that it was not unanimous on the subject is proof that moderate opinion in Egypt is now wholly on the side of Lord Milner's Mission.

There remains the question of the reception likely to be given to Lord Milner's recommendations in this country. In regard to this, perhaps all that can be usefully said is that there is no need to take any expression of opinion very seriously before the report has been submitted, and has been considered in its entirety. As far as can be gathered at present, there has been a tendency, possibly in the Cabinet as well as outside, to fasten upon one or another point without reference to the recommendations as a whole. The mission, it is understood, is now completing its report with all the speed possible on the part of men engaged in other work as well. When the report is submitted and published there will be time to consider carefully the proposed terms of an Anglo-Egyptian agreement in the light of Egypt's well-being, of Egyptian aspirations, and of the interests of the British Empire, not forgetting the views of the British community in Egypt.

## MODERN EGYPT.

Lecturing at the School of Oriental Studies, London, on November 9, Mr. D. A. Cameron said that in modern Egypt there were several communities differing in race, religion, and language, but all Egyptians. Out of the twelve million people, ten million were peasantry. These were Moslems, and so were a large part of the town population; but whereas the peasantry were lightly taxed and prosperous, the Moslems of Cairo and Alexandria suffered from the fact that Ismail had given away the best urban lands in those cities to wealthy foreign colonies. For forty years the foreigners had lived in cities with broad streets, well watered and otherwise tended, while the native population was cramped and overcrowded. This was one cause of present discontent. At the time of the original Moslem conquest a small portion of the population, chiefly in Assiout, had retained the Christian religion; their descendants were the Copts. These were like the Moslem population in most respects, and their women went even more closely veiled. Under the native rulers the Copts had been the account keepers of the country. The Jews were Sephardim Jews; they were quiet, law abiding, benevolent, of the highest integrity—people whom to know was to respect. The Greeks were a great intellectual force in Egypt; they were mostly born in the country. As a community they taxed themselves highly to give a real education to their children, and by frugality and temperance they acquired immense wealth. In every town in the Delta where there was any chance of making a profit a Greek community existed. The Levantines were people of French, Italian, or other west European descent, whose families had been settled in Egypt for several generations; they were thoroughly Egyptian. The wealth of the country belonged to the Levantines, Jews, and Greeks.

Speaking of the Capitulations, Mr. Cameron said these had originated in the time of Suleiman the Magnificent. The Moslems found they could not trade without foreign assistance, and set apart a walled enclosure in certain towns where foreigners could live and carry on the trade of the country. To-day the foreigner in Egypt claimed to be treated as a superior being. He insisted on security for himself and his bank. The trade of Egypt was almost entirely in the hands of foreigners, and the Capitulations were part of the price that had to be paid for carrying on that trade. Practically the foreigners were untaxed. There was a small house duty, and if a man held land there was a small land tax; but there were no taxes on trade. Foreigners had made immense wealth out of Egypt while paying scarcely anything towards the upkeep of the country; whereas if they had been taxed the Egyptian debt could have been paid off. But if the foreigner was taxed he would have to be represented in the Egyptian Parliament, and with his superior intelligence would rule the country.

## NEW PERSIAN CABINET.

The new Persian Cabinet, Reuter's Agency is officially informed is constituted as follows:—

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|---|---|
| Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior | THE SIPAHDAR AZAM |
| Minister without Portfolio | NASR-EL-MOLK |
| Minister of Finance | AMIN-EL-MOLK |
| Minister of Justice | MIRZA SOLEIMAN KHAN |
| Minister of War | AMIR-I-NIZAM |
| Minister of Public Works | PRINCE SALAR LASHKAR |
| Minister of Posts and Telegraphs | SARDAR MOTAMED |
| Minister of Public Instruction | WAHID-EL-MOLK |
| Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs | FAHIM-OD-DOWLEH |

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# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

## Persia.

The *Times of India* of October 18 takes up a very firm attitude upon British action towards Persia. It does not beat about the bush:—

Lord Curzon declared his belief that the Anglo-Persian Agreement is in the interests of the country; also that the British Government is pressing for its submission to the Mejlis. In that Lord Curzon is perfectly sincere; he honestly believes that the Agreement is in the best interests of Persia, and that it will tend to the preservation of her integrity and independence. But that the Agreement was wisely conceived, we cannot believe. It is largely distrusted in Persia, save by the men who hoped to touch for their personal benefit the subsidies and loans made under it. It is still more largely distrusted abroad; it is regarded as an attempt to stake out in Persia privileged zones, and was a strong factor in producing in the United States suspicions that British policy was inconsistent with bona fides under the League of Nations. It is distrusted in India, where it is regarded as bringing Persia within the hegemony of the Empire. None of these things was contemplated by the authors; they have arisen in practice. One effect of this Treaty has been to encourage in Persia the most pernicious form of nationalism—that form of nationalism which rejects every form of advice from outside, yet will batten on foreign subsidies. There can be no health in Persia until this policy is ended. There can be no true nationalism without responsibility, and especially financial responsibility. To our mind there is no mental attitude more degrading than this fiery nationalism, pursued to the degree of spurning all advice, combined with the itching palm. Our policy towards Persia should be perfectly plain. It is that we have no ambitions whatsoever in that country, save to see it strong, peaceful, and independent; that we shall not in any circumstances intervene in its internal affairs; that if our help is sought, we shall gladly give it, but we shall not tender it until and unless it is sought. And above all, the policy of subsidies shall stop forthwith, and all British troops, whether called regular troops or gendarmerie, shall be recalled without delay. That is the only way in which to clear away the miasma of suspicion which now surrounds our policy; that is the only way in which to induce a sense of real responsibility amongst men who parade their uncompromising nationality on one hand and batten on our subsidies on the other. It is possible that the resolute enforcement of this policy may lead to men unfriendly to us being installed in power, that it may increase the confusions within the country itself. Those issues must be faced; there are reasons for believing that affairs in Persia must be worse before they are better, that the only way of making them permanently better is to inculcate the doctrine of real responsibility. There is the further possibility that the complete withdrawal of our influence, unless sought, may open Persia to the Bolsheviks, or the forces of Mustapha Kemal. Well, if Persia in this day of grace prefers Bolshevik rule or the inroads of Mustapha Kemal to close union with Great Britain, that is her affair. *Experientia docet;* we know what the result will be. But on the other hand there could be no more foolish policy than to sap true independence by subsidies and bribes; no more humiliating policy than to force on Persia a friendship which is accepted so far as money is concerned, but rejected in every other particular.

In Afghanistan, it says, our policy should be identical with that in Persia; and continues:—

The main point we desire to make is that there can be no peace in Central Asia as long as there is suspicion of British policy. There will always be suspicion of British policy as long as we interfere, or as long as we thrust on these peoples a friendship which they may want, but which they will not court. We must make the friendliness of our attitude perfectly clear; having done so it is for our neighbours to join hands or remain aloof at their own pleasure. We shall be met by the commonplace argument that we cannot remain indifferent to a state of chaos on our borders. Why not? What mighty interest have we in these countries which should make us worry over their internal affairs? What does it matter to us if they prefer misrule to orderly rule? We shall be met by the commonplace argument that ordered security in these lands is essential for the defence of India. Nonsense. The defence of India lies within her own strategic borders. It is not assisted by scattering small bodies of troops from Basra to Kurdistan, from the Euphrates to the Caspian Sea, or by littering the Meshed road with the bones of transport camels. It is perversely prejudiced by these adventures. The defence of India lies in securing in the country the best form of government attainable; by keeping our powder dry; by strengthening our frontiers. It does not lie in wandering all over Central Asia. Moreover, any form of government in these lands which is not genuinely responsible is bound to fail. The people, as Lord Curzon said, are burning to establish some new form of government. Well, that is their affairs; they are most nearly concerned. Until they have tried they will not learn that government is not quite the simple thing that impatient nationalists believe. The only way in which to meet this spirit is to give it full scope; we have no special responsibilities which lead us to attempt to play earthly providence to these lands.

## Our Eastern Empire.

The *New Statesman*, which has consistently opposed the policy of the British Government in Persia, is pleased to find what it calls "powerful reinforcement" of its views in the articles published recently in *The Times* by His Highness the Aga Khan. In its issue of November 13 it comments on these two articles, and proceeds to examine "that notorious document, the Esher Committee's Report." Very scathing are its remarks, and the two concluding paragraphs are written in similar fashion. Speaking of Mr. Lloyd George's Mesopotamia policy, it says:—

It raises two important considerations. One is its immediate effects on India. There is not much doubt about them. There is widespread and profound disgust in India with the Esher Committee's recommendations. Mistrust of our good faith was rife enough even before their appearance; it is redoubled to-day. "When I look at the Esher Report," says the Aga Khan, "I can well understand the suspicions of some of my countrymen. . . . We have watched with growing apprehension the vague policy of Asiatic adventure pursued, apparently without coherence and without clear direction, by the Central Government to which we have been proud to render obedience. Our misgivings have been deepened by the discovery that the views of the Government of India, still less Indian public opinion, count for little or nothing in the settlement of Imperial policy in the East. The Indian point of view, whether official or otherwise, appears to be entirely disregarded." Indians, in a word, are impatient to see a practical beginning of the reforms that are to give them the promised "Dominion status." And, as an earnest of this, they are to be sent abroad to fight for their masters' glory and their masters' oil! Is this "cooling the lava"?

The second consideration is one which touches not merely India in particular and our undertakings to India, but the whole British Empire. Our commitments in Mesopotamia have been attacked on the ground that they are a grievous burden on the British taxpayer—as indeed they are. And the burden will doubtless continue to grow under Mr. Churchill's able stewardship. But what is there beyond these present commitments? When we listen to the speeches of Ministers, and when we read such a document as the Esher Report, is it possible not to see opening out before us a splendid vista of adventurous conflict. "based partially on India and partially on home"—and partially, we would add, on Mosul? We shall very easily involve ourselves in a perilous net. There are Arabs, Kurds, Turks—not to speak of Russian Bolsheviks—to suppress, Persians to "protect," the French in Syria to quarrel with. We believe that if this Mesopotamian enterprise is to be carried on, its consequences will be a long step towards the break-up of the Empire. It is for the British people to say that it shall not be carried on. There is no decent argument in its favour. We are told that we have given pledges, that we are "trustees for the Arabs," "Keepers of the Middle East," and other high-sounding, farcical things. We are told that we cannot in honour withdraw and "leave our friends to be massacred," or that we must be in Mesopotamia in force to help the Arabs to get the oil of Mosul, or in order to defend India. All these pleas have been blown to the winds. We have given no pledges that need detain us in the country; the Arabs can very well do without us. The oil can be got without the help of British tanks and aeroplanes and armoured cars and a vast army of Indian horse and foot. And the holding of Basra affords ample security for India. We hope that the real meaning of this occupation will be appreciated in this country, as it is already appreciated in the East, before the "molten and moving lava" is in full eruption.

## "BISHOP OF EGYPT."

Reuter's Cairo correspondent writes (November 21):—The Right Rev. Llewellyn Gwynne, Bishop of Khartoum, was to-day enthroned Bishop of Egypt and the Sudan. Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby read the King's mandate, and the Bishop in Jerusalem performed the enthroning ceremony, which was of a most impressive character, Bishops of the Greek and other Eastern churches assisting. All Saints' Church, Cairo, is now officially the pro-cathedral of the new diocese.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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Our Bucharest Correspondent, in his latest message, gives a very disquieting account of the agricultural outlook in Roumania. For a variety of reasons the peasants, it appears, are showing a marked reluctance to follow their normal avocation of tilling the soil, and at the time he wrote it was estimated that the sowings amounted to only seven to eight per cent. of last year's figures. Obviously a very serious position would be created if subsequent developments do not bring about a very material improvement in the estimate. If the country is to make a rapid recovery from the effects of the war the reconstruction of her oil and agricultural industries must go hand in hand. Neither alone can bring about conditions that will result in the leu being once more in the region of parity. Considerable progress is now being made in developing the oil industry, as will be evident from the latest figures, and if the efforts to improve communications meet with the success that would appear probable it will not be long before the oilfields are as fruitful a source of wealth to Roumania as they were before the war. Given progress in that direction and a bumper harvest next year and the Roumanian situation would be completely transformed. With that fact before them the Roumanian authorities may be trusted to do all that is possible to put a different complexion on the agricultural outlook.

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Mr. Robert Miller, in his address at the general meeting of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, referred to the large demands on the railway to expand its system to meet the growing needs of industry and commerce. The railway serves a great mineral area, while the Tata Iron and Steel Works are situated on its system. Mr. Miller pointed out that a new steel company was about to be established, and that other projects were materialising, while an immense new coal field was about to be opened up, and this would necessitate the construction of a new branch line about 150 miles in length. That, he added, would give "some idea of the extensions it will be necessary to make to meet the demands of the country for an increased supply of coal." The company has now in construction an important branch line to open up a supply of iron ore, and is about to complete an extension of the branch line to Gorumahsani for the supply of iron ore to the Tata Steel Works. In addition, the company is constructing a port at Vizagapatam, which they were confident, Mr. Miller said, "will prove a powerful factor in the development of the resources and the trade of the country generally, and will add especially to the prosperity of this railway."

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These developments naturally mean a greatly increased demand for capital, and this, Mr. Miller pointed out, constitutes one of the principal problems before Indian railways. The capital requirements are at present met under the Railway Programme, but the amount available from this source is quite inadequate to meet the growing demand for extensions. The recently appointed Commission on the Indian Railways is to inquire into the question of the future financing of the lines, and Mr. Miller expressed the hope that the result would be the removal of difficulties on this score. Another question dealt with was the position of Indian railways from the investors' point of view. "Indian railways are, in my opinion," said Mr. Miller, "one of the best investments in the world," and he went on to remark that as regards the Bengal-Nagpur Railway it was impossible to see the end of the new traffic which was waiting to be given facilities. "In my opinion, and speaking for myself, there is no need for alarm about the future of India," he added. "Measures from which reforms are expected are on the Government table, and usually in such circumstances a certain amount of disturbance and agitation arises. I feel confident—again speaking for myself—that this trouble will pass away in time, and that India will settle down calmly to new conditions."

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The paramount necessity for the reduction of expenditure by Governments at the present time was emphasised by Mr. McKenna in his address last week at Manchester University on "International Exchange." Stability of exchange, which is essential in the interests of international trade, can only be secured, he declared, "among nations whose Governments content themselves with an expenditure which is well within their power to meet without borrowing and without excessive taxation." He showed that in recent months the theory that prices levels are, generally speaking, determined by the relation between the purchasing power of a community and the available quantity of commodities has not been borne out. He gave two instances of this, one of which indicated *prima facie* that production had increased, whereas in reality it had expanded, while in the other case the deduction according to theory was either that production had increased more or diminished less than purchasing power, neither conclusion coinciding with the facts. The new factor which, in Mr. McKenna's view, has to be taken into consideration is the increased rate at which a nation's income is being spent. The present heavy taxation—a factor which affects all countries since the war—in Mr. McKenna's words, will "affect production injuriously, increase purchasing power, and raise the velocity of expenditure, and for all three reasons will tend to drive up prices."

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As to the future, Mr. McKenna's conclusion is that the League of Nations, with its promise of peace and greatly reduced expenditure on armaments, offers the only hope of stable exchanges. Recent Budgets almost universally give point to this view. Though the greatest war in history is over, and the chief menace to peace removed, yet at a time when economy is absolutely vital, if the nations are to recover from the effects of the war, we still find large votes for armaments. And out of sixteen European countries only one this year shows a balance on the Budget! The recommendations of the Brussels Financial Conference regarding national finance unfortunately came too late to bear fruit until next year, and one can only hope that when the next series of Budgets have appeared their contents will afford unmistakable evidence that the nations concerned have read the writing on the wall correctly.

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Some idea of the difficulties with which banking and other enterprises have had to contend in Turkey in recent months may be gathered from Lord Bessborough's speech at the general meeting of the Imperial Ottoman Bank. Political changes at Constantinople, the Anatolian disturbances, the closing of the Russian and other markets are among the adverse factors that have had to be faced. "Taking into consideration the disturbed state of Turkey and the general condition of affairs in the commercial and financial world," said Lord Bessborough, "we regard the result shown in the balance-sheet as highly satisfactory." A balance to the credit of the profit and loss account of £206,404 is shown for the year ended December 31, which is being carried forward. Lord Bessborough gave details of the way in which the committee have coped with the depreciation of Turkish and French currency, and pointed out that since the balance-sheet was made up further adjustments had been necessitated by the continued depreciation in the franc and the Turkish pound. All things considered, the bank has evidently come out of the difficult war period extremely well, and Lord Bessborough was able to state that gratifying results had been attained for the first six months of the present year.

COMMENTATOR.


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# Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

## GREECE.

ATHENS, November 6.

**Adoption of Metric System.**

A new law has been passed by the Chamber of Deputies and published in the Government *Gazette* by which the metric system of weights and measures will shortly come into force throughout the country. Owners of old weights and measures must then deliver same to the authorities against payment of the value of the metal, while the Government will, on the other hand, supply the new weights and measures upon payment of their value. All weights and measures will be checked and stamped by the authorities prior to being used. They will also be examined annually, and, if found correct, re-stamped. Persons who do not keep a shop, but sell their commodities in the street, must produce their weights and measures to the nearest competent Department every April for checking and stamping. Persons continuing to use old weights and measures after the international metric system comes into force, or persons using unstamped weights and measures, will be severely dealt with. Within three months from the date upon which this law will come into force all documents submitted to the Government authorities must contain the new weights and measures: also merchants must apply them in their commercial books, advertisements and so forth.

New weights and measures will be supplied to the Government by auction, and local manufacturers will be given preference in cases where the prices quoted do not exceed foreign prices, plus five per cent. representing customs duty.

**Passengers from Abroad.**

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs has sent a circular to the Piræus port authorities to the effect that no passenger arriving from abroad must be allowed to land unless his passport has been duly viséd by the competent Hellenic consular authorities.

**More Paper Money.**

Speaking to a journalist, the Minister of Finance, M. Negropontis, stated that the signing of the convention between the Government and the National Bank of Greece with regard to the putting into circulation of a further sum of 400 million drachmæ, will take place in a few days. In any case, the approval of the Financial International Commission would be necessary.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, November 7.

**Abnormal Frosts.**

During the last few days a severe frost has set in, such as has not been felt for sixty years at this period of the year. The thermometer showed from 9 to 12 degrees of frost, whilst up in the north towards Bucovina as much as 22 degrees were registered. Some rivers had a coating of ice from 10 to 15 cms. thick. This cold snap came very suddenly, and caught many people unprepared, especially as regards firewood, and as usual, the poor suffered more acutely in consequence.

Owing to the frost, the autumn sowings have been stopped. Up to now only 250,000 hectares—mostly wheat—have been sown. The frost was harmful to the seeds, as there was not sufficient snow to protect the sowings, and all vegetables not yet gathered are considered to be lost.

**Grave Agricultural Outlook.**

Since last week the general outlook has become very gloomy. The peasants seem very unwilling to work the soil. According to official news only seven to eight per cent. of arable land has been sown this year, as compared with last year's figures. There are many reasons for this. In the first place, there is the uncertainty as to the final ownership of the various allotments. Secondly, the peasants have not yet thrown off the "after-the-war" spirit. Then, owing to the bad state of the railway transport, most of the peasants are now occupied with road transport, which they have found to be more remunerative than farming. They have also gone in for commercial transactions, especially in milk, cheese, eggs, poultry, etc. As the peasant feels that he is his own landowner, he will not work on the big landowners' farms, and in many cases his own, with the result that there is a poor prospect of a good crop. This is causing a further depreciation of the lei, and is not improving the general situation at all. Everyone is out for himself and to make as much as he can, without considering the future of the country.

**Railways Under Military Control.**

The Government has decided to militarise the railways in order to put a stop to the general disorganisation and unrest and to prevent further strikes. This decision of the Ministers' Council appeared in the *Monitorul Oficial* of November 3, the contents of which ran as follows: 1. The entire staff of the Roumanian State Railways in the old kingdom, as well as in the new provinces, will come under the military régime, beginning from November 3, 1920. 2. The personnel who come under the groups which can be mobilised will be called up, with the obligation of responding within 24 hours from receipt of the order. 3. All those who are not liable to mobilisation, or who are over 46 and under 65 years of age, will have their services requisitioned, and both groups will continue to hold the positions occupied by them up till now, subject to military control. 4. In case of absence from or a refusal to do their duty, offenders will be punished according to military law.

It will be interesting to see how far the new régime will go to improve the deplorable situation now existing on the railways.

**Miscellaneous.**

The Ministry of Communications has received a credit for 5,313,000 lei for the construction of a new pipeline running from Baicoi to Giurgiu.

The Ministry of Railways has asked the Ministry of Finance to grant a credit of 153 million lei in order to pay for the 60 locomotives ordered from England.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, November 11.

**The Budget.**

The Crown Prince has signed the provisional finance law for the year 1920-1921. The part dealing with the proposed tax on turnover has been dealt with in an earlier letter, together with the new customs and excise duties. Among other things, finance houses and limited liability companies will pay 2 per cent. on their gross revenue, as shown in their annual balance-sheets. On the urgent representations of Dr. Koroshets, certain local privileges have been granted to Slovenia and certain districts in Croatia. The law of State monopolies has been extended throughout the new provinces, but will be applied gradually during the years 1921-1922; the working out of the details has been entrusted to a special commission.

The estimates attain the respectable total of 4,800,000,000 dinars. This is greatly in excess of the original estimates owing to the very large credits for grants towards the cost of living to all State employees. The expenditure under this head will amount to 220,000,000 dinars, and 30,000,000 is earmarked for arrears of war pensions.

**Imports Four Times Exports.**

According to a return of the General Director of Customs, the exports from Yugoslavia for the first six months of the current year amounted to 465,086,035 dinars, while the value of imports for the same period is no less than 1,850,164,633 dinars, or four times as great as the exports. These figures explain the present rate of exchange, which is becoming worse every day.

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## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, November 14.

**Reduction in Export Duties on Tobacco.**

By a vote of the Chamber, the customs duties on the export of Bulgarian tobacco have been reduced by 50 per cent.

**The Final Estimates.**

The Budget for the present financial year, as adopted by the Chamber, is as follows:—The expenditure amounts to 2,905,810,880 levas, consisting of Civil List, etc., 2,535,011 levas; Public Debt, 858,087,782; Ministries—Foreign Affairs, 47,158,365; Interior, 76,895,980; Public Health, 72,218,890; Public Instruction, 221,268,200; Exchequer, 136,791,091; Justice, 67,138,030; War Office, 538,159,712; Commerce, Industry and Labour, 236,077,902; Agriculture and Domains, 72,730,390; Public Works, 172,624,230; and Railways, Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones, 364,770,845.

The revenues are estimated at 2,613,530,000 levas, made up as follows:—Direct taxes, 270,000,000; indirect taxes, 907,000,000; State monopolies, 228,000,000; various taxes, 95,650,000; fines and confiscations, 12,000,000; railways, posts, telegraphs, etc., 400,260,000; domains, 279,770,000; municipalities, etc., 20,500,000; sundries, 399,450,000.

## NEW ZAGREB BANK.

It is proposed to establish a new bank at Zagreb under the title of Shedisnje Zadruzna Banka, with a capital of 100,000,000 kronen, for the purpose of financing and organising the agricultural and economic output of the western districts of Yugoslavia. The chief founder of this bank is the Croatian-Slavonian Agricultural Co-operative Society of Zagreb, an organisation of considerable influence with wide connections with the peasant and agricultural societies in Croatia, Bosnia, Dalmatia and Slavonia. It is understood that the bank will be financed by the First Croatian Savings Bank and by other banks associated with it.

## ENQUIRY BUREAU.

*Readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge*

*Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."*

*ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.*

*No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.*

**Agents Wanted Abroad.**

*ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, 'The Near East,' 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2," when they will be re-directed to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.*

102. A stamp collector wishes to purchase used Austrian stamps prior to the 1882 issue. Stamp dealers in the liberated provinces of Austria are asked to send bulk packages of such stamps to the care of the Editor of THE NEAR EAST, with the price in kronen of each stamp or price per dozen, per 100, etc., of each kind. All stamps required will be paid for at the price indicated and the rest returned. Newspaper stamps are not required, but rare postmarks should be included.

103. An Athens firm invites publishers of periodicals dealing with yarns (reports on local markets and world output) and cottons to send specimen copies with a view to its becoming a permanent subscriber.

104. A Greek firm is establishing an electric light station in Macedonia, and wishes to get into touch with firms dealing in the necessary machinery.

105. Engineering and general contractor in Mosul, Mesopotamia, wishes to get into touch with manufacturers in Great Britain.

106. Old-established English trading company with branches in Mesopotamia and Persia is willing to accept agencies there for manufacturers, etc.

107. Old established Turkish firm handling general stores situated in Smyrna and having branches in the interior invites exporters to quote prices for groceries. The firm also acts as agents for articles of general consumption in Asia Minor.

108. Hemp manufacturer in Croatia wishes to get into touch with rope manufacturers who would purchase hemp.

109. A reliable firm of Egyptian hand-made cigarette manufacturers and exporters desire to get into touch with British firms importing Egyptian cigarettes.

110. An engineer-architect in Bulgaria would like to get in touch with British manufacturers of flour-milling machinery who are prepared to consider the opening-up of business in Bulgaria.

## LANCASHIRE COTTON.

**Business Very Restricted.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

The past week has been notable for a further marked slump in raw cotton rates, and business in yarn and cloth has been reduced to very small dimensions. A nervous tone has prevailed, and there has been no confidence on the part of buyers. The feeling is growing that values must be somewhere near the bottom, but operators have not sufficient courage to purchase with any freedom. No particular change can be recorded in the outlook for the Egyptian cotton crop, but prices are distinctly easier, and wide fluctuations are taking place in futures. Trade demand remains poor, and spinners, owing to the continued absence of business in yarns, have purchased very sparingly. There has been distinct weakness in American cotton rates, in both New York and Liverpool. The crop in the United States is doing very well, and there is every probability of a substantial yield. Spinners of Egyptian yarns in Lancashire continue to work only four days a week, and even with the curtailment of production difficulty is experienced in clearing the output of the mills. There has been no activity worth mentioning in piece goods for the Near Eastern outlets. Egypt is overstocked, and Manchester shippers have been requested to stop shipments for the time being. The political situation in Europe is having the effect of thoroughly upsetting trade. India continues to provide an extensive inquiry, especially in light fabrics for Calcutta, but actual business has tended to fall off. Nothing of any moment has been done for China. Exporters to South America have looked on. There is a tendency for more looms to be started in Blackburn and Great Harwood, but unemployment in Burnley and district is extensive. American yarns are much lower in price than a week ago. Home users continue to purchase from hand to mouth. There is more pressure for delivery instructions. A few more orders have been booked in dyed yarns for India.

**Rupee Exchange.**

The Manchester Chamber of Commerce has published further information with regard to the cables which have recently been received from various trade associations in India relating to the critical condition of trade, which is largely due to the existing rate of exchange. The Chamber of Commerce has informed the India Office that traders in India consider themselves justified in any action which they may take in the way of resisting the payment of accounts until the exchange is more favourable, in view of their belief that the Government had promised a minimum rate of exchange of 2s. a rupee. The India Office, in reply, states that the Chamber is doubtless aware that the decision to adopt the recommendation of the Majority Report of the Indian Currency Committee of 1919, which had in view the fixation of the exchange value of the rupee at 2s., was announced on February 2, since which date until the end of September drafts on London were sold by the Government of India to the extent of approximately £50,000,000, with a view to the support of exchange. These large sales of sterling have not, for various reasons, in particular on account of the stagnation of the export, and the unusual strength of the import trade in India in recent months, operated effectively to check the downward movement of exchange. The Chamber is assured by the India Office that the situation is being constantly watched.

Messrs. D. Mouradian and Bigio, Ltd., manufacturers and calico printers, of 119 Portland Street, Manchester, announce that the name of the company has been changed to Maurice Bigio and Co., Ltd.

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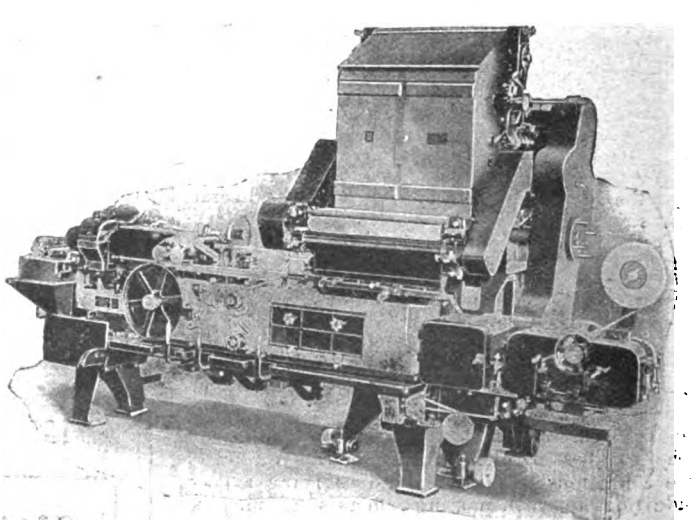

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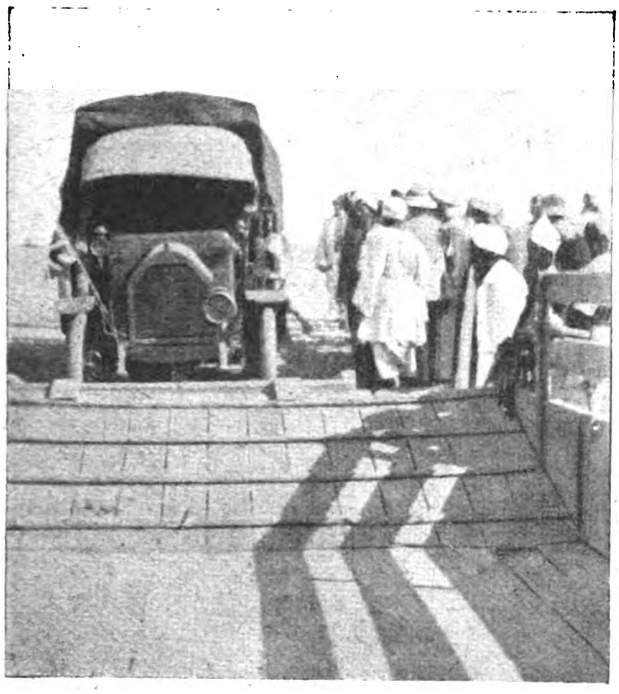
# MOTORING THROUGH A DESERT.

## The Solution of the Transport Problem.

*By Joseph Rhodes, A.M.I.Mech.E., A.M.I.Auto.E., S.G.S. (Author of "The Transport Question in the Sudan," etc.)*

At the present moment the rebellion in Mesopotamia has again brought into prominence the use of armoured motor-cars on the desert. There is no doubt that cars will play a most important part in the policing and administrating of all desert countries in the future. Many journeys have been accomplished which were considered until a short time ago to be impossible. I recently had an interesting journey



**Running on to the barge preparatory to crossing the Nile.**

through the Sudan, and a brief description of the run will, I think, be of interest to readers of THE NEAR EAST.

The car started from Asmora, the capital of Eritrea, and travelled over the rugged country to Kassala, the Eastern frontier of the Sudan, then through the tropical Sudan desert viâ Gedaref and Medani to Khartoum on the Nile, a distance of 600 miles. It returned by the same route without mishap. A glance at the map will convey some idea of the achievement. To accomplish such a pioneer journey over broken country, rugged hills, and across deep, sandy watercourses speaks well for the capabilities of the modern car.

The car was of the light lorry type, 25-35 h.p. The passengers were six in number, three Europeans and three natives. The Europeans were comfortably accommodated on the driving seat, and the servants were hanging on as best they could. Apart from passengers the car carried a load of 1½ tons. Thus there was more than three tons gross load on the tyres.

Camels and other draught animals are already under heavy demand, and it is realised that no great economic development can take place in districts dependent on animal transport. It is also of paramount importance that Government officials in outlying districts should be kept in rapid communication with their distant headquarters. The recent capture by the Arabs of a district political officer in Mesopotamia has emphasised this fact. A car will do in one day a journey which would take riding camels at least four days.

The vehicle required for desert work must be capable of negotiating the roughest roads, working with reliability under extreme conditions of climate, and carrying a good load, as in addition to transporting officials it may be required for transport. Stores, kit, spare tyres, tools, spare parts, water, large quantity of petrol, stout wood planks, and picks and shovels have to be always carried. The cooling system of the car must be ample, and the radiator extra large.

On the journey already referred to our first obstacle was the loose sand in the dried-up bed of the Gash River, which is 500 yards wide at the crossing. Our car plunged through the soft sand, but owing to the heavy load the wheels sank therein to a depth of 9 ins. to 1ft. We had anticipated this difficulty, and had brought two rolls of strongly woven wire-netting, which we laid along the surface of the sand, with the ends under the driving wheels. The start thus obtained allowed the car to travel 40 or 50 yards before the sand clogged the wheels again.

The repetition of this expedient enabled the car to reach the further bank after a 50-minutes' test of our engine-power. The road from here for 40 miles was over hard, arid plain, where we could proceed at full speed. The mountains of Abyssinia were on our left, and the car ran beautifully over ground covered with jute and thorn bushes. As we neared the River Atbara the speed had to be reduced owing to the presence of gullies across the track. Occasionally the crossing of these entailed a little spade work. We reached the river bank and ran gently over the large stones to the water. One of the natives forded in front of the car, which crossed the stream without any trouble, although the water washed over the bottom of the car body.

In the afternoon it took us an hour to get across a deep ravine, and we had to use our netting again on sand. In the evening we were travelling through thorn scrub when one of the front tyres burst. We had our spare wheel on in a few minutes. Darkness came on, and we proceeded with headlights to the desert village of Azaza.

The country was very rugged for seventeen miles, then we entered the town of Gedaref, a district headquarters of the Sudan. We left at 9.30 next day, and the next sixty miles was the worst road in the world. There are wide sun-cracks in the soil, and every few yards the car bumped into a hole. We averaged fourteen miles an hour. Two tyres burst during the day.

The road is perfectly straight and most monotonous. Mile after mile of dark-brown arid plain, without life, and covered with dry, yellow, coarse grass and thorn bushes. Occasionally camel caravans pass along. We reached the Blue Nile the following day, and crossed on a barge at Medani. We stayed at Medani for refreshments, and departed at noon The journey from there to Khartoum was mostly at full speed, and we marked off on the map the towns and villages passed. Towards evening we sighted the monuments of Khartoum, and at 6.30 p.m. were passing Khartoum Railway station.

We had accomplished in the last three and a-half days a journey which takes twelve days by riding camel. The car

**The cobblestoned bed of the River Atbara.**

had dual driving wheels and two spare wheels. There was not any engine trouble, and to carry out such a journey so successfully obviously emphasises the point that cars are an urgent necessity in the Sudan, Uganda, Mesopotamia, Rhodesia, and such countries.

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**AREA** (after Peace Treaties of 1919) **122,282 sq. miles.**

In 1914 the cultivated area was (according to an estimate of Dr. Colesco) 34,475,750 acres; of which 13,074,922 were ploughed lands, 468,670 were vineyards and orchards, 1,436,960 were meadows, 2,948,472 were pastures, and 5,705,750 were forests.

**POPULATION. About 17,400,000.**

**IMPORTS (1915). £8,533,234.**

United Kingdom, £848,997; Austria-Hungary, £3,718,182; Belgium, £43,230; Germany, £3,575,159; France, £660,287; Turkey, £558,238; Italy, £762,023.

**EXPORTS (1915). £21,742,379.**

United Kingdom, £2,238; Austria-Hungary, £13,576,255; Belgium, £2,343; Germany, £7,044,803; Turkey, £443,325; Italy, £37,838.

[NOTE.—In 1914 the Imports from the U.K. amounted to £2,231,773, and the Exports to it to £1,433,535.]

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# ENGINEERING.

## MORE OLYMPIA MODELS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

There was a certain interest attached to many of the exhibits at the Olympia Motor Show which was of a somewhat wider character than that generally found at motor exhibits, in that it illustrated vividly the curious frame of mind of many whose very livelihood depends on the success of the motor industry. It is fairly obvious that if orders are not obtained for certain makes of cars, the staffs employed will have to be curtailed, even if the factories producing them have not to be shut down altogether. Yet so far as a certain section of workpeople were concerned they were quite prepared to jeopardise their employment for the whole of next season for the sake of some triviality, some question of a real or fancied grievance which was as nothing compared with an issue so large as continued employment not only for themselves, but for the numerous other sections of workpeople concerned. A few of the coachbuilders were quite prepared to prevent several large firms from exhibiting their products at Olympia, although they must have realised all that this would have meant to the trade generally. To give only one instance of this, it was only by the courtesy of private owners that the great firm of Rolls-Royce, Ltd., were able to exhibit their latest cars. The firm's exhibit had to be rearranged entirely, owing to the strike mentioned; but two of the models shown closely resembled those which the firm had originally intended to stage.

### Rolls-Royce, Ltd.

The cars which were shown by this famous firm, whose name is a household word in motoring circles throughout the world, naturally attracted a great deal of attention, and the limousine, with a body by Messrs. Barker and Co., was almost the last word in motoring comfort. The design was that known as a *coupé de ville*, and was painted dark grey with black mouldings and black domed wings. The seating accommodation provided for two persons on the main seat and two on extra seats which fold under the floor when not in use. A detachable extension covered the front seat. An enclosed cabriolet, with body by the same firm of coachbuilders, was also shown in which the seating accommodation provided for two on the main seats and two on seats of the armchair type in front. Also shown was an open touring car with body by Messrs. Hooper and Co., with seating for four persons, including the driver. This presented a very smart appearance, being finished in yellow, with black valances and black wings, and upholstering in red leather. In connection with these the firm ask me to point out that the chassis were of the latest type and did not differ in any respect from those which they originally intended to show.

Emphasis must be placed on the fact that the Rolls-Royce policy does not provide for the production of a model of entirely new design at any given or particular period of the year. In this I hold the opinion, which is perhaps not universally held, that the firm are acting wisely. It is, of course, a good thing to be able to advertise that a firm will be showing something entirely new, or at any rate greatly improved, at the Motor Show. On the other hand, it is certainly a strong selling point to be able to assure a buyer that, at no matter what moment he makes his purchase, he will be supplied with a chassis which embodies all the improvements, whether in design or material, that the firm have been able to effect up to the date of the sale. The Rolls-Royce Company's productions are not known as 1920 or 1921 models. It is the endeavour of this peculiarly progressive firm to improve their chassis immediately any improvements which it is thought desirable to incorporate have passed the unusually severe endurance and other tests imposed upon them by the makers. I have just had a letter from the company emphasising this, and stating definitely that it is not their custom to withhold any improvements in order to show them for the first time at the motor exhibitions.

From a close examination of the engineering features of the Rolls-Royce chassis I have no hesitation in saying that in my opinion the products of the firm have now reached a state of perfection never before attained. Whether it be the engine, or the steering, or the springing, or the gear-changing mechanism, it is impossible to imagine anything that could be better designed, better made, or formed of better material. And yet improvements have been made in the past on parts which seemed, when first produced, to be the last word in quality production; and doubtless, although it is equally impossible to imagine how this can be done, improvements on the present design will eventually be made.

Something may be said here as to the quality of the materials used by the firm in the construction of their engines and chassis. Certain tests which I have been privileged to witness have convinced me as to their general excellence; but I am permitted to say now that there is no metal, no alloy of metals which might conceivably be an improvement which is not tested at the firm's laboratories and in their works with extraordinary pains; and should it be found better than something already used it is adopted, no matter at what cost, nor how much trouble may be involved in the change-over. In a nutshell, the quality of the whole of the materials used is superior in most parts of the chassis to those employed in pre-war days, and in no single instance is any material used that is inferior in any respect to that made use of before 1914. Tests which are now imposed on all material in the Rolls-Royce chassis are of so severe a nature that material which before the war was passed as being perfectly satisfactory is now condemned by the additional tests, and material of a superior quality is being used in its stead. Incidentally, although the fact is perhaps generally known, I may mention that there is still only one model of Rolls-Royce chassis—namely, the 40-50 horse-power—fitted with the remarkably efficient six-cylinder Rolls-Royce engine.

### Vauxhall Cars.

This well-known firm inform me that during the coming season they will continue to concentrate on their "D" and "E" types of chassis. The former of these is of 25 h.p. and the latter of 30-98 h.p., and is describable as a sporting type.

Messrs. Vauxhall Motors, Limited, have made no fundamental change in either of these two popular and well-tried designs during 1920. Certain points have been improved and minor alterations effected to add to the general efficiency of the cars, but so far as my examination went I was unable to see where any really important improvement could be made. As I said on another occasion, I think everyone knows the high reputation of this firm, and knows also that the 25 h.p. Vauxhall has maintained that reputation for a high-performance capacity of which the more noticeable features are smooth and steady running, light steering, excellent acceleration, and ample braking power. The engine, too, has a liveliness and reserve of power which enable a high average speed to be maintained during long journeys over roads and gradients of all kinds. Further, the 30-98 Vauxhall has distinguished itself in competition work, and the firm still holds the fastest time record for the well-known Shelsley Walsh hill climb.

At the show I was particularly interested in the Vauxhall-Windsor interior drive limousine on a 25 h.p. chassis. It is rather lighter in weight than the Vauxhall-Kington, and the arrangements in my opinion are such as must appeal to every car owner. The windows are of the horizontally sliding type, which gives a very wide range of control over the admission of air, and by their means ample ventilation can be ensured without any need for the passengers to sit exposed to draught. The lines of the body are, so far as I know, unique. The "tumble-home" removes to a large extent the shut-in feeling that obtains when riding in a roofed car that cuts off the sky-view. The joints, pillars, framing, and other parts depend for their stability rather upon the skill with which they are designed than upon their actual dimensions, a fact which is particularly noticeable in the V-shaped front and screen.

This particular car will seat four persons in comfort, and entrance is rendered particularly easy by the Vauxhall patent radially moving front seat. There is a freedom from rattle and drumming which is very marked even in comparison with the excellent closed coachwork which characterises most modern cars. The colour is Vauxhall green in the upper part, and the wings and mouldings are black.

This was, of course, not the only model shown. There was a strikingly handsome Vauxhall-Velox limousine on a 30-98 chassis, and I understand that this is the first time a limousine body has been built by the firm for this type of chassis. Obviously, a limousine with generous seating accommodation cannot be mounted on this particular type of chassis, and the seating accommodation consequently is for two persons in front, and either one or two in the rear, as the back seat is somewhat narrow. The complete enclosure provided enables this very fast and powerful car to be used in perfect comfort even in the coldest or roughest weather, and readers interested should write to the firm for further particulars of the production. As regards finish, the colour of the model shown was royal blue, with wings, frame, and moulding in black. The bonnet was of polished aluminium and the car was upholstered in royal blue morocco leather, with roof and sides lined to match.

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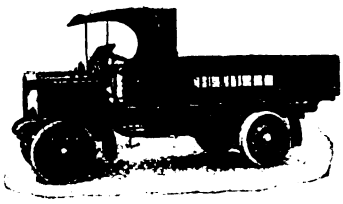

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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—There are few new features to report. For most varieties of dried fruit a strong demand continues. Business in currants has not been quite so animated, except as regards Vostizzas, which are taken up very freely. Smyrna sultanas have been in firm request, and as supplies are extremely limited the tendency is towards a higher level of values. A good trade is being done in figs, especially Naturals, which are in plentiful supply, and consequently are coming to business at somewhat easier rates.

Coffee.—Prices show considerable reductions. The futures market has remained firm. Quotations are: December, 54s. 6d.; March, 53s. 3d.; May, 53s. 3d.; July, 53s. 3d.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake has declined 14s. to 22s., while cottonseed cake is 1s. 6d. down at 11s. 6d. Other transactions include ground nut cake at 21s., cottonseed cake at 19s., and coconut cake at 15s. Palm kernel cake at 12s. is in poor demand.

Sugar.—The free market remains steady. West Indian crystallised is unaltered at 83s., while American granulated remains unchanged at 95s. White Mauritius is quoted at 94s. There has been a good demand for home refined at the official prices.

Oilseeds.—Prices on the whole have declined. Indian linseed has been done at 30s. and rapeseed is lower, with Toria at 34s. and bold Ferozepore at 33s. Cottonseed is quieter. Indian has come to business at 11s., and Egyptian has been done at 16s. 6d.

Seed Oils.—Prices have declined still further. Linseed oil has been done at 23s. to 35s. Refined rape oil is 6s. less at 86s., and the crude variety has declined 3s. at 72s. Turpentine has risen 4s. at 114s.

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon, 217s. 9d. cwt.; butter, 336s. cwt.; cheese, 170s. cwt.; chillies, 140s. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 5½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 140s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 113s. 6d. cwt.; East India bold, 117s. 6d. cwt.; Mocha, 147s. 6d. cwt.; eggs, 42s. per 120; ginger (washed Cochin), 57s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 220s. cwt.; lard, 164s. 3s. cwt.; nutmegs, 1s. 0¼d., 110's to 180's; pepper (Singapore black), 5½d. lb.; and Muntok white, 1s. 2¼. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 136s. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 96s. cwt.; No. 1 cubes, 100s. cwt.; Mauritius (free), 93s. 6d. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 142s. cwt.; tapioca (Singapore), 2 1-16d. lb.; tea (Indian), 6¾d. lb.; Ceylon, 7½d. lb.; Java, 4¾d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 121s. 6d. qr.; English (white), 94s. qr.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £175 ton; bismuth, 12s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £88 18s. 9d. ton; electro (wire bars), £100 10s. ton; gold bars, 121s. 8d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 225s. ton; hematite (mixed), 260s. ton; nickel, £230 ton; platinum, 520s. oz.; plumbago, £37 10s. ton; quicksilver, £15 15s. bottle; silver bars, 53¾d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £36 15s. ton; tin (standard), £247 15s.; wolfram, 23s. 9d. unit; zinc sheets, £56 10s.

*Chemicals.*—Acids:—Boric, 75s. cwt.; oxalic, 1s. 11½d. lb.; citric, 3s. 5½d. lb.; tartaric, 2s. 6½d. lb.; ammonia, £31 6s. 9d. ton; benzole (standard), 3s. 5½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £27 10s. ton; borax crystals, 41s. cwt.; cream of tartar, 235s. cwt.; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £105 ton; industrial (1250 per cent.), £155 ton; lead (red), £56 10s. ton; white dry, £63 10s. ton; potassium:—bichromate, 1s. 7½d. lb.; chlorate, 8½d. lb.; caustic, £105 ton; nitrate, £70 ton; permanganate, 3s. 2½d. lb.; prussiato yellow, 1s. 9½d. lb.; sulphate (90°), £32 ton; sodium:—crystals, 190s. ton; bicarbonate, £13 15s. ton; bichromate, 1s. 1½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent), £16 5s. ton; chlorate, 5d. lb.; caustic, £30 10s.; hyposulphate, £36 ton; prussiate, 1s. 1½d. lb.; nitrate, £23 5s. ton; sulph. iron, 160s. ton; sulph. copper, £41 10s. ton.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton (American, good midd.), 16.60d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £29 15s. ton; oils: linseed, £63 ton; soya, £67 5s. ton; cotton (crude), £49 ton; olive, 21s. 6d. gallon; ground nut, £80 10s. ton; palm, £56 10s. ton; rape (crude), £74 10s. ton; palm kernels, £36 2s. 6d. ton; petroleum, 2s. 3d. gallon; rape (Toria), £34 7s. 6d. ton; rubber: plantation (No. 1 crêpe), 1s. 1¾d. lb.; smoked sheet, 1s. 0½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 1s. 5½d. lb.; Turpentine (American), 120s. cwt.

## SUDAN PRODUCE.

**Gum.**

The C.E.B. report for September states that the exports during the month amounted to 42,376 kilos of bleached, of the value of £E2,426; 686,649 kilos of hashab, of the value of £E33,201; and 107,936 kilos of talh, of the value of £E2,842, via Port Sudan; and 16,653 kilos of hashab of the value of £E810, via Halfa.

Kordofan Province.—1,751 kantars were sold in El Obeid market during September, as against 5,290 kantars during the same month last year, at an average price of £E1.338 per kantar of 100 rottles. Arrivals from Nahud were 736 as against 3,203 kantars during September last year. No gum was sold either at Um Ruaba or Rahad during September.

**Dura.**

Blue Nile Province.—More dura was brought into the Morodas than during the previous months, and there was a considerable drop in prices.

Darfur Province.—The price of dura during the month was P.T.8 per kirat, and of dukn and maize P.T.6 and 7 respectively.

Kordofan Province.—The following quantities of grain were sold in El Obeid market during the month (in ardebs of 420 rottles 189 kilos):—245 ardebs of dukn, 161 ardebs of dura.

Sennar Province.—During the month a small amount of old dura was brought in by natives for sale at P.T.105-120 the Government ardeb (300 rottles—135 kilos). The new dura is not yet threshed.

**Wheat.**

Dongola Province.—The price of wheat was P.T.15 to 16 the kirat.

**Sesame.**

Sennar Province.—During the month dealing in sesame is beginning, and the opening price is expected to be about P.T.450 to 500 per local ardeb of 480 rottles (216 kilos).

**Dates.**

Dongola Province.—A heavy date crop has been harvested, but the price is low. New crops fetch about P.T.13 the meila.

**Live Stock, Hides, and Skins.**

Berber Province.—192 cattle and 4,716 sheep and goats were sold in Damer market. Average prices fell to £E10 and £E2 respectively.

Kassala Province.—Twenty cattle and 1,133 sheep were exported from Kassala to the interior of the Sudan.

Red Sea Province.—Nine sheep and 148 head of cattle were exported via Port Sudan.

## LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended November 18:—Although offers from Alexandria have been materially reduced, there is no disposition on the part of spinners to enter into commitments, and whilst not wanting to adopt a too pessimistic tone, a general survey of the present trade conditions shows little hope of any immediate improvement. Spot and forward business has fallen to negligible proportions. Quite a fair inquiry has been witnessed here, chiefly for uppers, types 1-4, and for Sakellaridis, types 35-48, but the amount of business resulting was disappointingly small. A steady market seems a thing of the past, and spinners continue to supply their bare needs and refuse to buy a bale more. The only way to effect sales is to undercut the market, hence quotations tumble day by day. For example, good uppers are officially quoted to-day at 19.00d. per lb., yet strict good uppers were sold here to-day at 17.50d. per lb.! If anything can be referred to as "cheap" to-day, surely upper Egyptian cotton deserves the title, and yet the total sales for the whole Egyptian market have averaged barely 100 bales per day. C.i.f. business has been on a very small scale. Manchester reports this week are dismal in the extreme, and in the continued absence of trade support and increasing anxiety on the part of holders to realise their stocks, we look for prices to fall to a still lower level. Quotations have registered a decline of 700 points for Sakellaridis (fine and extra exceptionally 600 points) and 500 points for all grades of brown and upper. Fully good fair Sakel, 34.00d. Total sales, 650 bales.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cable received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated November 15:—During the week ended November 6 light to moderate rain fell in parts of North-Eastern and South-Eastern India. Prospects of crops generally fair, but rain badly wanted in the Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Rajputana, Central Provinces, and Bihar, and in parts of Central India, Bombay, Hyderabad, and the unirrigated area in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. During the week ended November 13 light rainfall confined to Bay Islands and South Madras. Bombay cotton market deadlock unchanged; Bombay Cotton Brokers' Association strongly opposed to further business under control of board. Ready market quiet. Fine M.G. Oomra number three spot rate Rs. 290. Calcutta jute market quiet without important inquiries from abroad. Sellers considerably easier. Hessians dull with no business done and declining prices. Heavy goods dull. Bank rate is Calcutta and Bombay 6 per cent., Madras 7 per cent. Naihati-Habra-Satkira Railway (*i.e.*, east from Naihati) reconnaisance survey of 45 miles (broad gauge) by the Eastern Bengal State Railway sanctioned.


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# COMPANY MEETINGS.

## IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

### Considerable Increase in Business.

The fifty-third general meeting of the Imperial Ottoman Bank was held on November 17 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., the Earl of Bessborough, K.P., C.V.O., C.B., presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, referred with deep regret to the loss which the committee had sustained since the last general meeting in the death of Baron Hottinguer, a participator in the foundation of the bank, whose connection with the committee in Paris, of which he was President for so many years, dated back to 1866. The delay in the Peace negotiations and the uncertainty of Turkey's future had had a profound effect on the economic situation of the country. The various political changes at Constantinople and, later, the Anatolian disturbances, with the consequent military intervention, were also adverse factors. The harvest of 1919, however, on the whole was good, although the difficulties of transport restricted exports, which were so necessary to any improvement in the Turkish exchange. Imports had, however, been considerable, both for the needs of the country and the establishment of stocks, and were largely centred in the warehouses at Constantinople with a view to re-export to Russia. The closing of the Russian and Anatolian markets, however, caused much congestion, and consequent commercial embarrassment. In the districts free from disturbances, taxes had been received regularly and in increased amounts, but, owing to the depreciation of currency, they remained insufficient to meet the foreign obligations for the payment of which they were hypothecated.

The period covered by the report and balance-sheet witnessed a considerable increase in the volume of their commercial operations, in spite of the political disturbance which existed, and unfortunately still continued to exist, in Turkey. The activities of many of their branches had been curtailed, particularly in the interior of Anatolia, which was entirely cut off from direct communication with Constantinople, and in some cases there it had been necessary to close the branch entirely for the time being. Taking into consideration the disturbed state of Turkey, and the general condition of affairs in the commercial and financial world, they regarded the result shown in the balance-sheet as highly satisfactory.

It would be quite obvious to all that the accounts were heavily affected by the depreciation in the Turkish pound and the franc in comparison with sterling. The Committee felt justified in asking them to appreciate the foresight with which, since the period of the Balkan War, they anticipated difficulties in Turkey and consequently arranged accordingly the distribution of the bank's funds. Had this precaution not been taken, and had they allowed a large surplus of funds to remain in Turkey, the resulting shrinkage in conversion to sterling, in which currency the accounts of the Bank had to be presented, would have been extremely serious.

The balance standing to the credit of the profit and loss account was £206,404 14s. 10d., which, in view of the unsettled condition of affairs in Anatolia and elsewhere, and the uncertain condition of the exchanges, they proposed to carry forward to the current year. Since the date of this balance-sheet, as they were aware, there had been a further heavy depreciation in the sterling value of the Turkish pound and the franc, which caused a diminution of sterling valuation for the balance-sheet figures, especially in that part of the assets which were at present in francs. The making of a provision for this diminution would absorb the carry-forward and even part of the statutory reserve, but it was to be hoped that this low value of the franc was only temporary.

The huge increase in the cost of living in Turkey and the Near East had necessitated their allowing further increases of salary to their staff. To Mr. Nias, their late director-general, who continued to discharge the functions of director-general until the end of 1919, they wished to record their gratitude for the distinguished services which he rendered to the bank in the course of the eighteen years during which he devoted himself to the furtherance of its interests. In conclusion, he would add that their more recent expansion had been in the opening of an office in the Ashar district of Busreh, as well as a branch at Kermanshah, which they were of opinion would assist in the development of their business in Mesopotamia. There, as elsewhere, they were devoting every energy to the assistance of trade development, and the offices more or less especially organised for this business, such as Manchester, London, Marseilles, Tunis, Egypt, Baghdad, and Busreh, were displaying most energetic efforts in assisting various trades, and the results should be satisfactory both to trade and the shareholders. Speaking at this time of year, he thought that they would be interested to know that the working results attained for the first six months of the current year had been gratifying.

Viscount Goschen, C.B.E., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then moved:—"That the Lord Hillingdon, Messrs. Henri Hottinguer, H. Finaly, and A. Berthelot, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Albert Stern, K.B.E., C.M.G., and Sir W. Guy Granet be and they are hereby elected members of the General Committee." General the Hon. Sir Herbert A. Lawrence, K.C.B., seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman next proposed:—"That Messrs. J. Boissonnas, F. Vernes, the Earl of Bessborough, K.P., C.V.O., C.B., the Viscount Goschen, C.B.E., and Sir W. Lawrence Young, Bart., be and they are hereby re-elected members of the General Committee." The Lord Oranmore and Browne, K.P., seconded this, and it was unanimously adopted.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Committee, the management, and the staff at home and abroad, moved by Mr. A. Hood and seconded by Mr. A. G. Morrish.

## BENGAL—NAGPUR RAILWAY.

### Demands for Increased Facilities.

The sixty-second ordinary general meeting of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Co., Ltd., was held November 18 at Gresham House, Old Broad Street, Mr. Robert Miller (chairman of the company) presiding.

Sir T. R. Wynne, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E. (managing director), read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said the gross earnings for the year were Rs.657 lakhs as compared with Rs.620 lakhs for the previous year. These figures showed that with the same mileage worked as in the previous year, the average earnings increased from Rs.441 per mile to Rs.469. The number of third-class passengers, who were the backbone of the coaching traffic, increased from 16,000,000 to 18,100,000 in 1919-20. The tonnage of the goods traffic increased by half a million tons, and the gross receipts for the same by Rs.11 lakhs. In 1918-19 the working expenses were Rs.307 lakhs, and in 1919-20 they were Rs.384 lakhs. The general result of working for the year under review had been the satisfactory increase in gross receipts, but also, on the other hand, a very large increase in working expenses. They were all aware how enormously the cost of living had increased, together with the great rise that had taken place in wages and in the cost of all materials, plant, and rolling-stock required for railway purposes. In spite of every endeavour to keep expenditure within the most economical limits, the percentage of working expenses for the year 1919-20 had been 58.54 of the gross earnings as against 49.01 in the previous year. With the cost of working increased from causes beyond control, it was reasonable that the rates charged to the public for railway transportation should be increased in India as they had been increased in England. Indian railways had been able to make some increase in rates, to compensate towards the high cost of working, but, as they were aware, the charges they were authorised to make were limited by maxima and minima rates for each class of goods, in a classification laid down by the Government of India. These maxima and minima rates were fixed many years ago, and the fixing of them was a function pertaining solely to the Government. He submitted that the Government of India would find ample justification for a review of the subject of rates, with the object of raising them.

The demands on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway to expand its system to meet the development of industry and commerce were large. They would grow, and they should be met. The railway served a great coal and mineral area of India. On its system were situated the Tata Iron and Steel Works, which were the only steel works at present in India producing steel. The production of steel in India was in its infancy, and in the opinion of the board India would eventually become one of the largest steel-producing countries in the world. A new steel company was about to be established on their railway system, and schemes for other installations were being matured. An immense new coal field, called the Karanpura, was about to be opened up by the extension of the Ramgarh Bokharo branch into it. When that new area—which in all probability would be a second Jharia coal field—was opened out, it would be necessary for them to make a chord line from it to their main line somewhere in the vicinity of Monarpur, a distance of about 150 miles, for the service of the western and southern coal traffic. That would give them some idea of the extensions it would be necessary to make to meet the demands of the country for an increased supply of coal. They would recollect, too, that they had now also in construction a very important branch line—the Amda Jamda—to open up a vast supply of the finest iron ore, and they were just completing an extension of the branch line to Gorumahsani for the supply of iron ore to the Tata Steel Works. Turning now in another direction, they had in hand the construction of a port at Vizagapatam, which would give a much required harbour on the East Coast. Every additional port helped to distribute the inland traffic more evenly over the railway channels, and so diverted to the opening of new country funds which would otherwise have to be expended on the comparatively sterile work of increasing the capacity of existing tracks. As a glance at the map would show, Vizagapatam was well placed for such a purpose, and it was also happy in the possession of physical features peculiarly suitable for the construction of a harbour and port which, on completion, they


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were confident would prove a powerful factor in the development of the resources and the trade of the country generally, and would add especially to the prosperity of this railway.

The difficulty before them was how all the capital required for this development was to be provided. At present their capital requirements were met by the Government of India out of the yearly sum they were able to provide under what was called the Railway Programme, and with the growing demands for railway equipment and extensions in India, the annual amount of capital available was nothing like sufficient to meet the requirements of the Indian railway system. The question of the future financing of the railways of India was about to be thoroughly inquired into by the Railway Commission which was proceeding to India this winter. Indian railway companies were, in his opinion, one of the best investments in the world. The future of their company was a great one, and they could not yet see the end of the new traffic which was waiting only for them to give it facilities. There was no need for alarm about the future of India. Measures, from which reforms were expected, were on the Government table, and usually in such circumstances a certain amount of disturbance and agitation arose. He felt confident, however, that that trouble would pass away in time and that India would settle down calmly to new conditions.

Sir Charles Stewart-Wilson, K.C.I.E., seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

## COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

### South Indian Railway.

The report of the South Indian Railway Company, Ltd., for the year ended March 31 states that capital expenditure continued to be on a low scale during the whole of the year, the only outlay of importance being Rs. 9,37,399 on additional goods wagons, Rs. 2,54,982 on quarters for subordinate staff, Rs. 1,12,726 on strengthening of permanent way, and Rs. 84,996 on the strengthening of bridges, while the stores balance increased by Rs. 4,99,699. On the other hand, there were sundry credits to capital amounting to Rs. 7,26,132 for recoveries in adjustment of value of rolling stock supplied by the company for military purposes connected with the war. Compared with the previous year, there was an increase of Rs. 45,13,382 or 12.67 per cent. in the gross earnings, an increase of Rs. 53,72,384 or 36.63 per cent. in the working expenses, and a decrease of Rs. 13,59,002 or 6.93 per cent. in the net earnings. The increase in working expenses was due partly to increases in salaries and wages to meet the increased cost of the necessaries of life, partly to the higher cost of fuel, and partly to the larger expenditure on renewals, both of the permanent way and of rolling stock, which had to be deferred during the war by reason of difficulty in obtaining materials. The company's share of the surplus profits for the year 1919-20, including adjustments, amounted to Rs. 8,09,917, from which Indian income-tax was paid, amounting to Rs. 53,462, leaving Rs. 7,56,455, which was remitted home on May 20, 1920, by telegraphic transfer at exchange of 2s. 1d. per rupee, realising £78,797 8s. 2d. There is, however, a liability against this for Indian super-tax, the amount of which has not yet been ascertained. The company's share of the surplus profits was Rs. 45,473 more than in the previous year, and, owing to the higher exchange value of the rupee, the amount realised was £19,168 more. The balance at credit of surplus profits account on March 31, 1920, was £102,410 10s. 3d. Since that date various sums have been received and expended, and the account as at end of October, 1920, stands as follows:—Balance as at March 31, 1920, £102,410 10s. 3d.; surplus profits for the year 1919-20, £78,797 8s. 2d.; interest received on investments, £3,995 3s. 6d.; sundry advance recovered, £25—making the total receipts £185,228 1s. 11d. And the following payments have been made:—Interim dividend of 2 per cent., less income-tax, paid on July 1, 1920, £15,250; Indian super-tax for the year 1919-20, £1,306 1s. 4d.; English income-tax (final demand for 1919-20), £1,666 5s. 7d.; petty expenses, £7, leaving a balance to the credit of the surplus profits account, as at October 31, 1920, of £166,998 15s. The account is liable to charges for English income-tax, corporation tax, and excess profits duty, if any, as well as for Indian super-tax for the current year, for which demands have not, however, yet been made. The total distribution from surplus profits in the year 1919 was 4¼ per cent.—1¼ per cent. interim dividend on July 1, 1919, and final dividend of 3 per cent. on January 1, 1920. In raising the interim dividend paid from surplus profits on July 1, 1920, to 2 per cent., the board explained their desire to distribute the dividends more evenly between the two half-years. The board now recommend that for the year 1920 there be paid from surplus profits on January 1, 1921, a final dividend of 2½ per cent., making, with the guaranteed interest of 1¾ per cent., a total payment for the half-year of 4¼ per cent., less income-tax. The total distribution for the year will then be 8 per cent. (4½ per cent. from surplus profits and 3½ per cent. from guaranteed interest), as against 7¾ per cent. paid in the previous year.

### Sudan Plantations Syndicate.

The report of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Ltd., for the year ended June 30 states that the cotton crops which passed through the ginning factories resulted in the following shipments:—Zeidab, 1,889 bales; Tayiba, 2,306 bales; Barakat, 2,475 bales. The prices obtained for the cotton were very satisfactory. Tayiba Station continues to be run by the syndicate, but has now become part of the main Gezireh area. The station at Barakat remains a useful training ground for the steadily increasing staff employed in connection with the development of the larger area in the Gezireh. Pending completion of the works at the Sennar Dam, and the arrival of gravitation water, a pumping station is being erected at Hag Abdulla in connection with the development of the Gezireh, and which, incidentally, will bring a considerable area of new land under cotton cultivation next July, when it is expected that the installation will be ready. The profit and loss account for the twelve months, after deduction of all outgoings, shows a net profit of £228,759 1s. 1d. which, added to the balance brought forward from last year, viz., £60,452 15s. 4d., *less* directors' fees, since paid, £1,900, brings the total credit to £287,311 16s. 5d. The directors propose to deal with this sum as follows:—To recommend the declaration of a dividend of 5s., equal to 25 per cent. per share, together with a bonus of 2s., equal to 10 per cent. per share (both less income tax), absorbing £105,000; to carry forward the balance of £182,311 16s. 5d.—£287,311 16s. 5d. Meeting, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., December 15, noon.

## NEW COMPANIES.

### "Amanath" Palestine Arts and Crafts.

The "Amanath" Palestine Arts and Crafts Co. has been registered as a private company, with a capital of £10,000 in £50 shares. Objects: To develop arts and crafts industries in Palestine, and to act as merchants and agents for the sale of the products in Great Britain and the Dominions. The subscribers are:—H. L. Nathan, 1, Finsbury Square, E.C.; F. Mann, 5, Dalmeny Road, Tufnell Park, N.7; R. B. Syder, 27, Mincing Lane, E.C.; E. Good, 1, New Oxford Street, W.C.; H. Kaufman, 1, Gravel Lane, E.; and E. W. L. Epstein, 178-9, High Street, Shoreditch, E.

## NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

**Position at August 31, 1920, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.**

| Banking Department. | | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each) | | 2,925,000 |
| Reserve Fund: | | |
| Statutory Reserve | | 1,462,500 |
| Special Reserve | | 487,500 |
| Current, Deposit and other Accounts | | 15,870,181 |
| Mixed Tribunals | | 2,241,759 |
| Egyptian Government | | 1,253,004 |
| Bankers' Accounts | | 1,143,284 |
| Cheques and Bills payable | | 964,807 |
| Sundry other Accounts | | 1,236,798 |
| | | £E27,584,833 |
| Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government | | £E. 11,542,739 |
| Sundry Securities | | 228,195 |
| Advances on Merchandise | | 642,220 |
| Advances on Securities | | 1,655,635 |
| Advances otherwise Secured | | 1,473,247 |
| Sundry other Advances | | 956,700 |
| Bills of Exchange | | 1,553,046 |
| Local Bills Discounted | | 209,290 |
| Buildings and Furniture | | 229,264 |
| Money at call and at short notice | | 2,252,250 |
| Bankers' Accounts | | 903,136 |
| Egyptian Government | | 2,811,250 |
| Sudan Government | | 130,561 |
| Sundry other Accounts | | 407,674 |
| Cash:— | | |
| Notes | £E2,256,204 | |
| Gold | 27,965 | |
| Silver, Nickel, etc. | 305,457 | |
| | | 2,589,626 |
| | | £E27,584,833 |
| Issue Department. | | £E. |
| Notes Issued | | 43,700,000 |
| | | £E43,700,000 |
| Gold | £E3,333,190 | |
| *British Treasury Bills | 18,516,810 | £E. |
| | | 21,850,000 |
| Securities:— | | |
| Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government | 432,447 | |
| British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds | 21,417,553 | |
| | | 21,850,000 |
| | | £E43,700,000 |

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of Gold. (See *Journal Officiel* October 30, 1916.)

Telegraphic Address: "Acristodlo, London." 'Phone: London Wall 6431 (2 lines).

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| Bars | Tinplates | Silicate of Soda | Soda Crystals |
| Angles | Galvanised Sheets | Soda Ash | Sodium Sulphide 60/65% |
| Plates | (Plain & Corrugated) | Bi-carbonate of Soda | Saltcake |
| ALL NON-FERROUS METALS | | Epsom Salts | Glauber Salts |
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*Full particulars sent on receipt of specifications.*

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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

STAMBOUL, November 6.

The depression continues, and the financial stringency is accentuated. The rapid rise in the exchange which has taken place during the week has increased the difficulties experienced by merchants in clearing the goods which they have received. Prices of imported articles of the first necessity, such as flour, sugar, petrol, have risen in consequence. Manufactured goods have not felt the effect up to the present for lack of demand.

*Imports*: Manufactures.—The sales for Roumania and the ports of the Crimea have almost completely ceased. There have only been a few small transactions for local consumption. Prices are stationary here; in centres of production they continue to fall.

*Colonial Produce*: Sugar.—The fall continues in America. Few transactions have been carried out here owing to the rise in the exchange. Quotations are in America 22½ dollars per 100 kilos; Java, afloat, £64-65 per ton, disposable £70-75 per ton, and in Customs £T48-49 per 100 kilos.

Coffee is firmer because of the rise in the exchange. Rio is Ps.45-50 per oke, and Santos Ps.50-55 per oke, both in transit.

Rice.—The fall continues, especially at Marseilles, where there have been large arrivals from the colonies. In two weeks prices have fallen from Ps.210 to Ps.170 per 100 kilos. In America also prices are falling. Buyers are showing themselves very reserved. Quotations are: Saigon No. 1 Ps.27-28 per oke, American Bleu-Rose, Ps.29-30 per oke, both in transit.

Petrol.—The demand is incessant, and prices are gradually rising. American is quoted £T6.40 per case of two bidons.

Flour (American).—The lack of arrivals during the week and the rise in the exchange have resulted in an increase in the price from £T1 to £T1¼ per sack. As no approaching arrivals are reported, a fresh rise is to be anticipated.

The arrivals of cereals are poor—1,800 sacks during the week. Quotations are Ps.18-19 wheat, and Ps.8 barley.

*Exports*.—Business has been insignificant.

Opium.—The sales of the week amount to twelve cases at the same prices as those quoted last week.

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The onion crop of Egypt is reported on favourably this season.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd., for the week ended October 20, amounted to £E18,224; total for the year, £E266,451. For the corresponding periods of last year, receipts amounted to £E16,332 and £E158,417.

Piræus, Athens and Peloponnesus Railway.—The coupons and drawn 4½ per cent. bonds, due on Oct. 15 last, are now being paid at the office of Messrs. R. Raphael and Son, Austin Friars House, and must be left three clear days for examination.

National Bank of Turkey.—Notice is given to holders of founder's shares that, in accordance with the decision of the general meeting of shareholders, held August 31 last, Coupon 1 for the years 1911 and 1913 should now be presented for payment at the head office in Constantinople, or at the London Agency, 50, Cornhill, E.C.3.

The Indian and General Investment Trust has declared dividends for six months ended October 31 on the preferred stock at rate of 5 per cent. per annum and on deferred stock at rate of 8 per cent. per annum, payable December 10.


# IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

**Capital - £10,000,000**
**Paid-up - £5,000,000**

**CONSTANTINOPLE.**

Messrs. L. STEEG, Director-General.
Lt-Col. J. PROCTER, Director-General-Adjoint.

Messrs. P. REDON, B. KERESTEDJIAN, J. UNGAR. } Directors. DJEVAD BEY. HAMID BEY. NOURY BEY.

**GENERAL COMMITTEE.**

| LONDON. | PARIS. |
|---|---|
| EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., G.V.O., C.B. | LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE, C.V.O. |
| E. W. H. BARRY. | ANDRE BERTHELOT. |
| VISCOUNT GOSCHEN, C.B.E. | JEAN BOISSONNAS. |
| SIR W. GUY GRANET. | CHARLES DE CERJAT. |
| SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E. C.I.E. | HORACE FINALY. |
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**CONSTANTINOPLE.**
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

**EGYPT.** Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

**PALESTINE.** Jerusalem. Jaffa.

**CYPRUS.** Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

**SYRIA.** Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.

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The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

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

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.


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## ON 'CHANGE.

### Further General Decline.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Monday night.

During the past week further depression has developed as the result of the generally unfavourable position, and for the most prices have again declined. No other outcome could be expected in view of the serious commercial and financial position, the renewed fluctuations in the exchanges—and, last but not least, political developments in the Near East and elsewhere. To-day renewed weakness has been created by the adverse news from Ireland, and the markets closed on a very dull note.

In the circumstances Government securities are pretty well maintained, only slight declines taking place. Their firmness has, indeed, been the most notable feature of the week. Foreign bonds have been very weak, Greek stocks being specially depressed on account of the uncertain position.

As regards the other markets there is an unvarying tale of depression to be told. Industrials with few exceptions have continued to drop, practically all orders being from sellers. Further Continental liquidation has had its effect on oil shares, which have again found lower levels. Rubbers have been very depressed, and there have been heavy declines in a number of the leading shares.

Near Eastern securities have shared in the general weakness. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per Cent. at 59½, Turkish Guaranteed 4 per Cent. 1855 at 67½, and Greek Guaranteed 2½ per Cent. 1898 at 59½ are all fairly steady, as are Turkish 3½ per Cent. Egyptian Tribute Bonds at 52½, a decline of half a point.

Greek securities, however, have slumped all along the line. The 5 per Cent. 1881 Loans is 5 points down at 45, while the 5 per Cent. 1884 Loan is only a point better. The 1890 Loan is 4¾ down at 45; Fundings have declined to the same level, while the 1910 and 1914 Loans are quoted respectively at 35 and 46. The 1902 Loan is quoted at 46

Banks are weaker in some cases. Agricultural 3½ per Cent. Bonds are ⅛ up at 58, and the 3½ per Cent. Guaranteed Bonds are unchanged at 60. National Bank of Egypt are 11-16 down, however, at 16¾, Imperial Ottoman Banks are 8½, while Land Banks are quoted 4½.

Land shares are depressed. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments are 3¼, and Behares 10, the Preference shares being again 65s. Egyptian Consolidated Lands are 1s. 6d., while Delta Lands are 2s. 6d. down at 10s. Egyptian and Foreign Trust are again lower at 12s. 6d., a decline of 1s. 3d. Gharbieh Lands are 2⅛, while New Egyptians are 1s. 9d. down at 24s. 3d. Union Foncieres are 3¼. Sudan Plantations have shed ⅛ at 4⅝.

Among miscellaneous descriptions Abyssinian Corporations have firmed up 6d. to ¼. Alexandria Waters are now 6½, Morums are 13s. 6d., a decline of 2s. 3d., while Egyptian Salt and Soda are 1 23-32

In Oils Anglo-Egyptians are considerably lower at 3⅞. Roumanian Consolidateds are, however, 1s. 3d. up at 22s. 3d.

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A new steamer service between Barcelona, Marseilles, and the leading ports of the Near East is to be established shortly.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended November 6 amounted to £11,725.

A group of Belgian and French capitalists are establishing a large sugar mill in Dubrarica, with a capital of 30 million dinars.

The Transmediterranean Company has established a regular service of boats between Melilla and Oran.

Burma Railways.—Final distribution of 1¼ per cent., with a bonus of 2 per cent., both less tax, on account of surplus profits, to be distributed with the guaranteed interest payable January 1 next, making in all a return of 8 per cent. for the year 1920-21.

H.M. Consul at Kerman, Persia, asks that correspondence intended for H.M. Consulate there should be addressed to the British Consulate, Kerman, Persia, viâ Duzdab and Nuski, Baluchistan.

## TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—

### Egypt.

(*The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.*)

Pump Foundations and Power House.—The Inspector of Projects, Western Delta Division, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of pump foundations and power house for new Aboukir pumping station. November 30.

Candles.—The Financial Secretary, Egyptian Army, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of seven tons (either English or metric tons) of candles, suitable for storage and use in tropical climate, to be delivered into 'Abbâsîya *Nuzl*, or one ton into 'Abbâsîya *Nuzl* and six tons c.i.f. Port Sudan. November 30 (L.).

Clothing, etc.—The Lunacy Division, 'Abbâsîya, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of clothing, bedding, furniture, hardware, slippers, brushes, and other household necessaries required for 'Abbâsîya and Khânka Asylums for one year from April 1, 1921. January 3 (L.).

Piles.—The Director-General, Main Roads and Bridges Department, Ministry of Communications, Cairo, invites tenders for the construction of new defending piles for the protection of the swing span at Benha Bridge over Raiyâh Taufiqi. December 4 (L.).

Twill.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for 10,000 yards of grey twill and 12,000 yards of khaki twill. November 29 (L.).

Wagons, etc.—The Egyptian Delta Railway Company invites tenders for the supply of (1) 260 steel bogie platform wagons with spare parts, and (2) 1,204 pairs of wheels and axles, steel-tired or chilled iron. (Spec., £1 1s. each, offices of company, 210-216, Gresham House, Old Broad Street.) December 6.

### India.

Refuse Destructor.—The Municipality of Bombay invites tenders for the manufacture, erection, and equipment of a refuse destructor for 200 tons of refuse a day. (Spec., 5s., Sir John Wolfe Barry, Lyster, and Partners, 2, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1.) March 4.

Copper Plates, etc.—The South Indian Railway Company invites tenders for the supply of (1) copper plates; (2) superheater elements; and (3) steel tires. (Spec., 1 and 2, 10s. each, 3, £1, offices of company, 91, York Street.) November 30.

Structural Steel.—The Assam-Bengal Railway Company invites tenders for the supply of structural steel, galvanised work, etc., for shops extension. (Spec., offices of company, Bishopsgate House, Bishopsgate.) December 1.

Boilers.—The India Office invites tenders for the supply of locomotive boilers. (Spec., Director-General of Stores, Whitehall.) December 3.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97 7/16 |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 38·50-39·50 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 114-117 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/7-1/7½ |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 242-246 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/7-1/7½ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 460-480 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅝ | 3·48½-3·50½ |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 56·50-57·00 |
| Prague | Kronen to £ | 24·02 | 275-285 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 247½ |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 34½ |
| Vienna | Kronen to £ | 24·02 | 1,075-1,125 |
| Warsaw | Marks to £ | 20·43 | 1,450 |


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## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

### Forthcoming Sailings.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Elysia, for Bombay (Liverpool, December 1); s.s. Circassia, for Bombay (Glasgow, December 4 and Liverpool, December 11).

*Anchor-Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Masirah, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 8); s.s. Mahanada, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London December 4); s.s. Matra, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London December 14); s.s. Blackwell, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London December 24).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Dorsetshire, for Rangoon (London, December 8); s.s. Lancashire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 1); s.s. Yorkshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (December 15).

*Byron Steamship Co.*—S.s. Maid of Athens for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 7).

*Clan Line.*—S.s. Clan Cumming, for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, December 8).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Tyria, for Gibraltar (Liverpool, December 2); s.s. Phrygia, for Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, December 18); s.s. Sea Victory, for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Constantinople, and Constantza (London, December 7).

*Ellerman City Line.*—S.s. City of Cairo, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 6); s.s. City of Manchester, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 20).

*Ellerman's Wescott and Laurence Line.*—S.s. Borodino, for Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (London, November 30).

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Glenamore, for Port Said, etc. (London, December 9); s.s. Glensanda, for Port Said, etc. (London, December 23); s.s. Glenapp, for Port Said, etc. (London, January 6).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Astronomer, for Calcutta (Liverpool, December 9); s.s. Architect, for Calcutta (Liverpool, December 22).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Sittang (freight only), for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 8).

*Holt (Alfred) and Co.'s Line.*—S.s. Achilles, for Port Said, etc. (Glasgow, December 9); s.s. Lycaon, for Port Said, etc. (Birkenhead, December 2).

*Moss Line.*—S.s. Amasis, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, November 27); s.s. Limoges, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Constantinople, Cyprus, and Beyrout (Liverpool, December 4).

*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Malatian, for Malta and Alexandria, also taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Mersina, Jaffa, Haifa, Cyprus, etc. (Liverpool, December 4); s.s. Maronian, for Algiers, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, December 11).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Alipore, for Bombay (London, December 18); s.s. Karmala, for Bombay (London, December 17); s.s. Nore, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta, also taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden (London, December 17).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. Culna, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 11); s.s. Chakrata, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, end of December).


# ANCHOR LINE

**FAST PASSENGER SERVICE.**

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**LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.**
**FITTED WITH ELECTRIC FANS.**
**MARCONI WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.**
**RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.**

**PASSENGER SAILING DATES—**
**ELYSIA ABOUT DEC. 8.**
**CIRCASSIA ABOUT DEC. 18.**

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**16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.**


## OIL NOTES AND NEWS.

### Requirements of Roumanian Oil Industry.

His Majesty's Commercial Secretary at Bucharest has forwarded to the Department of Overseas Trade particulars of the electrical machinery and other materials which are urgently required for the reconstruction of the Roumanian oil industry. The list is a general estimate received from the Geological Institute at Bucharest, and it has not been found possible to indicate the exact requirements of each undertaking.

The requirements include conduits, copper wire, porcelain armatures with shade, protector, etc., for lamps in borings, three-phase asynchronous electric motors for borings, three-phase oil transformers, porcelain insulators, meters for motive power, meters for lighting, and a turbo-generating set of 10,000 kw.

For the reconstruction of the boring industry in the oil-fields riveting and hermetic gutters, small machines and pumps, boring cranes with accessories, boring bits, boring tools, hardware, iron sheets of different dimensions, iron sheets for tanks, galvanised steel cables, and lathes and other machines are needed. Tank barges and steamers are also required for carrying the oil on the Danube and on sea.

## TRADE WITH THE NEAR EAST.

### Tribute to British Methods.

An illustrated pamphlet has recently been issued by the Guaranty Trust Company of New York on "Trading with the Near East: Present Conditions and Future Prospects," describing the outlook in the various Near East markets for the guidance of American merchants and manufacturers. Great stress is laid on the unique opportunities for business enterprise in this region. Thus it is stated that there are future possibilities of almost unbelievable proportions for imports from and exports to the Eastern Mediterranean, the Sea of Marmora, and the Black Sea ports. "These entire sections must be fed, clothed, and largely rehabilitated. Roads, ports, railways, and public works of all kinds are needed everywhere." It is further pointed out that for the goods urgently needed, such as boots and shoes, leather, rubber, outer and underclothing, cutlery, cottonseed oil, sugar, bar and band iron, nails, carpenters' and machinists' tools, automobiles, jams and fats, the merchants of the Near East have very valuable products to send in exchange.

The Greek market comes in for special attention, and in referring to it a reference is made to the keen British competition that will be encountered there as "in every Near Eastern market, as British traders are much more liberal than American in their terms, extending credit where necessary, while many American exporters still insist upon 'cash with documents.'" This tribute to British enterprise is followed later on by an even more interesting statement that "the chief competitor will undoubtedly be Great Britain. A large number of British traders are already on the ground in every country of the Near East. There are British warships in every harbour and British military forces in many cities, messengers of peace and security for those oppressed communities which are building up a strong pro-British sentiment which assuredly will have an important influence in favour of British trade."

## JERUSALEM'S WATER SUPPLY.

The *Palestine Weekly* states that the Jerusalem Municipality is taking energetic measures to expedite the supply of water for domestic purposes, and householders have been approached for the purpose of ascertaining the extent of the demand. They will be required to pay the cost of installation and a flat rate of 5 per cent. on the rental.

The Romana-Americana Company has increased its capital to 150,000,000 lei by the creation of 225,000 new shares of 500 lei each.

The production of oil in Roumania in September amounted to 99,448 tons, making the total for the first nine months of the year 746,707 tons, as against 693,983 tons for the corresponding period of 1919.

Mr. T. M. Ainscough, O.B.E., His Majesty's Senior Trade Commissioner in India and Ceylon, will leave London on November 25 to join the P. and O. s.s. China at Marseilles, en route for Bombay. Mr. Ainscough hopes to arrive in Calcutta about December 20, and will then take over charge of his post.

One of the most interesting stands at the International Advertising Exhibition will be that of the Hassolel Co., the publishers of the *Palestine Daily Mail* and the *Palestine Weekly*. A beautiful display of Palestinian products will be on view. Recognising the value of the Exhibition for propaganda purposes, the Government of Palestine have extended official recognition to the stand, and have made themselves responsible for the collection of many of the samples that will be exhibited.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 500.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *The Allies and Greece.*

So far the most satisfactory development in the situation created by the result of the Greek elections is the resolve of the British Government not to allow itself to be stampeded by France into a futile veto on King Constantine's return. Indeed, it would appear as if the French Government had itself been persuaded of the folly of the suggestion, and is now more concerned to "get even" with the Greeks by revising the Treaty of Sèvres at their expense. Again, we would express the hope that no hasty action will be taken, and that a more careful examination of the whole Near Eastern position will be made than the Allies have found time for at any stage since the beginning of the war. They stand convicted of serious errors of judgment in the past, and they are not likely to stumble on the right path now, by merely gratifying French spite against an individual or a nation.

### *The Near Eastern Position.*

One of the results of the Greek elections has been to tear away the veil that was being kept in position with the greatest difficulty in order to hide the fact that the settlement devised by the Entente Powers was both unjust and unworkable. France and Italy had already recognised the fact, and were working on their own lines to curry favour with Bulgaria, and to show sympathy with the Turkish Nationalists, whose hostility is based entirely on the terms of the Treaty. The British Government, however, refused to admit its mistake; it trusted to Greece to extricate the Allies from their difficulties, and was, apparently, prepared to finance the military operations of the Greeks indefinitely in order to enable M. Venizelos to justify the settlement inspired by him. With the latter's defeat, however, the British Government's house of cards has fallen to the ground, and all that there is to show, as far as the Near East is concerned, for eighteen months' labours in Paris is the violation of Allied pledges in respect of Bulgarians, Turks, and Arabs, Greece unimpressed and indifferent, Turkey successfully defiant, and the whole Moslem world restless under imputed breaches of faith on the part of Great Britain. To meet this situation the French proposal, as we understand it, is to ride roughshod over the Greeks, and to give Mustapha Kemal Pasha anything he may ask for. There must surely be a better and more dignified course.

### *Towards a Sounder Settlement.*

The original mistake made by the Allies lay in their readiness to adopt a single point of view without attempting to bring their own dispassionate judgment to bear on a complicated question. If the blunder is not to be repeated, they must now examine all sides of the question. It is at least worth while to inquire why Greece has remained unimpressed by the magnitude of the concessions gained for her by M. Venizelos. The Allies will probably find that her seeming indifference is due to the circumstance that the price has been too heavy: martial law, mobilisation, financial strain, and the stress of social and political animosities must tell in course of time. It would have been unfair to ask M. Venizelos to admit that the Asiatic campaign, undertaken to extricate the Allies from a dilemma, was proving too onerous for Greece to continue. Possibly, however, the Government of M. Rallis will not only admit it, but will also welcome an arrangement that promises to promote peace between Greece and Turkey, and to relieve Greece of the strain of continued mobilisation. Such a *modus vivendi* might be found in making Smyrna an independent State on the lines of the Fiume settlement; but on this point, as well as in regard to any other proposal, it would be only right that the views of the inhabitants of the town should be taken into consideration. It would be part of the scheme that no change in Turkey's favour would be decided upon unless it ensured the acceptance by a united Turkey of the remainder of the modified terms. In this connection, however, the Allies would have to face the contention that, if the Treaty of Sèvres calls for modification, so does that of Neuilly. It is easy to say that all that was decided in Paris ought to be inviolate; but the fact remains that an opportunity now offers of effecting a settlement of the Near Eastern question which was not secured at the first misguided attempt on the part of the Paris Conference.

### *Britain and the Wider View.*

Meanwhile a conference between the British, French and Italian Governments is being held in London. The attitude of the British Government would seem to be modelled on the lines suggested in these columns last week, that pledges should be obtained from King Constantine with a view to stabilising the position in the Near East. There can be little doubt that the Greek people will themselves welcome a course which promises them peace abroad and at home, but it will be well not to lose sight of the fact that what is most to be desired is the establishment of lasting peace throughout the whole of the Near and Middle East.

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## *Cyprus and Greece.*

When reference was made in these columns last week to the message sent to the British public by the Cypriot Delegation after its failure to persuade the British Government to accede at this juncture to the union of the island with Greece, we had not had the advantage of reading the article contributed by the head of the Delegation to the *New World*. In this Mr. Lanitis points out that the delegates have been able to assure themselves that the British Government is still in favour of the union of Cyprus with Greece, and that there was no more reason to fear any opposition on the part of military and naval opinion or of the Conservative party. The only consideration, he states, "which still causes the cautious British Cabinet to hold back, seems to be the fear that the Greeks may return to the Constantine policy." He adds: "Fearing to court reverses in the present troubled state of European affairs, [Mr.] Lloyd George's advisers are waiting until the elections finally prove M. Venizelos's triumph before they lay bare the Greek sympathies they feel. Anxious not to work for an enemy, they are waiting until Constantine's defeat and the political downfall of his supporters be publicly confirmed before they restore to the Grecian King one of the jewels of his crown." Out of the present troubled state of European affairs, therefore, emerges the one consolation that the Cypriot "Unionists" are minded not "to work for an enemy," and we may look for a long period of settled content on the island.

## *The Treaty of Rapallo.*

The Treaty of Rapallo, which was ratified by Yugoslavia on November 22, was formally approved by the Italian Chamber six days later, and the exchange of ratifications took place in Rome on Monday. Both parties to the Treaty are to be congratulated on the common sense they showed in the last stage of the long-drawn-out negotiations, and though there have been some grumbles in both countries, the Italians and the Yugoslavs are showing unmistakable relief that the question has been settled at last. Unfortunately we have to add that Dr. Trumbitch, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, asked leave to retire from office as soon as his own Government ratified the Treaty, the reason he gave being that he considered his work finished. By his statesmanlike handling of this Adriatic problem, and of others that have arisen as a result of the war, he has well earned the goodwill not only of Yugoslavia, but of Europe as a whole. M. Vesnitch, the Prime Minister, is acting as Foreign Minister, but at a time when acute questions of home politics are exercising the new State, he will miss the sober judgment of his Croatian colleague.

## *Armenia and the Bolshevists.*

It is still very difficult to make out what is taking place in Armenia, but according to reports from Constantinople things have been going from bad to worse. On November 11—the very date on which the Armenian Government rejected demands put forward by the Turks, and announced that it would continue the struggle to the end—the Extremist Party, it is now reported, concluded an agréement with Moscow; and the Government resigned, unable to cope with internal disorders and attacks by the enemy at the same time. Apparently, the Agreement referred to stipulated for the immediate acceptance of the Turkish armistice terms, and for the occupation of debated territories by Bolshevist troops until the conclusion of peace. The Kemalists promptly improved the occasion by sending delegates to Tiflis to negotiate regarding Batoum, but what course those negotiations are following is not yet known.

## *A Cooling Friendship.*

This news is not very surprising in view of the straits to which Armenia was known to have been reduced; though it is true that the decision to carry on the struggle, and the report of the re-capture of Alexandropol gave rise to some hoping against hope. That it is bad news there is no denying, but the Constantinople reports referred to indicate that there may be a silver lining to this black cloud as to others. For the Turks are said to be not entirely pleased by these latest developments. They regard the Armeno-Bolshevist agreement as infringing the Brest-Litovsk Treaty, and they anticipate that their Bolshevist friends may interfere with their game in regard to the Batoum negotiations. Should the anticipation be fulfilled, as is not at all improbable, the Entente might be tempted to reconsider its attitude towards the Kemalists; and though the latter are just now very vigorously protesting that they will never have anything to do with the Entente until the Sèvres Treaty is substantially modified, a very interesting situation would undoubtedly be created.

## *The L.O.N. and Armenia.*

Meanwhile the League of Nations has, on the request of Lord Robert Cecil, considered the situation in Armenia, and has appointed a committee of six to consider what steps, if any, should be taken to put an end to hostilities between Armenia and her enemies. The discussion of the question by the League Assembly was noteworthy, because it produced two good speeches, one from Mr. Balfour and the other from M. Viviani, putting forward two radically different views of the case. Mr. Balfour was as desirous of helping as anybody could be, but he refused to shut his eyes to the difficulties of the case—the lack of defined frontiers; the fact that the League was not dealing with civilized States, or with people who cared in the least for public opinion; the unwillingness of any State to become mandatory unless the other States would guarantee it with money, men, and munitions. "We stand," said Mr. Balfour, "like people on the shore looking at the survivors of a wreck clinging to their foundering vessel and merely encouraging them to hold on." The simile, we fear, is only too apt. M. Viviani's speech was eloquent, but all he would urge was that the Council should try to find one Power to take the necessary steps to stop hostilities between Armenia and the Kemalists. It was generally understood that the attempt had been made and had failed. Apparently Moscow has achieved what the League could not accomplish. But whether Armenia is to be congratulated remains to be seen.

## *General Gouraud on Syria.*

General Gouraud is now in Paris, to give evidence before the Parliamentary Commissions which are considering the question of a vote for eight hundred million francs in respect of French military requirements in Syria, and he has given an interesting interview to the Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post*. Syria, he said, is now definitely pacified, and the pacification of Cilicia and the work of bringing it under French influence is only a matter of time. France must remain in Syria both for political and economic reasons; her abandonment of the country would have disastrous effects on her prestige in the Levant; and her economic interests compel her to remain, for when fully developed Syria and Cilicia will be as valuable economically as Egypt. Whether there will then be a French edition of the Milner Mission, General Gouraud omitted to say. He was, however, at pains to impress on his interviewer that "the relations between the English and the French officers and officials are now perfectly satisfactory, and our unity is complete in every respect." After a reference to the growth of Pan-Islamism, which, in his opinion, has been over-estimated, though it has to be reckoned with, the General concluded by declaring that "the essential basis of peace in the East is a close understanding between England and France." We welcome the frank expression of the High Commissioner's views, which makes much more pleasant reading than some of the statements he has had to make this year. But whether his optimism is entirely justified time alone can show. There are other factors in the Eastern problem besides Great Britain and France.

## *The Arab Problem.*

The King of the Hejaz has recalled his special mission (consisting of Prince Habib Loutfallah and Hassan Khalid Bey) from this country, and, it is understood, will send a second mission to Europe shortly, under the

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leadership of one of his own sons. In view of what has taken place in Syria and Mesopotamia, it is not strange that relations between France and Great Britain on the one hand and the Hejaz on the other hand should be less cordial now than they were at the time of the Armistice. But the fact is none the less regrettable: it has already served to bring an understanding between the Turks and the Arabs within the bounds of the possible—which would never have been the case otherwise—and it is undoubtedly responsible for much of the unrest in the Arab world. We must expect that for some time there will be differences between tribes and sects such as that reported a few weeks ago at Koweit, when the Sheikh's forces were attacked by the Akhwan in quite the old Wahibite style. But troubles like these in Mesopotamia are another matter, and traceable to quite modern causes: and if the "unrest" should by any chance lead to the Arabs uniting against what they regarded as interference with their rights, it would be an unpleasant prospect for those against whom their anger was turned. In view of their past history that possibility may be regarded as rather remote, but it would be unwise to ignore it altogether. Our Government is doubtless keeping a watchful eye on the Arabian lands and bearing steadily in mind the pledges given to our Arab allies during the war. It would, however, be comforting to see signs that we had a settled Arab policy.

### *Indian Affairs.*

The week's news from India is scanty, but satisfactory in so far as it discloses no untoward developments in a situation where, as we have said before, time is on the side of the new constitutional arrangements. The elections have been going smoothly, and we have the assurance of a tolerably severe critic that Bombay, at least, has chosen a good Legislature, even though some prominent politicians remain for the present outside. We should have preferred to see the extremists inside instead of outside the council chamber, both in Bombay and elsewhere, because a Legislature is all the better for an effective Opposition, and a party which is left outside is under a strong temptation to adopt unconstitutional methods; but we see increasing reason to expect that this feature will prove to be transitory, and that the new Governments, when once they have got to work, will exert an attraction too strong to be resisted. Dignified and responsible office is sure to count for much in India, where for so many centuries office and nobility were synonymous terms, and the spectacle of Indian Ministers exercising real, if limited, power, disposing of patronage, and setting out to maintain a policy formulated by themselves, will do more than anything else to rally to the constitution those elements which, for the moment, have chosen, or have been tempted, to hold aloof.

### *The Extremist Position.*

We find ourselves encouraged in this attitude by the terms of the address which Lord Meston delivered last week at Manchester University. The ground covered was in a general way the same as that of the Rede Lecture which we noticed last summer, but the tone, while still commendably cautious, was more outspoken, and rather more optimistic. The most striking feature of the address was perhaps the definite identification of the extremists with the forces of reaction, a view which has been emphasised in these columns, but which is still something of a novelty in England, as the attitude of the Labour Party shows. Lord Meston gave a vivid description of the typical extremist, "exclusive, pontifical, and intolerant," resting on "narrow sectarian foundations of privilege and tradition," and working for "an India purified of the foreigner and all his apparatus of life and culture." On the other side, there is the wider hope of an India retaining all that is valuable in her own culture, but willing at the same time to learn from the West, and to attempt a new synthesis on the basis of a national life in which the citizens of all creeds and races may share. That hope is in effect the justification of the new constitution; its realisation is not yet assured, but Lord Meston committed himself to the opinion that it will eventually prevail.

## THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday evening.

**Sinn Fein Plots.**

The publication by the Government of the evidence that the Sinn Fein gang had plotted to blow up the docks at Liverpool and the power-house at Manchester caused indignation, but little surprise; it had been rumoured for some time past that such a scheme was in contemplation. Apparently, some outrages of a similar kind have been planned for London, since barricades are being put up in Whitehall and Westminster to protect Downing Street and the Houses of Parliament. A series of fires which broke out at Liverpool has been ascribed to Sinn Fein.

In these circumstances the arrest of Mr. Arthur Griffith, the head of the Sinn Fein "Republic," could hardly be avoided, and it has been little criticised. It is noteworthy that no denunciation of the assassination of the British officers, who were done to death in Dublin on Sunday week, has been forthcoming from Sinn Fein.

English opinion has quite perceptibly hardened against the Irish Republican movement during the past few days, but the debates on the Home Rule Bill in the House of Lords have been maintained at a high level. The speakers, in the best traditions of Parliament, have ignored the outrages, and attended to the problem in hand, which is the reform of Irish government in the direction of autonomy. The speeches of Lord Birkenhead and Lord Grey of Fallodon are by common consent entitled to rank among classics of political oratory. But it remains to be seen whether events will not again outstrip debate: it must be admitted that while the public applauds it does not altogether share the serene optimism which Ministers profess.

In the House of Commons an unfortunate fracas occurred when Mr. Devlin, one of the few remaining Irish Nationalists, put a question to the Irish Secretary immediately after the latter had given a dreadful description of the Dublin assassinations. The House was horror-struck at the account, and it boiled over when Mr. Devlin not only expressed no regret for the occurrences, but put a question which seemed to convey that the Government was as bad as the assassins. A Coalition member assaulted Mr. Devlin, and the sitting was suspended for a time. Happily there has been no repetition of this unfortunate scene.

**Independent Liberals and Others.**

The "Wee Frees" have again been demonstrating to prove they are not dead. A conference was held at Bradford; Mr. Asquith made the usual speech, Sir John Simon followed, and Mr. Runciman wagged the tail of the gaunt and flagging animal. There was also a meeting of the party in London, the upshot of which seems to have been that everybody agreed that every-

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body else of that persuasion was a very fine fellow, and that the other forty-five millions or so in these islands were very poor stuff indeed. Liberal statesmen of the old school used to have something to say. They may still have, but they do not say it.

But great hopes are anticipated from the new Manchester Liberalism, a summary of whose chief features was given in this column some time ago. At any rate, it has more relevance to the problems of the day than anything the present party leaders talk about, and if it bears evidences of genuine thought and feeling it may well find a following. But Liberalism as a conquering force is always in the nature of a crusade, which is precisely where it differs from Toryism; and with all possible respect for Professor Ramsay Muir and his merry men, I do not quite detect the crusading note in their appeal. Their policy is rather that of a middle party.

But the word has gone forth from all parties that there is to be a tremendous revival of political activity in December. Great statesmen are to address great provincial audiences, and lists of speakers are already published. It needs no great perspicacity to predict that the thing will fail to rouse any enthusiasm. The political apathy for which we are rebuked by the party managers will not be dissolved by oratory.

These good folks, indeed, who denounce our apathy fail to perceive the signs of the times. England is thinking steadily at the moment, but not on party political lines, and it is not prepared to have its thinking done for it at second-hand. When it wants orators, it will listen to them; for the moment it does not. What it does want at the moment, and what it is getting, is books. Against all the traditions, the country is educating itself, and the amount of books it is reading—serious books—is astonishing. The most diligent reader in the community just now is the working-man who, with increased leisure and more money, is steadily reading text-books of politics, economics, and similar subjects. He has discovered a new world, and for the time being does not want to be disturbed. What the upshot of his reading and his meditations may be nobody knows, but I fancy he will be more ready and competent to form his own opinion in the future than before, and less inclined to take his politics ready-made.

**The Future of the Church.**

An assembly of divines and prominent laymen has been discussing the future of the Church under the Enabling Act. No definite conclusion seems to have emerged, but the Church Councils are at work in parishes all over the country. In most cases the relations between parson and Council appear to be cordial, but there are a few instances where an autocratic or unpopular vicar seems to be at loggerheads with his lay representatives. But even a quarrel, however regrettable, is a sign that people think the issue worth quarrelling about, and in that sense, let us hope, may be construed as an indication of renewed vitality.

**A Great Engineering Scheme.**

The Severn Tunnel not being sufficient to accommodate the increasing South Wales railway traffic, the Great Western has for some time planned a bridge over the river at the same spot. It is now suggested that the scheme shall be enlarged to harness the tides of the river in order to generate electricity. An enormous mass of water goes to waste, and it is believed that this could be utilised as at Niagara. One difficulty is said to be the variability of the tides, which would require large storage accumulators. The project, which would require many millions of capital and thousands of men's labour for some years, appears to be one of the greatest engineering schemes that has ever been floated; but it is being seriously considered by the Ministry of Transport, and Sir Eric Geddes is not frightened of a thing because it is big. Cardiff is said to be openly sceptical, but Cardiff deals in coal, and the Severn Bridge electricity scheme would dispense with a good deal of coal, so Cardiff is not entirely disinterested.

**The Downfall of England.**

When the M.C.C. won their first two matches in Australia so easily, foolish people on this side suggested


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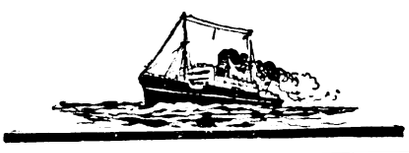

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the possibility that the team might win all its matches outright. But New South Wales quickly made short work of that forecast, and now one or two of the arm-chair students of form and averages have gone to the other extreme, and hint that if we win one test out of five we may think ourselves lucky. Of course, that is absurd, but it is the fact that the Sydney ground and team have given our men an awkward jar.

**A Problem in Legitimacy.**

A curious case is reported from Norwich. Some years ago a woman in that city was informed by the War Office that her husband, a soldier, had been killed; after some time she married again, and in due course a child was born. Recently she received another communication from the War Office, informing her that a regrettable mistake had been made, and that it was not her husband but another man of the same name who had been killed. Later her husband came back to England, and she has returned to him. The second marriage, of course, was legally void, but it would seem rather hard if the child should be branded as illegitimate. The same point arises, of course, in "Enoch Arden," but Tennyson, being a mere poet and not a lawyer, shirked the issue and gave us verse instead of a masterly discussion in equity and common law.

**Falling Prices.**

Housewives, who ought to know, assure me that their housekeeping books show a real reduction of prices at last. Sugar is coming down again, and bread will probably be reduced soon; it is expected that other staple foods may follow. Perhaps we have at last reached the turn of the tide; but, for all that, last month's Board of Trade returns still showed an increase in the general cost of living. But this was mainly due to the abolition of the bread subsidy.

I gather that shopkeepers are rather depressed about the prospects of the Christmas trade. But they always are at the end of November—yet by Christmas Eve they seldom have anything left for the late shopper.

**An International Back.**

Harry Thickett, the old international full-back, who died last week, had a unique title to fame apart from his football record. Called up during the war for medical examination as a recruit, he was probably the only man who was totally and permanently rejected as too heavy to fight. He turned the scale at 24 st. 7 lb., and even then he was putting on flesh.

**Books and Literature.**

The welter of Christmas gift-books—which means what nobody would willingly read himself, but presents to other folk's children—is now upon us, and the book-shops are overcrowded with annuals and the illustrated forms of print. Fortunately little boys and girls are destructive, or the world would sink under the burden of seasonable literature.

Ignoring the delights of this infantile Elysium, I have been reading Mr. Balfour's "Essays, Speculative and Political" (Hodder and Stoughton). The order of the descriptive adjectives in the title shows that the distinguished author is under no doubt as to the relative importance of his subjects; and one feels, as one felt when reading "The Foundations of Belief," that great as Mr. Balfour is as a statesman, he might have been greater still as a metaphysician had he so chosen, "instead of going about stealing ducks." The political essays have no permanent interest, although the message on Zionism has already become historic; the philosophical papers possess the rare distinction which Mr. Balfour always shows in this form. The book as a whole cannot but remind one of the lament of the college don: "Alas, that a man who had it in him to adorn with grace, and possibly even with distinction, the Chair of a Regius Professor in an ancient university should sink so low as to accept so modern an office as that of Prime Minister."

Rear-Admiral W. S. Sims, who is well-remembered here as the head of the American Navy, has written "Victory at Sea" (John Murray). It is an excellent but modest chronicle: he points out the difficulties of the position in 1917, which were not fully realised by the public at the time, and discusses the manner in which the Sinn Feiners embarrassed the American Fleet at Cork, while sending information to German spies.

The "Recollections of the Empress Eugénie" (Cassell), by M. Augustin Filon, contains a sketch of the life of the last Empress of the French, and makes a handsome memorial volume.

A word should be given to "The Evolution of Parliament" (Longmans), by Professor A. F. Pollard. It is an admirable study in political history. One has always thought it a pity that Mr. Pollard was a professor instead of an M.P.—he once admitted as much himself at a meeting of the now defunct Ethological Society—and this book makes one realise that in gaining a historian we have lost a statesman.

The "Life of Goethe" (Murray), by P. Hume Brown, is a solid and substantial piece of work that is likely to become the standard biography in English of the greatest German poet.

OCELLUS.

## A FRIEND OF BENGAL.

The death of Dr. J. Drummond Anderson will be regretted even more widely in Bengal than in this country. It is twenty years since he left India, but as University Teacher of Bengali at Cambridge, and more recently at the School of Oriental Studies, he had gradually become the recognised exponent of the literature and culture of the most brilliant race of India. Modest and retiring though he was, he could not keep silent when an individual member of that race achieved distinction in any field of activity, and anyone who dared to criticise Bengal was certain of extracting from him an apt and learned reply. His relations with Indian students in particular were almost ideal, and the enthusiasm of his old pupils was a revelation to those who had learned by experience to regard teachers of Indian languages as an efficient but uninteresting body of scholars. His name will probably be remembered mainly through his excellent little manual of the Bengali language which was published last year, but his real work was the promotion of intimate and friendly relations between England and Bengal.

## THE GOVERNMENT OF MESOPOTAMIA.

The following messages have been exchanged between his Majesty's Government and his Highness the Nakib of Baghdad, President of the Provisional Council of State of Mesopotamia:

His Majesty's Government to his Highness the Nakib:—

His Majesty's Government are much gratified to learn that you have felt able to accept Presidency of newly-formed Council of State. They appreciate your patriotism and public spirit in thus identifying yourself with preliminary steps that are being taken under guidance of British High Commissioner towards creation of national government in Irak. His Majesty's Government are confident your action will cause widespread gratification both inside and outside Irak, and they offer you cordial good wishes for success of your labours for welfare of your country.

His Highness the Nakib to His Majesty's Government:—

I tender hearty thanks for the good wishes expressed in the message received from His Majesty's Government, and beg to state that the interests of both British and Arab races are one, and both are linked together with the bonds of sincerity.

I am confident that both nations will proceed hand in hand towards success and assist in furthering peace and prosperity.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, November 14.

**The High Commissioner.**

The High Commissioner, accompanied by Lady Allenby, Mr. W. Selby, First Secretary, and Mr. Keown-Boyd, Oriental Secretary, arrived last Thursday by the Caledonia, which brought a further large number of Government officials and residents. Lord Allenby had an interview with the Sultan at Ras el Tin Palace on Friday morning, and came up to Cairo by special train. He was accorded an official reception, those assembled on the platform including, despite the shortness of the notice, most of the higher officials and principal residents and a large element of representative Egyptians. His Excellency, who for the first time made his appearance in civilian attire, looked in the best of health, and the remark one heard on everybody's lips was that in the grey top hat and frock coat—a costume rendered historic in Egypt by the late Earl of Cromer—Lord Allenby looked even handsomer than he did in uniform, and filled in every respect the part of a British representative abroad.

Sir John and Lady Maxwell, who had also arrived by the Caledonia, travelled up by the special train with Lord and Lady Allenby. They have come out to Egypt for their health, and after a short stay at Helouan will go up to Luxor.

**The "Independence" Anniversary.**

Saturday being the 13th, the Cairo committee of the Egyptian Delegation and its supporters decided to celebrate the anniversary of the presentation by Zaghloul Pasha and two other members of the demand for the evacuation of the British troops and the granting of the independence of Egypt to Sir Reginald Wingate at the Residency on November 13, 1918. The committee had originally had the intention of organising a fête in the Ezbekia Gardens, but in the end the celebration took the form of a luncheon party at Shepheard's Hotel. There were over 300 guests, representing every section of the Egyptian population and including many ex-Ministers. The chair was taken by Prince Youssef Kemal, cousin of the Sultan, who, when lunch was over, made an excellent speech, in which he said that his illustrious ancestor, Mohammed Ali Pasha, had enjoined the members of his family always to consider themselves and act as part of Egypt, that they were proud of being Egyptians, and that he himself had every hope that the present difficulties which confronted them all would end satisfactorily. The chief speaker of the afternoon was Hussein Rushdi Pasha, the ex-Prime Minister. In the course of his speech he admitted that the two Cabinets over which he had presided had been in entire sympathy with the national movement headed by Zaghloul Pasha and the Egyptian Delegation; and spoke in most eulogistic terms of Lord Milner, whom he characterised as being one of the far-sighted statesmen England has always found in times of crisis, to whom she owed her glory, and of Lord Allenby, whom he commended for his wisdom in releasing the four Pashas who were sent to Malta in March, 1918. Rushdi Pasha earnestly advised his fellow countrymen not to be dismayed at the suspension of conversations which has taken place, pointing out that in all political and diplomatic negotiations such difficulties are quite unavoidable; and he concluded by hoping that a settlement on the basis of Egypt's right to self-determine would not be long in coming.

The only other speaker was Fathalla Barakat Pasha, a member of the Cairo Committee, and a nephew of Zaghloul Pasha, whose speech consisted mainly of a eulogy of his uncle. At the conclusion of the luncheon a resolution was put to the assembled company and unanimously accepted for communication to Zaghloul Pasha to the effect that the Egyptian nation entirely supports the Egyptian Delegation in its present attitude, particularly with regard to the demand for the abolition of the Protectorate, and that it implicitly trusts and has complete confidence in Zaghloul Pasha and his colleagues.

As regards the Hoi-Polloi, its celebration of the day consisted in parading the streets in the wake of bodies of students and schoolboys, who in honour of the occasion had taken a holiday, and who shouted as they passed the political phrases which have now become popular catchwords, and to which since the discussion in the House of Lords has now been added "Down with Salisbury." The police had no difficulty whatsoever in handling these bodies—one can scarcely call them demonstrations—and no untoward incident marred the day until shortly after dusk an officer was shot at and badly wounded in the Shubra district.

One has, however, no right to say at this early juncture of the inquiry that this unfortunate incident had anything to do with the day's celebrations. The assailant, who managed to escape, was seen by some people, and apparently wore a khaki coat over his "Galabea," and while attire is in such cases often more a disguise than the normal dress of the aggressor, the fact that the officer held a position in which he had to handle natives leads one rather to infer that this may have been an act of personal vengeance, whose only connection with the present situation lay possibly in the fact that the assailant was incited by, or took advantage of, the present popular excitement to obtain his revenge. Apart from this incident, the day passed off in a most satisfactory manner.

**The Political Situation.**

All said and done, the country has taken the development in the situation exceedingly well, and even the vernacular Press is by no means as outspoken and as violently partisan as might have been expected. The first telegrams received here were to a certain extent misleading, in that they gave the impression that there had been a definite rupture of relations, but subsequent information makes it appear that a rupture *quâ* rupture has not taken place, and that matters will from now onwards follow the normal course which negotiations would be expected to pursue.

The general anticipation is that, as soon as the British Cabinet has been able to consider the Milner Mission's report and its recommendations, and has decided on the future policy of the British Government, the basis on which it would be prepared to negotiate will be communicated to the Sultan, and that the Egyptian Government will nominate its own plenipotentiaries to meet those of the British Government. I am firmly convinced that as matters have progressed no really serious opposition will be raised in this country to this line of action; for everyone is weary of the suspense, and would be quite prepared to agree to the reservations being left, as Lord Milner informed Zaghloul Pasha would be done, for discussion between duly accredited representatives of the two countries.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, November 17.

**The Adriatic Settlement.**

The excitement of the week is, of course, the Italian settlement, which came with such lightning-like abruptness after the long-drawn delay and interminable conversations in Paris. The news first appeared in a wireless communication to the *Politika* from its correspondent, and was rapidly passed round and telegraphed to Zagreb and Liubliana. Although everybody was startled by the suddenness of the decision, most people had discounted it in advance, and looked upon it as inevitable; though, of course, the hot-blooded younger generation and natives from the districts affected were full of indignation, and held crowded meetings of protest. But it is really generally understood that for political reasons England and France were supporting Italy, and that what was termed a conference was in reality a deputation to receive an ultimatum. In a

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reasoned article, the commercial paper, the *Trgovinski Glasnik*, points out the inevitableness of the whole thing, how the delegates had no alternative but to accept, other than recourse to arms, which at present is unthinkable; for behind the terms offered by Italy stood the unfortunate Treaty of London. Such a treaty, the paper continues, forced upon an unwilling people can be honourably observed, and even welcomed, as an end to a situation which had become intolerable, so that normal commercial relations may be resumed between the two neighbouring countries. Still, it can hardly be regarded as a basis of an entente and military and commercial alliance, though it is certainly hoped that it will put a stop to the unending intrigues of the past eighteen months where the hostile hand of Italy has been seen at work in Hungary and Bulgaria, and, above all, in Montenegro and Albania.

**King Nicholas "Abandoned."**

The news first sent by the correspondent of the *Politika* states that Italy abandons her demand for the neutralisation of Shebenik (Sebenico), and in recognising the Kingdoms of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, abandons its support of ex-King Nicholas, so that the Montenegrin question becomes purely an internal one. But in the text, as it appeared in the same paper a few days later, although the new triune kingdom is recognised, there is no explicit reference to ex-King Nicholas; so his abandonment is by implication, unless there is a supplementary document; nor is there any mention of Shebenik.

There remains a trifling number of Italian settlers, or Italianised Dalmatians, in Shebenik, Spalato, and perhaps one or two other towns in the northern portion of Dalmatia, but the number is negligible compared with the Yugoslavs who remain in Italian territory, who amount to about half a million, the majority being Slovenes. This has produced a depressing effect in Liubliana, where there have been hostile demonstrations, and blame is thrown on the Belgrade Government. There are sure to be mutual recriminations, and Belgrade's reply to Liubliana is: "Who lost Klagenfurt?" There is, of course, acute discontent at Zagreb, where the final loss of Fiume is more keenly felt than in Belgrade, and the anti-Serb elements are using the incident as a weapon of attack; while the Serbs retort that the Croats near the boundary line took good care to make money by smuggling goods and provisions into Fiume and so helping their enemies, that the Croats make fine speeches and write patriotic articles, but that when it comes to action they draw back. But the best evidence that the conclusion is the most favourable possible for Yugoslavia under present circumstances is the discontent of the chauvinistic and nationalist Press in Italy. In fact, the "whole-hoggers" on both sides are naturally disappointed, and the reasonable elements are reconciled to the inevitable.

**The Convention with Czecho-Slovakia.**

The text is now published of the convention with Czecho-Slovakia. It is very brief, consisting of only six clauses. Both parties agree mutually to assist the other in the event of an attack by Hungary on either party, and they undertake to make no other alliance without the consent of the other party. The convention is for two years, and will be submitted to the League of Nations.

**The Mónitors Dispute.**

On the 8th the Naval Commission arrived from Budapest to take over the monitors of the former Austro-Hungarian fleet which the Inter-Allied Council has distributed to Roumania and the Danube Commission. The Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs declined to hand over pending the return of M. Vesnitch, to which the Commission replied that they could not accept this answer, and returned to Budapest. On the 11th the Press Bureau issued a *communiqué* explaining that the captured craft had been handed over to Admiral Troubridge, commanding the Allied forces on the Danube who delivered them to the Serbs for custody, and that under the Treaty of Saint Germain they are to be distributed by the Allies: so that the Council's demand will have to be satisfied, though, of course, the expense of maintenance will be refunded. And so the Serbs once more complain, as did the Russians in the old days, that the good work done by their troops is undone by the diplomatists. Celovats (Klagenfurt), Rijeka (Fiume), Istria, and now the monitors!

**Bulgarian Territory Occupied.**

The Serbian authorities have completed the occupation of the Bulgarian villages on the east of the Timok allotted them by the peace treaty in order to give a strategic frontier against Bulgaria; that is to say, Zlokuciane, Gradsko, Halvo, Mali Jacenovatz, Veliki Jacenovatz, Bratievtsi, Shipkovo, and Krnomashnitsa and Kojlovo.

**Enthronement of Patriarch.**

Dimitri, first Patriarch of the renewed United Serbian Orthodox Church, was enthroned on the 13th, amid a distinguished company, including the President of the Skupshtina, the President of the Academy of Sciences, M. Zhuyovitch, Voivodas Boyovitch and Stepanovitch, Admiral Pritsa, General Jurishitch-Sturm, and a number of other soldiers, ministers and politicians. The Crown Prince, who was obviously deeply moved, handed the staff of office to the new Patriarch at ten o'clock in the Belgrade Cathedral. After a brief but impressive silence the choir burst into a triumphant Hallelujah, when the Patriarch, with his magnificent gold and embroidered vestments, mounted the patriarchal throne; after which the Prince took his seat upon the royal chair. The Patriarch thanked the Prince for confirming his election, and then, surrounded by his archihierarchs, archimandrites and protohierarchs, delivered a discourse upon the historic significance of the patriarchate and its rôle in Serbian history. Perhaps it was not by chance that he turned towards Dr. Koroshets, leader of the Slovene Clericals, with the words: "With us there is no clericalism to hamper the State: our Serbian Orthodox Church is not like the church in some other lands, against which justifiable complaint is constantly raised."

## GREECE.

ATHENS, November 13.

**Two Demonstrations.**

This is the end of the last week before the elections, and a very lively propaganda is being carried on in Athens. The streets are plastered with photographs of the Ministers and candidates for Parliament, and leaflets setting forth their aims and virtues are being distributed broadcast. On Sunday the Nationalists, or rather the Royalists—because these have now openly declared that their programme and their firm intention is to bring back ex-King Constantine—held their first and only demonstration. This meeting, which was nothing less than a test of the party's real strength, showed that the number of M. Venizelos's opponents has increased considerably of late, and the Venizelists have now begun to realise that they are not going to have it all their own way. The demonstrators, who had concentrated at Constitution Square numbered 35,000-40,000. Of course, they were not all Athenians; the organising committee had been working very hard, and in order to ensure the success of the meeting had arranged for the conveyance from Piræus and the neighbouring towns and villages to the capital of as many of their party's friends as possible. The Nationalists' leader, M. Gounaris, speaking to the crowd from a balcony, endeavoured to convince it what a lot of harm M. Venizelos had done to the country and how happy everybody would be when the Nationalists came to power. He ended his speech by saying that Constantine was the legitimate King of the Hellenes, and asked the demonstrators to cheer for him, which, of course, they promptly did.

The demonstration of the Venizelists which took place on Thursday was a veriable apotheosis for the Greek Premier. Between 70,000 and 75,000 people—the largest crowd ever seen at a demonstration in Athens—had taken up every available space in Constitution Square to applaud their beloved Prime Minister and assure him of their support in the great fight. M. Venizelos delivered his speech from a balcony of the Hotel d'Angleterre; and then the monster crowd, preceded by a band, torch-bearers, banners, and huge photographs of the Prime Minister and the other candidates

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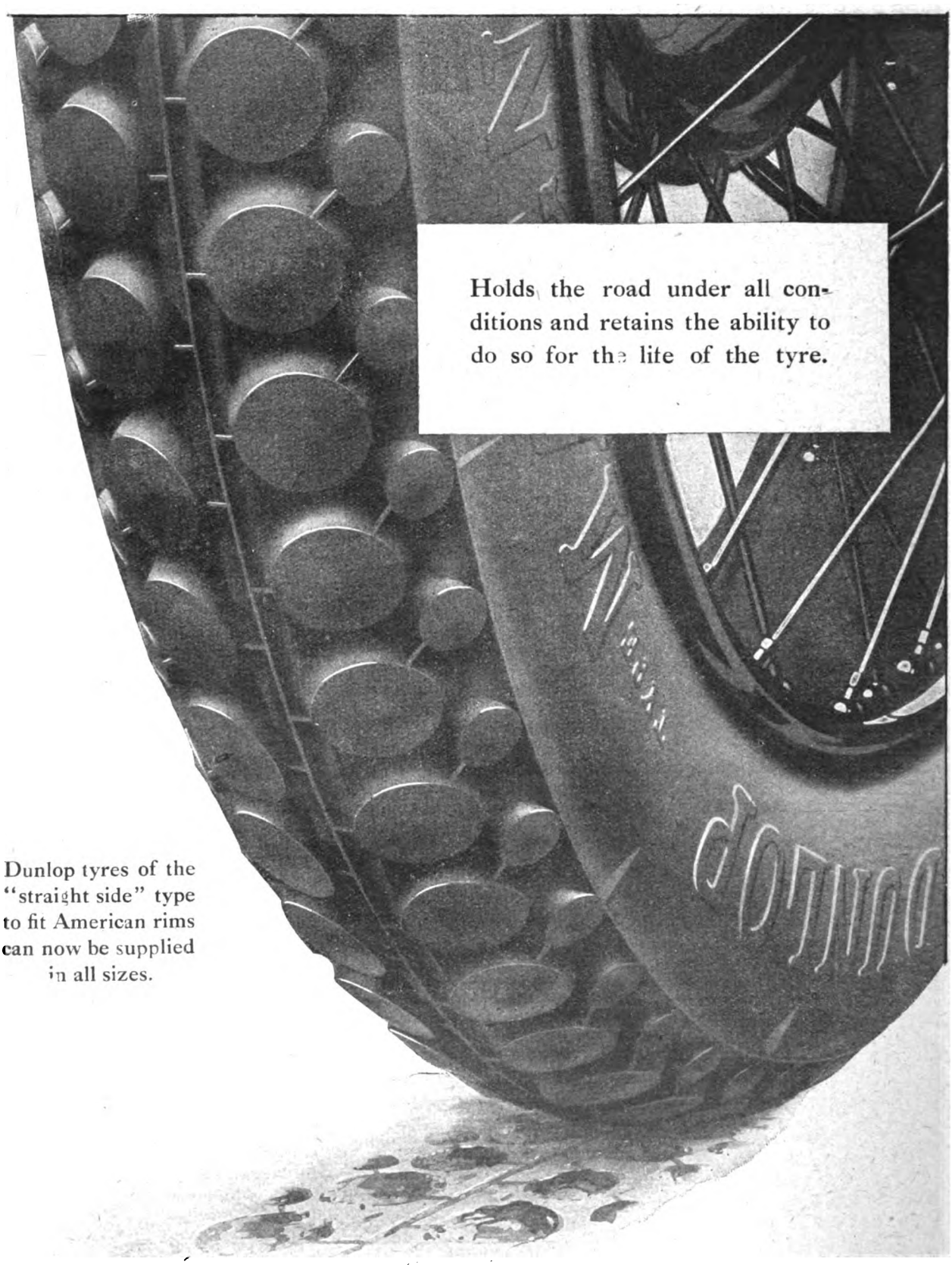


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## THE NEW MAGNUM TYPE

TRADE MARK

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for Athens, entered Stadium Street, which was brilliantly illuminated for the occasion. Every window, balcony, and available point of vantage was filled by people cheering, waving their handkerchiefs and even bed-sheets, and throwing flowers to the crowds below. A huge anchor, the Liberals' emblem, weighing 800 okes, was brought to Athens by a party of enthusiastic demonstrators from Piræus, and followed the demonstration in a motor-car decorated with flowers. Perfect order reigned throughout the meeting, and the manifestants dispersed very quietly on reaching M. Venizelos's house in University Avenue.

As was the case at the time of the Stadium Victory celebrations, the Opposition papers advised the Royalists to remain indoors during the Venizelist demonstration, so as not to add to the number of people participating, and thus give the impression—to the foreigners in particular—that the meeting was a large one.

**Measures Against the White Slave Traffic.**

The Minister of the Interior has addressed a circular to all the prefectures in the country forbidding the issue of passports for Egypt to all young girls under twenty-one who are not accompanied by their father, brother, or a very near relative. In many cases Greek girls have been lured to Egypt by promises of good positions and so forth, only to discover, when arriving at Port Said or Alexandria, that they had fallen into the hands of white slave traffickers.

**The Departure of the Swedish Crown Prince.**

A farewell dinner was given by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Sweden at the Hotel de la Grande Bretagne last Saturday night to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Politis. Among those present were the Crown Prince's uncle, Prince Eugene, the Swedish professor M. Loundpmum, and Professor Sotiriadis of Athens University. His Royal Highness, after spending nearly a month in Greece, left Athens on Monday for Rome via Brindisi.

**The Frontier Commission.**

The International Commission for the delimitation of the new frontiers has been obliged to abandon its work owing to the heavy fall of snow in the frontier regions, and has returned to Salonika. It is a question whether the Commission will be able to resume its work before next spring.

## TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, November 15.

**The Government and the Nationalists.**

The new Government has set to work with considerable energy to "eliminate the dualism" which is complicating the position of Turkey, and Izzet Pasha, particularly, is pursuing his difficult task with all the promptness and singleness of purpose that characterise the veteran soldier. Hitherto, however, so far as the outer world can tell, the Government's efforts have not met with much success. In accordance with the traditional procedure of the Sublime Porte, a thick veil of mystery enshrouds what is actually taking place, but in the present instance there is a better reason than usual for secrecy. For there can be little doubt that the preliminary replies that have been received from Angora would scarcely be of such a conciliatory nature as to make an optimistic impression upon the Allies with regard to the possibility of the new Cabinet's ability to find a solution for the Anatolian problem. It has apparently been decided that before an official mission proceeds to Anatolia to negotiate with the Nationalists, a basis for discussion is to be created by semi-official communications, partly through couriers and directly, and partly through intermediaries. A mission composed of unknown officials has already reached Angora, although the official statement mentioned only one "delegate," whose task was said by Izzet Pasha to be to "establish contact between the Government and Anatolia." The Nationalist administration is now said to have removed to Sivas; and, although no motive is given, the fact that communications are thereby rendered more difficult may be some indication as to the true direction of the wind. Up to the 14th inst. the Government is said to have received no news from the delegate sent to Anatolia, but this is merely official bluff. According to the *Bosphore*, of November 10, Mustapha Kemal has put forward the following conditions as a basis for negotiations with the central Government:—

1. The evacuation of Smyrna and Adrianople.
2. Modification of the financial and economic clauses of the Sèvres Treaty.
3. The abrogation of the Capitulations.
4. A general and unrestricted amnesty.
5. The constitution of a Ministry "enjoying the confidence of the nation."

There is no indication as to the authenticity of the above statement, but there is every reason to believe that it represents fairly accurately the stand that will be taken by the Nationalists; and if such a communication has indeed reached Izzet Pasha it is easy to understand why the negotiations with Anatolia are being cloaked with such secrecy.

In other directions the new Cabinet has been busy with the new organisation, according to the terms of the peace treaty, of the Turkish army and gendarmerie, and a commission has been formed for the purpose of selecting the officers who are to be maintained. The official statement declares that only those officers will be retained who have not interfered in politics. Under such conditions it will be difficult to find a sufficient number even for the very limited forces that Turkey will be allowed to maintain.

**"Madhead Mehmed."**

Travellers arriving from Anatolia give some amusing details of an anti-Nationalist outbreak at Konia at the commencement of October, under the leadership of a certain "Delibash" (Madhead!) Mehmed, who had previously been the hero of a similar exploit at Bozkir. With 200 followers, Madhead Mehmed descended upon Konia, having very sanely cut all the telegraph wires as a preliminary. The Nationalist governor and administration hastily packed up, "in order to save the town from destruction," and, incidentally, to preserve their valuable skins. The "rebels," as the Turkish papers naïvely denominated Madhead Mehmed and his followers, nominated a new governor named Mustapha, who was surely a bosom friend of Mehmed, and set to work to make as much hay as possible while the fine weather lasted. In reply to proposals from the commander of the local Nationalist detachment to negotiate, Mehmed proposed a kind of tourney between an equal number of men from each side. The Nationalist commander had no sense of humour, and somewhat churlishly refused this sporting offer. Meanwhile, some rumour of the affair had reached Angora, and after having governed Konia for three days, Madhead Mehmed and his friends made themselves scarce, and the Nationalist administration was restored. Subsequently, it appears that the Chelebi of the Mevlevi dervishes at Konia was arrested for having joined in Madhead Mehmed's dance, instead of confining his gyrations to his own monastery. Such is life in Konia.

**Nationalist "Victories."**

During the past week there has been some lively fighting between the Nationalists and the Greeks in the neighbourhood of Ismidt, Broussa, and Simav. The Nationalists claim "glorious victories," but the Greeks say that there has been merely a retirement according to plan, and that only from certain points which they had never any intention of retaining. Once the elections are over the Greeks will probably give the Nationalists a few more lessons, which will most likely be forgotten as quickly as past lessons.

In view of their successes upon the eastern front, it can hardly be a matter for surprise that the Nationalists should be in an arrogant frame of mind. On October 15, the Nationalist Chief of Staff, Ismet Bey, after having given a glowing account of the state of affairs upon all fronts, informed the Great National Assembly that his faith in the final victory of the Nationalist cause was unshakeable. Naturally, the Assembly has therefore decided that unless the central Government can guarantee that the Nationalist point of view, that is, the

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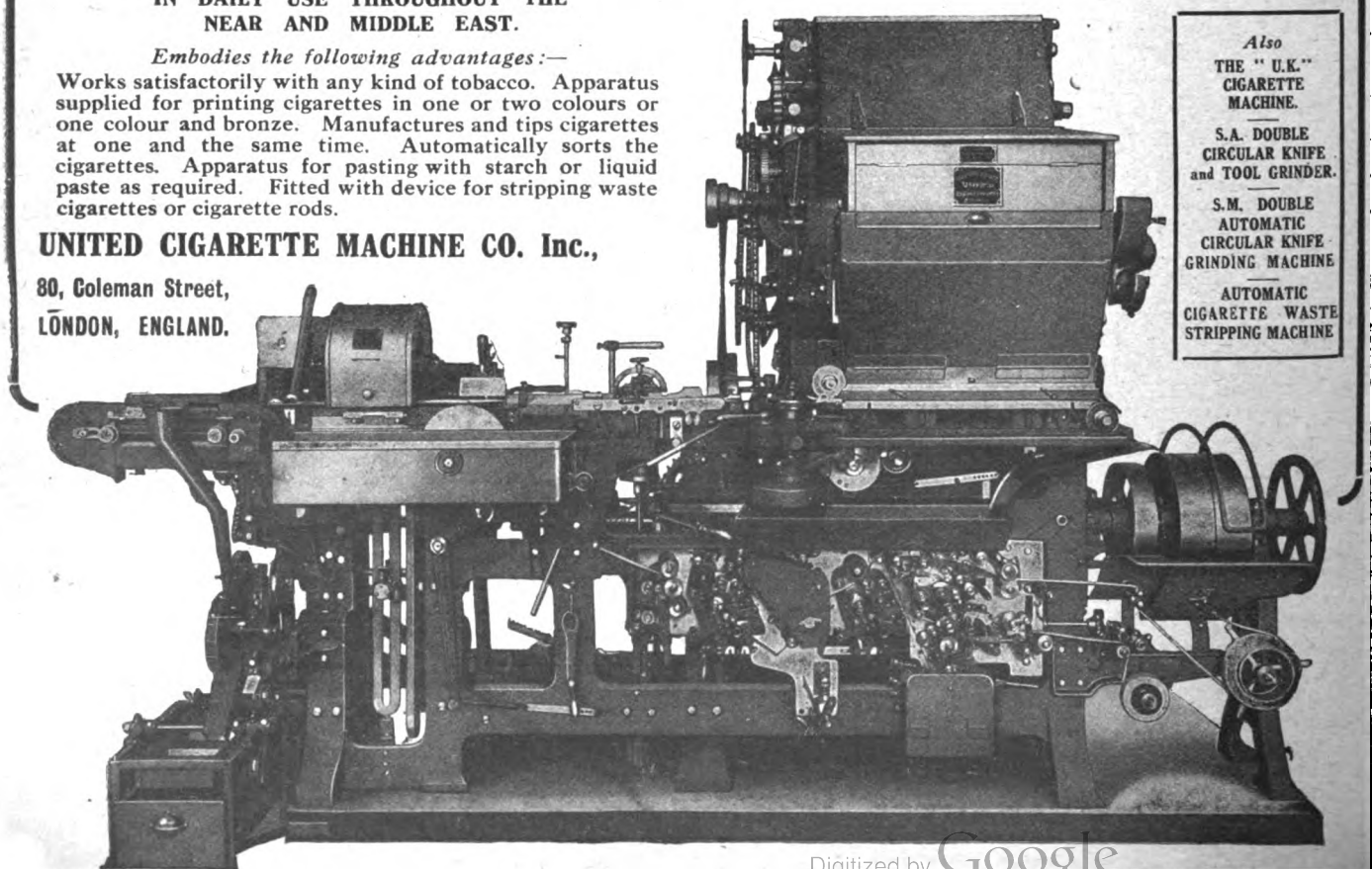

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abrogation of the Sèvres Treaty, will be accepted, there shall be no negotiations.

**Too Much Bolshevism.**

At the same time it is reported that the Bolshevists are making every effort to render abortive the efforts to bring about an understanding with the central Government, which has, of course, declared its resolve to carry out the Peace Treaty. The Bolshevist "Embassy" at Angora is said to be spending money freely with this object, and even the Nationalist newspaper, *Yeni Gun*, which is edited by our old Pan-Turanian and Unionist friend, Yunus Nadi, has complained about the flood of Bolshevist propaganda that has been let loose in Anatolia. It looks as if the *Yeni Gun* will soon have cause to complain about another kind of flood from the same source.

Meanwhile, all Anatolia is in the grip of military fever. All men up to the age of 46 have been called to the colours, and non-Moslems can only obtain exemption by the payment of a heavy sum every month. An arms factory has started working at Angora, and is said to be turning out quite a respectable quantity of small arms and munitions under the direction of foreign experts.

**Armenia.**

The tragic result of the withdrawal of the British forces from Batoum and the Caucasus is now apparent, and is certainly the preliminary to still more serious developments. The probable consequences of our withdrawal from Batoum were pointed out in a former letter, and although that forecast has been fulfilled so far only in regard to Armenia, there can be little doubt that the rest of the story will be along the lines then indicated. At one time it was believed that the Georgians would support the Armenians in their own interests, but there is good reason to believe that the Georgians took another view with regard to the best means of self-preservation. Long before the Nationalist offensive was commenced against the Armenians, Yusuf Kemal, one of the Nationalist leaders, began negotiations with the Georgian delegates at Baku, and just before the offensive commenced the same individual returned to Angora and informed the Great National Assembly, during a secret sitting, of certain arrangements that had been made with the Georgians with regard to the impending operations against Armenia. That the Georgians will soon repent of their short-sighted policy goes without saying, but that will make no difference to matters. Meanwhile, it is apparent that further negotiations are proceeding between Georgia and the Soviet Government. Husseinoff, the Azerbaijan Premier, has been in Tiflis, and has just returned to Baku, while Legrand, the Soviet representative at Erivan, has just left the Armenian capital for Tiflis. The rumour that the Turks have demanded the evacuation of Batoum by the Georgians has not yet been confirmed, but it is practically certain that that is the next move. It will be interesting to see what the Georgians will do in the circumstances.

The Armenians fought to their last cartridge, and in their humble way have played a glorious part. The fall of Kars made a very painful impression in Constantinople, and on November 12 requiem masses were celebrated in all the Armenian churches, and all Armenian institutions were closed in token of the unfortunate little nation's mourning.

**The Crimean Tragedy.**

The final collapse of the South Russian campaign, an episode akin to that of La Vendée over a hundred and twenty years ago, opens up a further vista of alarming possibilities. Public opinion here inclines to the belief that the Bolshevists will now turn their attention to Roumania, primarily for the purpose of "freeing" Bessarabia from the "capitalist yoke," but also with an eye to much more extensive adventures. Certain it is that the Red hosts will now seek a fresh victim, and there is a certain precedent for an advance through the Balkans to Constantinople. But perhaps the German brains that direct the Red armies have realised that precedents are somewhat dangerous things to follow. Nevertheless, whether the Caucasus or the Balkans is to be the scene of the next drama, the outlook is far from reassuring.

## CYPRUS.

Nicosia (undated).

**Unionists and the Legislative Council.**

On October 22 the Council met under the presidency of the High Commissioner, five elected Greek, one Turkish, and the six official members being present. Mr. Sevéris, a Greek member, presented a petition praying that the Government grant of £450 to Greek schools at Nicosia might be increased to meet the growing expenses, which have risen from £900 to £4,000. The King's Advocate then introduced a Bill to establish an office to deal with debts relating to Austria. M. Laniti, a Greek member, opposed, saying, "I do so because I consider that the Legislative Council in which we ought to meet is not this one, but the Hellenic Chamber, from which we alone of almost all parts of Hellenism are excluded, and this contrary to every principle of justice and ethical right." The opposition was rejected by the seven votes of the officials and the Ottoman member. The King's Advocate then proposed the first reading of the Bill, and M. Laniti proceeded to oppose it on the same grounds as before, upon which Irfan Bey, the Turkish member, said, "I rejoice, Mr. President, that my Greek colleagues are not pleased with the state of things." Voting took place with the same result; and a similar scene was repeated when the King's Advocate introduced a Bill relating to the debts and properties of Bulgarian subjects.

The attitude of the Greek members, who include the foremost agitators, seems to indicate clearly what line they intend to adopt. It will no doubt be the old story of factious opposition to every Government measure, and obstruction to the course of progress which it is their duty to promote, but which has long been a secondary consideration. They will continue to agitate for "union," both in the Council and elsewhere, in the belief that the Government will "not be able to endure the existence of a restless focus of Hellenic patriotism." This is plainly stated in the report of an interview with one of the members published in an Alexandrian paper. It will perhaps be more probable that British patience will become weary of an unreasonable and captious opposition, and that, as in 1904 (when a serious warning was given by the British Government, in similar circumstances, as to what must inevitably be the consequence of persistent and organised obstruction), it will become necessary to deal drastically with an element which, while professing to represent local Greek opinion, systematically fails to co-operate in the work of island administration and reconstruction.

**General News.**

The High Commissioner, with Mrs. Stevenson, is leaving for England on October 27, their two children remaining at Nicosia. Mr. Fenn, the chief secretary, will act during his absence on leave. Mr. Hart Davies will take his place, Mr. A. McLaughlan acting as assistant.

On October 22, at a meeting of the Greek members of Legislature and those of the Aid Committee, the Bishop of Papho presiding, it was decided to call a pan-Cypriot meeting at an early date.

A police corporal has been killed by accident while driving with other warders to the central prison outside Nicosia. An axle of the carriage broke, and the horses taking fright brought it into violent collision with a wall. The warders were more or less injured.

Sultan Fuad visited the Muled el Nabi popular fair, at Cairo, which ended on November 23. The fair is held annually in celebration of the birthday of the Prophet.

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

*The columns of* THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

## GREAT BRITAIN AND THE EAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The revision of the Turkish Treaty is advocated in many quarters, but usually with special reference to the Smyrna territory. Many of those who advocate this policy appear to overlook the fact that Thrace is more Moslem than Smyrna, and that the Greeks have less right to Adrianople than to certain parts of the Ionian coast. If any revision of the recent settlement in the Near East takes place, it is to be hoped that the claims both of Eastern and Western Thrace to liberation from Greek rule will be carefully considered. Western Thrace was handed over to Greece, in defiance of the wishes of the population, on the clear understanding that M. Venizelos would assure to Bulgaria a free commercial outlet to the Ægean Sea; but we cannot expect the Bulgarians to rely on any assurances which may be given them by "Constantine Bulgaroctonos" or his supporters.—I am, etc.,

LELAND BUXTON.

45, Kensington Park Gardens,
Ladbroke Square, W.11.
November 28, 1920.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—As you are aware, during the past year I have repeatedly, both in THE NEAR EAST and *The Times*, urged that Turkey was not receiving fair treatment at the hands of Europe, and if our rulers persisted in enforcing the Turkish Treaty it would mean a lot of unnecessary bloodshed in the Middle East and probably trouble in India, where the loyalty of our Moslem subjects would be strained to breaking point. I failed entirely to influence either the Government or the British public, as voiced by the Press; there was nothing for it, therefore, but to leave it to the future to show that my reasoning was sound and my fears justified. I had not long to wait, as fighting began at once and has been continuous since I last wrote, both in Mesopotamia and elsewhere. Now the collapse of the White Russian forces in the Crimea has left the Bolshevists free to join up with Mustapha Kemal or to continue their aggressive policy in Asia and Persia. Yet I have no hesitation in stating that had we offered the Turkish nationalists even one half of the sympathy and financial assistance we were prepared to give Persia, the Turkish manhood would have been aiding us to wipe up the mess caused by the war, instead of joining forces with their hereditary foes against us. As it is, we are powerless even to go to the assistance of the Armenians, who have been left to make the best terms they can both with the Turks and Bolshevists. In Mesopotamia, too, after the useless expenditure of millions, the economy campaign in England is forcing the Government to evacuate and the policy of employing Indian troops outside India for an indefinite period is being also seriously questioned. Finally, the Greek elections have demonstrated that the Greeks as a nation are not prepared to remain mobilised so as to enjoy the favours showered on them by the Peace Delegates hypnotised by M. Venizelos.

By the time this letter appears in print Mr. Lloyd George will have had his interview with M. Leygues, and for the peace of the Middle East it is sincerely hoped that the Treaty of Sèvres will be entirely revised. By all means let the Greeks keep their Constantine, but let his kingdom be limited to a lesser Greece than contemplated by M. Venizelos, and let us hear nothing more of a Greek mandate to acquire territory in the vicinity of Smyrna or to suppress the Turks in Anatolia.

Let it, too, be recognised that Turkish Nationalists are not all "brigands," but patriots who, with financial assistance and goodwill from Europe are better able to play the policeman in their own country than any Christian Power however civilised. If the money we have expended in Mesopotamia had been utilised to put the Turks on their legs again, what a different story there would be now to tell! I have no wish to take undue credit to myself, but I think that the Editor will bear me out when I state that, so long ago as November 11, 1919, I wrote to *The Times* urging that the Egyptian Nationalists should be invited to become members of the Milner Commission. At that time you, Sir, described the proposal as a "daring one," and it was only some six months later that we heard of Zaghloul Pasha being in London conferring with Lord Milner. It is true that the result of those conferences has still to materialise in the form of a treaty, but if one may judge from the official communiqués to the Press an agreement is likely to be reached. If a second Lord Milner cannot be found to confer with Mustapha Kemel, why not extend the scope of the Milner inquiry so as to include the future government of what has hitherto been known as the Turkish Empire? I remember years ago hearing the late Lord Cromer state that the Egyptian question was really part and parcel of the larger Near Eastern question. In my humble opinion Lord Cromer was perfectly right, and as the British Cabinet is apparently (?) prepared to be so generous in dealing with Egypt there is all the more reason why France should also be generous in the matter of Syria. Let these two Powers agree to accept a joint mandate for the Turkish Empire *as a whole*, and we shall have made a long step in advance towards a general peace.

I am, etc.,

Biarritz, November 27. COLES PASHA.

## AMERICAN RELIEF IN THE NEAR EAST

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—My attention has just been called to an Editorial reference in your valuable paper to what it calls "a scandal" on the work of the Near East Relief, formerly known as the American Committee for Relief in the Near East, and referred to in your Editorial as "American Relief Mission for Armenia." The "scandal" seems to consist of the discovery that the Relief Committee is importing into the country agricultural implements and machinery "intended for sale." The conclusion seems to be drawn that the organisation has gone into commercialism, and so is unworthy of public confidence.

The present writer has been the active chairman of that relief organisation from its beginning, and a member of its executive committee. He has been present at all of its meetings, except when he was in Turkey as director of its relief commission sent to that country immediately following the Armistice. In Turkey he organised the various relief centres, defined the policy to be followed, and inaugurated the work, with some five hundred volunteer American workers.

The one policy decided upon was that all relief should, as far as possible, be administered in a way least likely to pauperise the recipients. The vast number of refugees were not paupers in the ordinary sense of the word, but, through the misfortunes of war and its accompanying horrors, found themselves wholly destitute. Our plan, which was also the one proposed by themselves, was to get these people into a position as soon as possible where they could once more be independent. The most of them owned land, but had been stripped of all farming implements. The artisans had nothing but their bare hands, as all tools were stolen at the time of the deportations. In consultation with British officers in Aleppo, Aintab, Marash, Urfa, and elsewhere, as well as after consultation with Armenian leaders, we decided that the best and most permanent form of relief we could render was to provide these people with imperatively needed implements, tools, and machines. Large numbers of Armenian dependents asked that they might purchase rather than receive as a gift the things they must have.

It was discovered that Turkey is fully capable of producing all the food required to feed all the people, and more, but it was wholly lacking in tools and farm implements. It at once became apparent that to provide these would be the sanest of charities. Those able to pay for necessary tools were, of course, compelled to do so, and those who desired to give pledges for future payment were accommodated, while others received aid freely.

At the same time, the committee has over 100,000 orphans whom they are supporting in whole or in part. These are taught trades, etc., and are made to till the land, and so become self-respecting as well as self-supporting. Tools, machinery, and agricultural implements are imported for their use.

The charter of the Near East Relief Organisation granted by the Congress of the United States authorises the chartered body "to provide relief, and to assist in repatriation, rehabilitation, and re-establishment of suffering and dependent peoples of the Near East and adjacent areas: to provide for the care of orphans and widows, and to promote the social, economic, and industrial welfare of those who have been rendered destitute, or dependent," etc., etc.

This relief organisation is not going into commercialism, but is endeavouring to re-establish a scattered and shattered people upon a self-respecting and self-supporting basis, using only such means as must commend themselves to all reasonable persons.—I am, etc.,

JAMES L. BARTON,
Chairman, Near East Relief.

14, Beacon Street, Boston, Mass., November 12, 1920.

[The reference in Mr. Barton's letter is to a "Note of the Week" in our issue of September 23. We then commented on a Constantinople message to *The Times*, which stated that certain members of the American Relief Commission to the Near East had been arrested on a charge of corrupt practices

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in connection with the relief activities; and to a letter from a British officer in Georgia, quoted in the *Morning Post*, in which reference was made to a "scandal" connected with the American Relief Mission for Armenia.—ED.]

## THE TURKISH TREATY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I enclose a copy of a "Plea and Protest" against the Turkish Treaty, and a Memorial to the League of Nations on the same subject. I shall be very glad if you will publish these documents, with the signatures attached, in your paper.— I am, etc.,

22, Berners Street, W.1. LELAND BUXTON.

November 25, 1920.

[The following is the text of the Memorial referred to by our correspondent. We regret that it is impossible to publish "A Plea and Protest," owing to lack of space.—ED.]

To The Secretary-General,

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS, GENEVA.

Sir,

1. We, the undersigned British subjects irrespective of race or creed, beg to submit this humble appeal to the Assembly to take steps under Article 19 of the Covenant to advise the reconsideration by members of the League of the Treaty of Peace with Turkey signed at Sèvres on August 19, 1920.

2. We do so in the profound conviction that the Treaty, by the intense dissatisfaction it has caused to the Moslems of India and Western Asia, and by the sense of injustice and oppression it has engendered in Turkey and other countries immediately affected, has brought about international conditions "whose continuance," in the words of the Article, on which we base the appeal, is calculated to "endanger the peace of the world." It is inconsistent with the principles of liberty and national self-determination so strongly emphasised by the Allies through the later stages of the war, in which the Moslem subjects of the Allied Powers took a full and—in some theatres—a most responsible share. It also violates pledges specifically given—and notably by the British Prime Minister on January 5, 1918, when he declared that the Allies were not fighting "to deprive Turkey of its capital, or of the rich and renowned lands of Asia Minor and Thrace, which are predominantly Turkish in race." He added, at a later stage: "We do not challenge the maintenance of the Turkish Empire in the home-lands of the Turkish race with its capital at Constantinople."

3. In spite of this declaration, the Treaty transfers to Greece the whole of Thrace, right up to the Chataldja lines, with the exception of the Derkos area, which supplies water to Constantinople. The cession includes Adrianople, regarded by the Moslems as one of their most sacred places and preponderantly inhabited by Turks. To their grief and dismay, the people of Thrace have been transferred to an alien government, traditionally hostile to the Turks. They were given no such option as in the somewhat analogous case of Schleswig-Holstein, where the Allied Powers, applying the principle of self-determination, allowed the people to choose for themselves by plebiscite between Danish and German sovereignty.

4. Even in Asia Minor the Turkish Government has been compelled to transfer to Greece "the exercise of her rights of sovereignty over a special area round Smyrna." In this area, extending 100 miles, the Greek Government is to be responsible for administration, may keep troops there to maintain order, may include the territory in the Greek system, and is to establish the local Parliament on the basis of a scheme of proportional representation. After five years such local Parliament may ask, by a majority of votes, for the definitive incorporation of the City of Smyrna and the hinterland in the Kingdom of Greece. The Council of the League of Nations may require a preliminary plebiscite. The long postponement of this step gives the fullest opportunity for the "man in possession" to secure an artificial preponderance in number of the Greek element and of persons compelled by circumstances, against their will and judgment, to vote for the elimination of the remaining mere shadow of Turkish sovereignty. Smyrna is the chief outlet of Anatolia to the sea, and the commercial and industrial centre of an immense part of the country, and its absorption by a foreign Power will paralyse the economic life of what will nominally remain of "the rich and renowned lands of Asia Minor" under Turkish rule.

5. In the portion of the pre-war Turkish Empire not predominantly Turkish in race, the situation is not less inimical to Moslem contentment and the Peace of the World. The support given to the Allied cause by the Arabs of the Middle East was secured by promises of Arabian autonomy and self-determination in the countries concerned. The Arab kingdom of Syria enjoyed a very short-lived existence, and France is exercising there a mandate from the Supreme Allied Council, while Great Britain is similarly engaged in Palestine and Mesopotamia. It is notorious that neither in Syria nor Mesopotamia are the conditions of mandatory authority laid down in Article 22 of the Covenant being fulfilled. The wishes of the communities concerned were not "a principal consideration in the selection of the Mandatory." So far from the existence of these communities as independent nations being "provisionally recognised, subject to the rendering of administrative advice and assistance by a Mandatory until such time as they are able to stand alone," the Mandatories are engaged in subjugating the inhabitants, at heavy cost to themselves and to the bitter resentment of the Arabs, on whom they seek to impose an elaborate Westernised system of administration, unsuited to their traditions and environment. The large employment of Indian troops for this purpose, in Mesopotamia, into the third year since the Armistice, has intensified the indignation of Indians, while the cost to the British Exchequer of this state of war is persistently criticised by important organs of public opinion. The League of Nations has a direct responsibility for the manner in which mandates are carried out, and justice demands that their underlying principles should be observed, and that they should not be a cover, as at present, for the exploitation of weak and small nations.

6. Finally, we come to those features of the Treaty which virtually destroy Turkish sovereignty in those areas which are to remain nominally under Turkish rule. While Germany has been allowed unfettered control over her diminished military establishment, the army of not more than 50,000 men Turkey is permitted to maintain is to be under the "control, organisation, and distribution" of an Inter-Allied Commission, composed entirely of representatives of the Allied Powers and with Turkey herself unrepresented. In the not less vital department of finance there is a like state of vassalage. The whole country is placed under a financial Commission, composed of a representative of each of the interested Allied Powers—France, Great Britain, and Italy—to whom a Turkish representative is added "in a consultative capacity." The powers of this body are so large as virtually to deprive the Turkish Government of any authority over the revenue and expenditure of the country or of its fiscal policy. Turkey, in fact, is deprived of the essential attributes of a sovereign State.

7. While Article 36 of the Treaty lays down that the rights and title of the Turkish Government over Constantinople shall not be affected, "and that the said Government of His Majesty the Sultan shall be entitled to reside there and to maintain there the capital of the Turkish State," Constantinople is made part of the "zone of the Straits." This zone will be under the jurisdiction of the "Commission of the Straits," over which neither the Sultan nor any other Turkish authority will have any power or control. The Commission may establish their organisation at Constantinople, and will be entitled, as often as they think desirable, to proceed to any spot whatever in Turkish territory, or to send sub-commissions, or to authorise one or more of their numbers to go, to any such points.

8. Under such conditions the sovereignty of the Sultan is so limited and violated that Turkey ceases to be an independent Power. For all practical purposes the Khalif, upon whose temporal power the Moslems of the world lay great religious emphasis, will be no more than a political prisoner in his nominal capital, where he and his Government will inevitably be exposed to perpetual harassment from the foreign military and financial dictators, without whose assent no substantial detail of administration can be carried out. The extreme severity of the terms of the Treaty, in comparison with those imposed on the Christian Powers defeated in the war, has had a most disastrous effect in shaking the faith not only of Moslems, but of other Eastern peoples, in the tolerance, justice, and honour of the Allied Powers, and the sincerity of the principles laid down for the peace settlement while the issue of the war had still to be determined.

9. For these reasons we humbly pray the Assembly to exercise the duty imposed upon it by Article 19 of the Covenant to advise the reconsideration of this unhappy Treaty, so out of harmony with the principles of the Covenant, so disturbing a factor in international relationships, especially between Asia and Europe, and so inimical to that peace of the world which it is the express purpose of the League of Nations to foster and conserve.

We have the honour to be, etc.,

| | |
|---|---|
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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"THE BAGGING OF BAGHDAD." By Ernest Betts. (London: The Bodley Head. 7s. 6d. net.)

II.—"THE LAST DAYS OF THE ROMANOVS." By Robert Wilton. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 1920. 15s. net.)

III.—"THE QUATRAINS OF OMAR KHAYYAM: A NEW TRANSLATION." By O. A. Shrubsole. (London: Marlborough and Co. Wrapper, 2s. 6d.; cloth, 3s. 6d. net.)

## I.—THROUGH MUD TO VICTORY.

"This book," says the author in the first sentence of his preface, "is an attempt to set down as freely as possible an individual war experience." It is, we are inclined to think, a very successful attempt, too—in spite of its title, which certainly does not predispose us in its favour. It is consistently subjective rather than objective; but, in spite of that fact—or, perhaps, because of it—Mr. Betts now and then brings home to us in an extraordinarily vivid way the conditions under which our men fought and marched, lived and died, in Mesopotamia during the second advance on Baghdad.

We should like the book better if Chapters 13, 14, and 15 had been omitted. They give us some of the author's impressions of India, gleaned during sick leave, and they strike us as rather superficial. We hold no brief for the Englishman in India; but our own observation leads us to conclusions very different from those of Mr. Betts. Personally, we do *not* "enjoy teacups . . . and euphemisms and scandal"; and we are sure that a great many of our countrymen and countrywomen in India are of the same opinion; and to say that India "can be recommended as the school for scandal" is as untrue as it is unjust. Nor is it correct to proclaim that the Indian's religion—which one, by the way?—is "incomprehensible to the white man": the works on the subject by European scholars offer sufficient evidence to the contrary. It is true that India has its Captain Gadsbys and its Mrs. Threegans, and perhaps they are a growing number; but it has also its Wresleys, its Stricklands, its Mrs. Vansuythens, and—if anybody cares for the type—its Aurelian McGoggins. Moreover, did not even Captain Gadsby sometimes discuss "Shakespeare and the musical glasses"? We fear that Mr. Betts has been less than fair in these three chapters.

The rest of the book is good reading. We do not know why our author should place the disappearance of the "glories" of Mesopotamia "some three thousand years" ago, and we make bold to remark that his ideas of pre-war Irak el-Arabi need some revision; but when he is telling us of what he saw himself, and—even more so—of what effect his experiences had upon him, he is extremely interesting. As we have indicated above, he sometimes succeeds in calling up a scene before us with extraordinary vividness. This is notably the case in regard to his seventh chapter, which, for one reader at least, did more than all the most sustained efforts of the "special correspondents" to give one a glance at the working of the mind of a young soldier of the New Army. The descriptions of the capture of Kut and of the subsequent victorious advance on Baghdad are also capital—from a civilian's point of view. The book is not likely to meet with the approval of the recruiting sergeant, but the ordinary man will find it full of human interest. Mr. Betts volunteered to do his bit, and did it; and, we feel sure, did it well. But he did not like doing it; army life has no attraction for him; and he makes no pretence to the contrary. He throws some light on his outlook when he writes of a conversation with a brother officer:—

This evening fatalism was the subject he had embarked upon—a choice which seemed to me peculiarly inappropriate to the moment. Few care to be convinced that their death on a certain date is part of a prearranged plan that has been worked out like algebra on a blackboard. It is intolerable to think of it. And his views on marching are clear:—

Picture to yourself a long, straggling column of men crawling across the desert, each heavily laden with that vast museum of war material every soldier has to carry, their tired shoulders bent to a half-stumble, their eyes searching the ground for places that would afford a reliable grip. Marching under such conditions is a stiff, aching, maddening business that rapidly uses up a man. It was tragic to see our platoons doing their utmost to cover the ground. . . .

Those who know the country will be tickled by many a neat touch, such as: "We arrived at Garmat Ali—a small village more clearly visible on the map than on the banks


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of the Tigris." But why, oh, why does Mr. Betts write of wishing for a witch to "come flying on a broom from Baghdad with a magic carpet under her arm"? The carpet could get along without the broom and the witch. But the touch is interesting as showing how very distinctly English is the author's outlook.

## II.—THE TRAGEDY OF AN IMPERIAL HOUSE.

Mr. Robert Wilton was special correspondent of *The Times* during Admiral Koltchak's advance against the Bolshevists in Siberia. On arriving at Ekaterinburg, in March, 1919, he foregathered with a judicial officer named Sokolov, who was conducting an inquiry into the circumstances attending the Imperial Family's disappearance. He took an active part in the local investigations, and was entrusted by M. Sokolov with a complete record of the evidence of eye-witnesses. He has now published a translation of these telling documents, which enable Western readers to follow the victims through every phase of their sufferings. New light is thrown on the character of Nicholas II. and his spouse. He seems to have been a passionate lover of Russia and a staunch friend of the Entente. There is, indeed, reason for believing that he was murdered because the Moscow camarilla and their German wirepullers knew that he would never ratify the shameful Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. The Emperor's intelligence and amiability are beyond all question, but qualities which would have made him happy as a private individual were neutralised by his uxorious disposition and his ingrained weakness of will. It is equally clear that the Empress Alexandra did not deserve the obloquy hurled at her in our newspapers, which precluded the offer of an asylum in England. She was anything but pro-German; she shared her husband's love of Russia, and her dearest wish it was to preserve her son's heritage intact. But Alexandra's absolutist tendencies led her to veto the proposed convocation of the Duma in 1916, which would have ushered in a constitutional régime. Her religion was deeply tinged with fanaticism bred by hysteria, whence the disastrous influence of Rasputin, who appears to have been a tool in the hands of far greater scoundrels. The four Grand Duchesses were innocent and charming girls, while the little heir-apparent, despite inherited disease, gave proof that he possessed a stronger will than his luckless father.

The Provisional Government which came into office after Nicholas's abdication banished the imperial family to Tobolsk; and while Kerensky remained in power they had little to complain of except the loss of liberty. A change for the worse came with the Bolshevist revolution of October, 1917. The prisoners were half-starved and treated with every conceivable indignity. On April 22, 1918, they were transferred to closer confinement at Ekaterinburg; and at midnight on July 16 they were slaughtered with indescribable brutality. Five attendants shared their fate—faithful to death; and every member of the House of Romanov who fell into the Bolshevists' clutches was summarily executed.

Students of history will trace an extraordinarily close parallel between the French Reign of Terror, in 1792-4, and the last phase of the Russian Revolution. Both began with a campaign of slander, which sapped the foundations of loyalty; both were characterised by fanaticism, incoherence, and barbarity. But the Jacobins had some excuse for adopting harsh measures. Queen Marie Antoinette had plotted the overthrow of the Republic; France was honeycombed with Royalist conspiracies; her territory was invaded by foreign armies, whose leaders threatened to wreak vengeance on the King's rebellious subjects, and lashed a proud people to madness by their insults. No such palliation can be offered for the atrocities perpetrated in Russia; and Mr. Wilton's impartial narrative should convince the most credulous partisan of Bolshevism that the gang of miscreants who organised the most appalling crime in history stand outside the pale of civilisation.

F. H. S.

## III.—AN UNHIBERNIAN OMAR.

The cult of Omar Khayyam has spread enormously in this country during the past quarter of a century, but it is safe to say that much of the homage rendered to the Tent Maker should by rights be accorded to Fitzgerald. The Irishman, it seems to us, took the Persian's verses, saturated himself in their spirit, and then presented them to the world, in a form closely resembling that of the original, and highly attractive, but in regard to substance owing almost as much to him as to Omar. Mr. Shrubsole's translation, which Messrs. Marlborough present to us in a very attractive booklet, certainly bears out this view. It is an entirely new translation, and "endeavours to present Omar as he really is," and though it has not, in our opinion, the charm of Fitzgerald's paraphrase, it is an interesting study and a piece of work on which the translator is to be congratulated. Those acquainted with what we may call "the authorised version" will find here several shocks; but they will read Mr. Shrubsole's translation with profit, if not always with pleasure, and will surely feel grateful to him for enabling them to get a truer view into the nature of the Persian original. The Introduction will be helpful to new acquaintances, but the Notes might well have been made more numerous and fuller, for the benefit of readers quite unacquainted with the East. The little book deserves to be in demand at this gift-giving season.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Sir Archibald Murray's Despatches (June, 1916—June, 1917)," with specially prepared Maps and Portraits. (London: J. M. Dent and Sons, Limited. 35s. net.)

"Playmates in Egypt and Other Stories." By Elma Ehrlich Levinger. (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America.)

"Pole and Czech in Silesia." By James A. Roy. (London: The Bodley Head. 6s. net.)

"Dostoevsky and His Creation: a Psycho-Critical Study." By Janko Lavrin. (London: W. Collins, Sons, and Co., Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

## THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

—OMAR KHAYYAM.

"One has often heard of the biter getting bit, but it is seldom one hears of the lawyer getting left," writes an Egyptian correspondent. "The prophet Isaiah pronounced a woe upon those who justified the wicked for a reward, but evidently he did not think the wicked would prey upon the wicked, and he never said anything about the man who justified the wicked and did *not* get his reward. To come to the point. There is a story that in Egypt a temporary officer and —— was haled before a court-martial and accused of passing cheques which the bankers did not recognise. He engaged a learned counsel, who managed to persuade the Court that his client had done no such thing. However, he was obliged to own his error afterwards (not publicly), for his bill was paid by a cheque which also the bankers refused to recognise! Accounts are cash in advance (no cheques accepted) now with that legal luminary, to say nothing of refreshers which leave nothing to chance."

***

I suppose we all know one or two people with a passion for "making martyrs of themselves," as the saying goes; but martyrdom of the kind indicated is generally pretty cheap, and the day of the real thing—the thumb-screw and the rack, or the stake-and-faggot kind—is gone for ever, let us hope, so far as this country is concerned. Martyrdom in the cause of one's religion is, however, still possible in the East, and in some parts of it even probable unless one walks warily; though reports of such sacrifices are unlikely to find their way into the Press of the West. But the improbable happens sometimes, as the recent publication in *The Times* of an incident at Sultanabad serves to remind us. True, the martyrdom took place six months ago, but the victims have at least achieved the modern equivalent for fame—if rather late in the day.

***

In case you have not read the story, I will outline it here; for it seems to me to be worth telling as a record of real heroism and devotion to an ideal. It begins—rather scrappily, unfortunately—with "the martyrdom of a whole family, which took place at Sultanabad on February 16," presumably because the said family were Bahais, or followers of Bahai'ullah, a sect professing "a universal quietist religion," and as harmless and likable as our own Quakers. The poor people's friends were at first afraid to bury them; but a certain Hajji Arab undertook the responsibility, and, evidently labouring under a strong sense of indignation, had himself photographed with the bodies of the murdered children. "This photograph," says *The Times*, eventually "reached the outer world and became a cause of offence." I am not surprised. Modern Inquisitors do not love publicity as a rule. But if the Hajji had acted bravely, he had also been highly indiscreet, as the sequel showed. For the Mollahs of Sultanabad trumped up against him a charge of burning a copy of the Koran; and in spite of appeals to Teheran, on May 29 last he was publicly hanged in Sultanabad. That is the bare outline of the story. If only poor Hajji Arab had lived in the West what excellent "copy" he would have provided for the Press!

CORSAIR.

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## AL AND GENERAL.

**TO-DAY.**

December 2 (New Style).
November 19 (Old Style).
Rabia I., 21, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Kislev 21, of the Jewish Calendar.

Adly Yeghen Pasha arrived at Alexandria on November 28.

It is stated that General Wrangel is going to Belgrade early this month.

Lord and Lady Douglas Compton have arrived at the Hôtel St. George, Algiers.

Sir Murdoch Macdonald sailed in the P. and O. steamer Caledonia this week for Egypt.

M. Sophocles Venizelos, the son of the ex-Greek Prime Minister, arrived in Paris last week.

Sir Ian Hamilton and Lady Benn left London last week for Colombo and Bombay in the s.s. Orsova.

Mr. Lewis Haslam, M.P., and Mrs. and Miss Haslam have left for India, and expect to be away until April.

Mrs. Alec Tweedie and her sister, Mrs. Francis Goodbody, are in Damascus on their way to Palestine and Egypt.

The Duke of Connaught will sail from Marseilles for India on December 18 on board the British Dreadnought Malaya.

Dr. Trumbitch, ex-Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia, will stand as an independent candidate for a constituency in Dalmatia.

Professor Flinders Petrie and Mrs. Petrie left England for Egypt on November 18, to undertake excavations again in that country.

The Czecho-Slovak Minister has gone to Prague on a special mission. M. Dohalsky, First Secretary, will act as Chargé d'Affaires.

The marriage of Monsieur M. Beza, Secretary of the Roumanian Legation, with Mlle. Ada Zagescu took place last week in Paris.

Sir Dorabji Tata, of Bombay, has given £1,000 to the fund for increasing the clinical facilities for the medical education of women at the Royal Free Hospital.

M. Luke Z. Pierides, of Cyprus, who was lately in London, has met with a serious accident in Paris. He is now convalescent, and hopes to return to Cyprus shortly.

Lord Rawlinson, the new Commander-in-Chief in India, arrived at Delhi last week. Guards of honour were furnished from the Royal Irish Regiment and the 6th Jat Light Infantry.

The delegate of the Georgian Government addressed members of the 1900 Club on December 1. His subject was "The Present Russian Situation and its Bearing on the British Isles and the Middle East."

Under the auspices of the Royal Institute of British Architects (9, Conduit Street, W.1), Mr. Martin S. Briggs will, on December 13, at 8 p.m., deliver a lecture on "Saracenic Architecture in Egypt and Palestine."

M. Clemenceau arrived at Rangoon on November 23, and was the guest of the Lieutenant-Governor during his stay. He left for Mandalay three days later, and will return by the river route as far as Prome. From there he goes by rail to Calcutta.

M. Stancioff, the newly appointed Bulgarian Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James, has arrived in London from Paris, and will present his letter of credence to the King on His Majesty's return to Buckingham Palace from Sandringham.

Mrs. Doughty-Wylie will sell early next year the Theberton Hall estate, Suffolk, and will use the proceeds for the erection of a memorial at Sudd-el-Bahr to Colonel C. H. M. Doughty-Wylie, V.C., and those who fell with him at Gallipoli. A site has been obtained from the Turkish Government.

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* writes (November 28):—"The Emir Idriss, Chief of the Senussi, who was recognised as the autonomous ruler of certain parts of Cyrenaica, with the title of "Highness," in the agreement of October 25, arrived here to-day to visit the King, and was received with marked honours."

Field-Marshal Lord Methuen, the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, Sir Courtauld Thomson, Major-General Sir Thomas Yarr, and Sir Basil Mayhew were present at the first réunion dinner of the Malta B.R.C. Staff, held, under the presidency of Lieutenant-Colonel Frank Ashley, in the Oak Room at the Trocadero on November 27.

The King has given unrestricted permission to wear the Order of the White Eagle, awarded by the King of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes "for distinguished services rendered during the course of the campaign," to Major George T. C. Paget, Special List, and Captain Harold Sherwood Spencer, Royal Irish Fusiliers (Special Reserve), who were the Political Officers of the British Adriatic Mission.

M. Stambolisky, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, arrived in Brussels on November 28 to discuss economic and financial questions and the purchase of railway material. In consequence of the change in the political situation in Greece, he has had to postpone his intended visit to Athens, and will now go direct to Warsaw and afterwards to Belgrade.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (November 17):—
At the meeting of the League of Nations at Geneva, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes is represented by Dr. M. Spalajkovitch, formerly Minister at Petrograd, Dr. Ivan Zholger, Professor of Liubliana University, and Dr. Ladislav Politch, Professor of Zagreb University.
M. Vesnitch, Prime Minister, Dr. Trumbitch, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and M. Kosta Stoyanovitch, Minister of Finance, returned to Belgrade by special train from Italy on Thursday, the 11th inst.

The King has been pleased, by Warrants under His Majesty's Royal Sign Manual, to grant permission to wear the following decorations, which have been conferred in recognition of valuable services rendered during the war:—

LEGION OF HONOUR (FRANCE).

CROSS OF CHEVALIER.—John Garstang, Esq., M.A., D.Sc., John Rankin Professor of the Methods and Practice of Archæology in the University of Liverpool, Director of the British School of Archæology in Jerusalem.

ORDER OF THE REDEEMER (GREECE).

CROSS OF OFFICER.—Frederick Benjamin Wood, Esq., O.B.E., I.S.O., lately British Consul at Patras.
CROSS OF CHEVALIER.—Shirley Clifford Atchley, Esq.

ORDER OF THE NILE.

THIRD CLASS.—Clive Preen, Esq., lately Assistant Custodian of enemy property in Egypt.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. Veverka has been appointed Czecho-Slovak Minister to Roumania.

Mr. C. R. Ashbee's appointment as Civic Adviser to the City of Jerusalem has been renewed for three years.

M. Pavlovitch, Chief of the Cabinet of the Yugoslav Ministry for Foreign Affairs, has been appointed Chargé d'Affaires of the Legation at Bucharest.

Mr. Philip Lindsay Buckland, Barrister-at-Law, has been appointed a Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William, Bengal, in place of Sir Ernest Fletcher who has retired.

## OBITUARY.

News has reached England that Mr. Duke Baker died on November 6, at the Deaconesses' Hospital, Alexandria. He was formerly Manager of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank at Alexandria, and was one of the oldest British residents in Egypt.

The death occurred on November 27, at Hitchin, of the Bishop of Gibraltar. Dr. Henry Joseph Corbett Knight, who was appointed to the see in 1911, was the sixth Anglican Bishop of Gibraltar. His bishopric stretched from Oporto

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to Baku, and for the cause of Anglicanism throughout Southern Europe and the Near East his work was unremitting.

The death has occurred at Cambridge of Dr. James Drummond Anderson, Litt.D., of Gonville and Caius College, and University Teacher in Bengali. He was formerly connected with the Indian Civil Service for twenty-five years. He went to Cambridge in 1908, and in the following year received the honorary degree of Master of Arts. Upon taking up the Teachership in Bengali last year he proceeded to the degree of Doctor of Letters.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

Greek infantry was sent to Crete on November 26 to deal with a "slight effervescence" in the Island.

A Constantinople report says that the Georgian authorities have arrested some fifty Turkish suspects and various Mussulman chiefs.

As a token of France's respect for M. Venizelos, the Paris Municipal Council has decided to rename one of the streets in the city the Rue Venizelos.

Urged by the British Government, Persia has decided that the Megliss shall meet immediately, and it is hoped that it will be opened in ten days' time.

Two British soldiers who were kidnapped on the North-West Frontier some weeks ago by men of the Zakka Khel have been returned unharmed to Peshawar.

The trial of Aveni Rustem, the young Albanian student who shot Essad Pasha Toptan, the Albanian leader, on June 13 last, has begun at the Seine Assizes.

The *Morning Post* Cairo correspondent states that the Mouled El-Nebi celebrations on November 23 passed off quietly. The Court was in mourning for the Princess Fatma.

A telegram from the Viceroy of India, dated November 17, states that hostilities between the Dir and Swat tribes are likely to take place. A *lashkar* of 2,500 Dirwals is reported to have collected.

The *Morning Post* Cairo correspondent telegraphs that Viscount Allenby has issued a proclamation under Martial Law empowering the Public Custodian of Enemy Property in Egypt to sell the property of the ex-Khedive Abbas Hilmi.

The battleship Emperor of India, which has been manned by a new crew, left Sheerness last week for the Mediterranean, to resume duties as flagship of Rear-Admiral Sir R. Webb, commanding the Fourth Battle Squadron, and second in command of the Mediterranean Fleet.

It is reported from Belgrade that the Albanian Government in Tirana resigned on November 20, and that Elias Bey Vrioni, believed to be Italophil, has formed a Cabinet in which Fuad Bey, said to be a Young Turk, is Minister of the Interior and Zef Zurani is Minister of Finance.

## EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.

On November 16 Mr. D. A. Cameron concluded the short course of lectures on Modern Egypt that he has been giving at the London School of Oriental Studies. Speaking of the Sudan, he said that the name was an intensive plural of the Arabic word for black. A hundred years hence there would be a rich and prosperous province in the Eastern Sudan; that country would have its railways leading inland from Port Sudan, and would be quite independent of Egypt. Until now Egypt had been everything and the Sudan nothing, but a new condition was growing up; and, some day, the triangle in the Senaar province south of Khartoum and between the White and Blue Niles would be more important than even that other triangle—the Nile delta. When this country was opened up there would be difficulties between the Sudan and Egypt as to who should have the water brought down by the rivers; the only solution was for the British Government to control the water supply of both countries and to control it firmly.

Speaking of historical and political conditions, the lecturer said that after Kitchener's conquest a convention was made under which, in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, the two flags, British and Egyptian, were to be flown side by side. There were to be no capitulations or anything of the sort, and the Governor-General was to be a British officer recommended by the British Government and appointed by the Khedive. That was the organic law, and under it the country had been ruled by British officers for twenty years. When the British officers first went there as rulers the Sudanese were surprised that their new governors did not want to beat, kill, or enslave them. They said, "This is a strange kind of man; all he cares about is to go out shooting." No Egyptian had ever had anything to do with the Sudan except in a subordinate capacity, and if Egypt was to be independent the Sudan had an equal right to self-determination; the two countries should be separated, and the Sudan should not be allowed to fall under Egypt.

## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

# WHERE TO STAY.

**For the convenience of visitors from overseas "THE NEAR EAST" offers its services in booking rooms at hotels in the United Kingdom, on receipt of instructions preferably a week before the date of arrival. When instructions are telegraphed the message can be abbreviated as follows:—**

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**(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added)."**

**which would indicate that two rooms were required at Matlock on the 20th of the month.**

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1920.


## PUBLICITY IN INDIAN ADMINISTRATION.

The efforts which administrators in many countries are making to secure publicity must be accounted one of the most remarkable by-products of four years of war. In England, indeed, the change may almost be described as a revolution, for here, more than anywhere else, the methods of the permanent officials seemed to be modelled on the actions of the humble mole, which shuns the daylight and conducts its operations beneath an almost impenetrable screen. In the old days policy was recognised to be a topic suitable for public discussion; legislators might talk, and journalists might write, so long as they could secure an audience; but when once the policy was settled its execution was not regarded as a matter in which the public had any further concern. The experts had received their orders, and were carrying them out; there was nothing left to be said; and if some importunate person were bold enough to raise inconvenient questions, all that needed to be done was to extinguish him in a flood of that peculiar official dialect whose merit consisted in its combination of politeness and unintelligibility. On the whole the British public was inclined to accept this view. Administration counted for little in its daily life, and provided the post-office was reasonably efficient and the tax-collector not unreasonably offensive, there was, in fact, little to be said worth saying. But the war quickly made this attitude impossible. The administration had to shoulder new burdens, and was brought into closer contact with the public in its daily life; efficient departments found the need of an expositor, inefficient departments realised the advantages of a screen, and both classes sought the aid of the public Press. How well they were served is now a matter of history; the habit of publicity seems definitely to have been acquired; the mole has ceased to be the symbol of the permanent official.

In India, too, the war has brought a change, but there the original position was different, and the adaptation has followed distinctive lines. The Indian Governments were indeed often negligent in explaining their activities to their own subjects, but they consistently endeavoured to justify themselves in the eyes of the civilised world, and year by year they maintained a steady output of reports and statistics designed to achieve this object. They were not, like the British departments, contemptuously silent, but the result was very nearly the same, for the civilised world failed to study the literature provided at the cost of so much effort; it was, in fact, unreadable when taken in the mass, and that is in these days a valid excuse for continued ignorance. When the war came, therefore, the Indian Governments had what may be termed machinery for publicity ready to hand; it was rusty and cumbrous and inefficient, but it was there, and, following the immemorial fashion of the country, they decided not to scrap it, but to furbish it up. The literature was to be converted into journalism, and if journalists could not be tempted into the departments, their methods could at least be imitated, and their achievements could possibly be surpassed. An example of the new style lies before us in the latest issue of that venerable institution, the "Statement Exhibiting the Moral and Material Progress and Condition of India." In the old days that "Statement" was a bye-word; the contents included, it is true, a large amount of matter relevant to the title, but the facts were set out in a manner so jejune and uninforming that the whole was unreadable, and its publication was welcomed only by those critics who delight to gibe. No such criticism can be passed upon the latest issue. It is essentially good journalism, written in a pleasant, easy style, adorned but not overwhelmed by the *clichés* and catchwords of the moment, illustrated by those ingenious diagrams which the present generation has been taught to admire, and, in a word, excellently adapted to the tastes of its potential readers. When, however, the question of relevancy is raised, a somewhat less favourable verdict must be passed. We turn to the volume for enlightenment on the vast topic of the condition and progress of a fifth of our race; we find in it many facts, and perhaps one or two accidental fictions, bearing on that topic, but we find nearly as much on a wholly different subject, the activities of the various Governments, and the measure and causes of their failure or success. Taken as a whole, it must be classed as apologetics rather than exposition, and, while speaking a new language, it reproduces faithfully the tone and matter of the Blue-books of the past, the familiar self-congratulation when things have gone tolerably well, the equally familiar pained surprise at those unforeseen and regrettable incidents which persist in occurring, and, most familiar of all, the perennial optimism, which is confident that, whatever the mishaps of yesterday, the promise of to-morrow will be realised. In a word, the volume is readable, but often irrelevant; the style may be new, but the matter is very old: and students of experience will rise from its perusal with the feeling that the fusion of journalism and bureaucracy is not likely to result in an entirely neutral mixture. In some countries it is conceivable that the journalist may win: in India it is more probable that he will be absorbed in the bureaucracy, and while retaining or even developing his own manner, will become more and more the exponent of the time-honoured official view.

We have not dwelt on this volume mainly because of its intrinsic importance, though the progress and condition of a fifth of our race is a topic which should appeal to the majority of thinking men. The lesson which we wish to draw from it is of somewhat different import. Publicity in administration has in our judgment come to stay, but publicity does not imply the attainment of final or ultimate truth. The public, relying on a long experience, does not expect such truth from politicians, and it need not be expected from administrators. We do not for a moment suggest that they will attempt consciously to mislead: there is less passion in administration than in politics, and consequently less risk of the cruder forms of distortion; but the fact remains that no administration and no department can be trusted to give a final verdict on its own activities, and the more attractive its presentment, the more need is there for the public to remain on guard. The departmental view is always instructive, but hardly ever conclusive, and if it is put forward more cogently than of old, independent criticism must display a corresponding increase in activity. The public is the final judge of the success or failure of the administrators employed to manage its affairs. In the past it has not infrequently been misled by the unnecessary reticence of its servants, and we believe that the tendency we are discussing will be advantageous in so far as it may ensure that the official case is clearly and intelligibly put forward; but it is a commonplace of the forum that increased skill in advocacy demands increased perspicacity on the bench, and when the public has listened with due attention to all that is so put forward it must still exercise an independent judgment, must appraise all forms of special pleading at their proper worth, and must in the last resort decide for itself whether its work has been well done. The advent of publicity is definitely a gain, but it may increase rather than diminish the obligations of the public.

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# WITH THE R.A.F. IN THE LIBYAN DESERT.

**By G. W. T. Garrood.**

On the south-eastern borders of Tripoli, in the Libyan Desert, not far from Jarabub, the Holy City of the Senussi, in a depression 80 ft. below sea level, lies the Oasis of Siwa, the gateway of the West, leading direct to Egypt.

I was in charge of the expedition of aeroplanes which set out on December 28, 1918, for the purpose of surveying and photographing this oasis from the air. My instructions were to compile a photographic mosaic of about 900 square miles of the oasis from a height of 10,000 ft., while all strategical points were to be photographed obliquely from 500 ft. The map made from the photographs taken by this expedition measures 35 ft. long by 15 ft. high when mounted. Between three thousand and four thousand negatives were exposed, all, with the exception of about seventy, from an altitude of 10,000 ft. In tackling this work the whole area was divided into sections, over which the machines operated. A timing apparatus was used which allowed for an overlap of 10 per cent. or each photograph. In a direct line 216 negatives were exposed, giving a 10 per cent. overlap (each negative covering approximately three-quarters of a square mile) in one flight of 3½ hours' duration. It is believed this constitutes a record.

The expedition, comprising three aeroplanes, left Alexandria at daybreak on December 28, 1918, following the railway line as far as El Hammam, crossing Arabs Gulf, and arriving at El Daaba (125 miles west of Alexandria) at about 8.30 p.m. We reached Mersa Matruh the following day, and on December 30 landed at Solloum. The Italian fort on the Tripoli border is some few hundreds of yards only from the Solloum fort. While here we were entertained most hospitably by the Italians; weekly parties were held alternately by the Italians and English, a contingent from one fort being the weekly guests of the other fort. On January 2 we headed for Siwa. As we passed over the Italian fort, flying in line, the machines dipped and the Italian flag was dipped in return. Our flight was practically due south, and was painfully monotonous. A *masrah* (camel track) which does duty as a motor road, is scarcely visible at 2,000 feet, but is worth following, as in the event of a forced landing the chances of being found are far greater. There was nothing in sight on either side of the *masrah* but barren, rocky desert, with occasional patches of scrub. The distance from Solloum to Siwa is only about 200 miles, but, owing to a strong, contrary wind, this occupied four hours' flying time. The first glimpse of Siwa was obtained from a distance of forty miles, the chain of hills forming the northern boundary being just visible. Then followed shimmering lakes, huge patches of date palms, and acres of cultivated land. Very anxiously did we watch for the signal of our landing-place—the firing of a smoke bomb by our mechanics, who had preceded us by road, escorted by Rolls-Royce armoured cars. The faint puff of smoke was located, and we landed by the camp just outside the Oasis of Siwa. The camp consisted of 24 army bell tents with a marquee for the officers' mess. These were surrounded by entanglements and machine-gun emplacements. The camp also boasted a look-out tower 34 feet high, constructed with the trunks of date palms.

We soon made ourselves comfortable, and prepared to start our work next day. It is monotonous work photographing from an altitude of 10,000 ft., but hour after hour, and day after day we kept at it, with occasional intervals when excursions were made to interesting districts. One of these days off was taken in a flight to Jarabub, the Holy City of the Senussi, distant about 85 miles from the camp. No Christian or other "heretic" may approach within 5 miles of the city walls, and strict orders were issued to this effect in regard to our machines. We were very disappointed with our visit, and although we used our most powerful binoculars we saw nothing rivalling St. Paul's, London. The town is built on a hill, and is surrounded by a thick wall, which we afterwards learned was 13 to 15 ft. thick. We could discern the mosque and the dome of the building covering the tomb of the first Grand Senussi. Although the population of Jarabub does not exceed four hundred, this mosque is capable of seating five times that number of worshippers. Among the population are 80 negro slaves devoted to the service of the mosque.

Very different is the capital of the oasis—Siwa Town. Here there is a population of four thousand, while the town itself is a perfect rabbit warren of streets and alleys (seldom more than a yard wide) at varying levels, which are connected in some places by hundreds of steps, dark slimy tunnels, and slippery passages. The houses are built of *sabakha* obtained from the salt marshes, which, when sunbaked into bricks, becomes as hard as cement. The house framing is of palm trunks. The Siwans believe in skyscrapers, for many of their houses contain ten storeys. The Siwans themselves are a decadent tribe, probably of Berber origin. They are lazy, immoral, and untrustworthy. Their language, the origin of which has never been traced, is unlike any other known tongue; but little is known of their history; for explorers unless in force are not considered safe in the oasis. That there was a Roman occupation of the site is evidenced by the remains of wells and walls of Roman construction, and many of the natives to-day have noses of a pure Roman type.

On another occasion we visited Aghurmi, a town of some importance in the oasis, to take tea with the Sheikh. We set out by road, a convoy of nine cars fully equipped for a picnic. Geb-el-Mut (Hill of the Dead) was first visited. This is an extensive rocky hill, honeycombed with tombs and passages hewn out of the solid rock, many of which contain allegorical paintings similar to those found in Lower Egypt. It was here that one of our number adopted a mummy found in an excellent state of preservation; this mummy was christened "Violet," and became a permanent member of our mess. Subsequently she was flown to Alexandria and packed off to England by the pilot who found her.

To return to our excursions. We had lunch near Ain Maghazis, one of the many Roman wells existing in the oasis. The largest of these wells is about 50 feet in diameter, and the temperature is never less than 30 deg. F. above that of the atmosphere in winter. We could obtain no satisfactory explanation of this phenomenon. The ruins of the Temple of Jupiter Ammon were visited next. Parts of the masonry have been removed for the purpose of building a mosque in Siwa Town, which, however, has never been completed. Massive marble columns, well carved with strange designs, still stand. There is no known marble quarry within many hundreds of miles, yet here stand these columns, each weighing not less than thirty tons. How they were transported, and from whence is a mystery.

The village of Aghurmi was reached in the afternoon. It stands on a high rock, and is completely surrounded by a thick high wall, having but one gateway for all traffic. From beneath this rock emerge about a dozen springs of hot, cold, fresh and salt water. The mechanics picnicked in the head Sheikh's garden outside of the wall, while the officers were escorted to the head Sheikh's apartments, which necessitated journeying through the

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
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tunnels and narrow stairs leading to the summit of the rock. Drinking tea with a Siwan sheikh is an important function as well as an honour, and there is quite a code of etiquette to be observed. We were requested to seat ourselves on a beautiful Bedouin carpet which covered the entire floor of the room. Then the first brew of tea was brought in. It was green, and seemed to be without either milk or sugar. The kettle of crude native pottery was kept on the boil over a charcoal fire; the first brew being consumed the dregs in the teapot are retained for the second brew, a bunch of mint and a little more green tea being added; the third brew was made from the remains of the second, to which a few lemon leaves were added. When drinking it is necessary to make as much noise as possible, this being considered a mark of appreciation. It is a great insult to the sheikh to leave the tea drinking before the third brew, and a still greater insult to remain after the third brew has been consumed. We had been warned of this, and quickly made our adieux, not, however, before the sheikh had given us many baskets of dates and other fruit to take back to camp. Dates are the chief product of the Siwa oasis, many hundreds of tons being convoyed annually to the coast by Bedouin camel caravans An interesting feature of the oasis was a sand dune 500 ft. high, with a crater at the summit On windy days a column of sand, often 30 ft. high, is carried upwards, giving the crater an appearance of smoking.

We paid many visits to the large clay pans which are scattered among the hills, where many hundreds of flint implements were found, including arrow- and spear-heads and hard grinding stones for crushing grain. On the completion of our photographic work we were given a farewell luncheon by the Siwan sheikhs. At this entertainment fourteen courses were served. On March 2 last year we left the oasis with many interesting curios and gruesome relics strapped on every available part of our machines.

## TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

*The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—*

ARABIA. ARMENIA. GREECE. INDIA: Lajpat Rai (Passport). (November 22.)

ARMENIA. SERBIA (BRITISH LOANS). ANGLO-PERSIAN AGREEMENT. (November 23.)

INDIA: Incitement to Disaffection.—Dyer Fund.—Elections.—Burma (Government of India Act).—Outrages.—Punjab Disturbances (Amnesty).—Rupee Exchange.—Compulsory Military Service.—Stores Depot (Pensions). PALESTINE (MANDATE). INDIA: Seditious Speech.—Uncovenanted Services.—Arms Rules, 1920.—Civil Service, Memorials.—Publicity Officer. Burma. RUSSIA: Batoum. EMIR FAISAL. ARMENIA. (November 24.)

PEACE TREATIES: Asia Minor. MONTENEGRO. GREECE. PALESTINE (BRITISH GARRISON) INDIA: Army Pay Accounts—Officers' Passages.—Police Pay.—Leave and Unemployed Pay (Officers). (November 25.)


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## PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

### Palestine.

On the eternal problem of Jew and Arab *Palestine*, of November 20, says:—

When Zionists speak of Jews as the necessary cement of Palestine nationality they have no idea of establishing a racial tyranny or of ousting Arabs from any of their existing rights. They do not ask Arabs to become Jews, but only that they shall become loyal Palestinians. It is an inevitable condition of the formation of a nation that the first allegiance of its people shall be to the land, and it is the peculiar distinction of the British that they alone have known how to create these new nationalities. Canada, Australia, and South Africa are British only because their people are Canadians, South Africans, and Australians first. That is the ideal that we wish to see pursued by the British in forming the new Palestinian nationality. Quebec and the rest of Canada are one in spite of the different racial strains because they are all Canadians. We ask no more from the Arabs than that they shall be loyal to the ideal of Palestine a nation as the French of Quebec are loyal to the ideal of Canada a nation. And we recognise, too, that Jewish immigrants will need training in the same ideal. They, too, will need to discipline themselves to the processes of political education.

### Greece—

The *Manchester Guardian* of November 18 has some strong comments upon M. Gounaris and his reported policy. It says:—

He proposes not only to restore the man who destroyed constitutional government in Greece in order to help Germany and injure the Allies, but also to pocket the rewards which the Allies have bestowed on Greece for the services of M. Venizelos. But we are not so simple as M. Gounaris supposes. We shall continue to hope that many of those who have helped to defeat M. Venizelos have been moved by their own discontents and are no friends of King Constantine. In that event a plebiscite may decide against him and his son, and so put a natural end to a situation which even by the defeat of M. Venizelos is sufficiently disagreeable to the friends of Greece. But if a plebiscite should recall Constantine to the Greek throne—and there are ways of manipulating plebiscites—then unquestionably we should have to reconsider our attitude to Greece. It is one thing, for instance, to grant the custody of the northern coast of the Dardanelles, as is done by the Turkish Treaty (not yet completed, by the by), to a liberal-minded Greece in sympathy with the Allies; it would be quite another to entrust it to a reactionary Greece ruled by a pro-Prussian autocrat who might be trusted in any future difficulties to do what he could to repay an old grudge against France and England.

### —and the Allies.

"The result of the Greek election," says the *Outlook* of November 20, "can only be recognised as a disaster; the only question is as to the exact nature and scope of the trouble." It proceeds to comment upon the greatness of M. Venizelos, and upon what it calls the flagrant ingratitude that the Greek people have shown towards him.

But the full ingloriousness of the transaction is not illustrated by the rejection of Venizelos. It is not so much by their antipathies as by their preferences that the Greeks stand condemned as a people incapable of a noble future. They do not simply desire to get rid of a rule which, it is true, would have compelled them to put up with some small and transient sacrifices for the sake of a greater good. They are anxious to revive a rule which combined at once the vilest and the most ludicrous features of Prussianism and Potsdamism Doubtless King Constantine was not the most sinister figure of the great war, but certainly he was the most contemptible. He was false to everything and everybody but his wife's relations and those principles which he had imbibed in contact with the Prussian Court. He betrayed his great Minister, he betrayed his Ally, he lied to France and England, he performed for Germany the kind of services which are only undertaken by men destitute of the smallest conception, we will not say of kingly but of gentlemanly honour. Germany used the treason; even Germany could hardly have respected the traitor.

It praises the British and French Press for "warning the Greeks of what they will incur by carrying bad taste too far"; and continues:—

Quite apart from pertectly justifiable regard to the undesirability of again converting the palace of Athens into a German agency, it would be clearly impossible to continue with men like Streit and Gounaris arrangements entered into with Venizelos. Thus the Greek Army in Anatolia is financed by Great Britain, and can only be operated in strict understanding with the Allies, and in every direction our recent relations with Greece have been based on the belief that she had cut herself off from a past none too creditable, quite apart from the special infamies of her late monarch. To such relations there must be an abrupt end if Constantine is restored, and in any case it will not be easy, in the absence of M. Venizelos, to feel any confidence in Greek policy. The Greeks, if they were wiser, would take note of the nature of Italian comment on the new situation. Italy, naturally enough, is not anxious for a Greater Greece that would dispute Italian ascendancy in the Mediterranean, and she has watched with anxiety as well as admiration the diplomatic successes of M. Venizelos. Now that that great man has fallen, the Italians, by no means displeased, describe him truly enough, as "too big a man for a small country." We may adapt the phrase. Constantine is too small a man for a big country. If he goes back it must be to a country appropriately small.

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# MUSICAL NOTES.

### Women and Music.

Of all the arts music is theoretically that in which the matter of sex plays the last part, and there is no logical reason for the inferiority of women in music. But the practice disproves the theory. The whole question of this inferiority was raised in an interesting and most challenging way by Dr. Ethel Smyth at the concert which the Ladies' String Quartet, a combination new to London, gave at the Wigmore Hall on November 20. In introducing this quartet Dr. Smyth made some remarks on "Sex and Music" which are worthy of note. She pleaded (a hopelessly inadequate word for her!) that women should enjoy an equality of opportunity with men, particularly in orchestras, and her scorn was ireful when she spoke of Mr. Hamilton Harty's recent decision to banish the war-time ladies from the Hallé orchestra. For it was in an orchestra (said she) that the best chance of the future composer lay, and the scarcity of women-composers was largely due to their lack of orchestral training. Any orchestra must, she asseverated, be improved by the presence of women, for they, whose emotion lay nearer the surface than men's, could more easily express their soul, and, in addition, they would, by mere virtue of their sex, speed the jaded male player on to better deeds.

Well, there can be no argument against these statements, except to say that things are not so. I believe these opinions to be, in fact, utter bosh.

However, in Dr. Ethel Smyth's Quartet in E minor and J. R. Heath's "Serbian" Quartet, the Ladies' String Quartet did show a certain amount of talent. To compare them with any more well-known quartet, either wholly male or mixed, would be folly; for they have no one virtue that cannot be improved. They certainly play with care, even with keenness; but their discipline is slack, their intonation vagrant, and their tone does not blend. Yet in Dr. Smyth's Quartet they did bring out points which were missed in the Philharmonic String Quartet's performance of it a few weeks ago; and in the first and last movements of the "Serbian" Quartet they succeeded in suggesting the atmospherical origin of the composition. J. R. Heath is a particularly interesting composer to Near Eastern readers: he has saturated himself in the idioms of Macedonia and of the neighbouring regions, and he writes exceedingly well. In this quartet both the heavy sorrow and the wild mirth of the Serbs are very faithfully suggested.

### Violinists.

It may be because Mlle. Jelly d'Aranyi, who gave a recital at the Wigmore Hall on November 22, can so easily express her soul that she at present falls just short of the highest rank. For there are a few occasions when her emotion and excitement detract from the form of her playing. But apart from that she is a glorious fiddler. With Mr. John Petrie Dunn as pianist, she played the "Kreutzer" Sonata beautifully, the variations being particularly excellent. (Though as a performance of chamber music it was spoiled by the lifeless interpretation of the pianist, whose methods did not at any time blend with Mlle. d'Aranyi's.) There is little that she does not know about Beethoven and Bach, whose Concerto in A minor she played perfectly; but for these big composers she must find a pianist sympathetic with her. She has her own very vivid way of interpreting them, and does not as yet appear to have persuaded any pianist that hers is the right way. That is why her best things (except, of course, when she is unaccompanied) are the small things, when she is supported by an accompanist, and not partnered by a pianist; in these, such as F. S. Kelly's "Jig" or Kreisler's "Liebesfreud," she is, I think, unbeatable. Without any doubt at all she is one of the finest fiddlers in this country. Her colleague, Mr. Dunn, played, in addition to some Chopin, the tremendous Paganini-Brahms Variations, but he made little of them. For in truth they are only for the masters.

Another fine violinist, M. Paul Kochanski, gave a recital earlier on the same day at the same hall. I was disappointed in missing his performance of the Sonata in E major of Arnold Bax, for he is said to have a genius for modern music. But the slight things I did hear—Saint-Saëns' "Havanaise," a Chopin nocturne, Glazounow's "Mélodie Arabe," and Paganini's "Campanella"—were sufficient to show that he is uncommonly good. His technique is brilliant, though not infallible; his phrasing is very neat, and his individuality marked—so marked, indeed, that Mr. O'Connor-Morris, a very capable accompanist, could not at all times cope with it.

### A Chamber Concert.

The third of the series of concerts which the London Chamber Concert Society has organised at the Wigmore Hall was given on November 16, and was all through delightful. It was devoted to music of the 17th and 18th centuries, and the charm of these old things was irresistible. Many of them speak for themselves, which is much the same thing as saying that they need first and last perfect execution. This they had. M. Salmon, in Sonatas by Cervetto and Dupuits, and in pieces by Porpora, Corelli, Couperin, and Senaille, all of which he himself had harmonised for the pianoforte, obtained from his 'cello more delicate shades and phrasing than are often heard from this instrument; and, moreover, his fine art was beautifully sustained by Mr. Harold Craxton at the piano. Mlle. Jelly d'Aranyi, in Bach's unaccompanied Adagio and Fugue in C, played most fervently and satisfyingly. And Mrs. Norman O'Neill played Scarlatti, Leonardo Leo, and Daquin with such strictness, neatness, and perfect clarity that a harpsichord would surely have suited her methods better. This was in every way an admirable concert.

### Suggia and Siloti.

One wondered very much how Mme. Guilhermina Suggia would sound with M. Siloti in Chopin's Sonata for 'cello and pianoforte, for they have, superficially, at any rate, nothing in common in their methods. But it can be said at once, and without attempting an explanation, that it was a wonderful performance. Neither instrument at any time overbalanced the other, and nothing was missed. In the Scherzo, Mme. Suggia obtained a most divine delicacy, and the Largo was made appealingly beautiful. The truth that is in M. Siloti, but that is sometimes overshadowed, shone dazzlingly throughout the sonata; and the common performance was unforgettable. Very rarely do two such supreme artists arrive by different routes at the same goal. After all, it is the goal that matters, and though one is in these days inclined to lay stress on the rightness or wrongness of any particular approach to beauty, when truth and beauty are by whatsoever means found together the discovery should be announced with profound gratitude.

### Hofmann.

There is nothing that M. Josef Hofmann, whose last recital at the Queen's Hall was given on November 23, loves more than technical clarity. For sheer lucidity it is not conceivable that his playing of the Handel-Brahms Variations and Fugue could be improved; it simply sparkled with brilliance. There was something breathless in the coloured ease with which he overcame the tremendous difficulties; but it was from the technical point of view that his reading was greatest. And then came a bewildering thing. Why this amazing artist should so have bent the rhythm of Chopin's Ballade in G minor I do not understand. I admire M. Hofmann profoundly, but there are some things, as I said at his first recital, very baffling in his individuality. One is certain that there is no insincerity, no pose in him; but it was only the most gorgeous playing of a Chopin mazurka that could temporarily efface the memory of the Ballade. In more Chopin and Scriabin he proved beyond any doubt what we already knew, that he is one of the world's artists. There is no pianist more certain of a welcome in London.

### An Anglo-Russian Concert.

The popularity and understanding of Russian music in England are pretty well assured now, and in this movement Miss Lilias Mackinnon and M. Lazare Saminsky, two of the chief organisers of an Anglo-Russian concert which was given at the Steinway Hall on November 23, have had no little share. My admiration for Miss Mackinnon's Scriabin is intense, though on this particular evening she was not playing so well as usual. Perhaps the main interest of the concert was in the first appearance in England of Mrs. Xenia Baddeley, a mezzo-soprano. Unfortunately I was not in time to hear her in some English songs, but in some Russian songs by Rimsky-Korsakoff, Stravinsky, and Moussorgsky she showed that she has a keen musical sense, an uncommonly accurate ear, and a good deal of simple charm. There are some deficiencies in her singing at present, e.g., in breath control, but there is nothing artificial, nothing insincere in her methods; in the very fine "Song of the Woman Inn-keeper" from Moussorgsky's "The Fair of Sorotchin," for instance, where there was plenty of scope and much temptation for dramatic display, she maintained a convincing yet spirited reticence. I think Stravinsky's two Children's Songs were rubbish—this kind of thing is fashionable now—but Mrs. Baddeley sang them quite charmingly. It is to be hoped that she will soon introduce to us some more Russian music, particularly as M. Saminsky, on whom and on whose choir we were relying for making known to us Russian music as yet unperformed in England, is very shortly going to America.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

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***America and Mesopotamia Oil.***

Mr. Colby's Note to Great Britain on the subject of the Franco-British oil agreement would appear to indicate an entire change in America's attitude to affairs outside her own continent. America since the Armistice has steadfastly refrained from affording the Allies any assistance in coping with the manifold problems with which they have been faced in the Near and Middle East, and her attitude in regard to the oil question in the circumstances must lie open to the suspicion that she desires to share in the fruits of victory without bearing the "burden and heat of the day." The American move is without doubt due to the pressure of the powerful oil interests in that country, and it is the more incomprehensible seeing that America has within her own borders something like 70 per cent. of the world's oil supplies.

***Bulgaria's Grain Surplus.***

In the early part of the year the weather in the Balkans was uniformly favourable for the crops, and great hopes were entertained that the harvest would go far towards setting several of the distressed countries on their feet again. Unfortunately, the early promise of spring was to some extent blighted by very severe storms which swept over South-Eastern Europe in the early part of the summer, causing great damage to the crops. As will be seen, however, from an official statement given elsewhere in these columns, in at least one country hopes of a bumper harvest seem likely to be fulfilled. It is estimated that the yield of the five principal crops of Bulgaria will give a surplus available for export of no less than 936,250 tons. As the annual export for the ten years before the war only amounted on the average to 538,943 tons, it will be seen that if the estimate is borne out Bulgaria will be in a particularly favourable position, and it would obviously mean that in a very short time there could be a considerable improvement in the Bulgarian exchange.

***Yugoslav Timber Stocks.***

A report from Zagreb on the Yugoslav timber market, which has been forwarded to me by a valued correspondent, will, I think, be of considerable interest to British importers of wood for constructional purposes. "Since the large houses in Vienna and Budapest who exploit the forests in Croatia have been obliged to transfer themselves into the new kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes," it states, "the timber market has assumed great importance. At the moment, as timber shipments are made by rail to Fiume and from there by sea, business has been greatly restricted by reason of the political situation in Fiume, and in consequence a quantity of constructional timber ready for shipment, estimated at about 300,000 cubic metres, has accumulated at the sawmills, which are mostly situated along the principal railway between Zagreb and Fiume. We hope that the newly-concluded arrangements with Italy will shortly enable export to be resumed, and shall be pleased to place any of your friends in direct touch with the principal merchants here." If any of my readers who desire further information will write to me I shall be glad to place them in touch with my correspondent.

***The P. and O. Report.***

During the war period the P. and O. report naturally gave the minimum information regarding the company's operations, but the need for secrecy no longer obtains, and it is surprising in the circumstances that this policy should still be persisted in, and that this year's report should give even more scanty details than that for the previous twelve months. Last year the net result was shown as £614,600, after providing for depreciation, etc., and after making allocations to the reserve fund, the contingent fund, and the provident good service fund, amounting in all to £1,000,000. This time it is simply stated that "after allowing for depreciation and making an allocation to the insurance fund, which, with the net premia received during the year, after meeting all claims, will then stand at £2,500,000, there is a credit balance on the year's accounts, including £115,230 2s. 5d. brought forward from last year, of £772,606 17s. 2d.

***Distribution of Profits.***

The inference to be drawn from a comparison of these two statements is that there has been a very substantial decline in earnings during the past year. But this conjecture is not supported by the proposed distribution of profits. As previously recorded in these columns, it is proposed to increase the dividend and bonus on the Deferred shares from 12 per cent. free of income-tax to 15 per cent. free of income-tax, and in addition to make a similar bonus share distribution to that of last year. Shareholders will, therefore, receive a slightly enhanced return, which would certainly suggest that results for the past twelve months have again shown an improvement. It remains to note the statement in the report that the numerous companies now associated with the P. and O. have so far contributed very moderate dividends to the company, the policy having been to husband their resources, and this is presumably the reason why the comparison between the two reports would seem to show a decrease in profits. This conservative policy, it is pointed out, has resulted in an increment in the value of the P. and O. holdings in the associated companies, and it is out of the increased value of these holdings that the proposed share bonus is to be made.

***Germany and Egypt.***

From Egypt comes the report of the commencement of German trade propaganda on an important scale. As I have had occasion to point out on several occasions, it was only to be anticipated that at the first opportunity Germany would endeavour to re-assert herself in a market in which before the war she was gaining a very prominent position, and it is evident that she is now attempting to do so with characteristic thoroughness. Unfortunately, British firms have failed to take adequate advantage of the chance with which they have been presented since 1914 to establish themselves firmly in the market, and the position is thus much more favourable for the enterprising and wily Teuton than it would otherwise have been. There is still time for British merchants and manufacturers to capture a large share of the Egyptian market, but they will have to bestir themselves and adopt different and less dilatory methods if success is to attend their efforts.

***Cotton Growing in the Sudan.***

The high prices that have been obtained during the past year for Egyptian cotton have naturally greatly favoured the operations of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, and the excellent report which is now forthcoming is not in the circumstances unexpected. The net profits amounted to £228,759, as against £59,046, and with the balance brought in the available surplus is £287,312, as against £94,202. It is proposed to utilise this to pay a dividend of 25 per cent. and a bonus of 10 per cent., which on the increased capital will absorb £105,000, and to carry forward £182,311. For the previous twelve months the dividend was 25 per cent., which absorbed £33,750. In the last few months the price of Egyptian cotton has fallen heavily, and in the near future it is improbable that anything like the recent high level of values will again be reached, but the acreage which the company has under cotton is increasing, and compensation should be forthcoming in increased production.

***The Abyssinian Corporation.***

A very disappointing report is forthcoming from the Abyssinian Corporation for its first nineteen months. There was a total loss for that period of £149,916, the loss on trading amounting to £41,796, to which has to be added administration expenses, bringing the amount to £66,068.


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The adverse exchanges resulted in a loss of £21,849, while stocks had to be written down to the extent of £62,000. The unprecedented fluctuations in the exchange and the abnormal conditions existing in the world's markets, especially in regard to hides, coffee, and cotton goods, are stated to have been the principal factors that have operated adversely. Conditions have unfortunately not improved in these respects, and it is evident that the circumstances being what they are the directors will have no easy task in grappling with the situation.

***An Assured Footing.***

In times like these through which we are passing it would be surprising if undertakings of what may be termed the enterprising order did not suffer vicissitudes, and while ill-fortune has attended the initial operations of the Corporation, it is only natural to anticipate that in due course satisfactory results will be forthcoming, for it is unthinkable that the world's market conditions will continue indefinitely in their present unfavourable condition; and the improvement when it comes is likely to be rapid. The Corporation has this in its favour, that it is now very firmly established in Abyssinia. It has acquired the premises of Messrs. Jewaji and Co., of Adis Abeba, and has taken over their stocks, while their lands at Harrar and Dire-Daoua have been purchased, constituting an important addition to the businesses previously taken over. The Corporation is unquestionably in a position to take full advantage of favourable developments in the commercial position.

COMMENTATOR.

## LANCASHIRE COTTON.

### Depression Accentuated.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

There has not been an encouraging feature about the market during the past week, and doleful reports have been circulated in all sections. The tone has been very unsettled, and the downward movement in raw cotton rates has continued. Spinners and manufacturers have lost further ground, and buyers have held aloof in a more determined manner than ever. Prices of Egyptian cotton have continued to give way. It is understood that the position in Egypt as a result of the fall in prices is causing some anxiety, but it is hard to see what action can be taken by the special commission which has been appointed to inquire into the situation. Lancashire spinners continue to purchase very sparingly, and the takings of users in the United States are distinctly less than last year. In American cotton circles bearish sentiment continues pronounced. The continued easier tendency is certainly remarkable, and is largely due to financial stringency. Egyptian yarns have again moved off very slowly. Spinners have been prepared to accept wretched prices, but users have not been tempted to buy. Operations in piece goods for all the Near Eastern outlets have been very restricted. Business for Egypt cannot be expected until stocks on the other side are reduced. The political situation makes against trade developments, especially in Turkey and Greece. Fewer offers have been about in cloth for India. All merchants are feeling very severely the depreciation in values. Owing to the trade depression the Masters' Federation has recommended spinners engaged on American cotton to curtail production by 50 per cent., and the result of the ballot will be made known at the end of this week. All kinds of yarn continue very dull. About a week ago there was rather more activity in bundles for India, but the demand has fallen off.

## GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 14 to October 13 (new style), 1920.

| | Monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, Naxos emery. | Piræus Customs. |
|---|---|---|
| | Drachmæ. | Drachmæ. |
| Gross receipts, Sept. 1920 ..... | 6,063,644 | 4,716,000 |
| Do. do. 1919 ..... | 4,369,746 | 4,178,889 |
| Estimated receipts for 9 months (Law of Control) | 21,675,000 | 8,025,000 |
| Actual do. do. 1920 | 48,802,856 | 43,153,049 |
| Do. do. do. 1919 | 35,408,794 | 35,009,394 |
| Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 9 months ..... 1920 | +27,127,856 | +35,128,049 |
| Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 9 months ..... 1919 | +13,733,794 | +26,984,394 |

Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1/5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund on the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.


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(30th JUNE, 1920.)

**Current, Deposit and other Accounts ... ... ... £322,646,306**

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Chief General Managers: F. J. BARTHORPE, JOHN RAE.

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# Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, November 11.

### Expenditure Increasing.

The State accounts up to the end of May have just been published. During the two months revenue has amounted to £E5,708,341, as compared with £E3,369,939, and expenditure to £E6,090,919, as against £E4,332,983 at the end of May, 1919. The main increases in revenue are land tax £E97,668, Customs dues £E857,529, tobacco dues £E183,354, mixed courts fees £E173,664, railways £E620,395, Ghaffir cess receipts £E123,478; while the main items under expenditure are irrigation department £E175,883, railways £E1,378,668, indemnities for cost of living £E516,521, public debt £E1,869,003.

The increase in receipts from Customs, railways, etc., was expected owing to the expansion in turnover in the former and the raising of the rates in the latter; that from mixed courts fees is due to the large number of land transactions which has taken place; but while the latter may now diminish owing to the decline in the cotton market, the returns from the other revenue-earning departments, especially the Customs, are likely to continue their upward tendency for some time.

Revenue during the first two months of the financial year has increased by £E2,338,402 and expenditure by £E1,757,936, and as a result the excess of the latter over the former, which is always recorded during the early part of the financial year, has been reduced from £E963,044 to £E382,578.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, November 13.

### Athens-Salonika Line Repaired.

The damage caused on many parts of the Athens-Salonika railway line by the recent heavy rains has now been repaired, and the trains have resumed their regular service between the two cities. For the past fortnight travellers from European countries proceeding to Athens by the "Acropole Express" were obliged to spend a night in Salonika and to continue their journey on the following day by sea, not a very pleasant experience in view of the small boats employed on the Salonika-Piræus route and the exceptionally heavy seas prevailing at the time.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, November 17.

### The Privileged Natiopal Bank.

On Thursday the annual general meeting of the Narodna Banka was held to receive the report on the proceedings from 1914 to 1919, during which the bank passed through a series of vicissitudes rare in the history of any such institution. The period covers the expansion following the two successful Balkan wars, the removal of the bank to Krushevats and Nish, the evacuation to Salonika and Marseilles, the triumphal return on February 16, 1919, and its expansion into the Privileged National Bank of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes on February 1 of this year.

The chief function of the bank during this period has been the financial assistance of the Government, in which connection it has issued an enormous amount of paper money, and has minted 30,000,000 dinars in silver. The board claims that the paper issues for State purposes have been entirely covered by the gold deposit or by assets held abroad up to 1918, but after that date, when the Government withdrew money and promised to cover it, the cover did not always arrive, so that at the time of the conversion into the issuing bank for the united kingdom, while almost 400 million dinars were covered, 247,488,136 were uncovered. At the end of 1919 the bank had 664,007,460 dinars in paper money in circulation, with a cover in metal amounting to 82,483,006 dinars, and assets held abroad amounting to 351,995,612 francs, presumably French. During the war the bank issued less paper money in proportion than most other belligerent banks.

The net profit of the bank for the period under review is returned at 1,349,381 dinars, of which 364,332 falls to the State, the percentage allotment is 134,938, 639,066 is allocated to the dividend reserve fund, and 850,110 is for the shareholders.

The proceedings of the bank during the period in question were criticised by M. Nikola Stanarevitch, but the report was adopted with a resolution authorising the board to conclude an arrangement with the Minister of Finance granting the Government a loan, without security or interest, of 1,500,000,000 dinars, apart from earlier credits duly authorised, to be refunded in ten years, but including in it the 425 millions which the State owes to the bank on account of the "debt on the dinar-krone notes" and the uncovered balance.

### Proposed Railways.

As a result of the Italian agreement, there are again rumours of big railway projects to provide better communications between Yugoslavia and Italy. The proposals include the extension of trans-Balkan lines from beyond the Danube through Montenegro by the valley of the Drin to the Adriatic, and also a line from Bitolj (Monastir) to Valona, which would re-establish the old line of communication from Salonika to the Adriatic.

### Miscellaneous.

The Ministry of Food and Reconstruction has published its balance-sheet for the past five months, during which time it has distributed various commodities to the value of 23,486,650 dinars.

The Government has opened the frontier towards Hungary to enable the mutual exchange of goods and food.

The settlement with Italy has had a tonic effect upon the Bourse. Cheques on Paris fell from 239.80 dinars per 100 francs to 218, and cheques on London from 133 dinars per £ to 128.

The sugar-beet harvest is reported to be a good one, and stocks have already been delivered to the factories, so that the crisis of last year will be avoided.

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# THE ADMINISTRATION OF MESOPOTAMIA.

## PROGRESS UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

For its adequate appreciation it is necessary to peruse the recently-issued report of the Revenue Department of the Occupied Territory of Mesopotamia with a mind oblivious to happenings subsequent to the period to which it refers. As it stands, it is a record of admirable administrative achievement which will justly bear comparison with any similar case in which the British have been faced with the task of evolving ordered rule out of chaos. In many respects, indeed, it would be difficult to find a parallel for the complexity of the problems with which our representatives were confronted, and a perusal of the pages of the report can only leave the reader with a feeling of sheer wonder at the efficient and thoroughly successful manner in which they were tackled. To place the system of revenue collection on something approaching a firm basis in a country like Mesopotamia, largely inhabited by nomad tribes, and with a population unaccustomed to anything but the most nominal suzerainty, is certainly no light achievement. It is a far cry from the Baghdad-Busrah region to Constantinople, and the writ of the Sultan ran very haltingly in Irak, and the results of taxation depended on the energy of the local collectors, and even more so on the willingness of the taxpayer. The British authorities found that they had to build from the beginning, and the report constitutes a moving tribute to the zeal and energy with which the task was approached. For sheer capacity to govern the Mesopotamian episode will take high rank in the long list of occasions on which we have found ourselves forced to take up the "white man's burden."

That is one aspect of the report, but there is another side to the picture, and one which cannot be left untouched. For those who know the country the events of the last few months carry their own moral. The Arab as a class is no lover of law and order. Town-planning, land reclamation, the construction of roads and bridges, things of this kind have no attraction for him. In the popular phrase of the hour, they leave him "very cold." His preference is for a life of ease unhampered by restrictions and without interference by officials. He tolerated the Turkish rule because it was remote and to all intents and purposes non-existent. Had it been otherwise, it may be taken for granted that he would have made his voice heard in no uncertain terms. Unquestionably, he would never look with favour on those who tried to introduce into the country too suddenly the habiliments of civilisation—which, may it be timorously suggested, pall sometimes even in the West. Now, the British rule has been neither remote nor unapparent, and for the first time the Arab has been brought face to face with the machinery of ordered government. The conditions of his life have been regulated, he has seen very definite steps taken to further the development of the country, and he has had evidence that all progress has to be paid for in the systematisation of taxation. How he has accepted the position may be gauged by the statement in the report that in one district there was some attempt at organised resistance to the collection of land revenue, "which, however, collapsed before the adroit tactics of the Political Officer," and that in other parts "demands were very readily paid as soon as the revenue payer realised that payment really was inevitable."

The statistics given in the report give point to the question whether the steps taken to reorganise the revenue were altogether politic. A very striking comparison is given between the Turkish taxation of 1909 and that of last year. In 1909 the receipts amounted to £T240,830 and in 1919 to £T832,400, or more than three times as much. It is pointed out that "the relation between the two sets of figures can be amply justified by (1) extension and improvement of irrigation, (2) consequent expansion of agriculture, (3) greater security, (4) rise in prices of agricultural produce, (5) more equable collection"; but of these points 3 and 5 carry practically no weight, while the others would be less important to the Arabs than they would be to us, and certainly would not counterbalance the thought that they were undoubtedly paying higher taxes. Elsewhere in the report the position in Mesopotamia and the Punjab is compared, and the figures given only seem to emphasise the point that taxation has been kept at too high a level in Mesopotamia. Briefly, the incidence of land revenue demand in Mesopotamia is estimated at Rs.5 10a per head, as against Rs. 2 3a for the Punjab. It is pointed out that the real difference may not be so great as would appear from these figures, since the estimate of population may well be erroneous, also that the Irak land revenue demand includes Rs. 18 lakhs of date revenue and Rs. 10 lakhs on account of fruit and vegetable tax, and that there are a number of other differences. But, making allowance for these factors, it would certainly appear that the ratio of taxation is high in view of the state of development of the country, and is it not possible—indeed, probable—that in the incidence of taxation, enforced in many cases for the first time under the British Occupation, we have one of the chief factors in causing unrest in the country? Quotation is made in the report of Lord Curzon's statement in a speech on the occasion of the unveiling of a memorial tablet to Lord Cromer that the latter had often told him that "secrets of success in Eastern Administrations were light taxation of peasantry and confidence in Government." In no country that has come under our supervision has it been necessary to exercise greater care with regard to the financial position, and while in no way wishing to underestimate the work of the British officials, the report certainly does lend colour to the view that insufficient attention has been paid to this factor.

## PROPOSED ASWAN POWER-HOUSE.

The *Architect's Journal* of November 24 contains a full-page perspective of a "Proposed Hydro-Electric Power-House, Aswan, Egypt," by D. A. Beveridge, Licentiate R.I.B.A. A plan and section of the proposed building are also given, together with some notes. The power-house proposed is designed to supply constant power throughout the year, thus turning to further advantage the great Aswan dam and the 8½ million cubic feet of water which it is capable of storing up. Before the erection of the dam there was, of course, a great outcry about the vandalism of its projectors; and it cannot be denied that Philæ has suffered by the execution of the scheme; but, on the other hand, the gain to Egypt as a whole is very great, and in this utilitarian age is held to outweigh far the artistic loss involved. In any case, as far as we can judge from the drawings, Mr. Beveridge's design is well adapted to its surroundings, being inspired by ancient Egyptian models; and though the power-house is unlikely to excite the enthusiasm that cultured tourists profess to feel when gazing at Pharaoh's Bed, it should at least avoid the fate of being described as a "modern eyesore" by even the most "greenery-yallery" of gushing trippers.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cable, received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated November 22.—During the week ended November 13, light to moderate rain has fallen in South Madras. Prospects of crops generally fair, but rain urgently needed in the Punjab, North-West Frontier and Central Provinces, Rajputana, parts of Central India, Bombay, Hyderabad, Mysore, the unirrigated area of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh and in Bihar. During the week ended November 20, monsoon vigorous and general in South of Peninsula. Bombay cotton ready market quiet. Fine M. G. Oomra number three spot rate Rs. 280. Bombay piecegoods market depressed with little retail inquiry. Calcutta Jute market depressed with practically no business and declining prices owing to the absence of foreign inquiries. First actuals Rs. 78 to Rs. 80 per bale (400 lb.). Hessians improved tone with advancing prices owing to mills unanimously agreeing to work five days a week for six months from January 1 next. Bank rate is 7 per cent. in Calcutta and Bombay as against 6 per cent. during week ended November 15. The rate in Madras is 7 per cent. as during the previous week.

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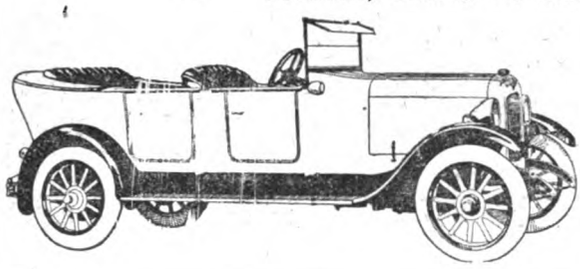

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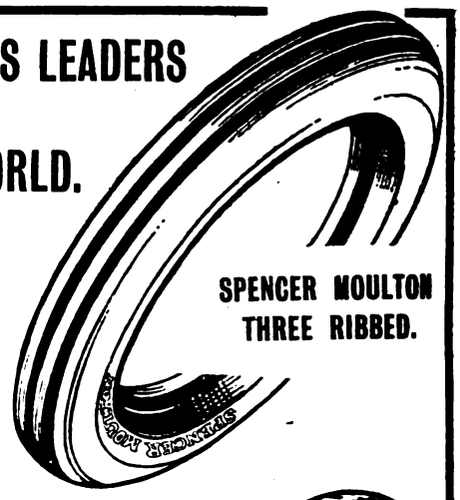


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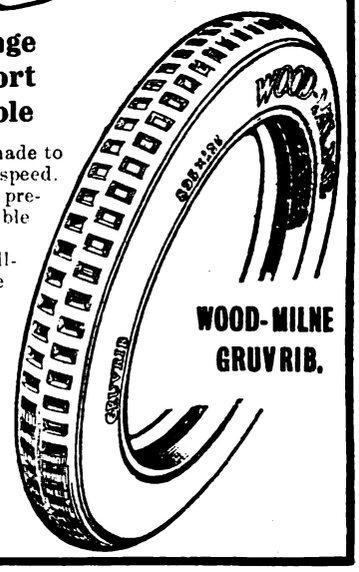


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# ENGINEERING.

## THE MOTOR SHOW.

### III.—Some Outstanding Productions.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Messrs. Humber, Ltd., were showing four of their special types, as well as a shipped chassis. The models were a 2—3 seater, and a coupé of the well-known 10 h.p. size, and a 5-seater and saloon of the more powerful 15.9 h.p. size. The 10 h.p. coupé finished in dark blue, with a black leather collapsible hood, was a very striking production, and the chassis should prove extremely popular overseas. In my view this coupé would be an ideal car for the business or the professional man.

Of course, Humbers were practically the pioneers of the road, and one would naturally expect to find their more powerful model replete with all the adjuncts and comforts necessary to a proper enjoyment of the road. In this one would not be disappointed; every adjustment is readily accessible, and the car has a well-finished appearance, with an entire absence of those showy but useless fitments which waste so much time when cleaning is being done. The mudguarding is adequate and substantial, and the majority of the nickelled parts have broad faces, which lend themselves to easy polishing. The divided wind screen, with the two separate panels set at different angles, affords a clear view of the road without any possibility of inconvenience through undue draught.

A car which should sell well is the Alvis, made by Messrs. T. G. John, Ltd., of Coventry. The 10 h.p. chassis has a particularly robust frame, and the sub-frame, which carries the radiator, engine, and gear-box, is particularly strong. Wherever possible weight has been cut down without sacrificing strength, and a four-speed gear-box is fitted. The engine is of the monobloc type with side-by-side valves, and aluminium pistons are fitted. The clutch is of the internal leather-faced variety, with a multiple steel plate universal joint between it and the gear-box. The wheel-base is exceptionally long for so light a car, being 9 ft. 2 ins., and the wheel-track is 4 ft. 2 ins. Both sets of brakes are of the internally-expanding type acting on the driving wheels.

One of the pioneer firms in the industry, dating from 1896, is Belsize Motors, Ltd., and they were exhibiting at the Olympia show a 15 h.p. chassis of particularly strong and robust construction. It has a four-cylinder engine which is capable of an output of just over 20 h.p., with forced lubrication and water cooling, assisted by the usual fan. The electrical units for lighting and starting are by the well-known Rotax Co., and every part of the chassis is of exceptionally good design. A ferodo-lined cone clutch is used and a four-speed gear-box is fitted. All four suspension springs are of the semi-elliptic type, and the principal dimensions are: wheel base 9 ft. 8 ins., track 4 ft. 6 ins., and body space 8 ft. 8 ins. The ground clearance is 10 ins., and the chassis weighs approximately 19 cwt.

The Calcott car, by Messrs. Calcott Bros., Ltd., of Coventry, has a four-cylinder monobloc engine with a Treasury rating of 11.9 h.p., and here again is a model which should command a ready sale in overseas markets. The valves are side by side and are interchangeable, and cooling is by thermo-syphon assisted by fan. The camshaft runs in ball bearings, and a flexible coupling is interposed in the magneto drive. The crankshaft runs in three white metal bearings, and the clutch to the three-speed gear-box is fabric lined. Two universal joints are employed in the propeller shaft, and the bevel-driven rear axle is of the fully-floating type, the casing carrying the wheels on which, in drums, both sets of brakes act. The car can be obtained either as a two or a four-seater.

The Charron-Laycock, shown by the London Motor Garage Co., Ltd., of Wardour Street, London, represents a combination of British and French practice, being constructed by Messrs. Laycock, of Sheffield, from Charron designs. The engine is of the four-cylinder type, with forced lubrication, and the cylinder heads are detachable in one piece. The clutch is ferodo-lined, and conveys the drive through a fabric joint to the three-speed gear box. Steering is by worm and sector, and a feature of the chassis is its strong construction and the massiveness of the differential.

Last year, at about this time, I had a good deal to say regarding the Cubitt car, made by the Cubitt Engineering Co., Ltd., of Conduit Street, and the new model is an advance, if such a thing be possible, on the last year's production. The 1921 model is a sound engineering proposition, and cars of this make should serve to popularise still further British productions in overseas markets. The frame is narrow and level-topped with only one intermediate. The engine is of the four-cylinder type, monobloc, and there is over-shot worm drive transmission to the fully-floating back axle. Forced lubrication is provided, and Rotax dynamo for lighting and starting is fitted. The cone clutch is mounted on a naked splined shaft with one easy-detachable joint, and the suspension is by semi-elliptic springs. The car can be obtained either in the two-seater sporting or the four-seater standard pattern.

A light car which particularly commended itself to me as being suitable for export purposes was the "D.F.P." shown by Messrs. Bentley and Bentley, Ltd., of 12 h.p. It has a four-cylinder monobloc engine in a thermo-syphon cooling system, and like the majority of cars this year is provided with a lighting and starting set. The four-speed gear-box is connected to a plain leather to metal clutch, and the propeller shaft is hollow. The service brake pedal operates the brakes on the rear wheels, and the lever brake works on the transmission drum brake for emergency use. The steering is by worm and wheel, and can be adjusted by means of an eccentric bushing.

An interesting car is that made by the well-known firm of Douglas Motors, Ltd., of Bristol. It has an extremely simple lay-out, and has a transversely mounted engine of the twin-cylinder horizontally opposed type, giving 10.5 h.p. The crank-shaft is carefully balanced, and the engine is practically vibrationless. Three speeds and reverse are provided by the strongly built gear-box, and the final drive is by plain bevels over a spur-type differential with a semi-floating axle. Both brakes operate on the rear wheels, and the steering, which is by worm and wheel, is adjustable by means of an eccentric bush. The chassis weighs, approximately, 8½ cwt., and ample ground clearance is provided.

The Enfield-Allday Motors, Ltd., of Small Heath, Birmingham, have apparently given up both the girder type five-cylinder radial-engined chassis, on which I commented last year, and the concentric-posted collar valves, which were a feature of that engine. The new 10 h.p. chassis has a four-cylinder engine of the monobloc type, water cooled, and the three-bearing crankshaft is drilled for forced lubrication. Transmission is by a dry cone clutch to a three-speed gear-box, through a fabric-jointed intermediate shaft. The front springs are of the semi-elliptic, and the rear of the cantilever types. The wheels are detachable, of the disc type, steel pressed, and the wheel base is 9 ft., with a track width of 4 ft. The ground clearance is 9 inches, and every part of the chassis is of robust design and constructed of the highest grade of material.

I believe the lightest four-wheeler shown was that of the Grahame-White Co., which has a single-cylinder air-cooled engine rated at 3½ h.p. The transmission is through a single plate clutch, with cork insertions, and steering is by pulley and cable. The total weight is under 5 cwt. Another model made by the same firm has a 5-7 h.p. engine, of the two-cylinder horizontally opposed type, made by the Coventry Victor Co. This is transversely mounted in the dropped front part of the frame, and the variable speed drive is of the friction disc type.

The "H.E.," made by the Herbert Engineering Co., Ltd., of Caversham, Reading, has no strikingly novel features, but embodies all the essential good points of modern practice. The engine, which is rated at 14-20 h.p., is of the four-cylinder type with detachable head, and the water cooling system consists of a fan, spindle driven and jacket enclosed impeller pump. The clutch is of the ten plate variety, running dry, and two Hardy joints connect it to the transmission. A four-speed gear box is fitted, and there is an over-shot worm and wheel final drive to a fully floating axle. The rear springing is by underslung semi elliptics, and both sets of brakes lie side by side within the rear wheel hubs. The wheel-base and hack are 9 ft. 6 in. and 4 ft. 2 in. respectively, and the chassis is of a type which should render the car eminently suited for the rough roads likely to be found in the Near East and in the Colonies.

One of the most interesting of the many newcomers to the show was the Orpington, a British-made car, shown by the G.N.U. Motor and Accessories Co., of Westbourne Grove, London. The car has a Coventry-Simplex engine rated at 10-12 h.p., cooled on the thermo-syphon system. The cone clutch is ferodo lined, working on to a three-speed gear box, and the enclosed propeller shaft transmits to a bevel-driven rear axle. The wheels are Sankey pressed steel detachables, and whilst an electric lighting set is fitted, an electric starter is not considered necessary. The rear springs, which are quarter-elliptic, are splayed so as to give a wire support to the chassis over the back axle.

The S.P.A. shown by Vandy's Ltd., of 40, Albemarle Street, London, though not a British car, is an exceptionally fine production, and one that reflects great credit on Italian engineers. The "Vandy" car, exhibited by the same firm, is a car assembled in this country from parts, many of which are made here and others imported from Allied countries. It has a six-cylinder engine of 23 h.p., and is fitted with C.A.V. electric lighting and starting sets. The cylinder head is detachable, the clutch is of the plate type, and a four-speed gear box is provided. The final drive is of the spiral-bevel type, and suspension is by half-elliptic springs. The pressed steel wheels are of the detachable type, and Messrs. Vandy's have certainly turned out a very fine productio

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Industria Chimica Romana.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei
Tipografia Gutemberg.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei
Casele Populare.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei
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**AREA** (after Peace Treaties of 1919) **122,282 sq. miles.**

In 1914 the cultivated area was (according to an estimate of Dr. Colesco) 34,475,750 acres; of which 13,074,922 were ploughed lands, 468,670 were vineyards and orchards, 1,436,960 were meadows, 2,948,472 were pastures, and 5,705,750 were forests.

**POPULATION. About 17,400,000.**

**IMPORTS (1915). £8,533,234.**

United Kingdom, £848,997; Austria-Hungary, £3,718,182; Belgium, £43,230; Germany, £3,575,159; France, £660,287; Turkey, £558,238; Italy, £762,023.

**EXPORTS (1915). £21,742,379.**

United Kingdom, £2,238; Austria-Hungary, £13,576,255; Belgium, £2,343; Germany, £7,044,803; Turkey, £443,325; Italy, £37,838.

[NOTE.—In 1914 the Imports from the U.K. amounted to £2,231,773, and the Exports to it to £1,433,535.]

# BANQUE DE CREDIT ROUMAIN

(Joint Stock Company)

FULLY PAID-UP CAPITAL AND RESERVES:
**110,000,000 LEI.**

**BUCHAREST. BRAILA.**
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# BANCA ROMANEASCA. *Established 1911.*

**Authorised Capital, 160,000,000 Lei. Capital Paid Up, 100,000,000 Lei. Reserve Fund, 38,936,306 Lei.**

**Head Office in BUCAREST, 5, Strada Smardan.**

**Branches in BAZARGIC, BRAILA, CONSTANTZA, CZERNOWITZ (Bucovina), GALATZ, KISHINEFF (Bessarabia), SILISTRIA, TULCEA, TEMESVAR.**

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**Auditors:**—D. MATAK, Engineer, Manufacturer; H. FULGA, retired, former Bank Manager; V. V. STEFAN, former General Manager of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce; Em. DAN, former General Manager in the Ministry.
**General Manager:**—N. P. STEFANESCO, Engineer, Inspector-General, former General Manager of the Navigation Fluviale du Danube.
**Manager:**—I. SAVESCO. **Sub-Managers:**—N. BANULESCO, C. T. TEODORESCO, Ion C. PILIDI, S. HENZEL, D. CONSTANTINESCO.

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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Coffee.—Prices have varied considerably. The futures market has been easier. Quotations are: December, 58s.; March, 52s. 6d.; May, 54s.; July, 55s.; and September, 55s.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake has remained the same at 22s., but cottonseed cake has risen 1s. 6d. at 13s. Other transactions comprise Arachis cake at 13s. to 14s., and coconut cake at 14s. to 16s.

Sugar.—The free market has been quiet and steady. West Indian crystallized is unaltered at 83s., and American granulated is the same at 95s. White Mauritius remains unchanged at 94s. Home refined has met with a good demand at the official prices.

Oilseeds.—Prices have remained steady. Indian linseed has been done at 27s., and rapeseed is lower, with Toria at 31s. and bold Ferozepore at 30s., both 3s. down. Cottonseed has declined, Indian being 9s. and Egyptian 15s.

Seed Oils.—There has been a steady rise in prices. Linseed has come to business at 46s. to 47s. Refined rape oil is firm at 86s., and the crude variety is unchanged at 72s. Turpentine has declined 9s. to 105s.

Dried Fruit.—The market position is much the same. Currants have been taken up readily, though rates are unchanged. Fair business has been done in sultanas, while figs have continued in strong request.

## CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 217s. 9d. cwt.; butter, 336s. cwt.; cheese, 170s. cwt.; chillies, 140s. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 5½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 135s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 110s. cwt.; East India bold, 117s. 6d. cwt.; Mocha, 147s. 6d.; eggs, 36s. 8d. per 120; ginger (washed Cochin), 57s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 220s. cwt.; lard, 167s. 9d. cwt.; nutmegs, 1s. 0¾d. 110's to 180's; pepper (Singapore, black), 5½d. lb., and Muntok white, 1s. 1½d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 139s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 96s. cwt.; No. 1 cubes, 100s. cwt.; Mauritius, 93s. 6d. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 146s. 6d. cwt.; tapioca (Singapore), 2 1-16d. lb.; tea (Indian), 6¾d. lb.; Ceylon, 7¼d. lb.; Java, 4¾d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 121s. 6d. qr.; English (white), 94s. qr.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer.—First, 90 lb. and up, 9d. lb.; 80-89 lb., 9d. lb.; 70-79 lb., 9d. lb.; 60-69 lb., 9⅛d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 8¾d. lb. Cows (first), 60 lb. and up, 8½d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 8d. lb. Cows (second), 60 lb. and up, 6d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 6d. lb. Bulls (first), 7¼d. lb.; second, 5¾d. lb.; kips (first), 7¼d. lb.; second, 6⅛d. lb.; third, 5¼d. lb.

Metals.—Aluminium, £175 ton; bismuth, 12s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £83 10s. ton; electro, wire bars, £95 10s. ton; gold bars, 119s. 4d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 225s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 260s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £33 10s. ton; manganese Poti, 3s. 3d. unit; molybdenite, 62s. 6d. unit; nickel, £225 ton; platinum, 520s. oz.; plumbago, £37 10s. ton; quicksilver, £15 15s. ton; silver bars, 50d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £34 12s. 6d. ton; tin (standard), £241 10s. ton; wolfram, 23s. unit; zinc sheets, £53 10s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 40s. 3d. box.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 75s. cwt.; oxalic, 1s. 10½d. lb.; citric, 3s. 3½d. lb.; tartaric, 2s. 5d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £31 6s. 9d. ton; benzole (standard), 39d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £24 ton; borax crystals, 41s. cwt.; cream of tartar, 220s. cwt.; glycerine (crude, 80 per cent.), £105 ton; industrial (1.250 per cent.), £155 ton; lead (red), £55 2s. 6d. ton; white dry, £61 7s. 6d. ton; potassium: bichromate, 1s. 6½d. lb.; chlorate, 8½d. lb.; caustic, £90 10s. ton; nitrate, £68 10s. ton; permanganate, 3s. 1½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 9½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £31 ton; sodium: crystals, 190s. ton; bicarbonate, £12 ton; bichromate, 1s. 0½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £11 15s. ton; chlorate, 5d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £30 ton; hyposulphite, £35 ton; prussiate, 1s. 1½d. lb.; nitrate, £23 5s. ton; sulphate copper, £41 10s. ton; sulphate iron, 160s. ton.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American fully good mid.), 15.65d. lb.; Egyptian F.G.F. Sakel, 18.2d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £26 10s. ton; rape (Toria), £33 15s. ton; soya beans, £21 ton; palm kernels, £33 12s. ton. Oils: linseed, £56 15s. ton; soya, £65 10s. ton; cotton (crude), £53 10s. ton; olive, 21s. 6d. gallon; ground nut, £76 ton; palm, £52 ton; rape (crude), £73 10s. ton; petroleum, 2s. 3d. gallon; turpentine, 108s. cwt. Rubber: plantation (No. 1 crepe), 1s. 1d. lb.; smoked sheet, 1s. 0½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 1s. 4¾d. lb.

## SMYRNA OPIUM REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended November 13:—The sales this week on our market amount to forty-seven cases of all denominations at 16s. to 20s. as to quality. The exchange is piastres 470 per pound sterling for cheque and 0.72 dollars for one Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are 647 cases, against 970 cases at same date last year, and the whole stock on this market in first and second hands is about 830. There are several buyers on our market, presumably for Continental account, but owing to our small available stock each fresh buyer has to pay higher in order to be able to secure a few cases.

## DRIED FRUIT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, report as follows, under date November 23:—

Currants.—It is becoming a very difficult task to say anything about the market. Each day that comes round finds the position much the same as the preceding one, and things could hardly be quieter even in summer trading. Transactions are of a very limited character, buyers showing no interest in the article, and the weakening of prices has a further restraining influence on business. Some sales of very excellent quality of old Gulf are reported at 62s. new fruit; very little life and prices move in buyers favour, with the exception of Vostizza, which realises full rates. The Trentino with further supplies is due end of the week. Quotations are: Calamata, 75s.; Pyrgos, 77s. to 78s.; Amalias, 80 to 82s.; Patras and Gulf, 85s. to 90s.; Zante, 86s. to 90s., Vostizza, 98s. to 104s. Total arrivals from commencement of season to date 12,390 tons. Duty payments from commencement of season to date 2,355 tons.

Valencia Raisins.—Seedless are more appreciated owing to first hand stocks of selected being cleared. The Santa Ana has arrived after a protracted voyage, and is now discharging. Latest sales comprise: ½ boxes, 126s. to 130s.; ¼ boxes, 140s. to 150s.; seedless, 120s. to 125s.

Sultanas.—Stock is getting reduced to very small dimensions and sells slowly at late rates.—Quotations are: Common, 135s. to 138s.; ordinary to fine, 140s. to 155s.

Figs.—The few remaining are moving off at full value. Naturals: Prices tend in buyers favour and are slow of sale at 60s. to 68s. Sales are: Layers, 145s. to 160s.; Locoums, 170s. to 190s.

## LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended November 25: The situation remains much as it was when we last wrote. The trade still holds aloof, and business here has been on a retail scale. The enquiry has been chiefly for Upper and Zagora (types 1-4), and Sakel (types 35-39). Quotations continue to pursue the market in its downward career, and there is nothing that we can see at the moment that is likely to induce a halt. As we have before mentioned, there is a comparatively large stock of Sudan and Tokar cotton, about 9,000 bales, still held in Liverpool, most of which is of second or third quality: the value of this class of cotton depreciates very rapidly as compared with the regular growths, and with best Uppers offered to-day at 16.00d. per lb., the holders of the former are not to be envied. In spite of efforts made in Egypt to hold back the crop, the stock in Liverpool is beginning to increase, and, unless the off-take speedily improves, the pressure on the already unsupported market will be still further increased. Much as we would like to turn "bullish" for a change, we can see nothing in the immediate future to warrant a change of attitude. Manchester reports have been consistently lifeless, and c.i.f. business is truthfully described as "dull." Quotations of Upper show a decline of 2d. per lb., those of Sakel 3d. per lb. (with fine and extra fine exceptionally 2½d. lower), whilst brown is reduced 3½d. all round. Total sales 900 bales, of which ten bales were Sudan. Fully good fair Sakel 31.00d.

## EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars regarding crop conditions in October:

*Cotton.*—The weather has been on the whole favourable, though somewhat changeable, the nights being damp and cold. The first picking is finished and the second has been taken in most places. The second picking is giving satisfactory results in the northern districts of the Delta. The chief operations in progress are the completion of the second picking and the removal of the cotton sticks. The average yield of the crop is below normal.

*Maize (Nili).*—Weather has been favourable to the growth of the crop and water supply ample. The crop is healthy and free from pests, and is reaching maturity. Harvesting has commenced in some provinces. An average yield is expected.


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*Millet.*—The crop is promising well. Stalk-borer has been noticed in almost all provinces of Upper Egypt, but damage done is slight.

*Rice* (*Séfi*).—The crop is healthy and free from pests. Harvesting and threshing are in progress. A good average yield is expected. High prices of labour in Beheira for weeding will affect the quality of the crop.

*Rice* (*Nili*).—Harvesting the early-sown crop has begun in Faiyûm. Elsewhere the crop is progressing favourably.

*Sugar Cane.*—The crop is growing well. Cultivators have begun cutting the crop for human consumption. Cutting the crop for factories will probably begin during the next month. An average yield is expected.

*Ground Nuts.*—The crop is growing satisfactorily, and the yield is an average one.

*Bersîm.*—Sowing is general, and the crop is germinating well.

## SUDAN PRODUCE.

### Rainfall and Cultivation.

The following particulars are taken from the C.E.B. report for September:—

In the Berber province the river, after falling away abnormally early, has now to some extent recovered, and is holding well. It is doubtful if basin cultivation will be made the most of this year, especially as there is a heavy growth of "Seid" grass on Wad Hamid, owing to the preoccupation of the people with rain cultivation, which is everywhere reported to be excellent. It is also possible that Sakia cultivation will suffer in the coming year, but the people seem to be sticking well to the pump-lands.

In the Blue Nile province the rains of August continued up to the middle of September, and the general condition of the crops is excellent. The area cultivated is enormous, and although in parts it is patchy, in no part is the crop expected to fail completely, and, on the other hand, in every district it is possible to drive through areas for ten miles of the most excellent dura.

The figures for rainfall in Medani up to the end of September were 597.9 millimetres. Apart from the heavy rainfall, the outstanding feature has been the lack of pests. It is feared that there will be some delay in gathering the crop, owing to the abnormal amount of malaria prevalent.

In the Darfur province the rains continued fairly steadily during August, and the total rainfall in El Fasher is greater than that of the whole of last year. In most parts of the province the crops are assured, even if the rains fail completely in September; but in El Fasher and Eastern Darfur a little more rain is still required. Given the requisite in September, the crops throughout the province should be abnormally good, unless they are damaged by locusts, which have appeared in Nyala district during the latter part of August.

In the Sennar province reports are excellent. Reports of local attacks by Andat beetle have been received from both Sennar and Singa, but areas affected seem very small. Elephants have caused many complaints from both banks south of Karkoj, and various selected men have been lent rifles and a few rounds of ammunition to scare them.

In the Upper Nile province good and regular rains are reported for September throughout the province, except at Renk, where only occasional showers have been experienced.

In the White Nile province rains continued good in the first half of September throughout the province. In the latter half of the month there has been little rain, but the crops may be said to have been already assured almost universally without it.

## BULGARIAN CROPS.

An official statement which has recently been issued estimates the production (in tons) of the five principal crops of Bulgaria as follows (the figures for the previous year being given in brackets): Wheat, 1,120,000 (920,112); rye, 353,000 (259,401); barley, 272,000 (225,809); oats, 141,000 (107,226); maize, 1,107,000 (985,296). The amounts (in tons) required to satisfy internal requirements are as follows: Wheat, 812,000; rye, 291,000; barley, 215,000; oats, 141,000; maize, 499,000. The following quantities (in tons) can be exported: Wheat, 369,000; rye, 62,000; barley, 57,000; oats, 248; maize, 503,000; the total available for export being, therefore, 936,250 tons.

During the ten years 1905-14, the average annual exports were as follows (in tons): Wheat, 248,977; rye, 49,211; barley, 43,398; oats, 13,658; maize, 183,198; or a total of 538,943 tons. It follows that the expected surplus of the present crop will surpass by about 72½ per cent. the average amount exported during this period.

## PRUNE INDUSTRY IN YUGOSLAVIA.

The only dried fruit which is produced in a commercial quantity in Serbia is prunes (says an American consular report). According to official statistics, 220,000 hectares (453,620 acres) are planted in prune orchards. The chief centres of production are Serbia and Bosnia. The production in Serbia totals about 40,000 metric tons annually, and the total production of Bosnia about 23,000 metric tons. Approximately 40 per cent. of these prunes are used in the manufacture of prune brandy (shljevovitza), 40 per cent. is dried, and the remainder is made into jam. At the present time considerable difficulty is being experienced in drying the prunes owing to the bad condition of the ovens. However, the Minister of Agriculture has opened a credit to be used in repairing defective ovens, and has also purchased a certain number of new ovens for use in the prune districts.

# COMPANY MEETINGS.

## ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LTD.

### Affiliation to Barclays.

The thirty-fourth ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, was held on November 23, at the bank, 27, Clement's Lane, E.C., Mr. Raoul H. Foà (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Geo. H. Soul) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in the course of his remarks, said:—A very noteworthy occurrence in the history of this bank has been the acquisition of over 101,000 out of the 120,000 of our shares by Barclays Bank, Limited. The affiliation of our business to one of so strong an institution as Barclays Bank seemed to me and my colleagues eminently desirable, and that our opinion was shared by a large majority of the shareholders has been proved by the number of those who accepted the offer of purchase made by Barclays Bank, Limited.

The object which the chairman of Barclays Bank had in view in acquiring our business was the very laudable one of wishing to create a chain of banks working in all portions of the British Empire and its Dependencies, though I question whether, in view of the negotiations now going on between the members of Lord Milner's Mission and the members of the Egyptian Nationalist Party, headed by Zaghlul Pasha, this be the right term to use to describe the relationship which is to exist between Egypt and England, and which will perhaps be modified in the way in which you have had detailed in the newspapers. Politics do not come within the scope of the matters I have to deal with, and I can only express the hope that the outcome of these negotiations will be satisfactory to both England and Egypt, for any alliance in which one of the Allies is dissatisfied never lasts long.

At this time last year the prices of commodities were very high; this year a fall, especially marked in raw materials, has taken place, and promises to become even more marked. At the end of last year there was still a great demand for all material, raw or manufactured. The price of cotton, the staple commodity of Egypt, stood at 45d. for fully good fair Sakellaridis and rose to 96d. on February 20, to fall to its present price, 32½d.

Among the directors facing you to-day is Mr. J. E. Mounsey, a director of Barclays Bank, who has been nominated by them to represent them on our board, and whose election at your hands we cordially recommend. His knowledge of banking is great, and will, I am sure, be of great use to us. Another newcomer among us, and one whom I am specially glad to recommend to you for election, is Colonel Hall. When I was in Egypt last year I came across him, and was much struck by his profound knowledge of Egypt and the Egyptians. For more than twenty-three years he has lived in that country and has built railways both there and in the Sudan, and when I had the advantage of making his acquaintance he was occupying the position of traffic manager to the Egyptian State Railways.

Conditions throughout the world governing the movement of merchandise, and dependent generally upon the insufficiency of cash and of credit, have made banking a more than usually difficult and preoccupying calling. You have, no doubt, read how nearly all banks have been obliged to restrict the accommodation given to merchants, their customers, and although we are not inclined, of course, to encourage further business at the present moment, I am sure that there are but few instances where we have had to deny our customers the assistance they have required at our hands. The great fall in the value of Manchester goods has not added to our feeling of security in Egypt, but I think I may tell you that we have taken all possible precautions to safeguard your interests in these, as in all matters coming under our purview.

To turn to our balance-sheet, you will see few important changes. The deposit, current, and other accounts have fallen from £17,100,000 to £15,400,000. On the other side, the cash in London, etc., has fallen from £3,600,000 to £1,900,000. Of our investments, £1,750,000 are short-dated securities, and will, within a very short space of time, be repaid at a premium. The bills receivable, including Treasury Bills, amount to £8,460,000. You will remember, of course, that we are dealing with figures as at August 31, which is the apex of the idle time in Egypt. As to the distribution, we propose to pay to the shareholders the very handsome dividend of 15 per cent. *plus* 2½ per cent. bonus, both free of income-tax, as has been our


# CENTRAL BANK OF GREECE

**Head Office: 12, Aristeides Street, ATHENS.**

***Paid-up Capital - - - 3,500,000 Drs.***

*Administrative Council:* LEONIDAS SKENDER (*Chairman*), GEORGE EMBIRICOS (*Vice-Chairman*), K. SALLIARIS, A. DAMBASIS, Ph. LOUKISAS, M. EVLAMBIOS (*Director of the National Bank of Greece*).

*General Manager:* GEORGE MOUSTAKAS. *Manager:* G. A. KARYSTINAKIS.

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custom in the past few years. We reserve for the premises nearly £13,000, and we carry forward £50,000, whereas last year we only carried forward £40,000. In conclusion, the chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. H. A. Richardson seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to, and the dividend and bonus recommended were also approved.

The retiring directors and the auditors were re-elected, and the meeting concluded with a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff, proposed by Mr. Cosmo Bevan, and seconded by Mr. Leonard K. Jarvis.

## COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

### P. and O.

The report of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. for the year ended September 30 states that the cost of overhauling the steamers which were severely knocked about during the war has been very serious, and has materially reduced the result of the year's operations. After allowing for depreciation and making an allocation to the insurance fund, which with the net premia received during the year, after meeting all claims, will then stand at £2,500,000, there is a credit balance on the year's accounts, including £115.230 2s. 5d. brought forward from last year, of £772,606 17s. 2d. The directors propose to deal with this balance as follows:—5 per cent. dividend on the Preferred stock, £152,000; 12 per cent. dividend and 3 per cent. bonus on the Deferred stock, free of income-tax (of which 2½ per cent. on the Preferred stock and 6 per cent. on the Deferred stock was paid as an interim dividend in May last), £508.668; leaving £111,938 17s. 2d. to be carried forward to next account. The companies which have become associated with the P. and O. have so far contributed very moderate dividends to the P. and O. exchequer, the policy having been to husband their resources. This being the case, there has been an increment in the value of the P. and O. holdings in associated companies, which in all cases stand at the purchase price in the books of the company, and the directors feel justified in distributing on this occasion something in the neighbourhood of £205,000 in Deferred stock to the Deferred stockholders whose names were on the register on November 23 in proportion to their holdings. Fractions will be dealt with by a cash payment at the rate of £450 for £100 stock. This new stock will rank for dividend as from October 1, 1920, and will in all respects be *pari passu* with existing Deferred stock. £15,860 of the first and £17,740 of the second Debenture stock has been redeemed during the past twelve months, but, as mentioned in previous reports, the company retains the power to make a re-issue.

The eight steamers referred to in last year's report as having been taken over from H.M. Government, viz., the s.s. Peshawur, Lahore, Nagpore, Alipore, Jeypore, Kidderpore, Eston and Redcar, are all in commission, and so far the results of their working have not been unsatisfactory. The refrigeration of the s.s. Peshawur, which had to be postponed owing to labour difficulties until the ship had made a round voyage, has now been completed. The large passenger and mail steamer building at Messrs. Cammell Laird's yard at Birkenhead is making slow progress, and is not likely to be delivered until the end of next year. The five ships of the "B" class, contracted for with Messrs. Harland and Wolff for the company's Australian emigrant and cargo business via the Cape, are progressing. One, the s.s. Ballarat, has been launched, and is expected to be delivered early next year. The work on the large passenger steamer building with Messrs. Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., of Elswick, is progressing. The mail and passenger steamers Naldera and Narkunda are in commission, and have made voyages to Bombay and Australia. They are proving popular ships. Only one of the company's vessels now remains under full requisition to the Government, viz., the s.s. Assaye. This vessel has now been over six consecutive years in Government service. The s.s. Isis has been sold. The s.s. Morea, Malwa, Mantua, China, and Caledonia have been refitted after their lengthy war service, and are again in commission. The s.s. Egypt and Macedonia are still being reconditioned, but are expected to be completed in the spring. The directors are glad to be able to report that the fleet has been navigated during the year without any serious casualty.

The mail contract continues to be worked, under arrangement with the Post Office, on the lines mentioned in the last report. The mail services to China and Australia, as well as to India, will be re-established as soon as the reconditioning of the ships and the delivery of those now building make this possible. The new passenger office in Cockspur Street, known as the P. and O. House, was opened in May last, and is proving a great convenience to the public. The directors lately had an opportunity of acquiring a controlling interest in the General Steam Navigation Co., and while the line will continue to be worked as a separate concern, it will be a valuable adjunct to the company's services, more particularly in connection with Continental trade, and it will admit of a concentration of agencies, especially in Northern Europe. The transaction was completed on November 1, and is not included in this year's accounts. The cost of working under every head continues to increase. Meeting, offices of the company, Wednesday, December 8, 11 a.m.

### Abyssinian Corporation.

The accounts of the Abyssinian Corporation for the period to June 30 show a loss (after charging depreciation, loss on exchange, and provision for anticipated loss on stocks) of £149.916. The principal factors which have operated adversely upon the result of the year's trading are the unprecedented fluctuations in exchange and the abnormal conditions existing in the world's markets, especially in regard to hides, coffee, and cotton goods, which are the commodities chiefly dealt in by the corporation. The ordinary shares of the corporation became fully paid on and after April 8 last. All outstanding calls have now been paid. Of the 150.000 Ordinary shares reserved for subscription in Abyssinia 58,725 have been applied for and allotted. Mr. C. F. Rey has resigned the post of general manager, and the board have appointed Lt.-Col. D. A. Sandford, D.S.O., to be his successor. The latter took over the management on September 15. The businesses of Messrs. Gerolimato and Armanza and Messrs. J. D. Nicholas and Co. have been purchased as going concerns. The commodious premises of Messrs. Jewaji and Co., at Adis-Abeba, have been leased, their stocks taken over, and their lands and buildings at Harrar and Dire-Daoua have been purchased. The directors have much pleasure in stating that His Highness Ras Tafari, Regent and Heir Apparent to the Throne of Abyssinia, has consented to become a member of the board. Meeting, Winchester House, December 2, at 12.30.

### British Merchants' Morocco Association.

The third annual report of the British Merchants' Morocco Association states that the number of members has increased since the last general meeting from 160 to 180. The association has sustained a heavy loss in the resignation of the office of president and chairman of the council by the Right Honourable the Earl of Onslow, upon his recent appointment as Civil Lord of the Admiralty. Lord Onslow was deeply interested in the cause of the association, and the council desire to record their high appreciation of his services, and of the able way in which he discharged the duties of president and chairman. The question of a successor to Lord Onslow is receiving consideration. The resignation by Mr. P. B. Robinson, as from December 31 next, of the office of secretary to the association has been accepted with great regret. In view of his business duties, Mr. Robinson finds it impossible to devote the time which the efficient discharge of the secretarial work of the association requires. It is felt by the council that at no time more than the present is it necessary for close attention to be concentrated upon Moroccan affairs, and it has been decided, in the interests of members, to secure the whole-time services of a secretary in the place of Mr. Robinson. The new appointment, when made, will necessarily entail greatly increased charges, and it is hoped that the support of many more British firms interested in Morocco may be obtained, so that a compensating increase in revenue may be realised. It is due mainly to Mr. Robinson that the association has been so successful, and the council are glad to intimate that his election as honorary treasurer will ensure the continuance of his connection with the association.

A branch of the Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., is about to be opened at Mogador, making an important addition to the branches already established at Tangier, Rabat, Casablanca, Mazagan, Saffi, Fez, and Marrakesh, and it is hoped that other extensions may follow as soon as circumstances permit. The development of British enterprise has been considerably strengthened by the opening of branches of the Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., in Morocco, and it is of interest to note that this bank is now closely allied to the following British banking institutions: Lloyds Bank, Ltd., London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, Ltd., National Provincial and Union Bank of England, Ltd., Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd. The position as regards the French Protectorate remains as reported last year—namely, that, whilst France desires to be relieved of the obligations of the Act of Algeciras and the Franco-German Treaties of 1909 and 1911, as also of the system of the Capitulations, there is every reason for hoping that, in any event, British interests will be adequately safeguarded. It is understood that France is morally pledged, subject to the surrender of the international servitudes, to the principle of the "open door" in the French Protectorate, namely, commercial, economic and industrial equality for all the Allied Powers who were signatories to the Act of Algeciras.

Notwithstanding the somewhat unfavourable trade conditions which have for some little time prevailed in Morocco, as in most countries, it is satisfactory to record an extension in the number of British steamship companies directly serving Morocco. The congestion at the port of Casablanca, due mainly to the inadequacy of lighters and cranes, has caused very serious delay and inconvenience to steamship owners and merchants interested. Correspondence on this subject has been exchanged with the French protectorate authorities. It is recognised that mail steamers, under the port rules, enjoy a preference as regards the use of lighters and cranes, but it is felt that, under the actual conditions obtaining, greater consideration should be shown to British and other cargo steamers, even if this would entail the French mail steamers, in the capacity of cargo-carrying vessels, sharing, to some extent, the present inconvenience resulting from the deficiencies of the port arrangements. The association is assured that every possible step is being taken with a view to securing an adequate supply of lighters and cranes, and with a view to remedying the state of affairs which has existed.

Amongst other subjects which have engaged the attention of the council since the last general meeting of members may be mentioned debts due to British creditors of enemy estates in Morocco, warehouse accommodation at Gibraltar for Morocco cargo, British consular post at Oudjda, Taxe Intérieure de Consommation on teas, coffee, spices, etc., demonetisation of Hassani currency in the French Protectorate of Morocco, and French Government stocks of green tea at Marseilles.

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## UPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

MERSINA.

The report for September states:—Business here has not yet recovered, and a state of stagnation prevails. Despite the dearness of freights, merchants still find it profitable to resell their merchandise at Adana, where it appears that better prices are offered them.

This town is without telegraphic communication even with Tarsus and Adana. Telegrams from Europe reach us by post, and generally after the arrival of the confirmatory letter. European telegraph offices, in accepting telegrams for Cilicia, are misleading the business community. Communications between Adana and Mersina being very irregular, correspondence intended for us arrives only after considerable delay. Bills of lading and similar documents, the collection of which is entrusted to us by clients in Europe, reach us long after the arrival in the Customs of the goods to which they refer. As the goods are not withdrawn in time by the consignees, they are consequently liable to warehouse charges.

SALONIKA, October 31.

The sowings have been up to the normal. Stocks of cereals here are unimportant. Quotations per oke are: Wheat 1.10—1.20 drachmæ; maize, 0.80—0.85 drachmæ; and barley, 0.70—0.75 drachmæ.

Wool.—Stocks of white wool are exhausted. Stocks of black wool amount to fifteen to twenty thousand okes.

Olive Oil.—The crop is considered to be very good. The market shows a tendency to fall. Quotations, 6—7 drachmæ per oke.

Opium.—Stocks amount to eighteen to twenty thousand okes. There is no demand. The nominal prices are 70—75 drachmæ per oke.

Tobacco.—The gathering was concluded at the end of September. The crop is of good quality, and in quantity is about the same as that of the previous year.

Skins.—There have been no transactions. Stocks here amount to 240,000 skins. The nominal quotations are 12—14 drachmæ the pair.

Cotton.—Prices have fallen considerably. Smyrna is quoted 5—6 drachmæ, and American 6—7 drachmæ per oke.

## EGYPTIAN COTTON POSITION

Reuter's Cairo correspondent, in a message, dated November 28, states:—

The Government has appointed a Commission, consisting of three Egyptian and three British members, to study the economic effect, so far as Egypt is concerned, of the world-wide fall in cotton prices, and to consider measures to alleviate the difficulties of small cultivators and tenants arising therefrom. Meanwhile, landowners are urged to refrain from exacting the immediate payment of rent beyond the capacity of the tenant.

In a long statement issued by the Government it is said:—The price of cotton now approximates to the 1918 figures. The great rise in prices last year was due to the extravagance and monetary inflation which swept over the world after the signing of the Armistice. Egyptian cotton benefited abnormally, rising 300 per cent. A general reaction, however, has now set in. At present there is a world-wide check in public and private expenditure, speculation has been arrested, and those holding goods in the hope of realising higher prices have been compelled to enter the market, thus bringing about the fall, which is reflected in the prices of nearly all commodities.


# IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

**Capital - £10,000,000**
**Paid-up - £5,000,000**

**CONSTANTINOPLE.**

Messrs. L. STEEG, Director-General.
Lt.-Col. J. PROCTER, Director-General-Adjoint.

Messrs. P. REDON, B. KERESTEDJIAN, J. UNGAR } Directors. DJEVAD BEY. HAMID BEY. NOURY BEY.

**GENERAL COMMITTEE.**

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|---|---|
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| E. W. H. BARRY. | ANDRÉ BERTHELOT. |
| VISCOUNT GOSCHEN, C.B.E. | JEAN BOISSONNAS. |
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**London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.**

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.
Assistant Manager: W. P. SHEPPARD.

**PARIS:**
**7, Rue Meyerbeer.**

**MANCHESTER:** 25, Pall Mall. | **MARSEILLES:** 41-43, Rue Grignan.

**CONSTANTINOPLE.**
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

**EGYPT.** Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

**PALESTINE.** Jerusalem. Jaffa.

**CYPRUS.** Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

**SYRIA.** Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.

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The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

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

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

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Letters of credit granted.


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## TENDERS INVITED.

**Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—**

### Egypt.

*(The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.)*

Equipment and Clothing.—The Egyptian Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply of equipment and clothing required by the Abbassia and Khanka Asylums for one year from April 1, 1921. United Kingdom firms tendering must have a resident agent in Egypt.—January 3.

Nainsook.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the supply of 16,000 yards of nainsook, cotton, white, 42 in. —December 8 (L.).

Pipes.—The Chief Engineer, Main Drainage Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of cast-iron pipes and specials. December 29.

Cement Blocks.—The Surveyor-General, Survey of Egypt, Giza (Mudiriya) invites tenders for the supply of 20,000 and 100,000 cement blocks. December 15.

Clothing.—The Sub-Director of Stores, Ministry of Education, Sharia Insha, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of clothing required for the school year 1920-1921. December 4.

General Stores, etc.—The Postmaster-General, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of general stores, uniforms, tarboushes, and boots, as well as the execution of certain works of stencilling mail bags, etc., engraving, and paint at Alexandria, and also the maintenance and repair of electric light installations, clocks and watches at Alexandria and Cairo, for the financial year 1921-1922. Copies of specifications are obtainable from the Central Stores, G.P.O., Alexandria. December 15.

### India.

Refuse Destructor.—The Municipality of Bombay invites tenders for the manufacture, erection, and equipment of a refuse destructor for 200 tons of refuse a day. (Spec., 5s., Sir John Wolfe Barry, Lyster, and Partners, 2, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1.) March 4.

### Yugoslavia.

Leather.—A company of boot manufacturers of Vranje, Serbia, are inquiring for names of United Kingdom firms in a position to supply 50,000 kilogrammes of sole leather and upper leather for army boots which they have contracted to make for the Serbian Government. The name and address of the company referred to, etc., will be furnished by the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1

## NEW COMPANIES.

### Lancashire (Egyptian) Cotton.

Lancashire (Egyptian) Cotton, Ltd., has been registered with a capital of £10,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of shippers, exporters, importers, brokers and factors of and dealers in cotton, flax, wool, jute, silk or other fibrous substances, etc. Secretary: P. Isherwood, Court Chambers, 15, Mawdsley Street, Bolton.

### Sudan Madani Explorations.

Sudan Madani Explorations, Ltd., has been registered with a capital of £10,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To seek openings for capital in Africa or elsewhere, prospectors of mines, etc. Subscribers include: J. R. Sowerby, 5, John Street, Bedford Row, solicitor; R. A. Holden, 5, John Street, Bedford Row, solicitor; C. F. Bartlett, 30, Wolseley Gardens, Gunnersbury, secretary to public company. Solicitors: Richardson, Sowerby, Holden and Co., 5, John Street, Bedford Row, W.C.

The Egyptian Customs Administration have decided to build two new stores on Mole E at Alexandria, each of which will be over 4,000 square metres in area. The estimated cost is £E84,000.

## ON 'CHANGE.

### Another Dull Week.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Monday.

Again the week has been one of almost unrelieved depression, and in most markets a renewed movement downwards is to be recorded. The general position at home and abroad continues to exercise an adverse influence, and during the week there has been much Continental selling, which has given a fresh impetus to the general decline.

In view of the large disbursements to be made in interest on the War Loans, it is not surprising that Government stocks should have shared in the general dullness, fractional losses being registered in various directions. Foreign funds have been very weak, especially Greek securities, which have undergone a further general decline.

In the other markets the tone has been very dull. Considerable liquidation has been going on, and prices have been marked down all along the line. Industrials have been specially weak, while notable falls have been sustained by the leaders in the Oil market. Rubbers as usual have moved downwards.

Near Eastern securities have again shown weakness. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per Cent. are $\frac{1}{8}$ down at 59$\frac{3}{8}$, while Turkish 3$\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Egyptian Tribute Bonds at 52$\frac{3}{8}$ have declined a similar amount. Greek securities are one or two points lower all round.

Banks have been dull. Agricultural 3$\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Bonds have weakened $\frac{1}{4}$ to 57$\frac{3}{4}$, but the 3$\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Guaranteed Bonds are unchanged at 60. Imperial Ottoman Banks are $\frac{1}{8}$ down at 7$\frac{1}{8}$.

Land shares have participated in the prevailing depression. Beheras are $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 9$\frac{1}{2}$, while Delta Lands have shed 3d. at 9s. 9d. Gharbieh Lands have lost $\frac{1}{8}$ at 2, while there has been a drop of 2s. 3d. in New Egyptians to 22s. Union Foncieres at 3 are $\frac{1}{4}$ down. Despite the favourable report, Sudan Plantations have receded $\frac{3}{8}$ to 4$\frac{1}{4}$.

Oils have been dull. Anglo-Egyptians are $\frac{3}{8}$ down at 2$\frac{3}{4}$, while Roumanian Consolidated at 20s. are 2s. 3d. lower.

The Czecho-Slovakian Parliamentary Committee has reduced the amount of the proposed Budget Bill by 260,000,000 kronen.

The Secretary of State for India has appointed Mr. James Tuke, a director of the British Linen Bank and of Barclays Bank, Limited, to be a member of the Committee appointed to consider various questions in connection with the administration of the Indian Railways.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97$\frac{1}{2}$ | 97 $\frac{7}{16}$ |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22$\frac{1}{2}$ | 41·00-42·00 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22$\frac{1}{2}$ | 120 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·6$\frac{1}{2}$-1·6$\frac{7}{8}$ |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22$\frac{1}{2}$ | 232-235 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·6$\frac{1}{2}$-1·6$\frac{5}{8}$ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 470-485 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86$\frac{3}{8}$ | 3·48-3·50$\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22$\frac{1}{2}$ | 57·20-57·80 |
| Prague | Kronen to £ | 24·02 | 275-285 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22$\frac{1}{2}$ | 247$\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 34 |
| Vienna | Kronen to £ | 24·02 | 1,100-1,150 |
| Warsaw | Marks to £ | 20·43 | 1,700-1,750 |


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**Authorised, £10,000,000. | Subscribed and Paid up, £2,000,000.**

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*Manager*, A. G. M. Dickson.

*London Manager*, P. C. West. *Secretary*, G. de B. Brounlie.

The Corporation is prepared to assist in the development of the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and offers exceptional financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their export and import trade.

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## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

### Forthcoming Sailings.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Circassia, for Bombay (Liverpool, December 18).

*Anchor-Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Masirah, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 8); s.s. Matra, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London December 14); s.s. Blackwell, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London December 24); s.s. Imani, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London January 7).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Dorsetshire, for Rangoon (London, December 8); s.s. Yorkshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (December 15).

*Byron Steamship Co.*—S.s. Maid of Athens, for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 7).

*Clan Line.*—S.s. Clan Cumming, for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, December 8); s.s. Clan Macnab, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 9).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Tyria, for Gibraltar, etc. (Swansea, December 7); s.s. Sea Victory, for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Constantinople, and Constantza (London, December 7); s.s. Phrygia, for Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, December 18).

*Ellerman City Line.*—S.s. City of Cairo, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 6); s.s. City of Manchester, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 20); s.s. City of Lucknow, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 31).

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Glenamore, for Port Said, etc. (London, December 9); s.s. Glensanda, for Port Said, etc. (London, December 23); s.s. Glenapp, for Port Said, etc. (London, January 6).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Astronomer, for Calcutta (Liverpool, December 9); s.s. Architect, for Calcutta (Liverpool, December 22).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Sittang (freight only), for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 8).

*Holt Line.*—S.s. Achilles, for Port Said, etc. (Glasgow, December 9).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Cundall, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 24). A steamer will sail on December 24 for Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople.

*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Maronian, for Algiers, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, December 11).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Karmala, for Bombay (London, December 17); s.s. Nore, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta, also taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden (London, December 17); s.s. Alipore, for Bombay (London, December 18); s.s. Khiva, for Bombay (London, December 24).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. Chanda, for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 9); s.s. Culna, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 11); s.s. Nerbudda, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 24); s.s. Chakratta, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, end of December); s.s. Neuralia, for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 7); s.s. Chyebassa, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 15).


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**CIRCASSIA ABOUT DEC. 18.**

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## COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF.

Société impériale ottomane d'éclairage par le gaz et l'électricité.—The annual general meeting will be held at Paris on December 3.

Egyptian Markets, Limited.—First Five per Cent. Debenture Coupons No. 44 falling due December 1, 1920, are payable at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, 27, Clements Lane, London, E.C.4, at the face value, and at the branch offices of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, at Cairo and Alexandria, at the current rate of exchange.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd., for the week ended October 31 amounted to £E20,665; total for the year £E287,116. For the corresponding period of last year receipts amounted to £E3,755; total for year £E111,789.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended November 13 amounted to £10,973.

The Compagnie de Navigation Mixte has ordered two steamers of 10,000 tons for service between Marseilles and Bombay, Karachi, and the ports of the Persian Gulf from March 21.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Steaua Romana Company will be held on December 15 at Bucharest for the purpose of increasing the company's capital from 100,000,000 lei to 300,000,000 lei.

Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway.—York Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1, having been renamed "Petty France," the address is now 91, Petty France, Westminster, S.W.1.

The Constantinople Telephone accounts for the period from January 1, 1914, to December 31, 1919, show a balance at debit of net revenue account of £T55,594

Captain F. W. Shannon, chairman and managing director of the Shannon Company, Limited, has left for Cairo on a business visit.

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China announce that the Right Hon. Sir John Newell Jordan, G.C.I.E., K.C.B., K.C.M.G., has been elected a director of the bank.

Roumania has placed a large order for railway engines with a Pilsen firm.

The Ionian Bank is to deposit a Bill in Parliament to extinguish the liability attaching to the shares in the event of winding-up. The shares are fully paid, but are liable, in the event of liquidation, for another £5 each.

## ENQUIRY BUREAU.

*Readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.*

*Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."*

*ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.*

*No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.*

### Agents Wanted Abroad.

*ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, 'The Near East,' 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2," when they will be redirected to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.*

101. A correspondent in Lagos, Nigeria, wishes to get into touch with manufacturers of Arab red fez caps.

102. A stamp collector wishes to purchase used Austrian stamps prior to the 1882 issue. Stamp dealers in the liberated provinces of Austria are asked to send bulk packages of such stamps to the care of the Editor of THE NEAR EAST, with the price in kronen of each stamp or price per dozen, per 100, etc., of each kind. All stamps required will be paid for at the price indicated and the rest returned. Newspaper stamps are not required, but rare postmarks should be included.

103. An Athens firm invites publishers of periodicals dealing with yarns (reports on local markets and world output) and cottons to send specimen copies with a view to its becoming a permanent subscriber.

104. A Greek firm is establishing an electric light station in Macedonia, and wishes to get into touch with firms dealing in the necessary machinery.

105. Engineering and general contractor in Mosul, Mesopotamia, wishes to get into touch with manufacturers in Great Britain.

106. Old-established English trading company with branches in Mesopotamia and Persia is willing to accept agencies there for manufacturers, etc.

107. Old established Turkish firm handling general stores situated in Smyrna and having branches in the interior invites exporters to quote prices for groceries. The firm also acts as agents for articles of general consumption in Asia Minor.

108. Hemp manufacturer in Croatia wishes to get into touch with rope manufacturers who would purchase hemp.

109. A reliable firm of Egyptian hand-made cigarette manufacturers and exporters desire to get into touch with British firms importing Egyptian cigarettes.

110. An engineer-architect in Bulgaria would like to get in touch with British manufacturers of flour-milling machinery who are prepared to consider the opening-up of business in Bulgaria.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 501.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *Greece and King Constantine.*

With the wider aspects of the Greek situation we deal in our leading article. At the moment of writing, the earliest reports of the plébiscite held in Greece on November 5 indicate an overwhelming majority in favour of ex-King Constantine's recall; but from Lucerne it is announced that the latter is still studying the position created by the Allies' message. As the three Governments are stated to have ruled out the succession of the Duke of Sparta as an acceptable alternative to the ex-King's return, it would appear as if they imagined that the nomination of Prince Paul would solve all difficulties. We doubt whether such a step would bring finality to the Greek problem, or peace to the Hellenic people. The Near East has suffered enough from the indeterminate state in which the Allies have left its affairs for the last two years, and we should view with a lively anxiety the prospect of a further extension of this condition of things.

### *The Anglo-French Alliance.*

The mistake of the Allied Governments in their handling of the Greek problem is the failure to inquire as to what is likely to be the logical result of each proposal. Even if they hope to coerce the Greek people into a course of action that it does not favour, the outcome can hardly be satisfactory to the Allies or to the Near East. On the other hand, it is not difficult to forecast what will happen if King Constantine returns to Greece. The history of the last year or so will repeat itself. Within a month of his arrival in Athens, French and Italian emissaries will start to persuade him and the Greek people—as they have tried to persuade the Bulgarians and the Turkish Nationalists—that Greece owes her misfortunes to Great Britain, that France and Italy were all along opposed to any harsh measures being adopted, and that they are prepared to do all they can to ameliorate Greece's unhappy lot—through the medium of certain concessions. The British Government, fearing to incur the imputation of not living up to the "inspired" denunciation of ex-King Constantine at the Downing Street Conference, will choose that moment to tighten the screw; the French Government will drop hints as to the extreme philhellene disposition of this or that British official, and a further injury will be done to British interests by the withdrawal of a good representative. We yield to no one in our conviction that the Anglo-French Alliance is a necessity for Europe, and that everything possible should be done to strengthen it. One of the first things required is for the British and French Governments to face everyday facts in the Near East, for if they do not it will be from that quarter that the Alliance will be undermined. The reason why Lord Derby's recent speech on the Alliance in Manchester fell flat is that his audience were business men in touch with conditions in the Eastern Mediterranean.

### *The Yugoslav Elections.*

The Parliamentary elections in Yugoslavia are now over. The Radicals have secured the greatest number of seats, while the Democrats have done very well, and the Peasants Party has achieved remarkable results in Croatia. In the circumstances it seems almost certain that a Radical-Democrat coalition Government will be called into power, and it is to be hoped that it will do quickly and smoothly the work that has to be done in passing the Constitution. The election has shown clearly that an overwhelming majority is in favour of the union, and it is now for the politicians to see that the country gets what it wants. Any renewal of the party intrigues and manœuvres which were so embarrassing in the last days of the old Parliament, and which so harmed Yugoslav interests abroad and so exasperated her own people, will surely not be tolerated now. Those enemies of the Triune Kingdom who hoped that the elections would play into their hands must be bitterly disappointed, but they will not sit down with their hands folded in their laps and bewail their disappointment. Rather will they renew their efforts to sow discord between the brethren; and no better help could be given them than a resumption of the old party game.

### *Balkan "Bands" Again.*

In expressing a desire to visit Belgrade and enter into personal relations with the Yugoslav Government, M. Stambolisky has given fresh proof of his courageous determination to leave nothing undone that may serve to bring about more cordial relations between Bulgaria and her neighbours. Evidently he believes in doing things himself, and his tour has had such good results so far that his belief is certainly well founded. It is, therefore, all the more regrettable that his success abroad should be imperilled by the acts of irresponsible and irreconcileable elements at home, which find pleasure in making mischief in ways only too familiar throughout the Balkans. Our Zagreb Correspondent refers to the activities of certain *komitajis* in Southern Serbia and to rumours and reports to which those activities have given rise. Most of those reports are undoubtedly grossly exaggerated, and probably many of them have no foundation at all in fact—it is incredible, for instance,

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that Signor d'Annunzio is nowadays in any position to give assistance to anyone at all—but they serve to keep alive feelings and memories which it would be to the advantage of both countries to have forgotten. It is most unfortunate that the war did not put an end to these provocations, but as things are it is perhaps remarkable that we have not heard more of "bands" and their doings. They are now being reported not from one Balkan country only, but from several. But Balkan statesmen have still a chance to prevent the plague from attaining its old proportions, and if Belgrade responds to M. Stambolisky's advance, a step in the right direction will have been taken.

### *The Fiume Comedy.*

The Fiume comedy is evidently nearing the end of its run, and public interest in the piece shows every sign of being exhausted. D'Annunzio has kept up his histrionics, and even went so far as to fire on the Italian warships that were sent to blockade Fiume, Arbe, and Veglia. Moreover, he threatened, a few days ago, to declare war on Italy, with all the inevitable consequences. Happily, Rome is keeping wonderfully cool under this foolish provocation, and the end of the business is inevitable. The city of Fiume is reported to be as tired of the Poet and his merry men as the rest of the world, and his followers are falling away fast. It is understood that the principal object of the blockade imposed by the Italian Government is to prevent the Poet's forces from coming in contact with the Yugoslav detachments stationed in the hinterland of Fiume; but it is not to be expected that the tolerance shown by the Governments both of Rome and of Belgrade will be continued indefinitely.

### *Mr. Montagu on Mesopotamia.*

In the days before the war—but after 1898—travellers who entered Mesopotamia were often puzzled to know why the British Consul at Busreh was appointed from home, while the Consul-General, or Resident, at Baghdad was appointed from India. When they were told that before 1898 both appointments had been made by India they were usually more puzzled than before to understand why when the change was made in regard to Busreh it was not made in regard to Baghdad also. No doubt there was a satisfactory explanation, but it was never forthcoming—or if it were, we never heard it. We are reminded of the subject by the admission made last week by Mr. Montagu, the Secretary for India, when he told a meeting at the Constitutional Club that the civil administration of Mesopotamia was controlled by the India Office in London, and that the policy in the country was determined by an inter-departmental committee presided over by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, on which the India Office, the War Office, and the Treasury were represented. He added that there was no worse system of administration than administration by a committee, and that there was nothing so puzzling to the general public as divided control. The latter statement, at any rate, is beyond challenge, but we are bound to admit that Mr. Montagu's speech itself provided one or two puzzles of considerable intricacy.

### *The Withdrawal Policy.*

Mr. Montagu informed his audience, for example, that there was overwhelming evidence to show that the present administration was not only popular, but was trusted by the Arabs. If emphasis be laid on the word "present," this may be literally true; but it must be acknowledged that the Arabs have chosen an extraordinary way to show their liking and trust. We do not wish, however, to attempt solutions of Mesopotamia puzzles just now. We are glad to note that Mr. Montagu spoke out clearly on two points. We could not, he said, have left the country at the time of the Armistice retaining a hold only on Busreh, as some critics had suggested: for to have done so would have been contrary to the whole spirit and letter of our statements to the Arabs, and would have meant abandoning the country either to Turkish revenge or to chaos. And as to copying the old Turkish method of "governing" the country by pitting one Arab tribe against another, he would sooner leave the land than be a party to such a policy. A little while ago it would have seemed superfluous for any British Minister to make such statements, but in view of the unbalanced criticism to which the Government's Mesopotamian policy has been subjected of late Mr. Montagu was not ill-advised in making them now. Let us have economy by all means, but do not let us neglect our duty in order to save our pocket.

### *Armenia Embraces Bolshevism.*

Reports from and regarding Armenia seem to grow less trustworthy, if possible, day by day. It is now announced that the news of the Armenian reoccupation of Kars and Alexandropol was untrue, and that the Turks and the Bolshevists have not (yet) fallen out, as they were said to have done. On the contrary, according to Moscow reports, Armenia has been declared a Soviet Republic, and as a consequence "the eternal hate of Armenians and Mohammedans has been turned into fraternal solidarity," and Turkish Nationalists, Armenians, and Bolshevists are busily employed in exchanging compliments and promises of assistance. These reports are startling, but they confirm others, to which we referred last week, and to that extent serve to indicate that Bolshevism really has got a hold on the much-reduced Armenian Republic. The name of the leader of the revolt is given as Kassian; and it is stated that the Republic of Azerbaijan has handed over to Armenia Zangezur, Nakhitchevan, and Nagorny Karabagh. Moralists will regret that a falling away from grace should meet so promptly with such a reward; and practical politicians must recognise that many Armenians will inevitably compare Bolshevist performances with Western promises and expressions of sympathy.

### *One Result.*

It would be quite unfair to blame the Armenians as a nation for the action of the extremists, and we hope and believe that the present phase of affairs will be of short duration. The good fight against overwhelming odds that was put up by the late Government affords grounds for such hope, and we cannot believe that the "eternal hate" of Turk and Armenian is safely buried in Bolshevistic brotherliness—though we are ready to admit that if such were indeed the case, Bolshevism would have one strong claim on the world's good opinion. But for the time being the change has had results, not unforeseen, but none the less unpleasant from the Allied point of view. Mustapha Kemal is reported to have received a number of aeroplanes and armoured cars from the Soviet Government, and to be preparing for a vigorous attack on the Greeks on the Ismidt-Smyrna front; and if he was inclined to take up an unaccommodating attitude before in the matter of negotiating with Constantinople, he is likely now to prove hopelessly intransigent.

### *Moscow Exultant.*

The Moscow message which conveyed the news of Armenia's fall to the world contained the statement that "neither the assurances of Great Britain, nor Wilson's celebrated promises, nor the promises of the League of Nations could save Armenia from massacre and annihilation." It is to be feared that neither President Wilson's offer of mediation nor his suggestion that the boundaries of Armenia should be widely extended will arouse any particular enthusiasm in Armenia to-day. Nor will the well-intentioned efforts of the League of Nations on behalf of the Republic be likely to undo the effect of the Russian action, especially in view of the League's unanimous decision last week that Armenia's demand for admission as a member could not be granted pending the ratification of the Treaty of Sèvres. The League's refusal was, of course, based on the fact that officially Armenia has no standing as an independent State until the Treaty is signed, but the correctness of this attitude will hardly be appreciated by the Armenians. As to President Wilson's suggestion that the Armenian frontiers should be extended so as to take in Trebizond and Erzeroum and to reach almost to the Adana vilayet, that also failed to win the League's approval, for the reason that it would

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increase the difficulty of protecting Armenia. Here, again, the League's view is doubtless correct, but even in their present difficult position the Armenians cannot be expected to be enthusiastic about it.

### *The Indian Frontier.*

The latest official statements appear to justify the view that a period of tranquillity on the Indian frontier is at least a reasonable possibility. So far the course of events has been normal; the causes of unrest, among them the Afghan war and the agitation in India, were too strong to fail of their effect; the inevitable military operations have been successfully concluded; the recalcitrant tribes have definitely submitted; and some of them are now restoring their economic position by making roads, which will facilitate the maintenance of order in the future. One of the charms of this part of the world is that the tribes are usually good losers, and after each failure settle down to reasonably satisfactory behaviour—till the next time. It would, of course, be much pleasanter to be assured that there will be no next time, but such an assurance cannot be expected just now. A strong and friendly Afghanistan is the first condition precedent for permanent peace on the frontier, and until the Afghan situation is stabilised, all that can be done is to deal sternly with each outbreak as it occurs, and to improve progressively the organisation required on our side to make prompt action more easy and certain than in the past.

### *Lord Selborne's Protest.*

A nice question is raised by Lord Selborne's vigorous protest in the House of Lords against the failure of the authorities in India to counteract the malignant propaganda of calumnies and lies, which, in his view, threatens the success of the great constitutional experiment. The propaganda is unfortunately a fact, as a glance at almost any Indian newspaper will show; it might well wreck the experiment, and those who rely on the old bureaucratic government naturally contend that a counter-propaganda should have been started long ago. On the other hand, we have India's active politicians gradually, and painfully, sorting themselves into parties; and official propaganda would, from the nature of the case, be barely distinguishable from the campaign of one of these parties, and thus we should have the administration appearing before the public in the guise of a partisan, a position which, apart from other obvious objections, would almost certainly strengthen its declared opponents in the struggle. The difficulty is, to our mind, unavoidable at this early stage of what must be a gradual transition from bureaucracy to democracy, and we are not disposed to blame the Government for deciding to hold its hand as long as possible. Once the parties are formed, we may be confident that truth will emerge; we cannot feel confident yet, but we may hope that Lord Chelmsford's declared attitude of vigilant patience will be justified by results.

### *Service in India.*

Mr. Justice Bailhache's decision in a recent action against the Secretary of State for India makes rather unpleasant reading, for it shows that large numbers of men have been engaged for service under contracts the terms of which are now judicially described as "most unfortunate and misleading." The ordinary form of agreement for temporary service in India provides for an engagement for five years certain subject to dismissal for established misconduct, but makes no reference to the rule of law that servants of the Crown are liable at any time to dismissal without notice—"at pleasure," as the phrase goes—yet the Administration claims on occasion the benefit of this rule, and the Courts hold that they are bound to act on it, and that a servant dismissed for no fault is not entitled to any form of compensation. The rule in question is, of course, well known to lawyers, but young men looking for employment are not likely to seek legal advice on the terms of an agreement offered by a public office, and we trust the authorities will lose no time in accepting the judge's cautious suggestion that the form of contract should in future be less misleading. Whether men of the right stamp will accept a contract stating their real liabilities is another question altogether.

## THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday evening.

**Politics and Parties.**

The Government has not been very happy this last week. It is true that Mr. Lloyd George, having been entertained for the first time by the Constitutional Club, that vast caravanserai of modern Conservatism, where the waiters look so much more like Tory peers than the members, may feel that there are no more worlds to conquer. But at Westminster the tides have been rather choppy. There are signs that the House of Lords may be *difficile* over the Home Rule Bill, and it is quite perceptibly ready to destroy the Agricultural Bill and its author, Lord Lee.

There may possibly be some trouble over this matter. Lord Lee is determined that the land of this country shall produce more; and Mr. Lloyd George, who still remembers the land campaign of 1912—when it is said that our present Premier first learned the considerable difference between a pheasant and a mangel-wurzel—backs him up. But the peers are inclined to take up the old-fashioned attitude that the land belongs to the landlord—which is precisely what it hardly ever does—and that he can do what he likes with his own. It is the old question of the State and the individual once more; to which, I think, is added a certain personal dislike of Lord Lee. The Peers do not object to him because his title is new—everything pre-1914 is now the old nobility—but because he is a Conservative in other things, and a Radical in agriculture, which, in their opinion, is the equivalent of the wolf in sheep's clothing.

The rebellious peers are reinforced by the Free Traders, whose objection to British agriculture is profound; and by the Independent Liberals, on the simple but sufficient grounds that a Coalition measure is a bad measure. Labour does not count in this business, and as it is not quite sure where it stands in agriculture, it will probably look as wise as it can and back the winner after the race is over. But, then, official Labour is purely urban.

**Ireland.**

The Irish position, apart from the House of Lords, is for the moment a shade more hopeful. It is an open secret that negotiations have been going on in Dublin between the Government and Sinn Fein, mainly under the auspices of Mr. Arthur Henderson—"Uncle Arthur" of the Labour Party—and in this morning's paper it is announced that Sinn Fein has asked for a truce. Exactly what significance is to be attached to this, beyond the obvious meaning, it would be premature to say. Clearly Sinn Fein finds that murder does not pay, as might easily have been discovered before the campaign of terrorism was started; but whether the leaders of the so-called Irish Republic are prepared to enter into constitutional negotiations remains to be seen. In that event, the Home Rule Bill would need considerable revision, and there is already some talk of this being undertaken. But this is rather running ahead of the situation. This at least can be said, that if there is a real desire for peace and friendship in Ireland, it will immediately find an answering echo in this country.

**The Navy.**

One had hoped that the world, or more particularly Britain, was not to be troubled with armament controversies for some time. But apparently it is not to

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be. The controversy of capital ship v. submarine has broken out again; the Admiralty, which is said to have decided on the capital ship, is denounced and applauded alternately; and behind these things are horrid hints of great naval preparations being made by the United States and Japan. If it were suggested that these two great Powers were building in order to fight each other, it would not matter so much from a purely selfish point of view; but the agitators make the point that the old two-Power standard should apply against both these countries.

If that were really seriously intended, it would seem an admirable ground for discovering an aeroplane that could convey one to Mars, for the prospects of civilisation on this earth would seem to be too insecure to make it worth while to continue living here; but I doubt if the public takes this agitation very seriously. Now the war is over, we are all pacificists; the only militarists left are the old conscientious objectors, most of whom are now agitating for a class war.

**Licensing and Dumping.**

There is some little feeling between the two wings of the Coalition at the moment. The Liberals want Licensing Reform, and the Tories, suspicious of "Pussyfoot," don't; the Tories want legislation against German and other dumping, and the Liberals, suspicious of Protection, don't. For the moment licensing is off, and the brewers breathe again; but the anti-dumping measure is also off, and regulations for the admission of dyes and other German produce are more in favour in official quarters, as the line of least resistance. The rivalry of the two wings is not likely to lead to serious difficulties, but the Liberal Independents, who live off the crumbs that fall from the master's table, are making the most of these domestic discords. But in the happy Christmas atmosphere that the official whips are creating some kind of solution may be attained before the 1921 session. The Independent Liberals talk loudly of principle, but if there is one obvious principle in politics it is that two people cannot both pass through a gate at the same time, and as both licensing reform and anti-dumping are necessary, it is merely a question of which comes first, and how much of each gets through.

**City Pessimism.**

The City appears to be extraordinarily depressed just now, not because of Labour attacks on capital, but because of actual capital difficulties. Everybody wants money to enlarge their factories or to start new ones, but nobody seems to have any money. There have been many new capital issues this last few weeks, but few of them have been fully subscribed; and one or two of the largest emissions have left 70 or 80 per cent. on the hands of the underwriters and finance houses. The habit of buying shares in the open market rather than on the prospectus has, of course, been growing for some years, experience having shown that it is often possible to buy at a discount a week or two after the issue, but that does not explain the recent failure to allot more than 20 or 25 per cent. of many large companies, and these shares are not, I believe, going off very well now that they are quoted at a substantial discount. Some of the finance houses are consequently loaded up with what is little better than a lot of paper, and the Stock Exchange is equally unhappy. It never likes too many new issues at once, as these dry up its regular business but far worse than a new issue which is successful is a new issue which fails.

There is, of course, no question of a panic; the simple fact is that everybody is hard up. The inevitable result is a crescendo of the agitation against Mr. Chamberlain, who searches our pockets so thoroughly, but that is not much use, because Mr. Thomas, of the Labour Party, in his recent book, "When Labour Rules," gives a direct hint that the income-tax will not be lowered by Labour in office, and there is also a more intelligible campaign on behalf of national economy.

There is no doubt that the revolt against the new bureaucracy is increasing. The Ministry of Food is to go; it has discharged an unpopular duty with real efficiency, and has succeeded in curbing both the profiteer and the greedy private citizen; but, having done all this, the public bids it remember that, like the man in the Gospel, it is still an unprofitable servant. The Ministry of Health has succeeded in making itself unpopular with the doctors and the country as a whole, and the inevitable Dr. Addison will soon be in hot water again. Once a Government Department has taken root, it is very difficult to dig it up again; but if the Labour Exchanges and the Ministry of Health were abolished, few tears would be shed except by the officials, and the Budget would be an easier matter next year.

The real danger of the extravagant expenditure is that if these luxury departments are not cut off the economists will begin to attack education, which is doing extraordinarily well under Mr. Fisher, and is more important than a Ministry of Health which does not cure anybody and a Labour Exchange which finds nobody a job except its own officials. But some of the Government cargo will have to go.

**Bishop Temple.**

Canon Temple, who has been appointed to the Bishopric of Manchester at the early age of thirty-nine, was born in the ecclesiastical purple, his father being the rugged Archbishop Temple, whose share in the authorship of "Essays and Reviews" created so great a stir in mid-Victorian days. The son has inherited his father's ability, and as the founder and head of the "Life and Liberty" movement has taken a great part in Church affairs. Courage and administrative talent seem to run in this family, and it would not be very surprising if Canon Temple eventually reached Canterbury—it would be the first instance, I think, of hereditary succession in the Primacy.

The new Bishop is in no sense a great theologian, but an active organiser who knows what he wants and can write well, and also, I believe, deliver a good sermon. If that is so, there will be two bishops who can preach—for, according to a wicked story, Mr. Lloyd George is said to have appointed Bishop Hensley Henson because, as a Nonconformist, he thought it only fair that the Church should have one bishop who could preach. But that, like the tale that is going round of the Birthday Knight "who bought his title on an overdraft," may be *ben trovato*.

**The Week's Books.**

"The Life of Lord Gorell" (Murray), by Mr. J. G. de Montmorency, contains, like all legal biographies, a great deal that only a lawyer could read—accounts of old cases in which forensic triumphs were won; but quite half the book is taken up with Lord Gorell's views on divorce—a subject on which the President of the Divorce Court had a peculiar right to speak with authority.

More interesting to the general reader is "Some Experiences of a New Guinea Resident Magistrate" (John Lane), by Captain A. W. Monckton. It is one of the most attractive books of travel in a savage country that I have read for a long time, and although the literature of Papua is already large it can challenge comparison with any previous works on the subject, and beat most of them.

I do not know whether Mr. Locke Ellis has timed his translation of the Agamemnon (Selwyn and Blount) to fit in with the controversy over the present King of Greece. Any rendering of Æschylus has always to challenge comparison with Professor Blackie's spirited version, but Mr. Ellis emerges not unsuccessfully from the ordeal. He does not seem to have quite the sweep and power of the great Professor, but there is a grim remorselessness in his lines that is truly Æschylean.

There is a great deal of difference between the modern European and the ancient Greek drama; but Miss Storm Jameson, in "Modern Drama in Europe" (Collins), seems rather doubtful whether things have improved much. Her book is a stimulating piece of brilliant pessimism. Miss Jameson is a writer who is likely to be heard of again; she published a clever novel, called "The Pot Boils," or boils over—the precise title escapes me—which was, as the critics say, "instinct with the spirit of revolt against the conventions." From what I have read of her work, I should say she has every faculty except that of repose.

OCELLUS.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, November 22.

**Return of the Sultan.**

The Sultan returned to Cairo on Monday after a stay of six months in Alexandria. He came up to Cairo by special train, accompanied by the Ministers and the Acting Financial Adviser. His Highness made a short stop at Damanhour, Tanta, Shebin-el-Kom, and Benha, at each of which stations he was received by the Mudir and the notables. On arrival in Cairo he had an exceedingly warm reception, there being unusually large crowds along the route to Abdin palace. The Sultan proposes to pay a visit to Mansura towards the end of this month, and on December 20 he will start on a cruise up the Nile, travelling as far as Aswan and stopping at all the important points on the way up or down.

The Court has gone into mourning for twenty-one days on the occasion of the death of the Princess Fatma Ismail, eldest sister of Sultan Fuad and sole surviving daughter of the late Khedive Ismail. Her Highness, who had but recently returned from Constantinople, died suddenly on Thursday, and was accorded a State funeral. The late Princess was well known for her charitable acts, among the most noteworthy being the generous gift of jewels which she made to the Egyptian University on the occasion of its foundation in 1910.

**The Political Situation.**

The political situation continues for all purposes unchanged. The London papers with the account of the discussion in the House of Lords and the leading articles written on the subject have now arrived, and the local Press is busy commenting on the various interpretations which, according to the point of view of the particular element behind them, their editors are putting on the statements made.

The main point of interest, however, is the position of Adly Pasha Yeghen, who, although he has taken no public part in the controversy since he retired from the Cabinet in May, 1919, is known to have been instrumental in bringing about the meeting between the Milner Mission and Zaghloul Pasha and his associates, and the draft terms which Zaghloul Pasha recently rejected.

The Delegation organ went so far as to state that Adly Pasha was not in agreement with Zaghloul in the attitude he had latterly taken up, and that he was of opinion that the "reservations" could well be left to be discussed in the course of the official negotiations. Vehement contradictions of this have been forthcoming from Zaghloul Pasha, from various of his colleagues in Paris, and from Adly Pasha himself; but all this does not prevent the firm conviction that the original statement made by the Delegation organ was correct. In the meantime, relatively speaking, a halt has been called, and everyone is waiting for the next official move.

The opinion is gaining ground that a settlement will not be so speedily reached as was originally believed and hoped, and that in view of the evident division of opinion in the Cabinet and as a result of Zaghloul's attitude, which, it is felt, may materially have weakened Lord Milner's position, it is very improbable that Egypt will get more than he offered to Zaghloul, and very possible that she will get less.

**A New Bishopric.**

Yesterday the ceremony of enthroning Bishop Gwynne as Bishop of Egypt, the Sudan, and the Red Sea took place at All Saints' Church. The ceremony was performed by Dr. R. McInnes, Bishop in Jerusalem, Canon Gairdner officiating as his chaplain, and Canon Horan, chaplain of All Saints' Church, officiating in the same capacity to the new bishop. There was a very full and representative congregation, including the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby, the principal chaplains to the Forces, and the senior clergy in Alexandria and Cairo. Representatives of the Greek Orthodox, the Armenian, the Syrian, and the Coptic Churches also attended, and the Sultan was specially represented by his Grand Chamberlain, Said Zulfikar Pasha. Lord Allenby read the King's Mandate to the new bishop; Dr. McInnes read the letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury authorising him to perform the ceremony of enthronement; and the sermon—a very earnest one—was preached by the new Bishop, who as Suffragan Bishop of Khartoum has been long known to us, and who during the war rendered distinguished service in France on the Chaplain-General's staff.

In reading the Archbishop's authority Dr. McInnes added a few words as to the circumstances which had necessitated the creation of this new diocese. It appears that already twenty-two years ago the late Dr. Blyth found the diocese of Jerusalem and the East too large, and suggested to the then Archbishop of Canterbury that the time had come to separate Egypt and the Sudan and form those two areas into a new diocese. The Archbishop agreed, but political events prevented the realisation of the scheme, and until his retirement Dr. Blyth continued to administer the huge area placed under his jurisdiction.

It was only a year ago that Bishop McInnes was in a position to put forward a concrete scheme, but he met with ready support from the Archbishop of Canterbury, who had stipulated that he should retain the Jerusalem diocese but agreed to appoint Bishop Gwynne to the new one on the nomination of Bishop McInnes.

With regard to the choice of All Saints for the ceremony, it was explained that, while Dr. McInnes had been enthroned in St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem, Bishop Gwynne obviously could not be enthroned in the same place, owing to the splitting up of the diocese. The only cathedral in the new diocese was at Khartoum—too far distant for the ceremony to be performed there—and Bishop Gwynne had accordingly selected All Saints' Church in Cairo as his pro-cathedral. One would like to add that in view of the long-standing connection between All Saints and the Anglican community in Egypt and the Sudan, no more fitting selection could have been made.

**A Gruesome Murder Discovery.**

Not long ago somewhat of a sensation was caused by the discovery of a number of female remains near Tanta, and it was concluded that these belonged to various public women who at one time or another during the last year or so had disappeared without any trace of their whereabouts. This week another and similar gruesome discovery has been made in Alexandria, where, according to the latest official report, the remains of no less than fifteen women have been found. The discovery was made by pure accident. It appears that a police officer, noticing a peculiar odour when passing a certain house, reported the matter, and an investigation was made, in the course whereof the floor of one of the rooms was pulled up and two bodies were found buried there. Simultaneously, repairs that were being carried out in a house close by brought to light other human remains. Further excavations were made at both houses, and up to date no less than twelve more bodies have been found. Some of the remains have been identified as those of women—not all of them public women—who have been reported missing for some time, and for whom the police have been searching; and it is believed that, as in the case of the Tanta murders, these women, who were all known to be wearing golden ornaments, were enticed by some means or another into these houses and there murdered for the sake of the valuables they wore. The inquiry is continuing, and other suspected houses have been searched and further remains are reported to have been found. Meanwhile the owners of the two houses, who are sisters, together with two other women and six men are now under arrest.

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# YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, November 30.

**The Elections.**

The general elections have passed off without a hitch, indeed, with very little excitement. Only at Kolashin and some other place in Montenegro the *zelenashi* tried their brigand tactics, and a few lives were lost. General abstinence was proclaimed throughout the country, and neither wine nor *raki* was allowed to be sold for the three days.

The results are satisfactory, although, of course, the final details are not yet to hand. But it is clear that the destructive elements have failed, and the constructive elements have an overwhelming majority, greatly to the disgust of the Magyars and other enemies of Yugoslavia, who preached that the young triune kingdom was on the eve of dislocation, and that Croatia and Slovenia would inevitably fall asunder. At the same time no one party has a working majority, owing to the fact that the people are young to politics, which was virtually a forbidden game under the Hapsburgs, at least for the peasants, who have been inarticulate hitherto.

The Radicals have come out the strongest, and will have about a hundred seats in the new Skupshtina; after them the Democrats, with from eighty to ninety seats. Next comes Raditch's Peasant Party, with about fifty seats. This is a new phenomenon. Stjepan Raditch has spent most of the time since the union in gaol, for working with the enemies of the country, and the disorders in Croatia last summer were attributed to the machinations of his agents. He cried, "Long live the Republic," and his avowed policy was to establish a republic of peasants. But the day before the elections the Crown Prince proclaimed an amnesty, and Raditch, crying now "Long Live the Prince Regent," hurried off to the polling stations. He has won a big victory in Croatia, and it is probable that the Alliance of Agriculturists in Serbia will join forces with him. After all, in a country where over 90 per cent. of the population are peasants, it is not a bad thing for them to be well represented in the House by a strong party, and it looks as though Raditch will exchange the prison cell for a portfolio.

The balance is made up by a mass of minor more or less ill-defined and weak organisations. Dr. Koroshets' Clerical Party in Slovenia has come to grief, to the content of the country generally. The minor Croatian parties, of which there are ten, including the Narodny Club, have made a poor show, and the Communists have lost 40 per cent. of their ground in Zagreb, as well as in the Voivodina. It seems anomalous that they have gained ground in Macedonia of all places; but it is well known that there they have been simply an anti-Serbian party and so had the support of the Bulgarophils, Albanians and Turks, as of the *zelenashi* in Montenegro.

M. Vesnitch was rejected at Skoplje, but will probably be returned in another borough, for candidates may stand for several places simultaneously. Of other prominent politicians Dr. Laginja, leader of the Narodny Club and Ban of Croatia, has been returned for Virovitica, and M. Svetozar Pribichevitch and Dr. Lukinitch for Lika.

What form the new Government will take is not yet certain. It is considered probable that Radicals and Democrats will combine to pass the new constitution, but neither can form a Cabinet alone. It is possible that the Radicals will make an alliance with the Peasant Party, with whom it is said M. Stojan Protitch is already flirting. Meanwhile, the Provisional Parliament of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes has been dissolved with no tears on any side, as also the old Serbian Skupshtina and the Croatian Diet. The first duties of the new Constituent Assembly will be to check the returns and then to pass to its proper constituent functions, which, it is anticipated, will keep it busy for about six months. It will then convert itself into a legislative body, and be dissolved in two years. Unless anything unforeseen turns up, fresh elections will be held at the end of 1922 or the beginning of 1923. By that time it is probable that the mass of minor parties in Croatia and Bosnia will have been absorbed, and the political horizon crystallised out.

**The New Constitution.**

The draft of the new constitution has been drawn up by Professor Markovitch, who adopts the two chamber system. The Senate will consist of one hundred members elected for nine years, of whom one-third will retire by rotation every third year.

The sky looks clearer for Yugoslavia: the Italian difficulty settled; the elections over satisfactorily, with the decisive defeat of the destructive elements and a great majority in favour of the continuance of the union. The mass of peasants released from the mediæval conditions of Austria-Hungary have had their first lesson in politics, and from now on will take an active, and probably a wholesome, part in the government of the country, of which they form so overwhelming a majority.

**Russian Refugees.**

The Russian colony in Belgrade has been diminished by the removal of a considerable number to other parts of the country. As we have reported previously, many have set to work to establish business, and some are doing very well. A pathetic case is that of General Melnikoff, who has opened a shoemaker's shop in the Takovska. It is a very humble business, but the gallant general is in earnest, and his ambition is to extend his premises beyond the one, tiny, ill-lit room which serves him as home and office, so that he could have a living room, and the luxury of a kitchen. On the outbreak of war, the general was Chief of Staff in Turkestan. He commanded a regiment in the fighting in Poland and Galicia in 1915, when he was severely wounded.

**Dr. Trumbitch.**

Considerable comment has been aroused by the resignation of Dr. Trumbitch on the eve of the general elections. Dr. Trumbitch, who was well-known in London as Chairman of the Yugoslav Committee during the war, states that he accepted the portfolio of Foreign Affairs only provisionally, and that now the agreement with Italy is complete he considers his task is done. It is not likely that he will leave public life.

A telegram from Cettigne states that on November 26 there were celebrations of the anniversary of the union, the more enthusiastic on account of the agreement with Italy, which removes the dynastic problem from Montenegro.

**Relations with Bulgaria.**

M. Teodoroff, Bulgarian *Chargé d'Affaires*, has inquired of the Minister of Foreign Affairs whether the Government will receive M. Stambolisky. The newspaper comments on this are interesting, especially one in the *Politika*, in which, referring to the occupation of Tsaribrod and Basilograd, the writer points out that the emancipation of the people cannot come from the outside, but must proceed from the centre. That is why the imperialist efforts of the old Tsar Simeon, and in recent times those of Ferdinand, had only purely temporary success, whereas the development of Serbia began in the Shumadia, and gradually expanded outwards, first Nish and Vranja, then Kumanovo and Bitolj (Monastir), and finally the great expansion of the past few years. Therefore the occupation of Tsaribrod and Basilograd, as also of Strumnitsa, is but one more step in the relentless course of events, which must inevitably lead to the final and complete union of all the Yugoslavs.

But while M. Stambolisky is endeavouring to ensure friendly relations with his neighbour and late enemy, the chauvinistic element in Bulgaria is regarded here as trying to upset his plans. Thus it is alleged that the present representatives of the old Macedonian Committee are working hand-in-glove with all Serbia's enemies; that communistic literature was found in abundance on the killed and wounded among the Bulgarian *komitajis* recently defeated in Southern Serbia; that they are in touch with the restless Albanians; and that they are receiving arms and other assistance from d'Annunzio. The agreement with Italy will remove one of their sources of supply, and the few remaining *zelenashi* in Montenegro will not be able to give them

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much help. It is also believed that they have an understanding with the anti-Serb elements in Croatia, such as the separatist Frankist party and Raditch's Peasant Republic party, and with the fairly numerous Communists, who are reinforced by the Magyars, Germans, Jews, and such foreign elements.

**The Adriatic Effervescence.**

In the face of all these misgivings, it is gratifying to read reassuring news from Dalmatia. It is reported from Split that Senator Markona (? Marconi) and General Garibaldi have arrived at Shebenik (Sebenico) to calm the people, and with General Taranto called upon all Italian officers to obey and to evacuate the town. The naval commander has forbidden his officers and men to have communication with d'Annunzio, and immediately left the town.

**General News.**

Considerable interest has been aroused by the publication in the *Politika* of a telegram from London, according to which the Heir-Presumptive to the throne of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, in the event of the Crown Prince Regent having no children, would be the young Prince Svevlad—or Vsevolod in the Russian form—the eldest son of the late Grand Duke John Constantine and Princess Helena of Serbia, sister to the Crown Prince. Prince Svevlad is now nine years old. The Princess succeeded in escaping with him when his father was murdered by Bolshevists at Agopaievsk. If the young prince were to come to the throne, there would be three dynasties united in the sovereign of the Serbs, Croats, and Solvenes, and all Slavonic—that is, the Karageorgevitch, Petrovitch-Njegush, and Romanoff.

Dalmatian colonists in South America, who are numerous and, on the whole, prosperous, have subscribed 1;700,000 kronen for Dubrovnik (Ragusa). It is stated that the money will be devoted to the Children's Asylum and the Artisans' School in Dubrovnik, and that the colony, further, is prepared to raise funds for the building of a new home for poor children.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, November 22.

**Political Changes.**

The following changes in the Cabinet have taken place: M. D. Grecianu, formerly Minister of Public Works, has gone to the Ministry of Justice; M. Octavian Tasluanu, who was Minister of Industry and Commerce, will now take over the Ministry of Public Works; and General Averescu, the President of the Council of Ministers and Minister without portfolio, will take charge of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. M. Anton Moscony, Minister of Transylvania, and Baron I. V. Starcea, Minister of Bukovina, have both resigned, and been given high posts at Court.

**Parliamentary Procedure.**

Parliament will open, in ordinary session, on November 28.

The Parliamentary Committee appointed to study the regulations to be adopted in the Lower House has decided on the following modifications. In view of the waste of time in the last Parliamentary session by the numerous interpellations, it has been decided that only the sittings on Mondays shall be devoted to this purpose. With regard to questions addressed to Ministers, the new regulation demands that verbal questions must be as short as possible, and that answers must be given within three days.

**Complaints of Hungarian Atrocities.**

Several meetings have been held throughout the country and in Bucharest to protest against atrocities committed on, and the persecutions of the Roumanian population in Hungary by the Hungarians, and also against the attack made on the Roumanian Military Attaché at Budapest by two Hungarian officers. Resolutions were passed that the Government should take drastic measures to stop the recurrence of these incidents, if necessary by reprisals.

**The Court.**

The King, accompanied by Princess Elisabeth, saw Prince George of Greece off by the Simplon Express to Switzerland. In the course of this week the Royal family will return from Sinaia to Bucharest for the winter season.

**General News.**

The damage caused by the German invasion of the country amounts, according to the last evaluation, to 12 milliard lei.

The Ministry of Finance has decided to withdraw from circulation the 100 and 20 lei Banca Generala Notes. This withdrawal will be carried out in proportion to the available stock of Banca Nationala notes.

It is rumoured that the City of Bucharest has succeeded in obtaining a loan of £ st. 1,000,000 on the London market, repayable in twenty-one years. This loan will only be redeemable after six years.

The gale that was reported to have taken place in the North Sea a week ago has extended to Roumania. It lasted for twenty-four hours, causing considerable damage by tearing down trees and taking off roofs of houses. This gale was followed by a drifting snowstorm, which stopped a good many trains as well as road transport, and interrupted telephonic and telegraphic communication throughout the country.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, November 21.

**The Result of the Elections.**

History has repeated itself. Coumoundouros in 1880, Tricoupis in 1895, and now Venizelos. Who could have thought after last week's monster demonstration that in but a few days the Liberals would lose the power which had been theirs since 1917, and that even their able leader himself would have to leave the country so dear to him and for the welfare of which he had worked so hard? But the unexpected has happened. The Venizelists were not only beaten, they were literally routed. Even the most optimistic Royalists were rubbing their eyes with wonder when the results of last Sunday's elections became known. They naturally expected to win the fight, but not for a single moment did they dream of such an overwhelming majority. The results of the polling at the front are not yet to hand, but even should these be favourable to the Liberals it is a question whether the latter will be represented in the Chamber by more than 135 members, which gives to the Royalists a majority of 98. These figures will, of course, alter considerably if, as generally thought, the majority of the Turkish members elected in Thrace under the Venizelist flag, go over to the rival camp. In Attica and Bœotia, where the most hopeful Royalists did not expect to secure more than half a dozen seats, not one of the twenty-two Venizelist candidates was successful. M. Venizelos himself was over three thousand votes below the lowest of his successful opponents. One must not, however, blame the Athenians for their Premier's downfall. In Athens itself the result of the polling was more or less a draw, while in Piræus the Venizelists obtained a small majority. It was the numerous small towns and villages in Attica and Bœotia which deprived the great statesman of the privilege of attending the meetings of the Greek Chamber. In the Peloponnesus, in Thessaly, and in Macedonia, the victory of the Royalists was complete, not one of the Venizelist candidates having secured a seat.

On Monday afternoon M. Venizelos visited the Regent, Admiral Coundouriotis, and tendered the resignation of the Liberal Cabinet. The new Cabinet was then formed by M. Demetrius Ralli, who, after taking the usual oath of allegiance, requested the Regent to resign his office. The Dowager Queen Olga has been appointed Regent pending the return to Greece of her son, ex-King Constantine. This will be definitely decided by the plébiscite, which will take place soon after the convocation of the new Chamber next Saturday. In the meantime in all the public buildings M. Venizelos' photographs have been replaced by those of King Constantine, while in the tribunals justice is being administered in the name of the King. Great enthusiasm prevails throughout the country, and photographs of the King and Queen are sold by thousands. All political prisoners have been released, and all the

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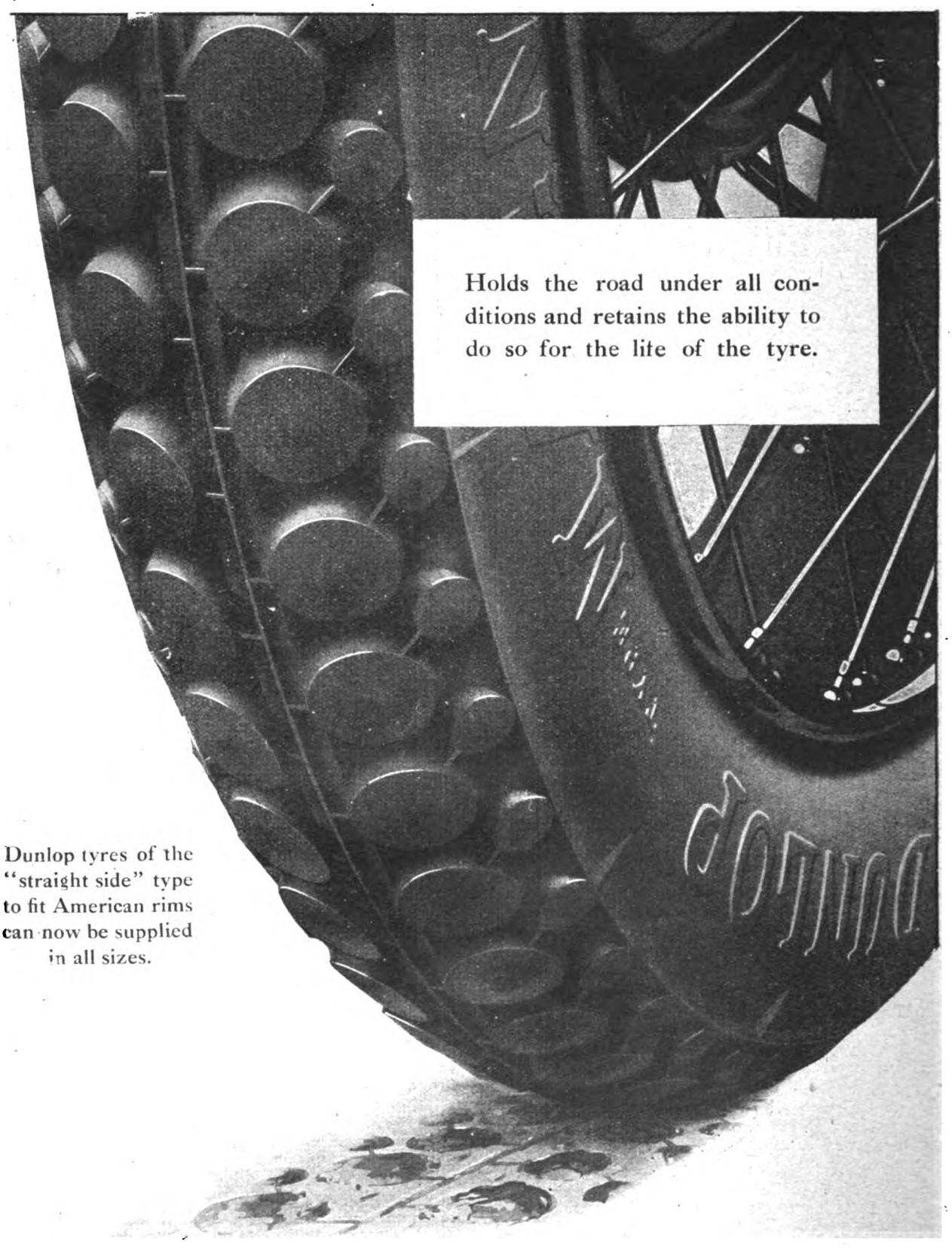


Dunlop tyres of the "straight side" type to fit American rims can now be supplied in all sizes.

# DUNLOP

## THE NEW MAGNUM TYPE

TRADE MARK

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officers of the Army and Navy who had been forced by the Liberals to resign have been reinstated.

The new Premier, M. Ralli, has declared through the Press that the Government's foreign policy will be identical with that followed by M. Venizelos. With regard to the internal policy the Premier stated that his sole desire was to effect a reconciliation between the two parties, and promised that no reprisals whatsoever against the Venizelists will be allowed. It is sincerely to be hoped that this wise step will become the starting point towards bringing relief to the tragic sore from which Greece has suffered for the past few years.

M. Venizelos, as stated above, has left Greece. Before going he urged his friends and followers to abide by the decision of the people and assist the new Government in its heavy task in discharging the greatly increased responsibilities of the country. The absence of M. Venizelos from the meetings of the Hellenic Chamber will certainly be greatly felt not only by his friends, but also by his enemies, who, after all, cannot help admitting that it was by his foreign policy and through his almost superhuman efforts that Greece has become what she is to-day.

**Resignation of Officials.**

Many of the officers who had served with the National Defence Army on the Macedonian front during the war have tendered their resignation. The High Commissioner for Greece at Smyrna, M. Stergiadis, has likewise tendered his resignation. M. Ralli, however, requested him to reconsider his decision and to continue serving his country. It is to be hoped that M. Stergiadis will accede to the Prime Minister's request, and remain at the post which he has so successfully filled for the past eighteen months.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Greek Armies, General Paraskevopoulos, has been recalled by the Government, and is succeeded by General Papoulas, one of the reinstated officers.

The Greek Ambassadors in London, Berlin, Washington, Paris, Tokio, and Berne have resigned their offices. The names of their successors are not yet known.

## TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, November 22.

**The Negotiations with Angora.**

Beyond a bare announcement to the effect that the delegate sent by the Government to Anatolia to effect a *liaison* with the Nationalists had reached Ineboli on his way back to Constantinople, practically nothing further has transpired with regard to the preliminary negotiations between the Sublime Porte and the Nationalists. There can hardly be much doubt, however, that the Cabinet has by this time received such information as to make the situation fairly clear. Izzet Pasha would certainly have let it be known if matters were progressing favourably, and the absence of news, in this instance, cannot be regarded as a favourable omen.

**The Greek Elections.**

The result of the Greek Elections created a tremendous sensation in Constantinople, and the effect was heightened by a premature announcement to the effect that the Venizelists had obtained a crushing majority. The Greek newspapers published glowing leading articles, and the Greek shops in Pera displayed flags to celebrate the occasion. On the afternoon of the same day, however, the truth became known. At first it was received with incredulity, and in their bewilderment the partisans of M. Venizelos described the official announcement of the Hellenic High Commission as "a manœuvre," although to what end it was not easy to guess. When, at last, it was realised that the idol had been dragged from his pedestal there were some exciting scenes. Venizelists, usually belonging to the Ottoman Greek class, became involved in acrimonious discussions with Constantinists, usually officers or men of the Hellenic army; and in more than one café there were free fights, which resulted in a heavy expenditure of crockery and the interference of the Inter-Allied Police.

The Turks made no secret of their jubilation, although the press was forced by the censorship to observe a certain reserve; and in spite of the new Greek Cabinet's announcement that it has no intention of following a different foreign policy from that of its predecessor, it is generally realised that the entire outlook has been changed.

**The Crimean Tragedy.**

During the past week about one hundred and thirty thousand refugees have arrived from Sevastopol and other parts of the Crimea. Doubtless, details have already appeared in the European press, but it is impossible to refrain from emphasising the truly appalling condition of these unfortunates. Truly enough, charity begins at home, but it should not stop there. The great majority of the refugees are still on board the ships in which they arrived, and in which they were crowded in a manner that would not be permitted in transporting pigs in England. This was, of course, inevitable, on account of the large number of people who dared not stay to face the Red Terror, and the insufficient number of ships. But once arrived in Constantinople waters, they expected to be disembarked, and risked the discomfort and dangers of the voyage. Unfortunately, the capital, for some time past, has been overcrowded to such an extent that it is absolutely impossible to accommodate more than a very small fraction of the refugees. All available public buildings are already occupied; every available house has already been requisitioned; and housing accommodation even for the permanent population has become a most difficult problem. Sanitary conditions in Constantinople, moreover, are not so perfect that the addition to the population of over a hundred thousand people, amongst whom typhus and small-pox have appeared, could be considered with equanimity. On the other hand, the ships have run out of food and water, and there was no organisation in existence capable of dealing adequately with the situation immediately. The British, American, and other foreign colonies hurriedly organised relief committees; and, of course, the French authorities, as officially responsible for the refugees, are doing their utmost to cope with the situation. The call came so suddenly, however, and local resources were so defective from every point of view, that outside help is absolutely essential, if the barest assistance dictated by the most elementary principles of humanity is to be given. Imagine eleven thousand people herded together, regardless of age and sex, in one steamer of moderate tonnage, and kept there for two weeks without food or fresh water. A very large proportion of the refugees are women and children, and their sufferings have been heartrending. As to the reality of the terror from which these unhappy people have fled, let there be no doubt. Soviet Russia is no place for women, for any woman is at the disposal of the local commissar at any time and at any place, under no matter what conditions. This is not a legend, but fact for which there exists undeniable proof.

**Anatolia.**

According to the latest reports from the eastern front, the Armenians have recommenced hostilities, and have succeeded in reoccupying Alexandropol; but too much importance should not be attached to this information. If the Armenians had been in a position to maintain a successful resistance, they would never have yielded Kars, nor would they have concluded the armistice with Kiazim Karabekir. Doubtless in the interval they may have received fresh supplies of war material, and thus have been enabled to make one more desperate endeavour to re-establish the situation in their favour. It is also true that the Soviet Government has declared its neutrality with regard to the conflict, but it is impossible to attach the slightest value to the declarations of the Soviet Government. By its acts alone can it be judged, and there is every reason to believe, in spite of official assurances, that Moscow and Angora are in agreement in regard to Armenia. It is perhaps better to wait a little longer before coming

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to a definite conclusion in the matter; for it is just possible that the Soviets intend to show Anatolia precisely what Bolshevism means, and are utilising the Armenians to exhaust the Turkish forces in the east, as a preliminary.

## CYPRUS.

CYPRUS, November 6.

**The Late King Alexander.**

Two matters absorb public attention—the death of King Alexander and the decision of the British Government to retain the island. On receipt of the news of the King's death on the night of October 29 by the Hellenic Consul-General, M. Artemis, it was conveyed by him to the Officer Administering the Government, who immediately expressed his deep regret through the Chief Secretary in person, and directed that flags should be flown at half-mast. Bells were tolled, and there has been general sorrow over the sad fate of the young King, who had quite won the esteem of the Greek people, and for whose recovery prayers had been offered in Greek churches at Nicosia by direction of the acting Archbishop.

**The British Decision.**

The decision of the British Government was announced by telegram to the Bishop of Papho by the Archbishop and two members of the deputation in London. At Nicosia a meeting was convened at the Archbishop's palace, at which Kleopas, the Abbot of Kykkou, presided. It was addressed by the Abbot, M. Severis, M.L.C., the Mayor, M. Liassides, and others. A resolution was passed protesting against the decision, and stating that "the people of Cyprus" would continue, by every lawful means and at every sacrifice, the struggle until their national aspirations were fulfilled. Copies were sent to the Officer Administrating, and the Secretary of State to the Colonies, signed by the Abbot. Meetings denouncing the decision have been held in some of the chief towns. Nowhere has there been any appreciation of the outlook, and never in Cyprus has the group of political agitators regarded its claim except from a purely insular point of view, without an endeavour to see it in its proper perspective. There has been a "one and only" solution of a "question" created by itself, viz., union with Greece.

**Vine Disease.**

The fear that Phylloxera had appeared in some Papho vineyards has happily proved to be unfounded. The disease is pronounced by an inspector of the Agricultural Department to be *Peronospera viticola*. Should this be the case it will be new to Cyprus. So far only two pests have caused any serious injury to island vines, the worst and most wide-spread being an *oidium*, or mould, imported into Europe from America some eighty years ago. The other is a small lepidopterous parasite, the *Procris ampelophaga*. Measures are being taken to spray the affected vines with a solution containing sulphur and sulphate of copper.

**General News.**

The High Commissioner left Cyprus on October 27. The Acting Officers have taken up their duties in their respective departments and in the Executive Council.

Mr. A. Mavrogordato is retiring after over forty years' service in the financial department and on various other duties.

The Bishop of Papho, who has been acting for the Archbishop, is leaving on a visit to Egypt at first opportunity.

The "Aid Committee" has remitted £340 to the deputation in London.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

*The columns of* THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

### ALBANIANS AT TIRANA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir, The following telegram has been sent by the Albanian refugees at Tirana to Mr. Lloyd George:—

We, thirty-five thousand inhabitants of the Dibra district, flying from death and the persecution of the Serbs, who have destroyed our homes and possessions, have come to Tirana, where we are completely destitute and homeless. We appeal to the humanitarian feelings of the British people to persuade the Yugoslav Government to evacuate the Dibra region, which is part of the Albania of 1913, thus saving us from death, famine, sickness, and other privations by allowing us to return to our homes.

It is signed by the Mufti and other notables. The American Red Cross and a member of the Anglo-Albanian Society who has lately returned from Tirana both confirm the above facts. The refugees are in wretched condition. Funds for their relief will be accepted and administered by the American Red Cross if addressed for that purpose to Dr. Emerson, the American Red Cross, 2, Place de Rivoli, Paris.—I am, etc., M. E. DURHAM

(Hon. Sec., Anglo-Albanian Society).

December 3.

### THE OCCUPATION OF THRACE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I have at last got from Athens the copy of the *Messager d'Athenes* with reference to the information which appeared in THE NEAR EAST of July 8, as regards the visit of the Bulgarian Pressmen to the Thracian refugees at Mustafa.

This information caused a controversy by a "Bulgarian in England" and others; in fact, I have been accused as having "fabricated fallacious quotations in a most unscrupulous way," and I was further challenged to produce the copy with the information in question which, it is alleged, has been repudiated by the Sophian *Zora* of July 31.

Your anonymous correspondent will probably agree with me that you are the better qualified person to act as the arbitrator in our difference. I therefore forward to you the copy of the *Messager d'Athenes*, and, I am sure, my Bulgarian opponent will now acknowledge that I, personally, had nothing to do with the regrettable misquotation committed by the *Messager d'Athenes*. I, on my part, most sincerely regret that I omitted to mention the source of the information which I sent to your esteemed journal. This would have saved much trouble at a time when Greek and Bulgar ought to understand one another.—I am, etc.,

THEODORE D. MOSCONA.

32, Oxford Street, Manchester.
November 24, 1920.

The following is the paragraph from *Le Messager d'Athenes* to which M. Moscona refers:—

*Les Bulgares dementis par eux-mêmes.*

On mande de Sophia: Le *Zora* vient fort à propos répondre aux doléances du gouvernement bulgare sur les populations bulgares que l'occupation grecque de la Thrace contraint à l'exil.

D'apres le *Zora* ces infortunées populations arrachées du sol natal sont tout simplement des Bulgares, de Bulgarie qui s'installèrent en Thrace après les guerres balkaniques. Voici ce qu'écrit le journal dans son numéro du 3 juin n.s.

L'Association des journalistes bulgares a visité, en compagnie de journalistes étrangers, à Moustapha pacha les Bulgares rentrant de la Thrace où ils s'étaient installés depuis 1913 et que la presse bulgare appelle les réfugiés de Thrace. Parmi les journalistes étrangers se trouvent M. Zigris, correspondant de la *Gazette de Lausanne*.

Des phonographes et des opérateurs de cinéma avient été conviés à suivre l'expédition.

[M. Moscona has clearly exculpated himself from the charge to which he, very naturally, objects, of "fabricating" quotations. This correspondence is now closed.—ED.]

### A TURKISH DISH.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—The explanations that have been given are all very good, but I think the following one is the most authentic. I had it from an old Turk in the City of Dervishes, Konia (Iconium), the most central and the most bigoted city of Asiatic Turkey. The ingredients of the dish are correctly given by my friend Mr. Alfred Silley, but he should have added—plenty and plenty of olive oil:—

An Imam partook of this dish at a friend's house, and found it so much to his taste that, on his return home, he at once instructed his wife in its preparation, and ordered that it should be served to him every day. "But," remarked his wife, "a great quantity of oil will be required." "Be at ease, wife, you will have enough to-morrow to last for a long time." The Imam next day bought a large quantity of oil at a great sacrifice to his purse. A few days later the Imam missed his dish, and angrily demanded the reason, to be informed that the large quantity of oil was exhausted! On this the Imam fainted (baïldi).

Gourmets inclined to jealousy ascribe the fainting fit to the over-burdening of the stomach.

As regards garlic, the Turks are not particularly fond of it, but have the greatest respect for it. The moment the roof is built over a new house a string of garlic, with an old shoe, is hung from the most prominent eave of it—to keep off the evil eye.—I am, etc., P. M. MATTHEKEFF.

Sofia, November 11, 1920.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"THE SERBIAN EPIDEMICS OF TYPHUS AND RELAPSING FEVER IN 1915." By William Hunter, C.B., Colonel, A.M.S. (London: John Bale Sons, and Danielsson, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

II.—"ROUND ABOUT EGYPT, AND OTHER THINGS." By A. Beresford Horsley. (London: Selwyn and Blount, Ltd. 5s. net.)

III.—"REMINISCENCES OF A STOWAWAY." By C. E. Gouldsbury. (London: Chapman and Hall. 15s. net.)

IV.—"THE SECRETS OF THE SELF." By Shaikh Muhammad Iqbal. Translated by Reynold A. Nicholson, Litt.D., LL.D. (London: Macmillan and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

V.—"ABSALOM: A PLAY." By Torahiko Khori. (London: Selwyn and Blount. 5s. net.)

VI.—"ARACHNE: A PLAY." By Adelaide Eden Phillpotts. (London: Cecil Palmer. 3s. net.)

## I.—TYPHUS IN SERBIA.

While it was a matter of common knowledge during the war that typhus was prevalent in Serbia, and that its possible spread to our Army in Macedonia was one of the unpleasant contingencies for which the medical administration had ever to be prepared, few were aware that the epidemics of typhus and of relapsing fever which swept simultaneously through Serbia in the first six months of 1915 surpassed in severity any recorded in the history of the past century. That these epidemics were checked before they had wiped out the army and general population of Serbia redounds greatly to the credit of the small medical mission sent out from England early in 1915, in response to the urgent appeal of the Serbian Government, and the record of its work, set out in the paper read by Colonel Hunter, its distinguished head, before the Section of Epidemiology and State Medicine of the Royal Society of Medicine, and now published in book form, is one that can hardly be bettered by any organised body of medical men called upon to fight disease during the great war. For a work of the kind it is surprisingly free from technicalities calculated to render it unintelligible to the ordinary reader, and it consequently deserves the attention of a far wider public than that to which it was primarily addressed.

Typhus and relapsing fever are both essentially preventive diseases, and their presence in a community under normal conditions is tantamount to a denial of its right to claim the attainment of a high standard of civilisation; but from time immemorial they have followed in the track of armies, and together with enteric fever and cholera have always to be reckoned with by the organisers of the dreadful business of war. The mere fact that after the greatest war the world has ever known, involving the employment of armies aggregating many millions of soldiers, creating the maximum amount of disturbance in the lives of the communities involved in it, and protracted over a period of four years, no great devastating outbreak of epidemic disease has swept over the afflicted countries speaks volumes for the amazing progress made in the science of sanitation and preventive medicine in recent years. Who "won the war"? is a question which is likely to be debated furiously by all the nations who took part in it for many years to come, and it is too much to hope that an answer satisfactory to all of them will ever be given to the question; but one is inclined to think that when in future years it is asked why this war was not succeeded by a universal epidemic, the credit for the happy escape of humanity from this crowning horror will be divided pretty equally between the twin sciences of preventive medicine and bacteriology. When Serbia appealed to England for help in combating the fearful epidemic which broke out in 1915, as a result mainly of the utter incompetence of the sanitary administration of the invading Austrian armies, her Government thought of doctors, nurses, hospitals, medical stores—the question of treating the victims of the epidemic being uppermost in their minds. In a few weeks the problem was recognised in quite another aspect, and to their quick appreciation of the great truth made clear to them by Colonel Hunter and his colleagues, that epidemic disease can only be stamped out at its source, must be largely ascribed the success of the anti-typhus campaign in Serbia in 1915. Space does not admit of the many interesting facts in connection with this episode in the great war brought to light in Colonel Hunter's work being dealt with in the space of this short review, but in view of the enormous importance to the future of the countries of the Near East of improving the sanitary standard of the population in all of them, the methods by which a fearful epidemic was checked in 1915 by a handful of practical scientists deserves to be very closely studied by all who have the interests of these countries at heart.

## II.—ROUND ABOUT EGYPT.

A leisure hour may be whiled away over this little collection of humorous rambles; and if they raise a laugh which will "add something to our fragment of life," the author's modest aim will be satisfied. Taking us to the Nile Valley, he gives us glimpses of hotel and desert life, "born in sunny hours"—sometimes perhaps too sunny: for he finds that ten hours a day of pitiless Egyptian sunshine makes one long for a gulp of crisp, cutting breezes, and sigh for the very weather "which you curse at home." The gorgeous sunsets seem artificial, and are labelled as "arranged and produced by Imre Kiralfy." As to the native types, the principal difference between Kopts and Moslems is that "the former are not compelled to abstain from whisky." The Arab is not an abandoned liar, but "feels that an elaborate lie is worth a dozen simple truths." He is what ages of tyranny have made him; but we cannot agree that "no one has a kind word to say" of the Egyptian.

At Luxor the author takes part in an exciting donkey race on a "white moke, Rameses the Great," and, what is more, proves that magic is not dead in the land of miracles. For, while playing twilight golf in view of the Dashour pyramids, he is startled by the apparition of the great Thothmes III., whose "withered skin creaked like the stretching of brown paper." He enters into the spirit of the game. He grasps the author's driving mashie, and "gathering himself into a furious whirl of dry bones and yellow linen thirty centuries old, he brought down the iron with a crash"; but with the impact of the blow the mighty Pharaoh crumbles into a heap of mouldering dust. As a sportsman at home, Mr. Horsley gives us amusing sketches of trout-fishing, and of the dragging of a one-fish pond.

## III.—ADVENTURES BY SEA AND LAND.

Although written in the form of an autobiography, this is not an account of the author's own experiences, but of those of a great friend. To put himself so completely in the place of another—and not an imaginary—person, seems a curious and difficult undertaking. Indeed, the author himself acknowledges this in his note, but he is absolutely justified by the eminently successful result. The hero of this story ran away to sea when he was fifteen, and from that time led a wonderfully exciting life. There are twenty-three chapters in this volume, and they are all filled with accounts of actual adventures—the periods when nothing out of the way was happening are passed over with a few words. First of all we have the boy's life at sea—it is, of course, in the days of sailing ships—and some splendidly thrilling adventures. Sometimes it seems rather that we have strayed by mistake into the realms of Stevenson or Conrad. After some years of this life the young man made his way to India, and there is an amusing incident recorded of his attempt to begin his career on land as the guard of a train. Very soon he joined the then newly-formed Indian Police as assistant-superintendent, and there are many exciting stories of the detective variety, and some good tales of big game shooting. The picture of India in the years immediately after the Mutiny is very interesting. After this we follow the experiences of Mr. Gouldsbury's friend as he worked his way up from the post of assistant-superintendent of gaols to inspector-general of gaols, until the last chapter when he just escapes a violent death by a magnificent piece of bluff. It will be seen from this short summary that Mr. Gouldsbury may well use the sub-title "A Career of Adventure," and no one could read the book without sometimes holding his breath with excitement, nor without being carried along by the spirit that inspires it. There are tragic and gruesome adventures, and there are gay, lighthearted adventures, and through them all we feel that undismayed courage and determination in the face of all difficulties which make the unconquerable spirit of man so much the most wonderful of all created things. Mr. Gouldsbury's great gift of being able to tell a story vividly and so as to hold the reader's attention all the time has enabled him to express in a splendid way his friendship for one who must indeed have been worth having for a friend.


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## IV.—AN EASTERN POET-PHILOSOPHER.

For more than 3,000 years the relations between human individuality and external matter have been the subject of strenuous debate. Hindu philosophers arrived at the conclusion that everything except the Absolute is illusion. Buddha crystallised their concepts into the injunction "Kill desire, and live only to accumulate merit which will be of service in future re-births." Building on foundations laid by that great Reformer the Sufis of Persia elaborated a creed of quietism and self-negation. Baha 'Ulla strove to neutralise its static influence by proclaiming that salvation may be attained by ethical conduct. But the goal of all Oriental philosophy is absorption in an unknowable entity, diversely styled God, the Divine Essence and the Universal Soul.

"Om Mani Padmi Om,
The dewdrop slips into a glittering sea."

A school has arisen in the Middle East which rebels against the pantheism and the arid self-renunciation inculcated by its predecessors. Inspired by the dynamic force of Western thought, it proclaims self-development as a means of attaining Godhead. Sheikh Muhammad Iqbal of Lahore is a protagonist in this movement. Although Urdu is his mother tongue, he has clothed his philosophy in flowing Persian verse, which abounds in quaint conceits, cryptic utterances, and allusions which are utterly beyond the ken of a European reader. Dr. Reynold Nicholson, who teaches Persian at Cambridge, admits that the translator's task is one of unusual difficulty, but a key to Muhammad Iqbal's system is given by Muhammad Shafi, quoted *in extenso* in the Introduction.

Our author regards the universe as an association of individuals, but it is not yet a co-ordinated whole. Creation is still in progress, and man may take his share therein by helping to bring order out of chaos. Man's true ideal is not the negation, but the vigorous assertion of his individuality. He attains it by becoming increasingly unique, and drawing nearer to God, who is the most unique Individual. He is not ultimately absorbed into God, rather will he absorb God into himself. Self-dependence is the goal of education; love, meaning a desire to assimilate, strengthens the Ego, while dependence on others weakens it. The process of self-development involves three phases—obedience to God's law, self-control, and divine vicegerency. In Muhammad Iqbal's eyes the evolution of humanity will culminate in a democracy of unique individuals, governed by the most unique of all. Here we note the far-reaching influence of Nietzsche, who cherished the same vision of an ideally perfect race. But his outlook was blurred by atheism and aristocratic prejudice. Abhorring the "rule of the herd," he proclaimed an ultimate dictatorship of supermen, who would emancipate themselves from the so-called Moral Law. Widely different is Muhammad Iqbal's Kingdom of God on Earth. Nor does he use the word "democracy" in the sense with which we are all familiar. For the democracies of Europe and America originated in the extension of economic opportunity, and are haunted by the spectre of anarchism, while the Democracy of Islam

is a spiritual principle based on the assumption that every human being is a centre of latent power, the possibilities of which may be developed by cultivating a certain type of character. Out of this plebeian material Islam has formed men of the noblest type. Is not, then, the Democracy of early Islam an experimental refutation of the ideas of Nietzsche?

Albeit that he has drunk deeply from the well-springs of Plato, Hegel, Nietzsche, and Bergson, Muhammad Iqbal remains a follower of the Prophet. His ideal is a Pan-Islamism which will adapt itself to modern conditions, and find expression through the sword. The theories of this poet-philosopher are rapidly gaining ground throughout the Middle East, and must be reckoned with by statesmen on whom devolves the almost superhuman task of guiding its destinies.

F. H. S.

## V.—A BIBLICAL PLAY.

In this volume are contained "Absalom," a tragedy; "The Sham Hero," a comedy; a "Prologue to an Unwritten Drama," and eight "Poems." The author is a Japanese, and these works have been translated, with the assistance of H. M. Sainsbury, from his native language; but his work is remarkable in the complete absence, at any rate in the two plays, of the effort of translation. The English, in fact, is excellent.

There are considerable merits in "Absalom," which is founded upon but differs materially from the Biblical record. It is a very powerful tragedy (its acting rights incidentally and significantly are reserved by Mr. Martin Harvey), with colour, movement, and conviction. The chief characters are Absalom, who is made a hero deserving of pity, Abishag the Shunammite, and Ahitophel, here the father of Uriah. There are a prologue and three acts, taking place respectively in a chamber in the King's house in Geshu, on the level roof of Abishag's house on a little hill near Jerusalem, in a stone-built hall in the royal house of Hebron, and in Absalom's tent in a mountain pass near Mahanaim. The author has admirably demonstrated the sequence of events and the psychology of the agents; and the outline of the whole is both strong and clear. This piece would, we imagine, make an even better stage-play than it reads.

"The Sham Hero," which is described as "a comedy for marionettes," has for scene Antioch. It is a simple tale of love, in which one knight attempts, by merely stealing his brother knight's armour, to capture both his virtues and the love of the lady Callista. Though without the strong and unusual writing which makes "Absalom" so fine a play, it is both amusing and convincing, and suggests, like the first play, a certain amount of local colour.

The remaining things in the book are indifferent, and do not reveal the fact that the author is a poet. He appears to be able to get the heart of the matter more easily than the form, and his management of the free verse form is even more clumsy and spasmodic than is that of the majority of his compeers in this mode. But we have little doubt that he is a playwright to be considered.

## VI.—A FABLE RE-TOLD.

Here is the old story of Arachne very delicately told in the form of a play. Miss Phillpotts has conserved perfectly the essence of the fable, and the characters of her own invention are quite proper to its spirit. There is indeed not much to make of Arachne, for apart from the fact that she challenged Athena in her art of spinning and for her impudence was changed into a spider, little is known of her. But of this Lydian story the authoress has made a very tender play, with passions half-human and half-fairy. The choice wistfulness of it is beautifully feminine, the conception thoroughly poetical. We would not be so rash as to say that she has written poetry, but her mood is genuine and her inspiration at least select. The play is most tastefully produced, and it contains some excellently apt decorations by Miss Doris M. Palmer. It is cheap, and would make an admirable present.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"How to Identify Persian Rugs." By C. J. Delabère May. (London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd. 6s. net.)

Commercial Directory: Baghdad-Basrah, 1920. (London: Department of Overseas Trade. Baghdad: Government Press.)

"My Recollections of Bombay, 1860-1875." By Sir Dinshaw E. Wacha. (Bombay: India Newspaper Co., Ltd. 3 rupees.)

"Palestine Reclaimed: Letters from a Jewish Officer in Palestine." By Redcliffe N. Salaman, M.D., Temporary Captain, R.A.M.C. With an Introduction by W. Ormsby-Gore, M.P. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd. 6s. net.)

"Studies in Statecraft: Being Chapters, Biographical and Bibliographical, mainly on the Sixteenth Century." By Sir Geoffrey Butler, K.B.E. (Cambridge: University Press. net.)

"The Backward Peoples and Our Relations With Them." By Sir Harry Johnston. (London: Humphrey Milford, The World of To-day Series. 2s. 6d. net.)

## "THE GREAT THACKERAY CLAN."

Our Reviewer writes:—

A word of apology is due to the author and the publisher of "The Ritchies in India" for a sentence in your review implying that the book contained no pedigree of the great clan with whose doings it is concerned. When I wrote that sentence I had perused the book as far as the map lying beyond the index, and I thought I had reached the end, but this evening I happened to drop the book, and some feet of pedigree unrolled themselves from behind the map, where they had been secured by an extra touch of the binder's paste—a pedigree large enough to satisfy the most exigent reader.

In January the firm of Marlborough is adding two more books to their "Self-Taught Series." These are to be "Serbo-Croatian Self Taught" by the natural method with phonetic pronunciation, by J. J. R. O'Beirne; and "Gujerati Self Taught," by N. M. Dhruva, Grasia College, Gondal (Kathiawar), India.

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# MUSICAL NOTES.

### A Serbian Violinist and Others.

It is rather surprising that the qualities which one usually gets in Yugoslav fiddlers—dash, fire, a brooding depth and so on—are not those in which M. Zlatko Balokovitch, who gave a recital at the Wigmore Hall on December 1, is pre-eminent. His chief merit lies in an all-round soundness, a virtue which two of his compatriots in this country, M. Miro Shlik and M. Bratza can in no wise be said to possess. Sound is the adjective which must be applied to his playing of Dunhill's Sonata in F major (Op. 50), and again to Mozart's concerto in D major. It is quite possible that the impression created would have been greater had not the playing of his accompanist, M. Ljudevit Kraus, been so wooden and so entirely without poetry. M. Balokovitch was at his best, and it was a very good best, in a Dvorak dance; but even his keenly spirited interpretation of two Sevcik things, "Bretislav" and "Holka Modrooka," could not make them sound of much moment. But to know this Balkan fiddler as he really is one should go to the Wigmore Hall on December 15, for then he is playing a Sonata written by Countess Dora Peyacsevitch (dedicated to himself by the way), and also a sonata by the Roumanian composer, Stan Golestan.

There is an uncommon refinement in the playing of M. Paul Kochanski, the Polish violinist. Such vulgarities as artificial emotion, forced tone, or uncontrolled fervour, never are found in his playing. But he was unwise in choosing M. Arthur Rubinstein to partner him in a sonata recital at the Wigmore Hall on December 2. For though at times the artistry of the two was mated, on the whole the balance was bad, owing to the forgetting by the pianist of the fact that he was not a solo artist. When M. Rubinstein did show restraint, as in the third movement of Bach's Sonata in E major, or in the Scherzo of Beethoven's in C minor (Op. 30), the *ensemble* was excellent, and we heard some fine playing; but for the most part he was far too noisy and exuberant, and the exquisite art that is in M. Kochanski was overshadowed.

I always feel that it is a rather damning thing to say that an artist shows promise, but in these days when so many of all sorts come forward, it really must be said occasionally. Certainly, it is true of Miss Gladys Clark, who gave a violin recital at the Wigmore Hall on December 1. There were technical faults in her playing of Brahms' Sonata in G major, and she offended against the golden rule with Brahms that he must be broad, but she did prove that she has both character and temperament. Her thinness of tone decreased in the "Larghetto" of Handel-Huhay, and she was very pleasing in a minuet of Handel, but the causes that prompted her to proceed with a vague, purposeless, and somewhat shapeless "Poem" of Mr. G. O'Connor-Howes (who was her excellent accompanist) are mysterious. Nevertheless, she is an interesting player, who, at least in interpretation, uses her brains.

### The Carl Rosa Opera Company.

The temporary retirement from opera of Sir Thomas Beecham is a tragic event, for there is no one else capable of producing what all musicians wish—opera in London all the year round. But the Carl Rosa Company, which began a four weeks' season at Covent Garden on November 22, though not aiming so high, is doing great service in the cause of opera throughout England. In the present season they are giving fourteen operas, and from most accounts they appear to be maintaining a good working standard. So far I have been to but one—Wolf-Ferrari's "Jewels of the Madonna"—which was performed on December 3. In this work, which is not an excellent one, the disadvantages of singing in English were more obvious than is usual, for the awkwardness of *parlando* English is very great. Moreover, the juxtaposition of absolutely opposite styles, particularly the sacred and profane, produces such a medley of incongruities that any attempt at unity of feeling is impossible. It is possible, therefore, to admire this work only in its details, but, that said, little but praise can be given to the rattlingly good orchestration of the Neapolitan folk-songs which Ferrari has selected. In this presentation the staging and externals generally were good, but the choruses rather lacked spirit, and the enunciation of the principals (Miss Beatrice Miranda, as Maliella, Mr. William Boland as Gennaro, and Mr. Hebden Foster as Rafaele) was scarcely comforting. However, one is grateful in this difficult country for what opera one can get.

### Miss Gertrude Blomfield.

At Miss Gertrude Blomfield's concert at the Wigmore Hall on November there was a shining array of talent, which, though very pleasing in itself, scarcely seemed to make her own reputation more secure. To hear that fine 'cellist, Mr. Felix Salmond, and that excellent pianist, Mr. Harold Craxton, in Rachmaninoff's Sonata in G minor was a splendid experience; to listen to the pure playing of Mr. Craxton in Purcell and Arne, as revised by himself, was again an unalloyed joy; and to incline one ear towards the mighty Signor Corrado in Stradella, Verdi, and Umberto Giordano, was very good; but one felt that Miss Blomfield's part was too small. She has a pleasing voice, of breadth, though of no great depth, and she sings the English language, at any rate, very well. One sees more and more, however, that Purcell's "Dido's Lament" is really only for the bigger singers, and something like the same is true even of Bridge's "Love Went A-Riding," while half the beauty of Ireland's "The Adoration" lies in the exquisite sequence of the words of Arthur Symons, which must be repeated absolutely correctly (Miss Blomfield unfortunately got the first verse all wrong) if they are not to seem decadent. In duets with Signor Corrado, by Mendelssohn and Mozart, the blend of the two voices was quite surprisingly good, though Miss Blomfield's German is not so good as her English or Italian.

### The London Choral Society.

This society has many good things to its credit, but its performance of Elgar's "Dream of Gerontius" at the Queen's Hall on December 1 cannot be recorded as one of them. The presentation was, in fact, a big disappointment, and one thing alone—the singing of Miss Olga Haley—relieved it from the reproach of being thoroughly plebeian. The conductor (Mr. Arthur Fagge) is dull, prosaic, and too easily contented; the orchestra, a fine contingent from the London Symphony Orchestra, was allowed far too much rope; the choir had been insufficiently disciplined, and had, moreover, poor tone and execrable enunciation; and of the solo artists in this most Catholic of works Mr. John Adams sang like a mild Dissenter and Mr. Robert Radford like an irreverent pagan. The choral singing was badly managed; in those fierce passages where the chorus are representing demons, and in which they appeared to have most varied and contradictory ideas of *staccato* singing, it was indeed devilishly bad. In all this untidy performance there was but one consolation—the chaste and psychologically sound singing of Miss Haley. It is in capturing the mood of Cardinal Newman's poem that the greatness of "The Dream of Gerontius" lies, for Elgar has not succeeded perfectly in presenting all the details ("Softly and gently, dearly-ransomed soul" is an example of this failure), and it was precisely in their inability to realise the essential religious atmosphere of the work that the biggest demerits of the choir lay. A few details were well done, a few climaxes excellently secured, but these were as nothing when the guiding thread was lost.

### Miss Winifred Christie.

In those dim days before the war, Miss Winifred Christie had, I believe, a big reputation as a pianist, and she has recently returned from America to prove that she can sustain it. At the Queen's Hall on December 3 she gave an orchestral concert with Mr. Hamilton Harty conducting the London Symphony Orchestra. It is little detraction to her to say that the main interest lay in Mr. Harty, for after he had commenced the concert with Berlioz's "Beatrice and Benedict," one could not expect better things. Mr. Harty undoubtedly has a *flair* for Berlioz, in whom his genius seems to shine most splendidly. In Beethoven's fourth Concerto Miss Christie showed some neat phrasing, but was a little too unrhythmical in her climaxes, but she was very satisfying in Franck's excellent "Les Djinns"; and the sparkling brilliance of her technique in Liszt's first concerto was a joy.

### The London Chamber Concert Society.

The autumn series of the concerts organised by the London Chamber Concert Society at the Wigmore Hall came to an end on November 30, but it is good to know that another series is to begin next April. At this concert the standard was scarcely maintained. Elgar's beautiful Quartet, Schubert's Quintet (Op. 163), and a Sonata for Violoncello and Pianoforte by Jean Huré were the things performed. It is invidious to say which quartet best interprets Elgar, but certainly it was not this one, which was composed of Miss Marjorie Hayward, Mr. E. Virgo, Mr. Frank Bridge, and Mr. Felix Salmond. Miss Hayward, the leader, has many excellent qualities, but she was too impetuous for Elgar, the playing of whom must have the appearance of spontaneous impulse; and the fervent methods of Mr. Felix Salmond, who was new to this combination (and was also sitting in an outside position), did not blend with those of the rest of the quartet. But matters were very much better in the Schubert, for, apart from some imperfect intonation, the whole was played with a gusto and finish that were utterly delightful. Huré's Sonata, a thin, trivial, pretty thing, seemed out of place at this concert, worthily played though it was by Mr. Salmond and Mr. Craxton, for it has mortality written all over it.

ANDANTE.

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## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**TO-DAY.**

December 9 (New Style).
November 26 (Old Style).
Rabia I. 28, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar Kislev 28, 5681, of the Jewish Calendar.

Mr. Charles Woods left Sofia on November 25 for Bucharest.

Lieut.-General Sir Frederick and Lady McCracken have arrived at the Hôtel St. George, Algiers.

Lord and Lady Carnarvon and their daughter, Lady Evelyn Herbert, are going to Egypt shortly.

Colonel Arion returned to London last week from Japan and visited Prince Nicholas of Roumania at Eton.

The Duke of Roxburghe, whose brother married lately Miss José Collins (the daughter of the late Lottie Collins), is going to Cairo early in January.

Lieut.-General Sir Henry Wilson had on December 3 the honour of being received by the King upon relinquishing his appointment as General Officer Commanding Allied Corps, Turkey-in-Europe.

The British Government has forwarded an expression of its thanks on behalf of the nation to Admiral Sir John de Robeck for his distinguished services as British Commissioner at Constantinople.

Major-General Sir Fabian Ware, Vice-Chairman of the Imperial War Graves Commission, is on a tour of inspection through the Eastern war theatres in connection with the cemeteries to be constructed.

Prince Zeid, youngest son of the King of the Hejaz, left Cairo for Mecca on November 20, accompanied by Emir Jamil, Sheikh Abdelmalek el Khatib (the Hejaz representative in Egypt), and his A.D.C.'s.

M. Mitilineff (the Roumanian Minister to The Hague), Mme. Mitilineff, Mlle. Mitilineff (accompanied by M. Boeresco, Minister Plenipotentiary and Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires) visited the House of Commons last week. The Roumanian Minister to The Hague left London on December 2 for Paris.

M. Boeresco, Minister Plenipotentiary and Chargé d'Affaires of the Roumanian Legation, gave a luncheon last week at which the guests included Albertha Marchioness of Blandford, the Earl of Munster, Countess Percy, the Roumanian Minister to The Hague and Mme. Mitilineff.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (November 22):—

Dr. Seton Watson is now in Bucharest. He will go into Transylvania to study the present situation there, after which he will proceed to Prague.

The well-known Russian author Simion Yuskevici has arrived in Bucharest, and after a short stay will continue his journey to America. In Russia he is classed with Gorki and Andreev.


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## THE ROYAL VISIT TO INDIA.

The programme for the visit of the Duke of Connaught to Delhi has been arranged as follows:

February 7.—Inauguration of the Chamber of Princes and formal reception of Princes.

February 9.—Inauguration of the Council of State and Imperial Legislative Assembly. A State banquet.

February 10.—Presentation of St. John Ambulance Corps badges. Laying of the foundation-stone of the All-India War Memorial on the site of the new city.

February 11.—A State ball.

February 12.—Laying of the foundation-stone of the Legislative Chamber in new Delhi. A military garden party.

February 14.—Garden party in the fort, with illuminations of fireworks.

February 15.—Private departure.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Mr. Addison E. Southard, American Consul, Aden, has been transferred to the American Consulate at Jerusalem.

The appointment of Major-General Sir G. M. Kirkpatrick, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., to be General Officer Commanding the Forces in China, in succession to Major-General F. Ventris, C.B. (retired pay), has been gazetted, dating as from November 20.

The King has approved the appointment of General Sir G. F. Milne, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., D.S.O., to be Lieutenant of the Tower of London, in succession to Lieutenant-General the Earl of Cavan, K.P., G.C.M.G., K.C.B., M.V.O., who has vacated the appointment.

The King has approved of the appointment of Brigadier-General Herbert E. Blumberg, C.B., Royal Marine Light Infantry, to be Adjutant-General, Royal Marines, *vice* the late Major-General Gunning M. Campbell, C.B., A.D.C., to date November 30, 1920. General Blumberg was from July, 1918, G.O.C. in the Ægean Islands and Military Governor of Lemnos, Tenedos, and Imbros.

## OBITUARY.

The death has occurred of Mr. Thomas William Rolleston, who, though best known as an Irish publicist, also did excellent work in helping Mr. Laurence Binyon, Mr. E. B. Havell, Mr. Rothenstein, and Dr. T. W. Arnold to found the India Society, a society which has done much for Indian art and literature.

## ROUMANIAN LIFE AND LANGUAGE.

Lecturing at King's College, London, on December 2, M. Beza said that long before the arrival of the Turks the Roumanians had to form the first guard at the gate of Europe. Tribe after tribe sought its way through Bessarabia or the Dobruja; some disappeared, but others remained, or left deep traces of their influence. Among these were the Slavs, whose language for a long time occupied in Roumania a position similar to that of Norman French in England during the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Slavonian was the sacred language, and even after it had disappeared its characters were used for printing Roumanian, a practice which continued until the middle of the nineteenth century. There were a good many Slavonic words in Roumanian still, but a language was classified chiefly according to its structure. Besides this, most of the words in frequent use, expressing fundamental ideas in life, were from the Latin. The most characteristic feature of Roumania was the peasant, hard-working and simple, dressed in white linen or sheepskin. The peasant would rarely affirm anything confidently—"Perhaps it might be so" was a very common expression. This was because in the past everything had made him suspicious. Some popular proverbs were: "Justice is as the rulers make it," "Thieves increase with the making of new laws," "Thieves nowadays are not in forests but in offices," "The man who goes to law often loses an ox to win a cat." As regards religion, one found in the Roumanian peasant a curious blending of creeds and superstition. Christianity had come to the country through the medium of many heretical sects. Among these were the Bogomils, who taught a sort of dualism; a proverb which showed the effect of their teaching on the peasant's mind ran: "God is great, but the devil is clever." Some proverbs about woman were as follows: "Even the devil cannot escape a woman," "A woman's petticoat is the devil's binder," and "Woman turned the devil's hair white." Roumania was a country which had other interests for us besides its oilfields, its commercial opportunities, and its politicians.

The Principal of King's College, who presided, said that if he was not mistaken the same idea was at the base of the Bogomil teaching as at that of the Albigensian heresy; it was that of two powers, good and evil, engaged in continual struggle. In Southern France the Albigensian heresy had been persecuted out of existence in one of the bloodiest persecutions recorded in history; but in Roumania the Bogomils had been

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tolerated. In the seventeenth century Transylvania was called the Holland of the East; Holland at that time was the most tolerant country of Western Europe.

M. Boerescu (the Roumanian Minister), in moving a vote of thanks, said that his Government would do everything possible to promote intellectual intercourse between that country and England. He had just received a letter to say that his Government had made the necessary arrangements to allow M. Beza to start next month a course of lectures at the Bucharest and Cluj Universities on the romantic periods of English literature, and he had himself obtained permission from the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University for three Roumanian theological students to begin a course there next January.

## THE Y.M.C.A. IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

The need for maintaining Y.M.C.A. work among British troops in Constantinople is emphasised by a representative of the English National Council of Y.M.C.A.s who has just returned from a visit of inspection. In the opinion of a highly placed British officer this is no time for closing down or even reducing the Association's efforts. The centre of Y.M.C.A. work in the city is the Red Triangle Club on the Rue de Pera, the principal street in modern Constantinople. During the week ending November 13 this finely-equipped club and hostel was used by 1,463 British soldiers, besides hundreds of British and American sailors of the navy and mercantile marine, and Indian and Maltese troops—2,323 in all; 1,100 teas and suppers were served during the week, and 450 men attended the Y.M.C.A. cinema. At Mashlak, also, on the outskirts of the city, a valuable work is being done at the 20th Stationary Hospital, while on the other side of the Bosphorus work is still carried on at two camps on the Sea of Marmora—among Indian troops at Bostanjik and with a brigade of artillery stationed opposite the Island of Prinkipo.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Alexandria flower show has been fixed for April 22, 23 and 24.

The International Danube Commission opened its third session at Vienna last week.

Lord Allenby has issued a proclamation ordering the liquidation of Austrian property in Egypt.

Dr. Ansari has been elected president of the Indian Moslem League, which is to meet at Nagpur in December.

A denial has been given in Belgrade to the report that the Serbian Government had not yet repatriated the Bulgarian prisoners of war.

Marshal Izzet Pasha, Minister of the Interior, and his mission left Constantinople last week for Bilejik, to negotiate with the Turkish Nationalists.

Excavations on the site of Volubilis, in Morocco, have revealed inscriptions dating from the reigns of the Gordian Emperors, 235-244 A.D., and also a number of sling-missiles.

The Maharaja of Jaipur has made a gift to the British Government of 3¼ lakhs of rupees (about £24,000), which were due to the State of Jaipur for extra expenditure incurred during the war.

According to the latest reports, the general elections in Yugoslavia for the Constituent Assembly have resulted as follows:—102 Radicals, 94 Democrats, 42 Communists, 51 Croatian Agrarians (Raditch Party), 33 Serb Agrarians, 25 Mohammedans, and 21 Catholic People's Party.

An Encyclical letter has been circulated by the Pope fixing December 21 and 28 for collections in aid of the children, not only of Central Europe, but of all the countries which have suffered through the war. The Pope has contributed 100,000 lire (about £1,050) to the "Save the Children Fund."

In connection with the formation of a Council of State for the administration of Mesopotamia, most cordial messages have been exchanged between Lord Chelmsford and the Nakeeb of Baghdad, in which the latter assures the Viceroy that with the British the Arab nations are striving towards the common end—peace.

News has been received in India from Turkestan that the Bolshevists have issued a proclamation there ordering all women to register themselves for national service. Moslem women have also been forcibly unveiled, and Bolshevist female orators are urging the women to desert their husbands unless they are given full liberties.

According to the *Journal*, Tangier was struck on November 27 by a huge waterspout. The ensuing floods burst open doors and dislodged pavements. Several houses collapsed. In the town itself three persons were killed by the falling of a wall, and in the surrounding country two children and several natives were drowned.

The Geneva correspondent of the *Morning Post* states that the new Greek Government contemplates sending to London as Chargé d'Affaires and successor to M. Caclamanos, M. Rangabé, who, he affirms, "was placed by M. Venizelos on the retired list for displaying too marked sympathies for the Constantinist régime and its German friends."

## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers Companions, Secretaries, Governesses. Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

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## THE POWERS AND GREECE.

The Entente Powers were admittedly confronted with an embarrassing situation when Greece rejected M. Venizelos at the general election and left no room for doubt as to her wish to recall ex-King Constantine. There were two obvious courses of action open, supported respectively by the French and by the Italian Government: to veto the return of the ex-monarch or to do nothing. The British Government, as far as is known, had no definite views; but as a result of the conference in London the three Powers have agreed upon a compromise. Ex-King Constantine's return is not to be forcibly opposed; but the Greeks have been informed that his restoration to the Throne could only be regarded as a ratification by Greece of his hostile acts; and the communication added: "This step would create a new and unfavourable situation in the relations between Greece and the Allies, and in that case the three Governments reserve to themselves complete liberty in dealing with the situation thus created." The message was despatched to Greece in time for the plebiscite held on Sunday on the ex-King's recall. It was clearly the hope of the three Governments that the vague threat might influence the decision of the Greek people, and so extricate the Powers out of a dilemma which they could not, or dared not, face in a constructive, a generous, or a courageous spirit. Only subsequently was the Greek Government notified that the financial support hitherto given to Greece by Great Britain and France, in conjunction with the United States, whose share has already been handed over, is to be suspended. As far as the first message was concerned, the Greek people were left in the dark as to the pains and penalties to which they were exposing themselves at the hands of the Entente Powers in the event of their gratifying the national desire to see ex-King Constantine recalled. The course taken by the three Governments seems to us to be neither fair, dignified nor practical. It was unfair, because, reaching the Greeks at the eleventh hour, it afforded no clear indication of the form that the Allies' displeasure might assume, so as to admit of a reasoned choice; it was undignified, having regard to the relative positions of the three Powers and Greece, with or without King Constantine; and it certainly does not help to solve a difficult problem. We had hoped that the *amour propre* of the three Governments, to say nothing of their intelligence, would have saved them from placing themselves in a false position. The British Cabinet has sought to justify the Near Eastern settlement as being based on the definite policy of giving support to a strong Greece. On the strength of a single election it is prepared to denounce the Greece of its own creation, and to antagonise for all time the people it has favoured at the risk of offending millions of British subjects. Mr. Lloyd George, we are told, at a meeting of the Allied statesmen spoke as one inspired in his denunciation of ex-King Constantine. A more valuable, if more difficult, contribution to the discussion, we are inclined to think, would have been an attempt to suggest a consistent and harmonious policy for the Allies in the Near East.

By their plebiscite the Greeks have decided to stand or fall by King Constantine. The result was foreseen by M. Venizelos, and it would be imagined that the Allied Governments could have evolved a better plan of campaign than to indulge in vague threats against a people whom a few weeks previously they had flattered as the salt of the earth, or at least of the Near East. A more straightforward course of action would have been to admit the disillusionment caused by the Greek elections, and then to have examined *de novo* the whole situation with regard to Greece. If the Allies' favourite *protégé* in the Near East at the first available opportunity records its whole-hearted devotion to a Sovereign whose attitude and conduct during the war were held by the Allies to have been disloyal to them and to have caused them "great embarrassment and loss," it would seem to stand to reason that the Allies' estimate either of the Sovereign or of the *protégé* must have been at fault. If the former, an occasion presented itself of correcting a misunderstanding, and the Allies could have counted upon a loyal and united Greece; if, on the other hand, it could be shown that the Allies were ill-advised to take Thrace from the Bulgarians and Turks, and Smyrna from the Turks, then the only statesmanlike course to adopt would be to rescind or revise the mistaken treaties. It is difficult to see how the step taken by the three Governments satisfies either their intellect or their conscience, and they must be prepared for the widely-held belief that in regard to all Near Eastern affairs they have proved themselves to lack both. We hold no brief for King Constantine; but we do not think that Greece is being treated fairly by the Allied Powers. If the ex-monarch had to be recalled, it was a comparatively easy matter to enforce safeguards and to obtain guarantees for his good behaviour. By their present action the three Powers merely "put the backs up" of both King and people, leaving Greece's future policy to be prompted by pique rather than to be conceived in a broad-minded spirit for the good of the Near East as a whole. For, let there be no mistake, even if ex-King Constantine were to refuse to return to Greece, the resentment or worse will abide in the country.

As things are, the Allies have merely made a confused situation worse confounded. Having entrusted Greece with certain responsibilities in connection with the Treaty of Sèvres, they withdraw their confidence and support from her, but hesitate to revise the Treaty. This action is not calculated to make Mustapha Kemal more reasonable or to hasten the return to settled conditions in Turkey. If the additional folly of withholding the balance of the credits opened in Great Britain and France for the Greek Government is persisted in, one of the first consequences will be a fresh fall in the value of the drachma and further disabilities on Allied trade, chiefly on British trade, in the Levant. And what is the end in view? The Allied Governments apparently have none. If King Constantine and the Greek people suddenly acquire the disposition and attributes of archangels, it will make no difference to the Allied Powers. Such at least is the only possible inference to be drawn from the wisdom of the three Governments. King Constantine's crimes were wrought during the war, the Greek people's at the recent election. They can never expiate them, in the opinion of Mr. Lloyd George, M. Leygues, and Count Sforza. If these statesmen held other views, they would, at least, have waited until further offences had been committed, or would have threatened definite pains and penalties for such offences when committed or contemplated. The mistake has been not to distinguish between arbitrary action on the part of an ex-King expelled from his country and the deliberate choice of a people. It would seem to have been overlooked in the Council Chamber of Downing Street that the very wrekin has echoed with the dogma of self-determination, and that the self-same wiseacres, having decreed that neither they nor the Greeks must have anything to do with ex-King Constantine, proceeded without a pause to discuss how they might most profitably allow their hands to be grasped by Messrs. Lenin and Trotsky.

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# OUR ARAB ALLIES.

## "The Word of an Englishman."

The Emir Faisal arrived in this country last week, in order, it was semi-officially announced, to thank King George for presents lately sent to his father, King Hussein. Nobody who has followed the Arab question at all closely will have felt any surprise that our Government should have taken advantage of his presence to consult him regarding the unsettled condition of Mesopotamia and other allied subjects. THE NEAR EAST has endeavoured to keep before its readers the importance of the Arab factor in the great problem of the after-war settlement, and the present time, when there is talk of readjustment in many directions, would seem to be a suitable one for putting forward briefly the Arab view on certain phases of the problem. If justice is to be done, and if Great Britain's reputation for honourable dealing is not to be severely shaken throughout the Near and Middle East, this view must be taken into account, faced squarely, and either acknowledged to be right or be shown to be wrong. We are dealing with a people who hold very strong ideas on the subject of honour, and who do not understand the subtleties of modern diplomacy.

Put as briefly as possible, the unrest that is now so noticeable in the Arab world is very largely attributable to the Arabs' belief that we and our Allies have failed to keep certain definite promises that we made to them when we wanted their aid in the war. We do not say that they are right, but undoubtedly they believe that they are right; and, unless the powers that be are keeping back relevant facts of importance, we should find it hard to show that they were wrong.

They point out that negotiations were carried on early in 1915 between King Hussein (then Grand Shereef) and the British Government, on whose behalf the High Commissioner in Egypt, Sir Henry McMahon, acted. The result of those negotiations, they hold, was agreement on the following lines:—

(1) The establishment of an Arab kingdom, extending from the Persian Gulf to the limits of Cilicia, including Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, and Homs, up to the frontier of Egypt, with a special administration for the vilayets of Busreh and Baghdad, to be arranged with the Grand Shereef at the end of the war.

(2) The Shereef left open the question of the Lebanon, Beyrout, and its coast and its possible cession to France; but in the picturesque Arab phrase he merely "averted his eyes," and frankly warned us that after the Armistice he would reopen the subject.

(3) The British Government undertook to support the Arab kingdom, to give it advice, to protect it from foreign attacks; and the Arabs, on their side, were to accept only British advisers.

Two points emerge from the correspondence between the Grand Shereef and the High Commissioner: first, that the former constantly pressed for *explicit* statements; and secondly, that he was very anxious to have dealings with no other European nation than Great Britain. The High Commissioner, in a letter written at the end of October, expressed his thanks for the Shereef's desire to avoid doing anything that might injure the Franco-British Alliance, which, as the negotiations had shown, we were concerned to safeguard.

The date of these negotiations is important—from the Arab point of view extremely so—for they contend that nothing in the Sykes-Picot Agreement (made in May, 1916) can afford any excuse for our failure to observe pledges solemnly entered into six or seven months earlier. Moreover, they declare that when King Hussein first heard of the Sykes-Picot Agreement—through Jemal Pasha, who got his information from the Bolshevists—he called the attention of the British High Commissioner to it, and received a reply which set his mind at rest. This reply (they say) stated that Jemal Pasha had got hold of a provisional undertaking between France, Russia, and Great Britain, designed to prevent difficulties arising between them; that he had, wilfully or through ignorance, distorted its purpose, and, especially, that he had omitted reference to stipulations contained in it, safeguarding the interests of native populations, and providing that their consent should be obtained for arrangements suggested. Finally, the reply recognised that the withdrawal of Russia and the success of the Arab revolt had put an entirely different complexion on affairs. In the Arab view, these statements and admissions make it clearly impossible for anything in the Sykes-Picot Agreement to stand in the way of the fulfilment of Great Britain's pledges to themselves. They took up arms on the strength of certain promises made to them by the Grand Shereef, and those promises were based on pledges given to him by Great Britain. It has never been suggested that the Arabs did not perform their part of the bargain, and any arrangement subsequently entered into with a third party cannot, naturally, take precedence over the earlier one with them.

In addition to the correspondence and agreement between the Grand Shereef and Sir Henry McMahon, the Arabs cite assurances given to certain Syrians of Cairo in June, 1917, to the effect that pre-war Arab States and Arab regions freed by military action of their inhabitants during the war should remain entirely independent. They also refer to the Anglo-French Declaration of November, 1918, promising to encourage native government in Mesopotamia and Syria,* whose people were to choose their governments freely for themselves. And, again, they will tell you that British Ministers have since that date renewed the promises—Mr. Lloyd George, for example, in September, 1919, and Lord Curzon a month later.

"Now," they ask, "where is the independent Arab kingdom? What of Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Damascus?" With regard to Mesopotamia they are less restive than with regard to Syria and Palestine, partly because they remember the British stipulations (referred to above) concerning the Busreh and Baghdad vilayets, and partly because they recognise that the British, who are there now, freed the country from Turkey by force of arms. The latter consideration holds good to some extent with regard to Palestine, though it would be idle to pretend that the Arabs anywhere accept the present arrangement with anything like contentment. But in Syria things are very different. There they see installed the French, who (they say) so far from sending an army to rescue the country were glad to receive help from Europe, Asia and America to keep the enemy from their own capital; they see that General Gouraud's army has forcibly occupied the towns specifically promised to themselves; and they most bitterly resent the high-handed treatment meted out to Faisal, the King chosen for themselves by the Syrians, and the man who fought loyally side by side with the British. If you should point out that the French are acting under a mandate, they ask you whether the mandate was drawn up and approved by the League of Nations, or whether its terms are those of a conqueror. According to the Covenant of the League of Nations, they remind you, the wishes of the people concerned must be a principal consideration in the enforcing of a mandate, but the only effort to ascertain the wishes of the people of Syria was that made by a United States commission in 1919. The Arabs were given to understand that the report of that commission would guide the Peace Conference when it was deciding the future of the country. The report has never been published, but it is generally known that it was by no means favourable to France. Why is it still kept secret?

The story of what happened in Syria between the time of its evacuation by British troops (November, 1919) and the occupation of Damascus by the French (July, 1920) is too long to be retold here, however briefly; but its effect upon the Arab mind was very marked, and from the point of view of our interests very deplorable. For, it must be clearly understood, the Arabs hold us responsible, and consider that we have failed to redeem our pledges to them. King Hussein has steadily maintained the attitude that he has nothing to do with any other Power than Great Britain. It is an open secret that he once wrote that even if arrangements more favourable to himself and his country should be made by the Peace Conference and not communicated to him through Great Britain

* See THE NEAR EAST, November 15 1918.

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he considered that he would be denied the mercy of God if he should accept such an arrangement—meaning, of course, that he would thereby be going behind the back of the friend to whom he had entrusted his case. The Emir Faisal, too, declares that he attended the Conference only because Great Britain insisted on it. It is to Great Britain, therefore, that they look for justice. If the feeling that they have not received it is allowed to remain, the consequences may be very serious. On the face of it, it looks as if a very bad blunder had been made somewhere in the business. The presence of the Emir Faisal in London may afford an opportunity to put the matter right. It has been suggested that he should be given the rulership of Mesopotamia. That is a question for the people of Mesopotamia, the Emir himself, and the British Government. But in any case such an appointment would not dispose of the difficulty regarding Syria and Palestine. The only way out of that trouble would be for us to face it squarely, to take France into our fullest confidence, and to stand by our word at all costs. If our word has not been given as represented, if the Arabs' point of view is mistaken, it should not be impossible to make the mistake apparent to them—and to the East generally. Unless that is done the expression "the word of an Englishman" may change its signification for the Oriental world.

## THE EMIR FAISAL.

The Emir Faisal arrived in London on December 2 from the Continent. General Haddad Pasha met his Royal Highness at Dover and accompanied him to Victoria Station, which was reached at a quarter past nine. The Emir Faisal, who was attended by Tahsin Bey, Commandant Kadry, and Salah Izzeddin (Secretary), was met by Sir Edward Wallington, who represented the King, Mr. J. B. Monck (representing the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs), and Major A. Dawnay (representing the War Office). He has taken up residence at 12a, Berkeley Square.

On Friday the Emir, accompanied by General Haddad and members of his staff, laid a wreath on the Cenotaph and another on the Unknown Warrior's grave. Both wreaths were bound with ribbons in the Arab colours—black, white, green and crimson. Afterwards the Emir walked round the Abbey and inspected the monuments, being specially interested in that of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

On Saturday the Emir was received by the King, in attendance on whom were Lord Curzon and the gentlemen of the Royal Household. The Emir, in the course of a speech of thanks, which was translated by General Haddad, emphasised the loyalty of King Hussein and the Shereefian family to His Britannic Majesty, and expressed his father's hope that the British and Arab peoples would remain united in the bonds of friendship.

On Sunday the Emir left cards on the Prince of Wales, Queen Alexandra, the Prime Minister, Mr. Bonar Law, Lord Curzon, Lord Milner, and several private friends.

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# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

### "Nationalist" Spleen.

A correspondent sends us the following translation of a note which appeared in the Angora newspaper, *Hakimet i Millie*, of October 23. It is interesting, as our correspondent observes, as giving some indication of Nationalist mentality:—

The rumour of Damad Ferid Pasha's fall has been in circulation for the past few days, and yesterday the news was confirmed by the Anatolian Agency (The Nationalist Press Bureau). As a matter of fact, his colleagues and friends in Stambul had turned against him, and his fall was expected. The Stambul newspapers attribute his fall to reasons of health, but it is clear that this is not the real reason. In any case, the fall of Damad Ferid Pasha's Cabinet is of no great importance to us, for our real enemy is England. All these changes are part of the ruses and tricks of the British. Therefore, all that concerns us in regard to the fall of Damad Ferid Pasha is to ascertain exactly what the British finger is seeking to obtain. We shall soon know.

### The East: Great Britain and France.

In an article entitled "The Next War in Russia," the *Nation* of November 27 unloads characteristically some of its views upon the state of the world. Commenting upon the various policies advocated by the Allied Powers for the settlement of the Near East, it says:—

We have no word to write in defence of British policy in Turkey. It has been governed from start to finish by economic and strategic Imperialism, it has betrayed humanity in the persons of the Armenians, while also wronging the Turks and estranging India. None the less, in this crisis of the moment the worse danger by far is the policy of France. It is logical and well thought out, as ours is not. France is aiming, over the body of Turkey, at Russia. She is quite right in thinking the Turks important in that connection. Win them over, and the conquest of the Caucasus would be easy. Save the Armenians and another step would give you the oil of Baku, and the loss of that fuel would bring the reviving transport system of Russia once more into chaos. Then toss your Wrangel once more into the Crimea, and if you could revive 1854 exactly, by sending some Turks to back him, so much the better. It is probably the best of the many schemes yet devised, and can always be completed by a subsidised *coup d'état* at Warsaw, which would again bring the French party in Poland to power. Then, of course, the Poles would renew their war.

We are not speculating without data. Already, before the last of Wrangel's refugees has been put into quarantine in Turkey for typhus and smallpox, the French have begun to reorganise his army. They mean, under the eyes of the international control, under the ægis of the League of Nations, to use Constantinople as a basis for the next war on Russia. That mania obsesses them, and they have no thought of desisting. Their Eastern course, in itself rather madder than ours, but a trifle more plausible, is in reality only a phase of their anti-Russian policy. They press it with skilful speeches at Geneva. They back it with Cabinet intrigues and Press propaganda in London. They mean to see it through. To this policy of ruin Mr. Lloyd George, absorbed in terrorising Ireland, opposes only a fitful and nerveless resistance. It means, if it goes on, a division of Europe, more deep cut than the division of the war itself. If they can make the League of Nations an accomplice in this war upon Socialist Russia (and that is plainly their aim), they will have branded it as a militant, capitalistic organisation. That taunt was uttered by Lenin long ago. It will be justified if the League lends itself to this Eastern policy. There is just one feasible way of saving Armenia, and that is to make peace with Russia. French leadership might convert the League into the ideal of the less far-seeing portion of the Middle Class. But Labour would be driven to take Lenin's view of it. The alternative would then present itself, with a sharpness worthy of French logic, between the two Internationals. The League would be an item in French militarist plans, and the hope of the capitalist die-hards. Over against it, as the one inevitable alternative, would stand the Moscow International. Our helplessness and inefficiency in this crisis will mean, perhaps, that Russia has a hard time before her, but it may mean also that the Russian idea of a Continental revolution is many stages nearer realisation. A League that challenged Labour, excluded Germany, and sanctioned war on Russia, would be all that the most unrelenting Marxist could desire. It would be the class war made international.

### Egypt.

The December number of the *Round Table* contains a very sound, impartial article upon "Egypt a Nation." The various stages in the story of Great Britain and Egypt are interestingly set out. Here is an example:—

From about 1885 onwards, in reports from Egypt and in public and private utterances at home, one notes the idea of our occupation as a mere means for restoring order beginning to pass into an idea that we were there to develop the country and its people towards self-government on British lines. Fired with the ideal of making—in Ismail's phrase—a piece of Africa into a piece of Europe, the first generation of our administrators laid out large plans and dug foundations wide and deep. Measures for attaining the very best began to be mooted, which presupposed large expenditure over long periods, and such political stability as only an established system of European

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government could guarantee. Such a measure, for example, was the damming of the Nile. It was not then held axiomatic that, if a western occupation of an eastern land is ever to be brought naturally and easily to a close, not the absolutely best possible system of administration should be aimed at, but the best which Orientals have the capacity to handle by themselves. Still less was it held that second-rate government by natives is better for any land in the long run than first-rate government by aliens—for the simple reason that with the former alone will the people ever identify itself. Having no such views as these, being without ulterior imperialist designs and only concerned to do what was to their hand in the best possible way, our administrators went ahead with the Europeanisation of Egypt.

The changes in the psychology of the Egyptians during the late war are well described, showing on what easy material the leaders of the rebellion of March, 1919, had to work:

In the warlike atmosphere of the last four years Egypt had come to be treated as a subject land, and the foreign force as a whole, and some of its overseas elements in particular, knowing nothing about fine distinctions between Occupation, Protectorate, or Imperial Possession, had not been considerate of native feeling. There was discontent about the original recruitment of *fellahin* for the Labour Corps, their long service in a colder, wetter climate, and some injustices they had suffered here and there at the hands of Levantine gangers; but, in fact, less than has been alleged, for this service proved profitable and was cheerfully performed by the majority. There was some resentment, too, at an impolitic collection for the Red Cross; but this affected comparatively few. None of these griefs, nor all together, would have been sufficient to provoke an outbreak. They only added heat to a fire which had long been burning but banked down.

Coming to the Milner-Zaghloul proposals, it says:—

We approve, and have always approved, the institution of responsible self-government in every country which has arrived at a common national consciousness and developed common patriotic spirit in a sufficient number of its citizens possessing such education and experience as qualify them to assume its administration. It is the opinion of the Commission that the position is such as to justify the establishment of responsible government in Egypt; and we would welcome a generous measure; but at the same time it remains to be seen whether an electorate competent to form the basis of genuine responsible government can be developed. Mandarin government will not endure. We cannot, moreover, blind ourselves to the probability that, for some time to come, at any rate, its internal government will be distinctly less efficient than it has been, even allowing for the considerable defects of the latter years of our own control.

### Allied Policy in the Near East.

The *Saturday Review* of November 27 has the following comment upon the problem arising out of the fall of M. Venizelos:—

It would seem, therefore, that before things get any worse there are open to the Allies two courses which, if speedily adopted, might mitigate the evil effects which menace the prosperity of the Near East. The first is to hasten by every known means the creation in Asia Minor of the Arab States, so long hoped for, yet so long deferred. If sympathetically directed, these might prove an effective buffer against Bolshevism in countries where, both by tradition and religion, there should be a natural antagonism to a form of government based upon an ill-digested mass of the crudest theories of Western intellectual superiority. The second remedy should be to give open support immediately to the members of the Petit Entente, which might, hereafter, become an important Balkan Federation of States, with a political and commercial future before it that would make Greece pause before she threw her fate and her fortunes into the other camp. These proposals can be but palliatives for the mischief which the events of the past month have disclosed, but even such remedies are worth consideration when it is too late to find a cure.

### Palestine.

The *Manchester Guardian* of December 4 has an article upon Palestine in which it insists upon the duties of Great Britain in assisting the rebirth of the Jewish Nation. It begins:—

The great enterprise of the conversion of Palestine from a poor and almost derelict province of the Ottoman Empire into the home of a nation equipped with all the machinery of an advanced modern State has reached a decisive point. This great transformation can take place only with the aid and under the direction of Great Britain, and it is Great Britain which must prepare the terms of the "mandate" under which the country is to be held and the process of conversion to begin. . . . Much progress has been made, and Palestine has already become the most peaceful and progressive part of the late Ottoman Empire. This is a beginning, but it is only a beginning, and everything now depends on the facilities to be given under the mandate now in course of preparation by our Foreign Office for Jewish enterprise and for the economic development of the country. The Jewish people have already discovered in the course of their history that bricks cannot be made without straw, and it is a vital condition for the success of this great undertaking that the terms of the mandate should recognise fully and clearly the great principle of policy which has inspired the Jewish people all over the world with enthusiasm and the spirit of self-sacrifice, and should embody the material conditions necessary as a foundation for the new order.

### Articles to Note.

"The Egyptian Situation," by Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, K.C.M.G., in the *Fortnightly Review* (December).

"Egypt and the Milner Proposals," by the Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., in the *Nineteenth Century* (December).

## TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

*The subjoined headings are those given in the official report*:—

PEACE TREATIES: Turkey. ARMENIA. MESOPOTAMIA: Barracks and Cantonments.—Barbed Wire.—Rupee (Exchange Rate). BRITISH ARMY: Mesopotamia and Persia (Casualties). EGYPT. ASIA MINOR (GREEK ARMY). (November 30).

MESOPOTAMIA. INDIA: North-West Frontier (Raids).—India Stores, Belvedere Road. LEAGUE OF NATIONS: Palestine and Mesopotamia Mandates.—ARMENIA. INDIA: Burma, Constitution.—Burma (Rice Control).—Crime. Malta (Tobacco Imports). (December 1).

ALBANIA: PALESTINE, ZIONIST MOVEMENT. INDIA: Dr. S. Bose (Passport). ASIA MINOR (MUNITIONS). (December 2.)

INDIA: Civil Service Pensions.—Officer's Effects (Lieutenant C. F. Leese). (December 3.)

## CHESS.

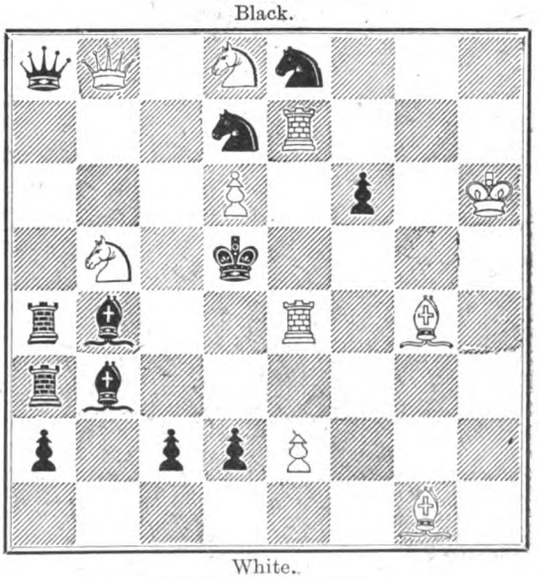
The first stage of the championship tournament of the City of London Chess Club is now nearing its end, and it is at any rate possible to forecast the leaders in the three heats. Mr. Herbert Jacobs leads in Section A, Sir G. A. Thomas in Section B, and Mr. Ross in Section C, and it would appear probable that they will now maintain their position to the end.

The Metropolitan championship is not yet sufficiently far advanced for any detailed comment, and I will only point out now that Mr. R. H. V. Scott has made a very good start, and from the way in which he has won his games it is evident that he will make a bold bid to recover his title. In due course I hope to give a number of games from this and the City competition.

The London League competition, so far as it has gone, would seem to bear out my prediction that the Metropolitan club will have a good deal to say with regard to the destination of the trophy. The club has so far won all its matches very easily, and on present form would appear to have the strongest team in the League.

PROBLEM No. 27.

Black.



White.

White to mate in two.

The above problem by M. Paluzie won a prize in the third national Spanish Tournament.

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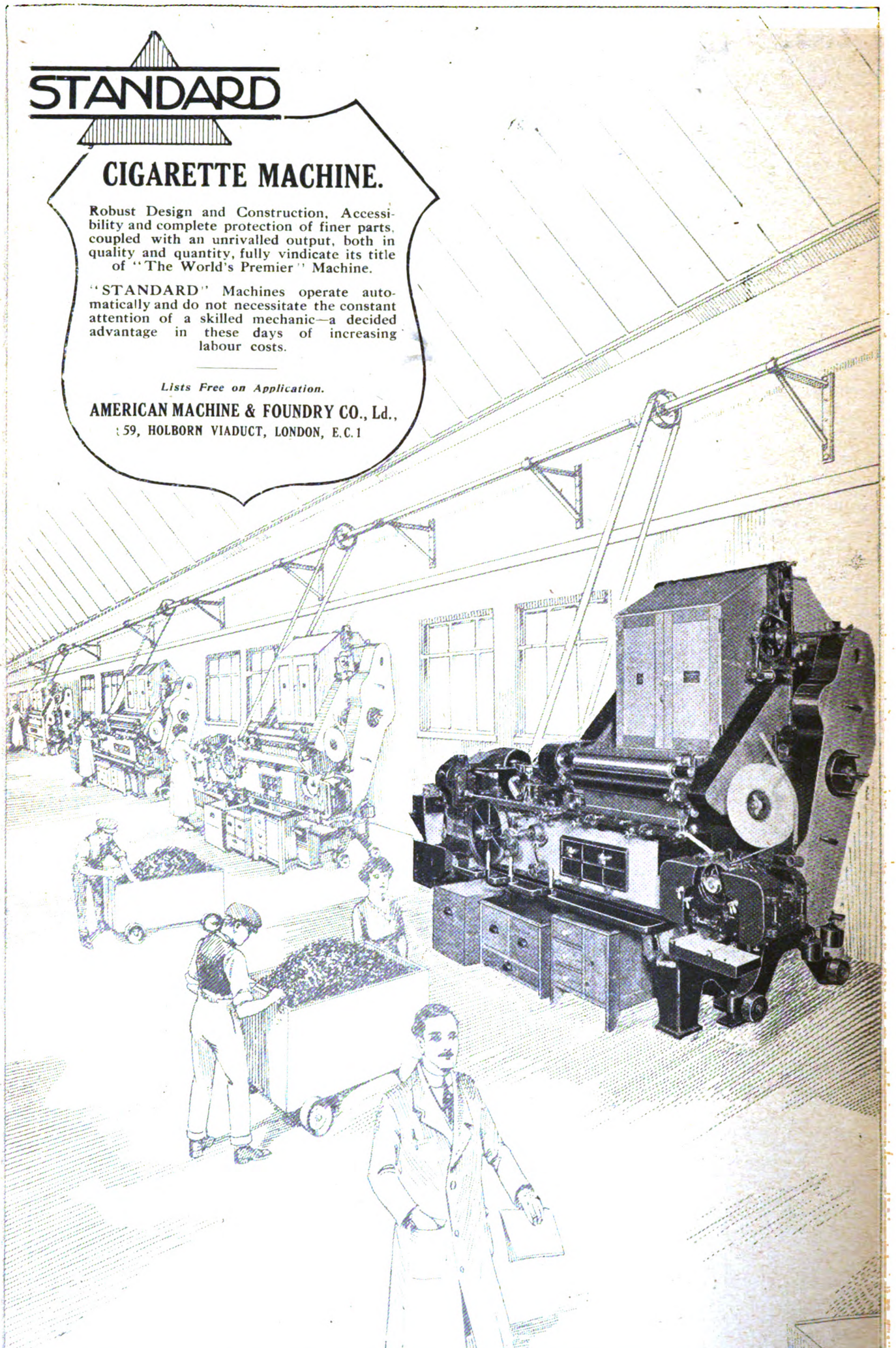

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

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***An Oil Rumour.***

It was to be expected that the despatch of the American note on the oil question would give rise to rumours of various descriptions, and it was, therefore, with no surprise that I read the report from Washington that it was understood that the British Government had decided to sell out all its interests in the oil-producing business. Now that meant, if it meant anything, that the Government intended to withdraw from participation in the Anglo-Persian enterprise, which of itself was enough to contradict the report, for there is no conceivable reason in the world why the Government should do any such thing merely because America happens to have an eye on the Mesopotamian oilfields. Needless to say, no credence was attached to the report in responsible quarters, and it was not long before an emphatic denial was forthcoming of any such intentions on the part of the Government.

***

***The Prosperity of Cyprus.***

It is evident from the White Paper on Cyprus, which is dealt with elsewhere in these columns, that during the past year Cypriots had little reason to grumble at conditions in the island. Trade expanded considerably, and the revenue return was excellent, there being for the third year in succession a satisfactory balance on the right side. The agriculturists as a whole benefited by the increased prices obtained for their produce, and it is pointed out that their improved standard of living has been maintained, while, as showing the general prosperity, reference is made to the large imports of motor-cars into the island. The one fly in the ointment during the year was the steady rise in the cost of living, which Cyprus as well as every other district in the world has had to face. This was particularly in evidence as regards bread, owing to the effect of drought on the cereal harvest, and this called for special measures on the part of the authorities. But this temporary misfortune was far more than compensated for in other directions, and I should imagine that most Cypriots, looking back at the constantly growing prosperity of the island under British protection during recent years, must now be of the opinion that they could scarcely expect such favourable conditions under any other rule.

***

***Sudan Trade Expansion.***

The figures for the trade of the Sudan for the first eight months of this year reveal a remarkably satisfactory state of affairs. In regard to both imports and exports a marked expansion is recorded, but the principal increase has been in exports, and while for the corresponding period of 1909 there was a large balance of trade against the Sudan, this has now been reduced to comparatively small proportions. The imports have risen from £E3,048,014 to £E4,431,734, while the exports show the remarkable increase of from £E1,790,925 to £E3,889,675. A particularly noteworthy feature of the returns is that the trade continues to be mainly within the Empire, Egypt heading the list of countries from which the Sudan draws its supplies, with the United Kingdom and India and Aden second and third respectively far above all other countries, while in countries importing goods from the Sudan the United Kingdom now takes the first place, with Egypt a good second, the two between them accounting for £E3,548,242, leaving only an insignificant portion for other countries.

***

***Arabs and Government Arak.***

One scarcely expects to find anything amusing in Blue-books; but I fancy that those who know the Arabs would be immensely entertained by reading the somewhat dry description in the report of the Revenue Department of the Occupied Territory of Mesopotamia, which was reviewed in these columns last week, of licensing reforms in the Busreh district. The Busreh arak monopoly expired early last year, and the still head duty system was inaugurated, a contract being given to a company for the manufacture of the liquor at 25 degrees under London proof spirit. For the first month of the new system the duty on sales exceeded Rs.34,000, but in the following month it fell to Rs.19,000, and in the third month there was a further drop to Rs.17,500. The reasons for this were that the Arab found his arak too weak, and that the new arak did not contain the popular flavours, and the consequence was that he was turning to cheap imported liquors, chiefly whisky. It was then decided to permit the distillation of arak at 10 degrees under London proof, and so for the fourth month there was a rapid rise in the duty to Rs.25,000.

***

***Egyptian Salt and Soda.***

The year ended August 31, 1918, marked the climax of the war-time prosperity of the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company. The results of that period enabled a dividend of 60 per cent. to be declared, but in the following year there was a decline in the net profits, and there was a reduction of 15 per cent. in the dividend. The results of the past year show a further decrease in net profits to £E207,301, and it is now proposed to pay a dividend of 30 per cent., so that in two years the dividend will have been reduced by half. As the allocations include £E15,371 for depreciation, £E7,762 for writing down investments, £E7,000 for provision for eventualities, and £E40,000 transferred to reserve to meet the expenditure towards the completion of the Moharrem Bey works, and £E115,520 is carried forward, as against £123,957 brought in, it will be seen that the proposed distribution is well within the compass of the company.

***

***Lord Bessborough.***

Widespread regret will be felt at the death of Lord Bessborough, K.P., C.V.O., C.B., which occurred suddenly at Birmingham last week. A man of wide and varied financial and business activities, he was specially concerned with Near Eastern affairs, in which he took a particular interest, and he was chairman of the Bank of Roumania and also a director of the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

***

***Roumanian Consolidated.***

In February, 1919, the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields regained possession of its oil properties, and the report which has just been issued shows that since that time rapid strides have been made with the work of reconstruction. Since the Armistice a large part of £1,000,000 has been expended, and the result of the efforts of the company is that the concern, given favourable developments in Roumania, is now within sight of a period when the production should reach record figures. The company has issued 200,000 £1 shares for cash, and has also borrowed about £200,000, whilst its available resources, including the proceeds of its oil production, it is pointed out, have been expended in new machinery and plant and in development, and there are still considerable sums to pay for machinery and tools already ordered, and for transport to Roumania. A further £250,000, it is estimated, will be required to complete the programme of reconstruction.

***

***The Company's Claim.***

The above figures are compared in the report with those given in the company's claim, and it is pointed out that the value of the stores of oil and refined products included in the destruction was approximately £185,000. Twenty-five thousand tons of petroleum have been produced since the Armistice, representing, at £8 per ton, £200,000. These


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


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figures, with the amount previously stated, bring the total to £1,035,000, as against £1,072,000 in the claim. The balance of the company's total claim of £1,270,724 consists of two years' average profits during the period, while the machinery, tools, etc., were being manufactured and exported to Roumania and fixed *in situ* ready for work, to which would require to be added interest on loss of profits during the years which have elapsed while payment has been withheld. It is maintained that these figures go to prove that the valuations of the assets which the British Military Mission destroyed amount almost to the same sum as the actual and estimated cost of the reconstruction work now being carried on, but it is emphasised that to-day's prices are much above the values stated in the claim as at the time of destruction. It is explained that the difference is accounted for by the fact that certain portions of the destroyed works are not so far included in the programme of reconstruction, and there is only to be one refinery as against two. The position with regard to the company's claim against the Government is then briefly dealt with in the report. At the instance of the company the matter came before the High Court in March, and a verdict was given for the company. It was understood that counsel for both sides would confer together with the object of ascertaining the amount payable. No such conference took place, and the Crown has now given notice of appeal.

COMMENTATOR.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cable, received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated November 29.—Crop prospects generally fair, but rain urgently required in North-Western India, Bombay, and Central Provinces, and parts of Central India, Bihar and Orissa, and West Bengal. During the week ending November 27 rainfall heavy and general in South Madras. Bombay cotton ready market quiet but steady. Fine M G Oomra number three spot rate Rs.280. Piecegoods market further weakened by further fall in exchange. Some retail inquiry. Calcutta jute market slightly steadier. Hessians dull, with practically no business, but with prices steady. Heavy goods quiet, with moderate inquiry for heavy Cees for next year. The preceding week's rate of 7 per cent. in Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras remains unchanged. Price of paddy in Rangoon has fallen to Rs.125 per 100 baskets owing to the announcement of the cessation of control between India and Burma on January 1, 1921. Until very recently the price was Rs.180.

It is reported that the Yugoslav Government have commissioned a French group to work out the plans for a Danube-Salonika Canal 600 km. in length, capable of being navigated by vessels of 10,000 tons.

Telegraphic rates to Algeria and Tunis are now 3d. a word.

A report from Brussels states that the Belgian Government are making considerable purchases of wheat from Yugoslavia.

Two thousand five hundred tons of chrome ore, of the value of 365,000 drachmæ, were exported from Volo in July to America. This was the only shipment made during the six months, April-September.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railway for the week ended November 10 amounted to £E19,343, making the total for the year £E306,459. For the corresponding periods of 1919 the totals were £E18,356 and £E193,683.

The capital of the Union Cotton Co. of Alexandria has been raised to £E200,000.

The India Office reports: Treasury bills outstanding on March 31, 1920, Rs.52,96,60,000; issued from April 1 to November 27, 1920, Rs.91,85,90,000; total, Rs.144,82,50,000. Discharged from April 1 to November 27, Rs.46,30,50,000; outstanding on November 27, 1920, Rs.98,52,00,000.

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## SERBIAN STATE BONDS.

### PAYMENT OF COUPONS.

The Yugoslav Ministry of Finance has issued the following statement:—

From the beginning of the Great War we have always remitted to the banks the necessary sums for the payment of the annuities. In the beginning of the war the Serbian Government put at the disposition of the French banks the whole annuity for the loans issued in France, as well as for the loans issued in Germany and France. After July, 1916, the Allies handed over the necessary sums for the annuities direct to the banks, with the exception of the parts of the annuities which belonged to the emissions issued in hostile countries.

A great many owners of Serbian State bonds apply to this Ministry direct or through our Legations abroad asking for the payment of their coupons of our pre-war loans for the period from January 1, 1915, to July 1, 1919, with the notification that the banks in Paris refused to pay out the coupons, stating that the sums destined for the payment of these coupons have been consumed. To prove the readiness of our Government to meet all obligations, and that they keep in sight the interest of the owners of our bonds, the Minister of Finance has issued the following ordinance, sub. D.K. 6227, on November 3, 1920:—

All the coupons of our pre-war loans for the period from January 1, 1915, to July 1, 1919, which were unpaid have to be paid exclusively at the head office of the Ministry of Finance in Belgrade.

In order that it may be established if the coupons which have to be paid belonged before the war to subjects of Allied countries, it is necessary to send to the Ministry of Finance with the coupons also the corresponding bonds, as, according to the Peace Treaty, subjects of the ex-enemy countries have no right to demand the payment of the coupons. The owners are bound to prove by certificates that they owned the coupons before the war, and to state where these coupons were paid to them before the war.

## TENDERS INVITED.

**Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—**

**Egypt.**

(*The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked* (*L*) *are to be obtained.*)

Equipment and Clothing.—The Egyptian Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply of equipment and clothing required by the Abbassia and Khanka Asylums for one year from April 1, 1921. United Kingdom firms tendering must have a resident agent in Egypt.—January 3.

Pipes.—The Chief Engineer, Main Drainage Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of cast-iron pipes and specials. December 29.

Cement Blocks.—The Surveyor-General, Survey of Egypt, Giza (Mudiriya) invites tenders for the supply of 20,000 and 100,000 cement blocks. December 15.

General Stores, etc.—The Postmaster-General, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of general stores, uniforms, tarboushes, and boots, as well as the execution of certain works of stencilling mail bags, etc., engraving, and paint at Alexandria, and also the maintenance and repair of electric light installations, clocks and watches at Alexandria and Cairo, for the financial year 1921-1922. Copies of specifications are obtainable from the Central Stores, G.P.O., Alexandria. December 15.

Clothing.—The Director-General, Customs Administration, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of clothing required for the personnel of the Customs Administration for the year 1921. January 18.

Clothing.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of clothing, equipment, etc., required for the year 1921-1922. January 5.

Sawband Blades.—The Department of Ordnance Services, Egyptian Army, Citadel, Cairo, invite tenders for the supply of sawband blades, $\frac{3}{8}$ in., $\frac{1}{2}$ in., $\frac{5}{8}$ in., $\frac{3}{4}$ in., $\frac{7}{8}$ in., 1 in., 50 ft. December 15.

**India.**

Refuse Destructor.—The Municipality of Bombay invites tenders for the manufacture, erection, and equipment of a refuse destructor for 200 tons of refuse a day. (Spec., 5s., Sir John Wolfe Barry, Lyster, and Partners, 2, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1.) March 4.

**Yugoslavia.**

Leather.—A company of boot manufacturers of Vranje, Serbia, are inquiring for names of United Kingdom firms in a position to supply 50,000 kilogrammes of sole leather and upper leather for army boots which they have contracted to make for the Serbian Government. The name and address of the company referred to, etc., will be furnished by the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.

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# Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, November 18.

**The Financial Position.**

The State accounts for the first quarter of the financial year, which have just been issued, show a marked increase in receipts and expenditure, though the financial position is not so good as at the end of the same period in 1919. On June 30 revenue amounted to £E8,613,468 and expenditure to £E9,062,163, as compared with £E5,713,801 and £E5,857,211 on the same date last year. There is, therefore, an increase of £E2,899,667 in revenue and £E3,204,952 in expenditure, giving an excess of the latter over the former of £E448,695, as against one of £E143,410.

The principal items in which there is an increase in revenue are: Land tax, £E128,519; Customs, £E1,101,748; tobacco dues £E342,019; mixed court fees, £E185,703; native court fees, £E72,160; railways, £E646,405; military exemption fees, £E91,460; ghaffir cess, £E170,514. The only decreases are in date tax and excise duty, both of which have been remitted, and in sale of land, which is £E16,419 down.

On the expenditure side the main increases are: Survey, £E71,797; prisons, £E85,938; irrigation, £E86,578; railways, £E1,607,334; indemnities for cost of living, £E474,301. It is to be remarked that the increase in revenue from Customs and tobacco dues is roughly 100 per cent., and that from railways about 60 per cent., and it will be very interesting to see whether these proportions are maintained during the rest of the year.

In view of the fact that there is an exceedingly serious slump in trade, and that the drop in cotton is causing growers to keep back their crops in an unginned condition rather than sell at the present low prices, the country is indeed in for a somewhat stringent time, and while there is no doubt that the people as a whole have any amount of money, the drop in cotton, unaccompanied by any decrease in the cost of living, affecting as it does their rate of expenditure and their investments in land, etc., cannot fail to react on certain important items in the State budget.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, November 21.

**Customs Receipts.**

The receipts of the Piræus Customs during October amounted to 7,338,882.85 drachmæ in paper and 415,454.55 drachmæ in gold. Compared with the receipts during the corresponding period last year, there is an increase this year of 1,175,514.60 drachmæ in paper and a decrease of 150,705.40 drachmæ in gold.

**Shipping at the Piræus.**

There were 424 arrivals of various steamers in the port of Piræus during October of the following nationalities:—Greek 346, British 22, Italian 13, Inter-Allied 12, Dutch 6, Roumanian 5, Russian 4, French 3, American 3, Spanish 3, German 3, Swedish 2, Norwegian 1, Belgian 1. The number of sailing vessels of various nationalities which entered the port during the month was 274.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, November 30.

**Austrian Bonds.**

It is reported that the Minister of Finance has authorised the public subscription of Austrian bonds in Yugoslavia, the object of which is to enable Austria to purchase food and some other commodities. The Press is hostile to the scheme as it means the export of Yugoslav money, although an improvement in the Austrian exchange would be welcomed as a means of improving commercial relations between the two countries, which are now no longer hostile, and can be of considerable mutual help. The Austrian krona is not worth more than 6 paras in Belgrade.

**Rising Cost of Living.**

The cost of living in Belgrade, already one of the dearest towns in Europe, is steadily mounting. Tram fares have now been raised 50 per cent., and the price of electric light has also been raised. The municipality has granted a special allowance of 15 dinars a day to its employees, with an extra 4 dinars for each dependent child. This in turn means, presumably, an increase in rates and municipal dues and octroi.

**The Copenhagen Consulate.**

The Consulate of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes at Copenhagen has been abolished. It was established as a war measure, and on its abolition the Government expressed its warmest thanks to the Danish Government for the numerous services rendered in establishing communication between Serbian refugees and those who remained behind in their fatherland during the enemy occupation.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, November 22.

**Rumoured Concession of Railways.**

During the last few days the rumour has been circulated in the local Press that the Roumanian railways will be conceded to foreign companies. Some papers say that it is only a question of ceding the workshops of the railway, and despite the denial by the Government Press, the general idea is that they will have no other alternative but to do so, as the railway system is getting worse and worse every day instead of better. If such a rumour had been spread a few months ago, it would have been considered against the interest of the country and unpatriotic to hand over the management of a State institution of this importance to a foreign company.

It is stated that the Government is treating with a British concern, since a mission of British engineers arrived the other day in Bucharest. It is also affirmed that the Government might try to alleviate the situation by ceding the railways to a group of Roumanian engineers, who would bring from Germany a number of skilled labourers and specialists to assist them. A decisive step will have to be taken very soon, as it is generally felt that the deplorable state of the railway transport is one of the main reasons why the economical and financial development of the country is retarded

**Arrival of Japanese Mission.**

A Japanese Mission has arrived in Bucharest, composed of Dr. Ohno, Japanese Consul-General in Germany, and Dr. K. Minetomo. These gentlemen have been sent by the Japanese Government to study the general financial and economical position of Roumania with a view to forming a commercial treaty between the two countries.

The visit is the result of Prince Carol's voyage to the Orient, and his interview with Japanese statesmen, when he impressed on them the importance of opening commercial relations between the two countries. He also proposed that, owing to the unfavourable rate of exchange in Roumania, Japan should accept Roumanian Treasury bonds in exchange for goods.

**New British Consulate.**

To illustrate the interest which Great Britain is taking in Roumania and its new provinces, it may be noted that beside the Consulate recently established at Cluj, Transylvania, some two months ago, a Consulate has now been opened at Czernovitz, the capital of Bukovina.

**The Housing Problem.**

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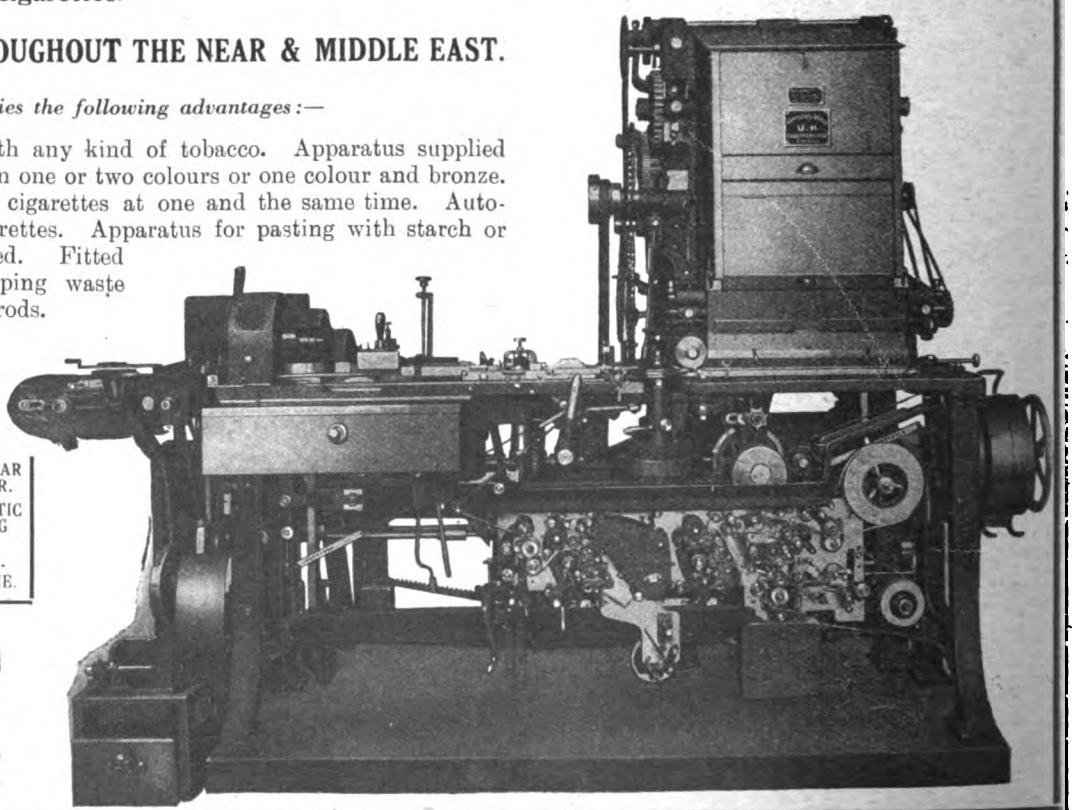

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personnel generally, as well as refugees, the Government intends to bring forward a Bill introducing compulsory billeting. Its provisions are as follows:—(1) An official billeting committee will be appointed in every town. (2) Foreigners will only be granted a "Billet de Sejour" for 15 days at a stretch. (3) Provincials who have houses in the provinces will have to return to them. (4) No local people will be allowed to stay in hotels. (5) In private houses, every person is allowed two rooms and an extra room for every member of the family. (6) In order to encourage people to build, this law will not affect those who are already building or intend to build.

**Luxury Imports Prohibited.**

General Averescu, since taking over the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, has made further drastic changes in this department, of which the principal one is the prohibition of the import of all luxury goods—without exception. This will include goods such as silk, silk goods, artificial silk, furs, velvet, silver or gold-plated goods, patent leather shoes and boots and fancy footwear, powder, powder-puffs, perfumes, carpets, chocolate, cocoa, jams, and marmalade, preserved fruit, caviare, oysters, liqueurs, wines, furniture, fancy birds and dogs, musical instruments, etc., etc. This decision is welcomed by the general public, as a great deal of money has gone out of the country for unnecessary goods, instead of being utilised for the importation of material and machinery for restarting industries destroyed during the war. General Averescu has also decided to cancel all export permits for wheat and rye if the same are not compensated for by the import of goods useful to the general public.

## LANCASHIRE COTTON.

### Market Still Inactive.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

The market continues in a very unsatisfactory condition. There is still that lack of confidence in current rates which checks enterprise, and buyers have only been prepared to purchase small lots to meet urgent requirements. It is not reasonable to expect that prices will fall much lower, but the outlook remains very uncertain, and there are no signs of any definite turn in values. Many ups and downs continue to take place in Egyptian cotton prices. Lancashire spinners are not any more disposed to purchase freely. Uncertainty exists as to what will be done by the Egyptian Government with regard to the acreage next season, but there is a possibility of the area under cultivation being restricted. In Egyptian yarns a little more demand has been about, but sales of any weight have been quite isolated, and when spinners have sold they have had to accept wretched prices. Local mills engaged on Egyptian cotton continue to run only four days a week. In the American spinning section the short time proposal has been carried, and the factories are now only working twenty-four hours a week instead of forty-eight. During the last few days there has been an increased demand for beams, and some producers have obtained a little relief. Export yarns have not attracted much attention. In cloth for the Near Eastern outlets business has been of retail dimensions. Merchants with connections in Egypt are still chiefly occupied in working off dear contracts. The political situation abroad is not by any means all that could be desired. With regard to India, Calcutta continues to send forward a considerable inquiry, but buying has been very patchy. Manchester merchants are very severely harassed by poor remittances from the other side, and the situation has been discussed at the Chamber of Commerce, but no definite action has so far been taken. Letters and telegrams from China remain discouraging. No demand of any importance has come through for South America. Home trade buyers have continued to purchase from hand to mouth.

This year's olive crop in Volo is reported to be the best one for eight years.

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## CYPRUS IN 1919-20.

### GREAT INCREASE IN TRADE.

For several years now conditions in Cyprus have on the whole been very satisfactory, and the recently issued White Paper shows that during 1919-20 the general level of prosperity was largely maintained. High prices have been realised for all kinds of produce, and the position of the peasantry has considerably improved. But the year has not been without its adverse factors. There was a poor cereal harvest, owing to the excessive drought, with the result that there was a marked rise in the price of bread, and it became necessary for the Government to take steps to provide bread at a reasonable price. Then the cost of living was steadily rising, but, of course, as far as the agricultural community was concerned, this was largely counterbalanced by the increased yield of the crops. As indicating the improved position, it is noted that large numbers of motor-cars have been imported, and are now plying regularly on all the principal roads of the island.

**Finance.**

The revenue amounted to £602,927, or slightly below the record established in 1918-19 of £610,499, and to this has to be added the usual grant in aid of £50,000, making the total £578,200. The expenditure, including the Cyprus share of the Turkish national debt charge of £92,800, amounted to £578,200, as against £587,475, there being thus a surplus of £74,727, as compared with £73,024. Though the revenue decreased it is pointed out that actually the receipts were the best ever recorded, as the total only includes £14,300 for arrears of the previous year's tithes, while the total for 1918-19 included £51,395 under this heading. It may be noted that except for tithes there were increases under all the principal heads of revenue. For three years now Cyprus has had substantial surpluses, and the island's finances are now in a most flourishing condition.

**Imports and Exports.**

There was a marked increase in both exports and imports in the year under review. The value of the exports amounted to £1,371,580, an increase of £510,235, while that of the imports was £1,525,427, an increase of £511,845. There was thus again a substantial balance of trade against Cyprus. Both as regards exports and imports the trade was chiefly confined to the British Empire. Thus of the exports the United Kingdom's share amounted to £313,455, while British possessions, colonies, and protectorates accounted for a further £664,424, or together practically two-thirds of the total. Outside the Empire the principal customers of Cyprus were Greece and France, who took goods to the value respectively of £123,982 and £104,212. In the import trade the predominance of the Empire was very pronounced, 81.2 per cent. of the imports coming from the United Kingdom or elsewhere within the Empire. But the position in this respect was not quite so satisfactory as in the previous year, when the Empire's share of the imports was no less than 87.6 per cent.

**Industries.**

The progress of the island's staple industry, agriculture, may be judged from the fact that during the year there was a considerable demand for agricultural machinery. The Agricultural Department has accomplished much notable work in supplying information to farmers concerning tractors, ploughs, cultivators, etc., and in arranging for the importation of tractors and other machinery for demonstration purposes. High prices prevailed for fruit in 1919, and the result of this factor was to give a great stimulus to fruit cultivation. New vineyards were planted, and the cultivation of apples has been extended, while new varieties of Smyrna figs have been introduced.

As regards other industries, a great impetus has been given to wine making from the higher prices obtainable, and in 1919 1,450,800 gallons of wine were exported, of the value of £125,495, as against 1,178,552 gallons of the value of £68,005 for the previous year. In 1918 the exports of terra umbra fell to 53 tons, but in 1919 they rose to 2,785 tons, of the value of £6,255, and it is stated that the trade is increasing rapidly.

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# ENGINEERING.

## Oil Engines: Training Wanted.

The development of oil-engined or motor ship construction within the next generation will depend to a great extent upon the embryo engineers who are now receiving their theoretical training at the various technical colleges and institutes throughout the kingdom. The *Motor Ship* naturally views this with importance, and emphasises that it is clearly desirable that in the minds of these students should be instilled some understanding of the possibilities that lie before them. It is, therefore, essential that efficient instruction in oil engine design and manufacture should form part of the curriculum of every engineering course; yet in practically every college with which we are acquainted the engineering student is being brought up on the oldest, most out-of-date steam practice, so that when he leaves college he has perhaps scarcely heard of the Diesel engine and in all probability has never seen one, although he may have obtained his engineering degree proclaiming his theoretical knowledge in all branches of engineering.

This is utterly wrong, and is not only unfair to the student from the direct point of view in that it does not give him a chance of earning his living, but it causes him to derive his engineering education in an atmosphere such as existed 20 or 30 years ago. It says much for the attraction which internal-combustion engineering exerts upon the younger minds that, in spite of this disability, students, after they have left college, are in many cases drawn towards this branch, although they find that they have practically to start afresh from the beginning.

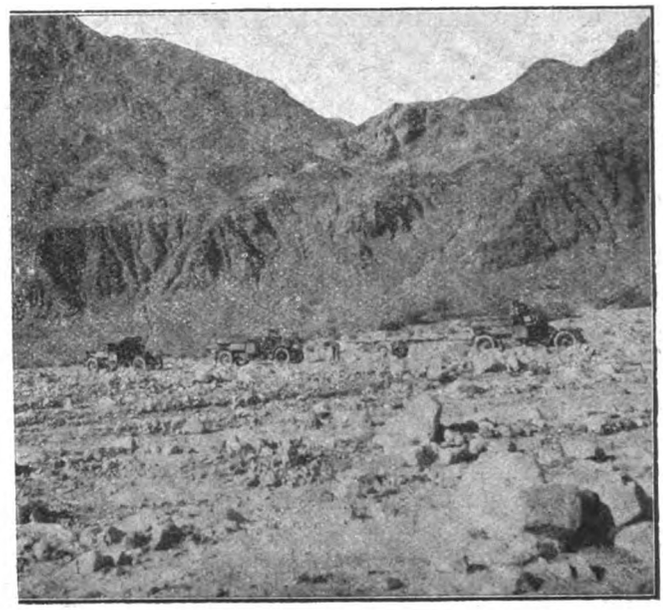
The reason for this unsatisfactory state of things is not far to seek. Some of the professors are out of touch with modern developments in practical engineering science, and are probably not even aware of the important part which the oil engine is now playing in marine and industrial work. Even if they do realise it, they are inclined to feel that they cannot make it a feature of their engineering course since they themselves know little or nothing concerning the subject, and perhaps have neither the time nor the inclination to take it up. Moreover, the only lecturer on oil engines who can be of much value to students is one who, besides possessing a good theoretical knowledge, has also had some practical experience with the modern type of Diesel engine.

The solution of the problem lies in the appointment of several specialised lecturers on oil engines, if necessary, attracting them directly from the industry, so that their knowledge is complete and up to date. Many of the leading engineering concerns in this country, who are now turning their attention towards oil engine development, have some influence in the control of technical colleges, and we agree with the *Motor Ship* in the view that these large firms should turn their attention to this subject and use such influence as they possess in order to cause the oil engine to play a more prominent part in engineering instruction.

A double purpose would be served by this action. There is considerable need for further independent research work on oil engines. Lecturers or professors who are appointed for oil engineering should be encouraged to carry out investigations, and all colleges should be provided with experimental engines. It may be mentioned here that the question of cost need hardly enter into the matter, as we understand that the Admiralty are prepared to supply submarine engine of the Diesel type for this purpose.

## The Crossley Car.

The merits of the Crossley productions have been dealt with on more than one occasion in these columns, but one point which perhaps deserves further reference is the great reputation they have earned for all-round ability in negotiating really difficult country. Rough country is the crucial test of the modern car, and in the future, when there is going to be a very great demand for the motor as a means of transport in undeveloped lands, it will be surprising if the Crossley is not well to the fore. A letter written during the war to the company pays a wonderful testimony to the efficiency of the Crossley in the Arabian desert. "I have been in charge of five of your cars," says the writer, "for twelve months, and during that time they had to undergo some of the severest tests that one could think of, and they have stood up to it admirably. There were no roads except those we made ourselves, and we had to go over boulders and rough country like you see in the photos, day after day, not forgetting the soft sand, of which there was plenty, and I'll back a Crossley against any other car for getting across and out of it; they are marvels. There were other makes of cars with other units, but the good old Crossley stood the test better than any of them, and I know some parts where it has been the only car to reach. Really, I can't speak too highly of them, their performance has been so good; each car used to do an average of 100 miles per day, and *sometimes* got a day in.



CROSSLEY MOTORS IN THE ARABIAN DESERT.

Considering the bad country we had to drive over, we had very little trouble all the time."

## Oil Fuel.

A warning note regarding the use of oil fuel has been struck by Lord Pirrie, head of the famous shipbuilding firm of Harland and Wolff, of Belfast. He has just returned from a tour of the Mexican oilfields, and has been greatly impressed by the extraordinary demand for oil of all grades and by the comparative scarcity of oil for fuel purposes. On his return he told an interviewer that the whole subject of oil supply was causing him great concern, the more so that he had in the past advised so many of his shipping friends to change over the heating of their ships' boilers from coal to oil burning. He added: "I now feel very strongly that only the large express steamers will be secure as to their supplies. I am advising my friends to stop converting ordinary cargo vessels, or they may find themselves in difficulties."

It must be remembered that this warning does not apply with equal force to the employment of oil-driven internal combustion engines of the Diesel or semi-Diesel type. These engines are extremely economical and efficient, and show a saving of about 60 per cent. in the amount of fuel used. The main reason for the great increase in the price of oil for fuel purposes during the past eighteen months—an increase of about 100 per cent.—is on account of the wholesale conversion of steamships into oil-fuel burning vessels, and the construction of new cargo and other boats fitted with oil-fired boilers. There is, however, a distinct slowing-down in the rate of this conversion and construction, and it is felt that when existing contracts have been completed few, if any, more orders for such work will be given out.

## Road Making and Repairing.

The subject of road making and repairing is now one of great interest to the road user as well as to the engineer During the past few years very little new construction and repair work has been undertaken except to meet military requirements, and in every part of Europe much has to be

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done to bring the roads and highways into as good a condition as they were before the war.

More than usual interest is being taken in this subject, as in one of the countries which was least affected by the war, concrete roads, at first tried as an experiment, are coming largely into favour. These are proving extremely durable, and although the cost of construction is higher than in the case of macadam roads, or even of roads covered with asphalte, or made with small stone and gravel bound together with tar or a bitumen compound, there is no doubt that the expense of repairing and of maintenance is so low that these roads show an appreciable financial advantage.

Fourteen years ago there were only six miles of concrete roads in the whole of the United States. These were found so satisfactory that this method of roadmaking was extended and developed, and by the end of last year no less than 11,000 miles of concrete road were in use in that country. For the present year the expenditure on new concrete roads in that country will amount to about 600,000,000 dollars, a fact which is sufficient answer to those few engineers who hold that concrete has not yet been proved to be a suitable material for road making.

The statement has been made that roads of this type gave way under the influence of damp, frost, and intense heat, and that they cracked and came to pieces under the hammering action of horse traffic and of iron-wheeled vehicles, but this view is flatly contradicted by those who have had lengthy experience in this method of construction. In many parts of England concrete roads have been laid down, and these have not only stood up to their work remarkably well, but their success has been such that many more miles of roadway constructed in that manner are to be built in the near future. A number of civil engineering and specialist firms are interested in the matter, and wherever new roads are to be constructed it would seem advisable that no steps should be taken until full particulars of the new method are obtained.

## ENQUIRY BUREAU.

*Readers abroad desirous of getting in touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge*

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### Forthcoming Sailings.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parenthesis:—

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Circassia, for Bombay (Liverpool, December 18).

*Anchor-Brocklebank Line*—S.s. Matra, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London December 14); s.s. Maimyo, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 18); s.s. Blackwell, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London December 24); s.s. Mathura for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 29); s.s. Imani, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London January 7).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Yorkshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (December 15); s.s. Derbyshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Liverpool, December 29).

*Byron Steamship Line.*—S.s. Lord Broughton for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 23).

*Clan Line.*—S.s. Clan Cumming for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, December 17); s.s. Clan Macindoe, for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 30).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Phrygia, for Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, December 18).

*Ellerman's City Line.*—S.s. City of Manchester, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 20); s.s. Crosby Hall for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, December 22); s.s. City of Lucknow, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 31).

*Hall Line.*—S.s. City of Calcutta, for Bombay and Karachi (Liverpool, December 15); s.s. Merton Hall, for Karachi (Liverpool, December 17).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Architect, for Calcutta (Liverpool, December 22); s.s. Inventor, for Calcutta (Liverpool, December 22); s.s. Inventor, for Calcutta (Liverpool, January 12).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Chindwin, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 22).

*Holt Line.*—S.s. Achilles, for Port Said, etc. (Birkenhead, December 16); s.s. Helenus, for Port Said, etc. (Birkenhead, December 23); s.s. Eurypylus, for Port Said, etc. (Birkenhead, December 23).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Cundall, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 24). A steamer will sail on December 24 for Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople.

*Moss Line.* — S.s. Sitra, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Alexandria (with through transhipment to Moroccan, Algerian, Cyprus, and Syrian coast ports), (Liverpool, December 18).

*Prince Line.*—S.s. Black Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast ports and Cyprus (Manchester, December 14).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Karmala, for Bombay (London, December 17); s.s. Nore, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta, also taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden (London, December 17); s.s. Kaisar-i-Hind, for Bombay (London, December 31).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. Margha, for Port Sudan (London, December 17); s.s. Nerbudda, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 24); s.s. Chakratta, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, end of December); s.s. Neuralia, for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 7); s.s. Chyebassa, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 15).


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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—Business has been dull during the week, buyers showing a very evident tendency to hold aloof, presumably in expectation of lower prices. The market in currants has been featureless. There is now much less demand for this commodity, especially for the lower qualities. It may be anticipated, however, that this phase will not be of long duration. Very small supplies of sultanas are available, but despite that fact, transactions have been effected at distinctly easier rates. There is nothing new to report with regard to figs. Large quantities of Persian dates are available, but there has so far not been any remarkable demand for them.

Coffee.—Prices have generally been easier, and business has been restricted. The futures market has been rather weak. Quotations are:—December, 56s., a drop of 2s.; March is unchanged at 52s. 6d.; May is 1s. lower at 53s.; July is 6d. down at 54s. 6d.; and September remains unaltered at 55s.

Sugar.—The free market has been somewhat depressed. West Indian crystallised is 11s. down at 72s., and American granulated has come to business at 80s. White Mauritius is 15s. down at 79s. Home refined met with a good demand at the official prices.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake is 21s. 6d., a decline of 6d.; while cottonseed has come to business at 12s., a drop of 1s. Other transactions include Arachis cake at 14s. 6d. and coconut cake at 16s.

Oilseeds.—There have been a number of declines. Indian linseed has been steady at 27s., but rapeseed is lower, with Toria at 29s. 6d. and bold Ferozepore at 28s. 6d., both 2s. 6d. down. Indian cottonseed is 1s. up at 10s., but Egyptian is 6d down at 14s. 6d.

Seed Oils.—There has been a steady rise in prices. Linseed oil has come to business at 50s. Refined rape oil is slightly higher at 88s. to 90s., and the crude variety has gone up 10s. to 82s. Turpentine is unchanged at 105s.

## CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 217s. 9d. cwt.; butter, 336s. cwt.; cheese, 161s. cwt.; chillies, 140s. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 5½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 135s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 113s. 6d. cwt.; East Indian bold, 117s. 6d. cwt.; Mocha (longberry), 140s. cwt.; eggs, 40s. 8d. per 120; ginger (washed Cochin), 52s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 220s. cwt.; lard, 157s. cwt.; nutmegs, 1s. 1d. 110's to 180's; pepper (Singapore, black), 5d. lb.; and Muntok white, 1s. 0¾d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 130s. 6d. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 147s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 100s. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 96s. cwt.; No. 1 cubes, 100s. cwt.; Mauritius, 93s. 6d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb.; tea (Indian), 6¾d. lb.; Ceylon, 6¾d. lb.; Java, 4¾d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 121s. 6d. qr.; English (white), 94s. qr.

Hides and Skins.—London prices:—Ox and Heifer.—First, 90 lbs. and up, 8½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 8½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 8¼d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 8¼d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 8¼d. lb.; cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 7¾d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 7¾d. lb.; cows (second), 60 lbs. and up, 6⅞d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 7¾d. lb.; bulls (first), 7d. lb.; (second), 5⅛d. lb.; kips (first), 7¼d. lb.; (second), 5¾d. lb.; (third), 4¾d. lb. Calcutta prices:—Arsenic Cow Hides.—Agras, Rs.8.8 to 15.0 per 20 lbs.; Durbhangas, Rs. 6.0 to 7.0 per 20 lbs.; Patnas, Rs.5.0 to 6.0 per 20 lbs.; salted cows, Rs.4.0 to 8.8 per 20 lbs.; Arsenic buffalo hides, Rs.2.8 to 6.0 per 20 lbs.; skins—calf, Rs. 8.0 to 10.0 per 20 lbs.; goat, 140.0 to 160.0 per 100 pieces.

Metals.—Aluminium, £175 ton; bismuth, 12s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £78 5s. ton; electro, wire bars, £91 ton; gold bars, 116s. 9d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 225s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 260s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £29 7s. 6d. ton; manganese Poti, 3s. 3d. unit; molybdenite, 60s. unit; nickel, £220 ton; platinum, 520s. oz.; plumbago, £37 10s. ton; quicksilver, £15 7s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 47⅞d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £32 12s. 6d. ton; tin (standard), £226 ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 39s. 6d. box; wolfram, 22s. 0½d. unit; zinc sheets, £53 ton.

Chemicals.—Acids:—Boric, 75s. cwt.; oxalic, 1s. 10½d. lb.; citric, 3s. 3¼d. lb.; tartaric, 2s. 4½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £31 6s. 9d. ton; benzole (standard), 3s. 6½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £24 ton; borax crystals, 41s. cwt.; cream of tartar, 215s. cwt.; Potassium—bichromate, 1s. 6d. lb.; chlorate, 8½d. lb.; caustic, £85 ton; nitrate, £68 10s. ton; permanganate, 3s. 1½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 8½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £29 ton; Sodium—crystals, 190s. ton; bicarbonate, £12 ton; bichromate, 1s. 0½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £11 15s. ton; chlorate, 5d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £29 10s. ton; hyposulphite, £35 ton; prussiate, 1s. 1½d. lb.; nitrate, £23 5s. ton; sulphate copper, £41 10s. ton; sulphate iron, 150s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £105 ton; industrial (1,250 per cent.), £155 ton; lead (red), £53 ton; white dry, £59 2s. 6d. ton.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American, fully good mid.), 11.71d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £22 10s. ton; rape (Toria), £32 ton; soya beans, £21 ton; palm kernels, £30 10s. ton; Oils—linseed, £47 10s. ton; soya, £57 ton; cotton (crude), £47 10s. ton; olive, 21s. 6d. gallon; ground nut, £71 ton; palm, £47 5s. ton; rape (crude), £72 10s. ton; petroleum, 2s. 3d. gallon; turpentine, 114s. cwt.; Rubber—plantation No. 1 crêpe, 1s. 1½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 1s. 0½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 1s. 3½d. lb.

## DRIED FRUIT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, report as follows under date November 30:—

Currants.—Business throughout the week has again been of very limited dimensions, the country refraining from purchasing, though this is normally the period of the season's greatest activity. This can only be attributed to unfavourable world-wide economic and financial conditions, the lack of resources, and unwillingness to make commitments through fear of lower prices. The strength of the Greek market has a stimulating effect on holders, who appear content to await the renewal of the demand instead of forcing sales at a time when buyers are indifferent. The s.s. Trentino has arrived, but only a small portion of her cargo is for the market. Quotations are:—Calamata and Pyrgos, 75s. to 77s.; Amalias, 80s. to 82s.; Patras and Gulf, 82s. to 90s.; Zante, 84s. to 88s.; Vostizza, 96s. to 104s.; old fruit, 60s. to 62s. Total arrivals from commencement of season to date, 14,470 tons.

Valencia Raisins.—Samples of Santa Ana brought a little relief to the buyers, a portion of her cargo landed tender and out of condition, but good fruit was quickly disposed of, ½-boxes realising from 130s. to 135s., ¼-boxes realising from 150s. to 155s., seedless selling at 124s. to 125s.

Sultanas are in steady demand at easier prices. Greeks move quietly in buyers' favour. Afghans—Arrivals per s.s City of Calcutta and Circassia: yellow qualities sold 120s. to 127s; red variety neglected. Quotations are:—Smyrna, 138s. to 152s.; Greeks, 145s. to 150s.

Figs.—The last arrival per s.s. Amasis is almost cleared. Quotations are:—Layers, 145s. to 160s.; Locoums, 160s. to 180s.; bags of naturals difficult of sale, 58s. to 65s.

## LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson, in their report for the week ended December 2, state:—The past week has witnessed a mild sort of reaction, both in spot and futures. The primary cause was the purchase of a "line" for future delivery, variously estimated at from 1,000 to 2,000 bales, by one of the leading concerns in the North of England. In ordinary times, such a purchase would have passed almost without notice, but with the conditions ruling at the moment it seemed to possess for many a rather more than ordinary significance. Alexandria futures at once jumped up, probably on covering against the above purchases, and a certain amount of "short" interest, both there and in Liverpool was liquidated. To-day's Manchester report is a trifle more cheerful, and the usual rumours about "more doing" are filtering through from that quarter. The spot sales of 1,400 bales consisted chiefly of upper cotton, types 1-4; to-day, quotations of upper are actually advanced 50 points. This improvement is not likely to be maintained, however, as cotton is freely offered at quotation prices. There was a little inquiry for Sakellaridis and white cotton, but only a small business resulted. Brown and Sudan cottons were neglected. At the moment, the market as a whole gives one the impression of marking time, but there is no real stability, and a very little encouragement either way would have a marked effect. With trade support still withheld, lower prices seem probable even yet. Quotations of upper show a decline on the week of 1d. for good fair to good, and 1½d. for fine and extra fine. Sakellaridis is 2½d. down for good fair and fully good fair, 3½d. down for good, and 4½d. down for fine and extra fine. Brown is reduced 1½d. for good fair to good, and 2d. for fine and extra fine. Fully good fair Sakellaridis 28.50d.


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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY

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

CONSTANTINOPLE, November 20.

The complete cessation of business with Russia has been offset to some extent by some sales negotiated for local consumption as well as for the Anatolian ports of the Black Sea, the effect of which has been to relieve the market somewhat.

The news received from Manchester records a rapid recovery in the prices of manufactures; this development, coupled with the movements of the exchange, has stopped the fall in prices on this market. There is some demand for winter clothing, but otherwise there is no business.

**Produce.**

Sugar.—The fall in prices continues in producing countries. Some offers at reduced prices have been made from Java, New York, and Marseilles. Java sugar in shipment from America is quoted at 17 dollars per 100 kilos, and American sugar at 21 dollars per 100 kilos c.i.f. Constantinople. In this market quotations are £69-72 per ton, while for sugar in Customs the rate is £T51-52 per 100 kilos.

Coffee.—Despite the fall in centres of origin prices are sustained by the rise in exchange and the lack of good qualities. Quotations per oke are:—Rio No. 1, Ps. 50; No. 2, Ps. 46-47; No. 3, Ps. 42.43, all for goods in transit.

Rice.—Prices have fallen in the chief European markets because of the heavy arrivals. Saigon No. 1, in shipment from Marseilles, is quoted at 170 francs per 100 kilos, and in this market at Ps. 25. American Bleu-Rose is quoted 17-17½ dollars per 100 kilos and Ps. 28-32 per oke in transit.

Petrol.—The market is firm, owing to the small arrivals and the rise in the exchange. The case of two bidons realises Ps. 560-665, and the tendency of the market is to rise.

Exports.—As regards exports, there is almost complete inactivity. The arrivals are unimportant, and no business has taken place.

Mohair.—The nominal prices are Ps.85 extra, Ps. 75 firsts, and Ps. 65 seconds.

Cotton.—Fifty bales have arrived from Adana. First qualities are quoted at Ps. 75-80 per oke, and seconds at Ps. 65-70 per oke.

RHODES.

The report for September states:—Business in sponges has been delayed because of the disagreement between the Italian Customs authorities and the exporters of Tripoli. The authorities lay claim to a tax of 15 per cent. on the value of the merchandise exported, contrary, it appears, to the conventions previously established. Shipments from Calymnos are held up for the time being at Benghasi for this reason.

## RICE EXPORTS FROM INDIA

Reuter's Delhi correspondent, in a message dated December 4, states that Burma traders will be allowed to export rice from January 1 next to any destination subject to licence. The Government estimate that out of 2,100,000 tons of white rice 1,000,000 tons will be available for export to foreign countries from Burma. This amount may be increased if India does not require the balance for herself. The Government reserve the power to reimpose the system of strict control should the rise in price necessitate such action.

Alexandria Water.—Interim dividend of 4 per cent. (4s. per share) on Ordinary, payable December 15 (Coupon 64).


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## ON 'CHANGE.

### Marked Fluctuations.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Monday Night.

During the last few days the markets took a turn for the better, and this morning quite a cheerful note was in evidence on the improved news regarding the Irish situation, coupled with more favourable intelligence from abroad and the absence of Continental liquidation, which has been such a marked feature in recent weeks. Unfortunately, the brighter tone proved to be only a passing phase, for the astonishing result of the Seven Towns Loan brought about a fresh wave of depression, and the day closed with uncertainty prodominating most markets.

Gilt-edged stocks, which had been rather depressed on the financial outlook, have been much firmer, and despite the unfavourable opening this week, have more or less held their own. Foreign stocks are again closing a weak feature, while Greek securities continue to present a very depressed appearance.

There is little that calls for comment with regard to the other markets. Industrials were holding up well until the news of the loan result was received; subsequently irregularity prevailed, and there were a number of fluctuations. Oils have been a specially weak feature, but Rubbers have been the turn stronger.

Near Eastern securities have been firmer. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are ⅛ up at 59½. Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855 have been steady at 67½, while Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1898 are unchanged at 59½. Turkish 3½ per cent. Egyptian Tribute Bonds have picked up ⅝ to 53.

Greek securities have continued weak, and prices in a number of cases represent only nominal quotations. The 5 per cent. 1881 Loan is now 41, and the 5 per cent. 1884 issue is the same. The 5 per cent. 1890 Loan is again lower at 41, and Fundings a point below that, while the 1910 and 1914 Loans are quoted respectively at 32 and 41. The 1902 Loan is down to 31.

Banks have been variable. Agricultural 3½ per cent. Bonds have dropped 2¾ to 55, while the 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are three points down at 60. On the other hand, Imperial Ottoman Banks have risen 15-16 to 8. National Bank of Egypts are now 16 13-16, while Land Banks are quoted 4⅝, at which there are buyers.

In some cases a better tone has been in evidence among Land shares. Beheras have been a notably firm spot, rising ½ to 10, while the Preference shares are quoted at 2¾. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments are 3¼, while Egyptian Consolidated Lands are 1s. 4d. Delta Lands are 9d. up at 10s. 6d., while Gharbieh Lands are unchanged at 2. New Egyptians are 3s. up at 25s., but Union Foncières are unchanged at 3. Sudan Plantations have been firm and are closing 3-16 up at 4 7-16.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions Abyssinian Corporations are ¼, while Alexandria Waters are 6½, Morums 13s., and Egyptian Salts and Sodas 1⅞.

Oils have been firmer. Anglo-Egyptians are ⅛ up at 2⅞, while Roumanian Consolidateds are 9d. up at 20s. 9d. Phœnix is 12s. 6d. and Steaua Romana 18s.

## OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian—Week ended November 28.—Gemsah, nil; Hurgada, 3,640 tons (previous week, 3,678 tons).

The production for October from the leased area of the Algerian Oilfields, Ltd., amounted to 42,673 kilos.

## CONTROL OF WHEAT AND FLOUR IN ROUMANIA.

By a Ministerial decision the flour mills of Roumania, states the Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Bucharest, are to mill only one quality of flour, which will consist of the whole wheat except 23 per cent. of husk and 2 per cent. loss, leaving 75 per cent. flour. An exception to this rule is to be made, however, in the case of certain of the larger flour mills, which will receive the authorisation of the Under-Secretary of State for Reconstruction and Approvisionment to mill flour of luxury quality representing 5 per cent. of the wheat stocks. It is stated that this luxury flour will be sold to the pastry cooks at a minimum price of 4 lei per kilogram, while any surplus will be exported against compensation. The 5 per cent. quota of flour of luxury quality is declared purchasable only by the State, which reserves to itself the right of sale.

## NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

It is proposed to hold an Italian Exhibition in Alexandria during February, 1921.

Germany has shipped to Roumania chemical products to the value of four million lei.

During October 408 ships, conveying 32,365 passengers, arrived at Port Said from the Mediterranean.

Sucrerie et raffinerie de Roustchouc.—The annual general meeting will be held at Brussels on December 13.

There should be a good market for mowing and reaping machinery in Turkey with the restoration of normal conditions.

The area under tobacco cultivation in Transylvania has increased to 4,500 hectares, compared with 3,000 hectares for 1919. This year's production is estimated at 4,500 to 5,000 tons, or about 20 per cent. of the estimate for all Roumania.

A booklet entitled "British Government Securities and the Investor" has been issued by the London office of the Guaranty Trust Company of New York, summarising the investment features of several of the more important outstanding British Government securities.

The Commissioner at Athens of the Federation of British Industries reports that the works recently undertaken with a view to increasing the production of the salt mines at Anavissos, Greece, are believed to have been entirely successful. It is calculated that these mines will yield more than 60,000 tons of salt this year, and that the importation of this commodity should therefore no longer be necessary.

The following goods may only be exported from Greece with an export licence granted by the Greek Ministry of Supplies:—Animals in general, arms, biscuits, bread, boots, butter, cereals, condensed milk, codfish, coffee, cheese, eggs, flour, fodder, fuel (all kinds), gunpowder, dynamite and explosives, matches, metals (in general, raw or worked), olives and olive oil, paste foods, petroleum and petrol (benzine), potatoes, pulses, rice, salt, sugar, soap, timber (all kinds), wool.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97 7/16 |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 42·00-43·00 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 118 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·5 9/16-11/16 |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 245-250 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·5 9/16-11/16 |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 480-496 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅝ | 3·46-3·47 |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 58·00-58·50 |
| Prague | Kronen to £ | 24·02 | 283-288 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 247½ |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 34 |
| Vienna | Kronen to £ | 24·02 | 1,100-1,150 |
| Warsaw | Marks to £ | 20·43 | 1,850-1,900 |


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# THE INDIAN MARKET.

## NEED FOR CARE BY EXPORTERS.

In an article in the *Board of Trade Journal* on "Trade between the United Kingdom and India," Mr. T. M. Ainscough, O.B.E., H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in India and Ceylon, discusses the present conditions in the Indian market and points out that India at the present time is passing through a very difficult period of financial stringency and acute trade congestion.

"India, considered statistically," he says, "is in a much stronger position than certain other Eastern markets, and if only the goods could be moved up country and cleared into consumption, confidence would soon be restored. The consuming districts in the Mofussil are not heavily stocked, but they simply cannot afford to pay the prices asked by importers in the ports. Until dealers are willing to face their losses and liquidate their stocks, which were bought at the top of the market and at a much higher rate of exchange, it is difficult to see how any improvement in the situation can be effected.

"In the meantime the greatest care should be taken by exporting houses in this country not to add to the present difficulties by shipping goods which they may have reason to fear will not be taken up. The Eastern banks are carrying a very heavy financial burden in all countries of the East at the present time, and it is incumbent on the exporter in this country to realise this fact and to modify his commitments as far as possible until the position improves. There has been a considerable amount of business done with small Indian traders during the past two boom years by firms in the United Kingdom who have had little experience of the dangers and pitfalls of the market, and it is primarily to them that I would address this warning. . . .

"Despite the present difficult position in India, which I feel convinced is a temporary one, being due partly to the fluctuations of exchange, partly to a natural reaction after a great industrial boom, and mainly to depressed and uncertain world conditions, I still believe that the general state of the country is good, and there is cause for some optimism in viewing the future. The present monsoon, although it cannot be termed an excellent one, is a fair average, or what would be called in India 'a twelve-anna monsoon.' The country is still short of a great variety of goods, notwithstanding the present stocks in the ports, but purchases have been withheld owing to high rupee prices at the current rate of exchange. When the present abnormal situation is cleared, as I hope and believe it will be before next spring, I look forward to India continuing along the path of material progress in which she has made such great strides during the past few years, and I have little doubt that British trade will be able to maintain and extend its position and will materially contribute to the prosperity of a new and transformed India."

## COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

### Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.

The report of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Co., Ltd., for the year ended November 24, states that the capital expenditure during the year was Rs.110.50 lakhs, viz:—On construction account, open line, Rs.46.70 lakhs; on suspense account, Rs.63.80 lakhs. Of Rs.46.70 lakhs charged to open line construction account, Rs.44.98 lakhs were expended on the broad gauge, viz., Rs.16.05 lakhs on works, and Rs.28.93 lakhs on rolling stock; and Rs.3.44 lakhs were expended on works on the metre gauge, which was reduced by a credit to rolling stock of Rs.1.72 lakhs. The gross earnings of the entire system amounted to Rs.630.81 lakhs, as compared with Rs.604.07 lakhs; while the working expenses amounted to Rs.342.58 lakhs, or 54.31 per cent., as compared with Rs.290.28 lakhs, or 48.05 per cent. for the previous year. With an increase in the gross earnings of Rs.26.74 lakhs and in working expenses of Rs.52.30 lakhs there was a decrease of net earnings to the extent of Rs.25.56 lakhs. Although 140 miles of metre gauge were made over to the Mysore Durbar on October 1, 1919, the increase in gross earnings has been well sustained. The gross earnings of the company's and State lines amounted to Rs.570.04 lakhs, being an increase of Rs.28.28 lakhs on those for 1918-19. The increase in coaching earnings was Rs.28.78 lakhs, in miscellaneous earnings Rs.1.93 lakhs, and the decrease in goods earnings Rs.2.43 lakhs. The working expenses amounted to Rs.309.55 lakhs, an increase of Rs.49.99 lakhs, the result being a decrease in the net earnings of Rs.21.71 lakhs. The working expenses of the entire system for the year amounted to Rs.342.58 lakhs, or 54.31 per cent. of the gross earnings, as compared with Rs.290.28 lakhs or 48.05 per cent. for 1918-19. The company's share of the surplus profits of the company's and State lines for the year 1919-20, less Indian income tax and Indian supertax, amounted to Rs.42,34,131, which has been paid by Government and remitted at 2s. 1½d. per rupee, realising £445,882 6s. 4d. The company's share of the surplus profits from the Mysore State lines for the year 1919-20 realised £9,488 1s. 7d. The surplus profits for the whole year therefore realised £455,370 7s. 11d. Over £167,000 of this is due to the high rate of exchange as compared with the old contract rate of Rs.15 to the pound. The interest on investments for the same period amounted to £28,814 0s. 5d., so that the total receipts for the year 1919-20 amounted to £484,184 8s. 4d., compared with £385,550 7s. 5d. for the year 1918-19. The directors recommend a payment on January 1 next of a final dividend of 25s. per cent., and, in consequence of the favourable rate of the Indian exchange as above-mentioned, a bonus of £3 per cent. from the stockholders' revenue account, in addition to the guaranteed interest of £1 15s. per cent. to be received from Government on that date under the terms of the company's contract, making the total distribution for the half-year £6 per cent., all subject to English income tax.

### Burma Railways.

The gross earnings of the Burma Railways Company for the year to March 31 totalled Rs.2,96,86,497, and working expenses Rs.1,63,67,461, leaving net earnings Rs.1,33,19,036, against Rs.1,23,21,888 for the previous year. The net capital expenditure on open line work and rolling stock amounted to Rs.15,01,594. The company's share of surplus profits, after deduction of Indian taxation, was £309,505, against £225,748. Coaching earnings improved by about 23 per cent. Goods earnings increased by 6.4 per cent. and working expenses increased by 17 per cent. Including £157,682 brought forward and reserve for excess profits duty £44,400, less net debit to surplus profits from November 1, 1919, to March 31, 1920, £652, income tax for 1919-20 £31,599, excess profits duty to March 31, 1919, £28,443, amount available is £141,387, plus net interest received, less charges, £4,620, making £455,513. Final dividend of 1¼ per cent. and bonus of 2 per cent., both less tax, is recommended, making 8 per cent., leaving £304,477, subject to excess profits duty, corporation tax, and income-tax, amounting to £124,000. Reserve fund, represented by securities, totals £53,030. Meeting, Gresham House, E.C., December 14, 11.30 a.m.

### Egyptian Salt and Soda.

The report of the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company for the year ended August 31 states that the soda works at the Wadi Natron have been closed down during the year. With regard to the Moharrem Bey factory, new contracts have been made for the supply of the necessary installation, and if no unforeseen delay in the delivery of the machinery occurs the directors hope that this branch may be ready towards the end of 1921. To complete these works £E40,000 has been set aside. Gross profits were £E215,427,052, from which is deducted general administration expenses £E5,074,181, interest on Debentures £E3,050,937, leaving a net profit of £E207,301,934. Directors have set aside for depreciation £E15,371,880, for writing down value of investments £E7,762,000, provision for eventualities £E7,000,000, leaving £E177,168,054. The balance carried forward was £E123,957, making £E301,125,054. Directors propose a dividend representing 30 per cent. on the share capital (6s. per share), to transfer £E40,000 to reserve to meet expenditure towards completion of the Moharrem Bey works, the balance of £E115,520,894 being carried forward. Meeting, Alexandria, Egypt, December 31.

### Bengal Dooars Railway.

The report of the Bengal Dooars Railway states that the general results of the working during the six months ended March 31, compared with those for the corresponding six months, show: Gross earnings, Rs.10,76,563, increase Rs.1,46,657; working expenses, Rs.4,66,697, increase Rs.49,895; net earnings, Rs. 6,09,866, increase Rs. 96,762; percentage of working expenses on gross earnings, 43.35, against 44.82; net earnings in sterling, less Indian income-tax, £38,117, increase £6,048; gain by exchange, £22,755, increase £18,372. The amount at credit of the net revenue account is £64,473, from which must be deducted £14,000, the amount of the 3½ per cent. interim dividend paid on the Ordinary stock on August 3, leaving £50,475. The directors have placed £5,000 to the reserve, bringing it up to £171,373, and recommend a bonus of 1 per cent. on the Ordinary stock for the six months ended March 31, 1920, less income-tax, carrying forward £41,473. It is hoped in future years to pay an interim dividend in April and to hold the ordinary general meeting and pay a final dividend in respect of the annual accounts to the previous March 31 in October. Ordinary stock dividend warrants will be posted on December 20. Meeting, Gresham House, December 16, at 3.15.


## THE ALEXANDRIA WATER CO., LTD.

### Interim Dividend.

NOTICE is hereby given that an Interim Dividend of Four Shillings per £5 Share on Coupon No. 64 is payable on and after the 15th of December, 1920, at Messrs. Barclays Bank, Ltd., 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W., and 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., in Alexandria, upon the making of a declaration as to ownership in the form required by the above Banks, form of which will be supplied upon application.

Dated, Alexandria, 12th Nov., 1920.

By order of the Board,
K. B. WOODD-SMITH,
Manager.


The directors of the Empire of India and Ceylon Tea Co. announce a dividend of 2½ per cent. (5s. per share) on the preference capital, payable January 1.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended November 20 amounted to £11,348.

The board of directors of the Guaranty Trust Company of New York have declared the regular quarterly dividend of 5 per cent.

The numbers are announced of 476 four per cent. Egyptian Government Irrigation Trust Certificates, which have been drawn for redemption on January 1.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 502.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1920.

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### *"THE NEAR EAST."*

***As "The Near East" to be published on December 23 will be the 52nd issue for the current year, there will be no issue of the paper on December 30.***

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *King Constantine's Return.*

In spite of the Allies' warning the die has been cast in Greece; according to present plans, and in the absence of any *contretemps*, King Constantine will return to Athens next Sunday. The Greek Government would seem to have sent the King a formal notification of the result of the plebiscite, with a statement to the effect that the people regard him as "the emblem of national unity," but there is no record of any specific request to return. On the other hand, the Government is said to have stipulated that M. Streit and Commander Paparigopoulos, naval aide-de-camp, should not accompany the King to Greece. If this should be the case, the decision is a wise one, as it will undoubtedly make it easier for the Allies to re-open relations with King Constantine.

### *The Allies' Attitude.*

In the pursuit of the single-minded aim of peace and progress in the Near East we cannot but hope that the Allies will lose no time in making conjointly a new orientation of their Near Eastern policy. Last week it was suggested in these columns that the attempt to boycott King Constantine and the Greek Government would sooner or later break down in the face of independent action on the part of one or both of Great Britain's partners in the Entente. The *Temps* has since referred openly to what it describes as "France's resolve to come to terms with the Turks"; and if France experiences no difficulty in coming to terms with Mustapha Kemal—the *Temps* calls the act "an emancipation rather than a humiliation"—she will certainly not be long in making overtures to King Constantine, if such a policy offers any advantages. It will, therefore, be more consonant with the Allies' dignity if they make some attempt to appreciate the circumstances which have led to King Constantine's recall and to come to an understanding with him. After all, if their worst fears are confirmed, and King Constantine proves to be more militaristic and irresponsible than the ex-Emperor William, they owe it to their Serbian Allies, as well as to other States in the Near East, to protect them from the dread-inspiring Juggernaut whose return to the Greek throne they have refrained from vetoing.

### *Admiral Mark Kerr's Testimony.*

A striking contribution to an understanding of the part played by Greece from the early days of the war is made by Admiral Mark Kerr in the *Morning Post* of December 11 and 13. The two articles, although dealing with only a small part of the story, have some bearing on the general estimate of King Constantine. The Greek Government, moreover, is understood to be prepared to show that the Greek White Book which forms the basis of the Allied indictment against King Constantine is misleading in some important particulars. As an instance, it suggests that the telegram stating that the King's sympathies were with Germany was not an isolated message despatched on King Constantine's sole responsibility, but was sent with the knowledge and approval of M. Venizelos as a covering document to a longer communication from the Greek Government to the German Government—a communication which, significantly, was not printed in the White Book. Be all this as it may, the Allies in their own interests should not allow the matter to be canvassed in a dilettante fashion. We should prefer to see the question rapidly brought to a head by the Allies inviting the Greek Government to remove their misgivings, if it can. If after a careful inquiry into the whole subject the Allies are satisfied that mistakes were made on both sides prior to the departure of King Constantine from Greece, and that a better case can now be made out for the King, they should state so officially and rehabilitate him in the eyes of the world. If, on the other hand, full knowledge of both sides of the history of the early days of the war confirms them in their estimate of King Constantine, and they are satisfied that he cannot be allowed to expiate his offences, then they should tell Greece so. As things are at present, the Greeks are as convinced as King Constantine himself that Great Britain at least is labouring under a complete misapprehension, through relying for her information on French officials.

### *Greece and the Treaty of Sevres.*

It is apparently expected in some quarters that King Constantine, having received the homage of his people, will then formally abdicate in deference to the Allies' hostility to his person. Whether the situation calls for such heroic action on his part must depend on further representations on the part of the Allies, after they have had an opportunity of reconsidering their policy.

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In the meantime the Allied Governments are thought to be exercised by the fear lest King Constantine should seek to outdo M. Venizelos by adding to the territorial accessions which the latter has secured for Greece. One of the first things that the King will learn on his return to Greece is that the Greek nation has no desire for further conquests at the price of continued mobilisation, stagnant trade and excessive financial burdens. The only sphere in which he can hope to eclipse M. Venizelos is in restoring peace and prosperity to his distracted country. He will notice the haste with which the Allies, having given Greece Smyrna, are anxious to take it from her again, and, if he has the intelligence with which he is generally credited, he will realise that the only policy which offers to bring him personal success is to make Greece administratively efficient, and to trust to her aspirations being met when she is equal to the new responsibilities.

### *A Round Table Conference.*

If the Allied Governments can bring themselves to regulate their relations with Greece in conformity with their own interests and the interests of the Near East, their next step might well be a conference at which British, French, Greek, and Turkish representatives were invited to arrive at a settlement which, while not ignoring the facts of the war, promised to restore peace to the Near and Middle East and to leave the various peoples free to concentrate their efforts on economic reconstruction.

### *The Fiume Trouble.*

Three small warships having been seized by their crews and placed at Signor d'Annunzio's service, the magnetic poet has been encouraged to continue on his own erratic course. A Parliamentary Delegation, composed of fifteen members, which interviewed him last week, returned to Rome in optimistic mood, and it looked for the moment as if the end of an impossible situation was at hand; but the next day two torpedo craft suddenly transferred their allegiance to the poet, and he was so charmed by this tribute to his popularity that he seems to be now determined to prolong the run of his comedy. Evidence accumulates that Fiume is thoroughly tired of him, and ready to recognise the Treaty of Rapallo the minute its "liberator" will allow it to do so, but d'Annunzio is reported to be reckoning on a serious split within Yugoslavia, and to be gambling on the chance. According to one report a republic has actually been proclaimed in Croatia, and Raditch, the leader of the Peasant Party, is working in conjunction with d'Annunzio. But the source of the report renders it suspect, and by the time these lines are in print it will probably have been contradicted.

### *A Bomb in Bucharest.*

On Thursday of last week a bomb exploded in the Roumanian Senate, shortly after the opening of the sitting. The Bishop of Orada-Mare was killed on the spot; M. Grecianu, the Minister of Justice, was so severely injured that his life was despaired of; and the President of the Senate, General Coanda, and two other persons were also wounded. The bomb, which was of the clockwork type, is supposed to have been placed overnight behind the presidential chair, and the outrage is regarded as an isolated Anarchist crime. A state of siege has been declared in Bucharest as a precautionary measure; and all parties have combined in denouncing the outrage, which has caused the greatest indignation throughout the country. Socialism had never been able to obtain any hold on Roumania until very recently, and Anarchy made no appeal to the Roumanian peasant. Probably for those reasons, the country has been singularly free from outrages such as that of last week, and it is to be hoped that this instance will long remain a solitary one.

### *France, Cilicia and Syria.*

That France has been feeling the strain of the Syrian mandate for some time has been clear to close observers; and lately some ingenious proposals have been put forward by French writers for enabling her to ease the burden while still keeping the position of Mandatory. Last week General Gouraud and M. Leygues made statements of much interest on the subject before the Foreign Affairs and Finance Commissions. Both speakers indicated clearly their wish that France might soon be in a position to evacuate Cilicia, where the Turks were giving her much trouble, but to keep Syria, the value of which to France they very naturally rated high. General Gouraud was particularly outspoken in his praise of the Turks, and in stating his opinion that it was not France's concern if Greece was unable to make the military and financial sacrifices necessary for the retention of Thrace and Smyrna; and the French Prime Minister was equally frank in expressing his belief that before long the Allies would agree to give Turkey "an honourable peace."

### *A Turkish Victory.*

The opinion is undoubtedly gaining ground that the Treaty of Sèvres has been rendered unworkable by the course events have followed since it was prepared, and that in view of recent happenings it might be not only generous, but wise also, to come to terms with the Turkish Nationalists. If the responsible statesmen of the Allied countries adopt that view, we shall most certainly not quarrel with it; but until it is adopted it seems strange for a leading General of one of the Allied countries to suggest that it is no concern of his country to lend support to the enforcing of the Allies' terms on the enemy. It will be interesting to see how French opinion will be affected by the news of the defeat which, according to the *Temps*, has been inflicted on a French force some forty miles south-east of Latakia by the Turks. The latter are reported to have captured prisoners and war material, besides killing a number of Frenchmen. The *Temps* regards the incident as a fresh reason for revising the Treaty of Sèvres—an argument which will probably cause much surprise on this side of the Channel—and protests against France being called on to sacrifice men in Cilicia in order to uphold Greek pretentions in Smyrna.

### *Indian Politics.*

The news from India continues to be encouraging to those of us who have maintained an attitude of cautious optimism in a situation where there are no precedents to rely on, and many real grounds for anxiety. To borrow a metaphor from medical science, the body politic is reacting against the poison injected by the advocates of non-co-operation, and if the reaction was at first somewhat feeble, it is gathering strength as it proceeds. Men who carry weight have of late been speaking out: the important province of Bengal has ranged itself definitely on the side of orderly constitutional advance; and the equally important, if less vocal, intelligence of the United Provinces is clearly hardening against the attempts to wreck its most cherished educational institutions, the established Hindu University at Benares, and the embryo Moslem University at Aligarh. Madras appears to have ignored the cult of non-co-operation in its devotion to the complex social question of brahmanical supremacy, a question which it must take the lead in solving, and there are grounds for hoping that the other large provinces have secured, at the least, legislatures which will work. Meanwhile, the unconstitutional party is obviously at a loss for new expedients, and the significance of that fact will be apparent to every practical politician; the original attack has failed, and the tacticians are seeking for an inspiration which may result in restoring their position.

### *The Agitators' Nemesis.*

It looks, indeed, rather as if the non-co-operators would shortly come to be regarded as a public nuisance. Many classes are being offended in succession, and parents in particular, who still count for more than undergraduates, though they make less noise, resent bitterly the tactics which threaten to destroy their authority over their sons. As to the latest development recorded in the cables, the interruption of funeral ceremonies, we may be confident that, though some fanatics may approve, Indians in the mass will condemn measures which outrage their deepest feelings and interfere with the most sacred of their religious obligations.

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It is quite possible that, if the agitators persist in such forms of activity, one or other of the new legislatures may voice a popular demand for their forcible suppression, a step which would justify an immediate change of front on the part of the executive, but in any case the present indications are that the authorities have acted wisely in allowing plenty of rope. The agitation has at least afforded a crucial test of the fitness of India to take even the first steps towards responsible self-government, and if India stands the strain, she may look for much more rapid progress than anyone expected when the new constitution was promised three years ago.

### *Sedition and Intimidation.*

No one familiar with Indian conditions will be surprised that the attempt to wreck the constitution has been marked by the employment of religious intimidation in the form with which the country is unhappily familiar. The act of voting has, we are told, been represented as a sin ranking in magnitude with the slaughter of a hundred cows, and since to kill a single cow brings guilt which no Hindu can contemplate, the use of such a threat has probably interfered materially with the elections in which it was employed. We trust the Government will draw a clear distinction between sedition against themselves, which they have agreed to tolerate for the moment, and this form of intimidation, which is treason against the whole future of India. Experience shows that in electioneering, as in other forms of human activity, bad habits are quickly acquired, while their subsequent eradication may be a matter of the greatest difficulty: the habit of imputing sin to political opponents is one which might very easily become prevalent, and no effort should be spared to prevent its growth by the application from the outset of the severe penalties already provided by the law.

## THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

### The Opposition's Collapse.

In the early part of the week there was a great flourish of trumpets from the Opposition; sage heads were nodded, and the newspapers informed us with many headlines that we were about to see what we were about to see. Big business denounced Mr. Austen Chamberlain, and even announced his successor; the Wee Frees denounced Mr. Lloyd George as a spendthrift; the Labour men denounced militarism in Mesopotamia, and the *Daily Mail* denounced everybody, to the extreme anguish of the *Daily News*, which hates to see that great Liberal virtue, economy, coyly entering Carmelite House. The Government, like the Jackdaw of Rheims, was cursed all round.

But nothing whatever happened. The House of Commons, bargee fashion, turned round and denounced the *Daily Mail*, to the indignation of all its contemporaries, which had to advertise the hated rival in their own reports. Big business collapsed, after its habit. The Wee Frees, bereft of Mr. Asquith, who was away at Paisley, collapsed, after their habit. Labour mostly forgot to turn up, after its habit; and Mr. Austen Chamberlain won all along the line.

There is something very puzzling about Mr. Chamberlain. He is always under-estimated by his fellow politicians—not, I think, by the public—and consequently he always surprises them by the excellence of his speech. He confounded all the prophecies of a huge deficit; he gave facts and figures to show that the Government was steadily economising in every department where it could do so at the moment and—he sat down. Nobody attempted to answer him. The Opposition had a case, and they made the worst of it.

### The Irish Problem.

It has been a strange week in Ireland. The forces of order have made themselves heard once more, the Galway County Council, a Sinn Fein body, condemning the assassinations and arson committed in the name of Sinn Fein; while Father O'Flanagan, a courageous Roman priest, sent a telegram to Mr. Lloyd George openly advocating peace. The fact was announced—what had been surmised by the well-informed—that the Government has been carrying on negotiations with prominent Irishmen with a view to an accommodation. it has neglected no road that seemed likely to lead to peace.

But the hopes built upon these happenings were rudely disturbed. It became necessary to proclaim martial law in the south-west counties of Ireland; and outside Cork, another ambush of British forces was carried out with fatal results. The now inevitable reprisals took the form of firing Cork; several of the main streets and public buildings of that city have been reduced to ruins, and panic set in among the private inhabitants. Immediately following upon this, the Bishop of Cork issued a denunciation of the policy of ambush as both cowardly and immoral, and gave notice that he would resort to the extreme measure of excommunicating any who took part in it. It is hardly likely that this strong measure will fail of some effect; meanwhile, the people of Cork have petitioned the British General in charge of the garrison there to protect them, and he has, of course, promised to do so.

The proposed "truce of God" is evidently not yet. But despite these outrages and reprisals, there seems some reason to believe that Ireland itself is revolting against systematised murder as a means of securing autonomy. It is by no means too soon.

It is understood that the semi-official negotiations are to continue, but it is clear that they will have little hope of success while ambushing is a daily occurrence.

### The Abbey and St. Paul's.

The Westminster Abbey fund progresses slowly but steadily; there are few big donations, but rather more than half the amount required has been raised. Meanwhile, St. Paul's Cathedral is again in difficulties; it is the old trouble of too large a dome pressing on inadequate pillars. These are gradually being rebuilt and strengthened, but the cost is heavy. St. Paul's, however, is not making a general appeal, partly in order not to compete with the Abbey; the Cathedral is the peculiar property of the City, and it is obtaining help quietly from City men. About £10,000 has been raised; it is believed that £100,000 will be required.

### Judges' Salaries.

There is a good deal of talk at the Bar as to the urgent necessity of raising the judges' salaries. When the salary of a Judge of the High Court was fixed at five thousand a year, it was a very considerable sum; now its value is in any case less than half, and about fifteen hundred a year is deducted in taxation. A judge is, of course, entitled to a pension when he retires, but it is so much less than his salary that several judges really cannot afford to retire, in spite of increasing deafness and other physical infirmity.

An equally serious consideration is that if the judges' salaries are not increased—it is suggested that they

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should be doubled—it will be difficult in future to get the best men at the Bar to accept judgeships. For various reasons, not least of which is that of the prestige which attaches to a judge, distinguished counsel are ready to incur a financial loss when they are promoted to the Bench. But they cannot be expected to reduce their income beyond a certain amount, and the best men at the Bar would consider a mere five thousand a year disastrous.

The judges can hardly strike, or go in procession to Trafalgar Square, to exploit their grievances. But it is common knowledge that the question of Ministerial salaries is shortly to be discussed, and the whole problem could well be considered together.

The most monstrous case, of course, of all is the five thousand a year of the Prime Minister, and the fact that there is no pension is equally inequitable. In the past rich men have held the post who did not want the pension—both Mr. Balfour and Campbell-Bannerman were wealthy, Gladstone was never poor, and the Salisburys have never yet begged their bread in the streets of Hatfield; but both Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George are poor men. It is generally felt that any man who has once been Prime Minister should be entitled to a pension. It would hardly ever happen that more than two men would be drawing the pension at the same time.

**Club Troubles.**

The clubs are again in difficulties. All except the National Liberal have put up their subscriptions, but, apparently, the increase is not enough, and a further levy will have to be made, which, however, will operate to reduce the membership. There are complaints, too, that coffee-room charges are extortionate. I cannot speak generally, but at the only two clubs which I frequent they serve a better dinner for five shillings than at a restaurant for seven-and-six; and the only better and cheaper catering that I know is in the restaurant cars of the Great Eastern Railway, which are uniformly excellent.

But the financial straits of some of the clubs are so serious that they have been driven to the most desperate of all reforms—the admission of ladies, not as guests, but as members. In the old days the only woman who crossed the threshold of the average club was the charwoman; and I remember a serious discussion on club casuistry—if a member was dying in the club smoking-room, and his wife called to see him, would the committee be justified in letting her in? But now one of the staid service clubs, where admirals and generals snore in unison, is about to admit women as members—W.R.A.F.'s and W.R.E.N.'s of high degree, presumably, and others may have to follow suit. Probably the Athenæum will be the last to bow the knee to the conquering petticoat; after all, it is the only place where the Bishops can escape their wives.

**Cambridge and Women.**

But Cambridge has done this week what the clubs dare not do—repulse the women. By a fair majority Tabland has rejected the plea that women should have the full privileges of the University; the country clergy, as usual, are blamed for the adverse vote—I know not with what truth. There has been a good deal of derisive comment on the vote from the feminists, but I have heard some unregenerate males openly confess their joy at the result in language whose strength entirely acquitted them of any connection with the country clergy.

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**Unemployment.**

It has become quite a common thing for the unemployed to seize public buildings, such as libraries, municipal baths, and so on, and to use them as committee rooms. Several more instances have been reported this week; no damage is done, and no serious protest is made by the authorities; in fact, the thing is treated quite good-naturedly. In most cases an amicable arrangement is come to, and the town hall or library is vacated after a few days. One or two nervous municipalities have begun to guard their town halls, but there has been no attempt to damage property, and the behaviour of the men concerned has usually been perfectly "correct" in circumstances that might easily have led to trouble.

**The Week's Books.**

Two stupendous works on the soul have been sent to me this week. The first, "In Search of the Soul" (Kegan Paul), is by Dr. Bernard Hollander, the well-known mental specialist, whose "First Signs of Insanity" is a standard work. (This latter book, by the way, got me into an awkward difficulty some years ago. I bought it for a Christmas present for a medical friend, and a volume of somebody's sermons for a parson. Unluckily, I left the bookseller to dispatch them, with the result that the doctor, who was an agnostic, received the sermons, and the parson, who was a rising preacher, obtained a text-book on insanity. Things have never been quite the same since.) Fortunately, the present work would do for either doctor or parson, since the general conclusion is that the soul is still beyond definite knowledge, and only to be conceived by faith.

The second book of the kind is "From the Unconscious to the Conscious" (Collins), by Dr. Gustav Geley, Director of the International Metapsychical Institute at Paris. Its general thesis is that of Schopenhauer without his pessimism, a kind of Schopenhauer without tears. An unconscious will strives ever towards consciousness, and this is the divine order and purpose of the universe. It is a curious combination of scientific reasoning and emotional writing; the author rejects Darwin, ignores Bateson, sneers at mysticism, yet teaches that humanity has a divine spark at the very centre of the soul—the essential mystical doctrine—and believes in reincarnation. It can best be described as a much-modified Bergson; it is very stimulating reading, but the logic is frequently defective, and it will be accepted by the emotional rather than the scientific.

"The World of Sound" (G. Bell and Sons), by Sir William Bragg, F.R.S., is frankly more to my taste than an inconclusive discussion on the soul. It is as interesting as the celebrated lectures delivered by Tyndall forty years ago on light, heat, and sound; and like those lectures, these also were spoken at the Royal Institution. They discuss sound in music, sounds of the town, country, and sea; and sounds in war.

Mr. H. G. Wells has spent a fortnight in Russia, has written a book about it, and is now busily quarrelling with Mr. Churchill over the latter's criticism of his work. Mr. Wells may be described as generally friendly to the Bolshevists in the book, "Russia in the Shadows" (Hodder and Stoughton), but his remarks on their weaknesses are not particularly encouraging. He holds that nobody else could rule Russia, at any rate, at present; but he says "the credit and industrial system that produced commodities has broken down, and so far the attempts to replace it, by some other form of protection, have been ineffective. So that nowhere are there any new things."

That is rather damning; still more is the forecast that if this continues, "Nothing will be left of Russia but a country of peasants; the towns will be practically deserted and in ruins; the railways will be rusting in disuse. With the railways will go the last vestiges of any general government. The peasants are absolutely illiterate and collectively stupid, capable of resisting interference, but incapable of comprehensive foresight and organisation. They will become a sort of human swamp, in a state of division, petty civil war, and political squalor; with a famine whenever the harvests are bad; and they will be breeding epidemics for the rest of Europe. They will lapse towards Asia."

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## GREECE.

ATHENS, Nov. 27.

**The Plebiscite.**

The Government has definitely decided that the plebiscite on King Constantine will take place on November 22 (O.S.). As soon as the result is known the King will be invited to return to Athens.

A meeting was held yesterday at the Liberal Club here by the Venizelist deputies and ex-deputies, who discussed the question of the attitude to be adopted by their party with regard to the plebiscite. As a result of this meeting the Liberals issued a *communiqué* to the Press to the effect that the plebiscite about to take place is not considered necessary, and the Liberal Party, in consenting to it would be instrumental in an action the sole object of which is to transfer the responsibility for any consequences that might arise as a result of the King's restoration from the Government to the people. The *communiqué* points out that the elections of November 1, by which over 40 per cent. of the electors opposed the restoration of King Constantine, have proved sufficiently what the people's sentiments are. A plebicite would not, therefore, be the sincere opinion of the Greek people, but merely the product of falsification and the result of a psychological pressure, in view of the conditions under which it will take place and seeing that it concerns a person already recognised by the Government as the legitimate King of Greece, and that same Government is to-day ruling in his name. The *communiqué* finally states that the Liberals will hold the Government responsible for any consequences arising as a result of the plebiscite to which the latter has invited the people, who are completely in the dark as to the real position of the dynastic question from an international point of view.

**The Return of the Princes.**

Prince Andrew, Prince Christopher, and their sister, Grand Duchess Mary, arrived in Athens from Switzerland last Tuesday. They were received at the Piræus by their mother, the Dowager Queen Olga, the Council of Ministers, and the Mayor of Piræus, with the Municipal Council. An immense crowd had gathered on the quay and cheered the Princes, who immediately departed in their motor cars for Athens. On Boulevard Sygros, and about a mile or so outside the capital, the crowds were so dense that the Royal motor cars were unable to continue their journey, and the Princes alighted to thank the cheering people. They were promptly seized and carried shoulder high to the Royal Palace. Prince Andrew, in a short speech from the balcony of the Palace, thanked the people for their great reception, and added that both he and his brother were proud to belong to such a noble nation.

On Wednesday morning the Princes visited the Prime Minister. The Government has decided to reinstate the Princes in the Greek Army, with the rank held by them prior to their departure from Greece in 1917.

**A General Amnesty.**

The Government *Gazette* has published a Royal Decree, by which general amnesty is granted to all political offenders, whether their case has already been dealt with or not. This amnesty does not, however, include those connected with the disturbances which took place in Athens on August 13 as a result of the attempt on M. Venizelos's life in Paris.

**A Hard Worker.**

M. Demetrius Ralli, the President of the Council of Ministers, is 80 years old, although he himself will not admit that he is more than 76. In spite of his great age, the Greek Premier is a very hard worker. Two days ago he worked at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs unceasingly from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. without partaking of any food during all these long hours. It is rumoured, however, that he drank about half a dozen small cups of Turkish coffee, which, as is well known, is a first-class stimulant.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, November 27.

**Betrothal of Prince Carol.**

The *Monitorul Oficial* announced on November 21 the betrothal of Crown Prince Carol of Roumania to Princess Helen of Greece, which took place at Lucerne in the presence of Queen Marie of Roumania and the Greek Royal family.

**The Order of Michael the Brave.**

According to the yearly custom, a banquet was given by the King to the holders of the order of Michael the Brave, which is the highest military order in the country.

Besides the King, who is the Master of the Order, 158 officers of all ranks, regular and reserve, took part, headed by General Averescu, the Prime Minister. The first toast—to the Cavaliers—was given by the King. General Averescu replied on behalf of his colleagues of the Order and in the name of the Army, assuring the King that he could rely on them in case of any danger, and that the spirit of sacrifice and love for the country reigned supreme in the Roumanian Army.

**Press Telegraphic Service.**

Beginning on November 20 Roumania has resumed the press telegraphic service with England, Belgium, Greece, France, Algiers and Tunis, which was suspended during the war. Telegrams will enjoy the usual 50 per cent. reduction of charge.

**Trial of Socialist Leaders.**

After a trial lasting four weeks, seven of the Socialist leaders who were arrested last month, when they attempted to bring about a general strike, have been sentenced to five years' penal servitude, with liberty to appeal. The majority are members of Parliament; they were judged not by the Civil Courts, but by the Military. The Government, in explaining the trial and sentence, says that these men were sentenced not as Socialists, but as agitators and conspirators against the State; in other words, that they are paying penalty for their acts, and not for their principles.

The general feeling is that the sentence is rather too severe. The trial had two sides: political and juridical. From the political point of view it is considered to have been a mistake, as it gave the impression in some quarters that the Government meant to deal a blow at the Socialist party before the opening of Parliament, whereas it has actually given the leaders a chance to pose as heroes, and has thereby strengthened their party. From a juridical point of view it is held that they should have been judged according to the Trancu-Jassi Law and not under military law; for, with the Armistice two years old, the peace treaties ratified, and the army demobilised, the country could hardly be regarded as still in a state of war.

**Destructive Gale in the Black Sea.**

Further details of the storm which raged over the Black Sea a week ago show that it was of quite exceptional severity, and that besides causing much damage to shipping it also led to the loss of many lives. The Roumanian steamer Emperor Trajan, which left Sulina on November 19 for Constantza, encountered terrific weather, and after proceeding about five miles was forced to put back to Sulina; and she was not able to resume her interrupted voyage until the 23rd—a delay of five days. From Varna comes the report that two boats were sunk with all hands, and at Sulina and around Snakes Island the gale played havoc with the fishing boats, and about 200 fishermen are said to have been drowned.

**The Danube: Navigating Troubles.**

The lowness of the Danube has already impeded navigation of the river. Many sandbanks have formed, and have caused several barges to strand. Now, on top of this trouble, there is every prospect that the river

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will be frozen this year. In that case the consequences will be most unpleasant for the country, and especially for the riverside towns, which will have difficulty in providing themselves with fuel and other necessaries. Moreover, it will injure trade considerably, as large boats will be debarred from calling at Galatz and Braila. Constantza will thus become the only port available; and it is practically cut off from the rest of the country, as the Borcea bridge over the Danube has not yet been repaired.

## TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Nov. 29.

**The Negotiations with Angora.**

The event of the week, so far as local politics are concerned, has been the return of the Government's delegate to Angora. The identity of this courier has now been allowed to leak out—which is fair ground for the assumption that the essential communications between the Cabinet and Mustapha Kemal have passed through a totally different channel—and he is known to be a certain Staff Captain named Neshet Bey, who returned to Constantinople, apparently without any "camouflage," by a Turkish steamer from Ineboli, with the appropriate name of Umid (Hope). He arrived in Constantinople on Monday morning, and immediately had a long interview with the Minister of the Interior, Marshal Izzet Pasha. Since then the Cabinet has held several important meetings, and there can be no doubt that the Government is on the eve of taking decisions that may have far-reaching effects. Yet the only official information that is vouchsafed to the docile public is that "the purpose pursued by the Government in sending an agent to Angora was to establish a preliminary contact with the Anatolians. This contact has now taken place. Telegraphic communications have been established. The Government will act for the best." In spite, however, of this official reticence, there are grounds for believing that the Nationalists, while not exactly rejecting the olive branch, still maintain their fundamental demand, that is, the drastic modification of the Treaty of Sèvres. The result of the Hellenic elections will certainly have inspired them with the same hopes as those which have arisen among Turks of another colour, and they will be alive to the advantages of arriving at an understanding with the Allies, as an alternative to relying upon the Bolshevists to "save" Anatolia and Islam from the wicked Imperialists. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Government should have been informed that an official delegation would be welcomed—under certain conditions.

This delegation was to have left for Angora immediately, but the conditions happen to include one which necessitates obtaining an assurance from the Allies that the Treaty of Sèvres will be modified in accordance with certain desires of the Nationalists. Thus the real problem has been definitely enunciated at last, for, as has been repeatedly stated in previous letters, the fundamental quarrel of the Nationalists is with the introduction of Greek dominion in Anatolia. It is true that there are several other not unimportant desiderata put forward by Mustapha Kemal, and many more by the extremists of the Unionist school; but if the above-mentioned matter could be settled, it would not be long before Anatolia settled down once again. Thus, the chances of the present Cabinet's success depend entirely upon the willingness of the Allies to reconsider the Treaty of Sèvres, chiefly as regards those clauses which affect Smyrna. Whether the Allies, singly or collectively, are willing to take any action in the direction indicated, and upon what other circumstances that action may depend, are questions which are beyond the scope of this letter.

**Anatolia.**

The exact state of the relations between the Nationalists and their Bolshevist "allies" has become a subject


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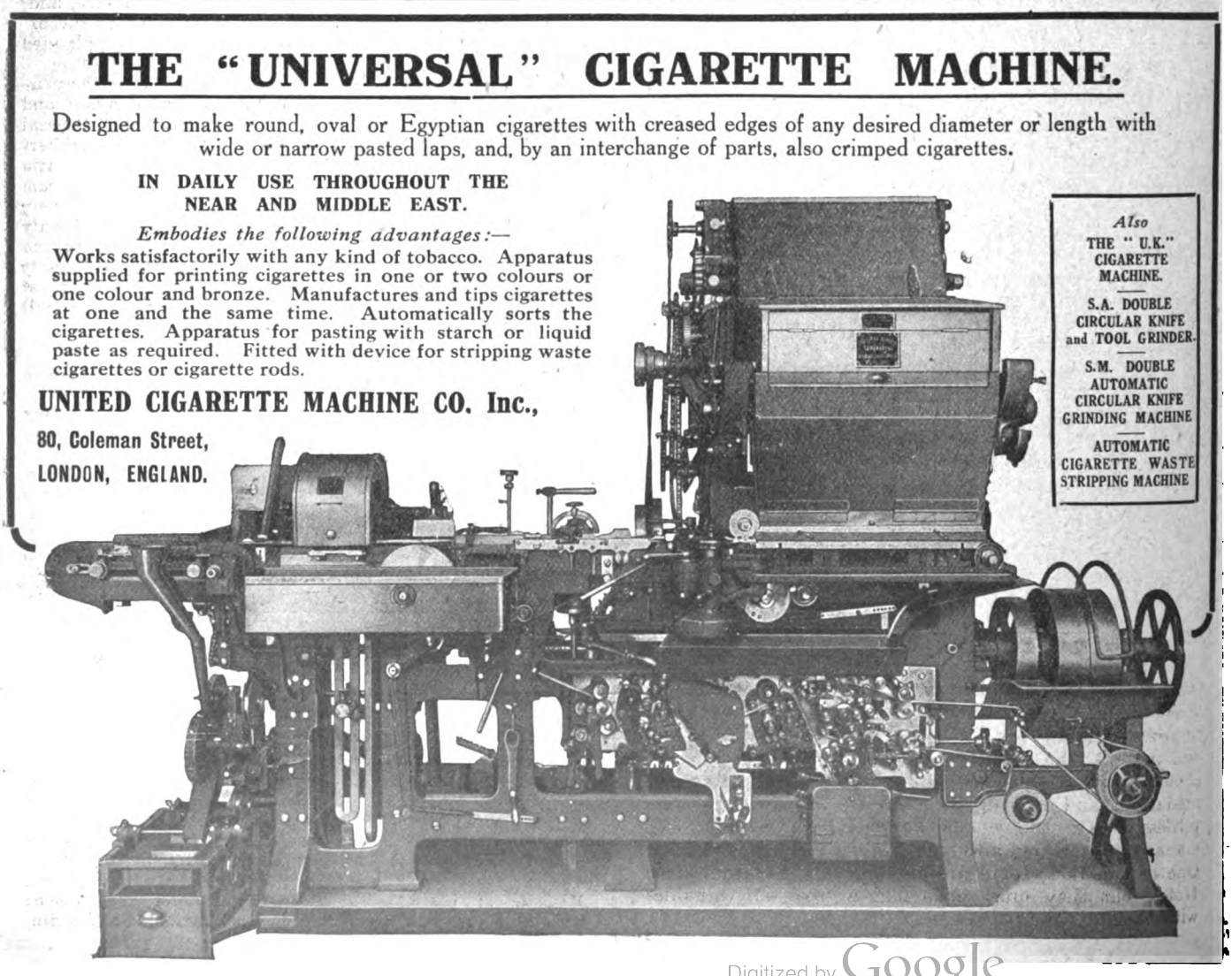

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of absorbing interest, although information on the subject is so scanty, unreliable, and contradictory that it is impossible as yet to come to any definite conclusion. It seems tolerably clear that there has been a rift in the lute, but it is by no means clear whether this was caused by Bolshevist apprehensions as to the possible results attendant upon a Turkish advance to the Armeno-Azerbaijan frontier, or whether it was caused by Bolshevist pique because the overtures of the Central Government, a "capitalist" and "imperialist" concern, were not scornfully rebuffed. It is only certain that hostilities against the Armenians have ceased, temporarily at least, and as a result of an armistice that was practically imposed by the Soviet Government of Moscow. On the other hand, it is common knowledge that the Nationalists accepted Chicherin's offer, made some three or four months ago, that frontier disputes with Armenia and Persia should be settled by the friendly mediation of the Moscow Government. Unless the Nationalists have succeeded in persuading the Bolshevists that they are bluffing the Allies and the Central Government, however, the Moscow Government could hardly regard the progress of affairs with a benevolent eye. The order to Kiazim Karabekir's army to withdraw to the west of the Arpa River, and the denunciation of the Brest-Litovsk Treaty, therefore, may be regarded as a sharp intimation to Angora to "toe the line," rather than as an indication of Bolshevist fears of a general uprising in Azerbaijan if the Turks reached the frontier, although this consideration must also have had some weight in the Soviet Councils.

Meanwhile the "Communist Party" in the Great National Assembly continues its activities, but so far its only practical success has been the acceptance by the Assembly of its proposals to make Anatolia "dry." Any shopkeeper in whose establishment the smallest quantity of "raki" is discovered is fined £T50, and the liquor is immediately thrown away. It is reported that these measures are being rigorously applied, but one may be permitted to doubt whether the interdiction is extended to the very apex of the Nationalist pyramid, for Mustapha Kemal used to have a nice taste in wines.

**Nemesis.**

During the administration of Damad Ferid Pasha, a determined effort was made to bring to justice some of the numerous criminals implicated in the massacres and deportations of the Armenians during the war. Unfortunately, however, but as usual also, the special Court-martial formed for the purpose was utilised for certain unworthy political purposes, and a number of distinguished Turkish personalities were sentenced to various penalties for having taken part in what was called the "pillage" of Yildiz. One more turn of the wheel has brought the other side into power, and no time has been lost in taking advantage of the situation. Thus "Kurd" Mustapha Pasha, the President of Damad Ferid Pasha's Court-martial, has now been under arrest for some time, under an accusation of having rendered illegal judgments. Any stick is good enough for certain purposes, and the justice or otherwise of the charge is really a minor detail; but the outlook for Mustapha Pasha is certainly somewhat gloomy, or would be if it were not practically certain that there will be another amnesty very shortly. After all, Mustapha Pasha is a patriot, and in Turkey every patriot is condemned to death sooner or later. But it is astonishing how few succumb.

**The Russians.**

With the departure of the bulk of the refugees for the various camps which have been placed at the disposal of the French authorities, matters have greatly improved during the last week. The three thousand odd persons who have been permitted to land here are encountering the greatest difficulties in finding accommodation, and certain householders are fleecing them pitilessly. On the whole, however, they seem to be managing somehow, although heaven alone knows how. One or two lucky ones are staying at the Pera Palace Hotel, but they must have had a stock of valuables with them.

## ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA, November 18.

**The Fall of Venizelos.**

The entire Greek population of this province consider that "Old Greece" has committed suicide by dismissing from power Venizelos. The result is altogether inexplicable to them because the Greeks of Asia Minor are believed to have voted solidly for Venizelos. Business is quite paralysed in consequence of this affair, and the money changers are refusing to accept Greek money, pretending that they do not know the rate of exchange.

The High Commissioner, M. Sterghiades, a staunch Venizelist, has resigned his post, and as he has ruled this province with a strong hand, his departure leaves the direction of affairs without a head. On the other hand, the Turks are jubilant; in fact, the Greek people have played completely into the hands of their enemies by rejecting Venizelos. In the Smyrna bazaars the Turks assume mock serious airs and pretend to lament the sad loss of "Our dear Prime Minister." The Greek population seem completely stunned, and Smyrna has about the same melancholy appearance as it had when the Germans were rushing towards Paris in 1914.

SMYRNA, November 23.

**A Theatrical Demonstration.**

Officers of the Greek Army and Navy are emphatically showing themselves strong for what they call "their Dear King Constantine." Last night at the Smyrna Theatre groups of officers posted photos of Constantine round the boxes and vociferously cheered every time one of the photos was affixed. The performance was "The Chocolate Soldier," but before the orchestra was allowed to play the music of the piece they were compelled to play Constantine's hymn, which was enthusiastically applauded by the officers. A British officer, in uniform, sitting in one of the boxes, discreetly withdrew while the hymn was being played, but on his return the Greek officers pointedly saluted him and then ordered the band to play the British National Anthem, which was repeated to satisfy the exigencies of the audience—for both officers and civilians approved of the British hymn. Then the officers called for the "Marseillaise," and afterwards for the Italian National Anthem, to emphasise their good wishes for the Entente. When the heroine should have sung her plaintive solo to her absent lover's photo, the officers substituted a photo of ex-King Constantine, and, naturally the words "Come, come," interpreted as the exhortation for the ex-King's return, were loudly applauded by the officers.

Meanwhile, bands of soldiers were perambulating the principal streets of the city singing Constantine's hymn and destroying any photo of Venizelos they came across. Several times fights were prevented by officers enjoining the soldiers to cease taunting the Greek civilians, who are mostly warm supporters of the defeated Premier. The civilians' gloom at the loss of Venizelos has been deepened by the discovery that all the officers and most of the soldiers are not only ardent Royalists, but what is more appalling to the Smyrna Greeks, anti-Venizelists. Ex-King Constantine was harshly unsympathetic to the Smyrna Greeks during the years of the persecution, and they fear his return to power will mean a reversal of the Venizelos policy.

**Cynical Turks.**

Nothing amuses the Smyrna Turks more than to see Greek soldiers cutting down the photos of Venizelos. Surely, they say, Allah has heard their prayers and the enemy of the Moslems is destroyed by his own people. There are in Smyrna many Cretans who claim to have been twice driven out of house and home by Venizelos—from Crete and Macedonia—and they are rejoicing at having escaped, as they believe, a third exile through their tormentor being himself exiled.

A Royalist general, A. Papoulas, has been sent to Smyrna to take over the command of the army operating against the Kemalists, replacing the gallant officer, Pareskevopoulos, who has led the army so brilliantly. The new commander was previously Chief of Police at Patras.

## ALBANIA.

VALONA, December 10.

**The New Government.**

A new Government has been formed as a result of the former Ministry—that of Suleiman Bey Delvina—having lost the confidence of the Legislative Assembly and of the Senate. The following compose the new Cabinet: Ilias Bey Vrioni, President of the Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs; Fuad Zembrak, Minister of the Interior; Jafer Ypi, Minister of Justice; Tef Tsurani, Minister of Finance; Kristag Flogi, Minister of Public Instruction; Salaheddin.

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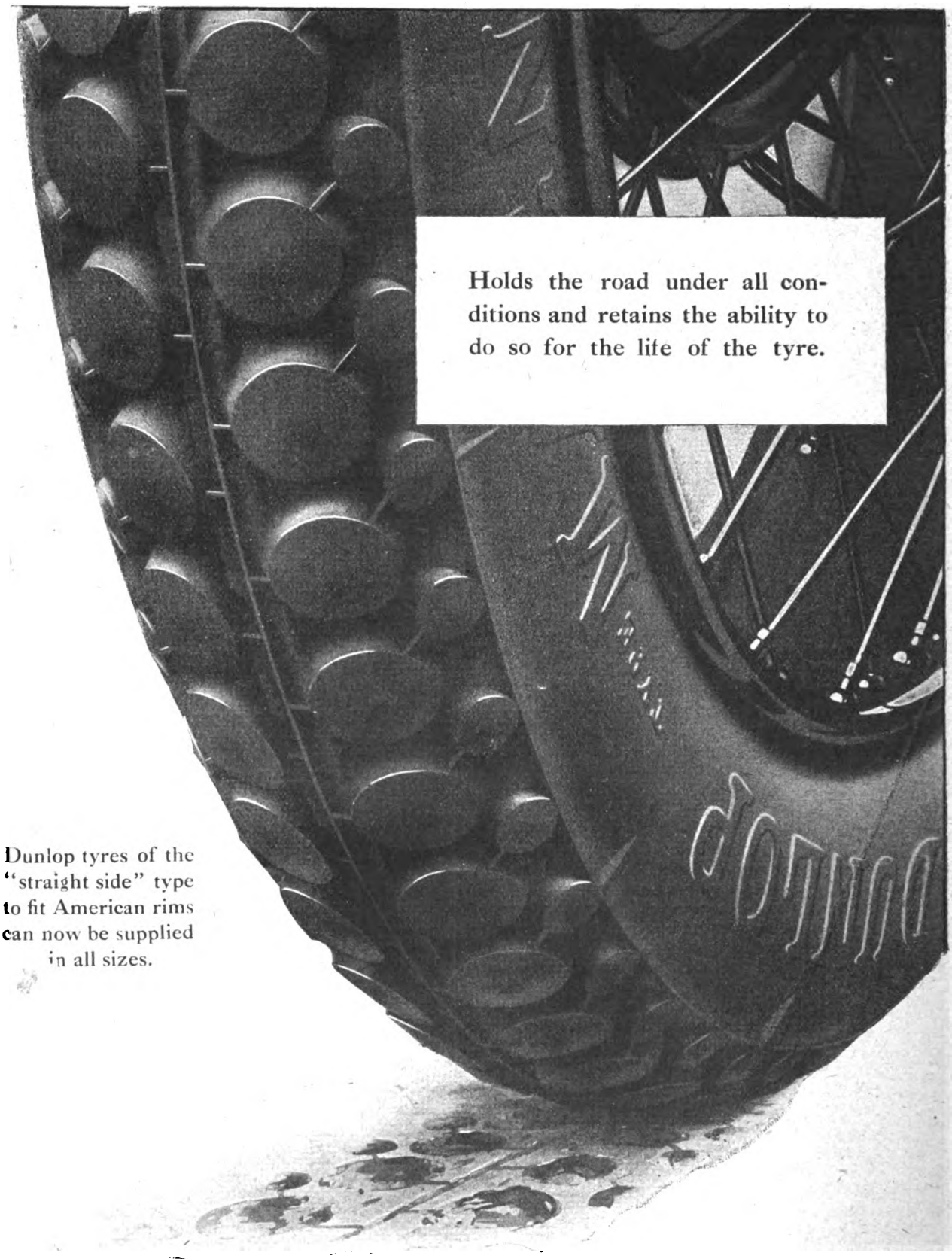

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## THE NEW MAGNUM TYPE

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Minister of War. The four members forming the Supreme Council have not been changed. They are Monseigneur L. Bumci (Bishop of Alessio), Akif Elbasani, Abdi Toptani, and Dr. M. Tourtouli. The change of Government, the fall of the late Cabinet and the accession to power of the new Ministry have all been accomplished quietly and without any sign of unrest. It is to be hoped that the new Cabinet will enjoy some stability.

**Difficulties with the Serbians.**

In spite of the apparent calm and of the silence maintained by the Press, Albania has been encountering considerable difficulties with Serbia. The latter State occupies a large amount of Albanian territory under the pretext that the Italians are still maintaining a garrison of 200 soldiers at Scutari. The Albanian authorities have repeatedly asked for the evacuation of the occupied territories by the Serbian troops, while giving Yugoslavia the assurances that the Italians will evacuate Scutari just as they have evacuated Valona. So far the Serbians have taken no notice of these representations. They have, on the contrary, exasperated the Albanian population. Troubles have arisen, and some 120 villages on Albanian territory have been completely destroyed by the Serbians. There are at this moment between 35,000 and 40,000 refugees—men, women, and children—at Tirana and in its immediate neighbourhood. All these people are in a miserable plight. It is difficult to understand the reasons prompting the Serbian attitude, for it has always been believed that the interests of both Serbia and Albania pointed to the necessity of the two countries living in friendly relationship.

**An Internal Loan.**

In spite of the heavy expenses incurred by keeping such a large number of men on a war-footing in Albania, the revenue of the country has been sufficient to meet the expenditure. The Albanian Parliament decided, towards the end of last May, to authorise the floating of an internal loan, which has met with satisfactory results. Large sums were provided by the Albanians living in the United States of America, among whom M. Midhat Fracheri has recently completed a tour as representative of the country.

**The Murder of Essad Pasha.**

The acquittal of Avni Rustem, the young Albanian student who killed Essad Pasha Toptani in Paris on June 13, has been received with great satisfaction by Albanians in Albania and abroad. It is held to have been creditable to French justice that the intrigues and crimes of Essad Pasha should have been so clearly denounced by the judgment of the court. At the same time it is welcomed as a triumph of the Albanian cause and a condemnation of the political machinations aimed against Albania.

**Albania and the League of Nations.**

Albania has asked to be admitted into the League of Nations, having presented a well-reasoned memorandum on this subject at Geneva. It was hoped in Albania that this request would not be refused, for admission was regarded as a favour or an act of justice to which every nation, large or small, is entitled. Unfortunately, the petition has not been granted, the question of Albania's admission to the League having been postponed. Public opinion in Albania is inclined to attribute the delay to the combined efforts of Italy and Serbia. The excuse given is that the international status of Albania has not yet been determined. In Albania, however, the people are satisfied that the status of the country has been established by the will of the people, and that any doubt as to its international status is merely due to the difficulties raised by its neighbours.

## CYPRUS.

NICOSIA (Undated).

**Roads and Forests.**

A Greek member of Council for Nicosia, M. Severis, in an interview with the officer administering the Government, has presented a number of petitions. One relates to various roads that require repair in order to be of use for motor traffic, which continues rapidly to increase. His list might be supplemented by claims of equal urgency from most other districts. The O.A.G. replied that if surplus funds allowed the work would be carried out this year; if not, next. The maintenance of roads—the construction of which has been so lamentably slow and difficult in Cyprus—constitutes a serious call on the Public Works Vote.

Other petitions related chiefly to the forests. Various villages near the State forests beg that the cost of fuel sold by the Forest Department, which has been increased from 2½ to 12 piastres (1s. 4d.) the load (mule or donkey), may be reduced to the former rate. The claim for substantial reduction, in the present state of finances, is quite reasonable, especially as under Turkish law villagers living near the forests always had the privilege of taking dry fuel for domestic purposes. The other petitions were from villagers asking permission to graze flocks within the State forests; and this is quite another matter. One cannot but regret that the Government has not adopted a firmer tone than it has in the past. The members of Council take different views on the subject. M. Theodótou, for instance, has for years been an advocate of strict exclusion, and has done much to uphold forest interests. But others are not all of his way of thinking. They have not been able to harden their hearts against the blandishments of the flock owners. The reply of the O.A.G. was that, while grazing could not be allowed within deliminated forests, where there is danger to seedlings and reafforestation, he would endeavour to find other tracts near the forests for the purpose. But the mischief is that from these very regions bordering on what remains of State forests there cannot but be a great increase of most injurious trespass inside the forest limits, which is far too frequent as it is. A steady and systematic reduction of goats would be far wiser policy, hard as it might seem at first in individual cases—where, however, it would be preferable to compensate owners. Other countries have faced precisely the same difficulties firmly, so why not Cyprus? It is to be hoped that very strict discrimination will be exercised in carrying out this hazardous half-promise. The Principal Forest Officer, it may be added, is deservedly popular throughout the island, for he has always sympathised with village needs and interests.

**Improvements at Nicosia.**

The Forest Department proposes, after the next good rains, to plant a number of trees to form avenues on roads leading from Nicosia to Larnaca, Kyrenia, Lefkóniko, Kormakíti, and other places. It is proposed to carry out similar plantations in other districts at future dates; and indeed it seems strange that some other towns should not participate this season in these benefits. The difficulty in Cyprus is to keep the trees alive for the first years during the summer months of drought; but the employment of prison labour greatly facilitates this class of work.

**General News.**

Lord Milner's message that the island of Cyprus will be retained by Britain has been published in a Government *Gazette Extraordinary* (November 17). As far as the island in general is concerned, the news has been received with perfect equanimity and satisfaction. The protests made in some of the towns and largest village centres were a matter of course. The last members of the London deputation arrived at Famagusta yesterday.

Mr. Howard, President of the Larnaca Court, has been transferred to Limassol. Major Bolton, C.B.E., Commissioner of Limassol, is expected from England before Christmas.

NICOSIA, November 16.

**Disastrous Fire at Nicosia.**

The Greek community has suffered a grievous loss from a fire which, on the night of November 7, destroyed their principal educational establishment, the Pan-Cypriot Gymnasium. This large building was regarded with pride by the Greeks. The cause of the outbreak is unknown. The flames soon spread unchecked, as the means of coping with fires are lacking at Nicosia, as in most towns; and the greater part of the building, with its classrooms and library, fell a prey to the flames. The principal of the Gymnasium, M. Doukákis, who lived in the building, but was absent at Larnaca, was summoned by telegram and hurried back.

The blow is a serious one for the community, especially as the building was not insured. The Government is being approached with a view to a loan for rebuilding. A committee of professors is appealing to the Hellenic Government, the University of Athens, and other bodies for help and for contributions of books. Fortunately, the educational course is not interrupted, as a town school adjoining, which escaped the fire, can be utilised, as well as rooms in the Archbishop's palace. This calamity intensifies the manifest need of providing means for fighting fires. The municipality should long ago have attended to this want, and should now pull itself together for an effort. The deep-rooted objection to levying rates is the chief obstacle, added to a characteristic want of enterprise.

**General News.**

Murders still continue to be far too frequent. A Moslem, Hassan Hussein, has been found killed between Nicosia and Kyrenia, and his brother Ahmet Kunely wounded. They are said to have been stealing olives. Another village murder has taken place owing to a brawl at a feast. Arrests have been made in each case.

A medal of the Royal Humane Society has been conferred on a Greek boy named Ch. Piperides, who, though unable to swim, saved two children from drowning in flood water of the river Pedias, near Nicosia. The presentation took place at Government House, the Chief Commandant of Police, the Chief Inspector of Schools, Canon Newham, and others being present.

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## THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

Recently at the Tower Bridge Police Court, an American was charged with stealing a tobacco-box from a missioner attached to the Southwark Diocesan Mission, who had befriended him and given him shelter after he had been charged at another police-court. The prisoner, it seemed, had been offering the box for sale at Finsbury for 2s., but its real value was about £100; for it was made of platinum, there was only one other box like it in London, and it had been presented to Mr. Embling, the missioner, by a famous man—none other than Nuri Pasha, of the Turkish Nationalist forces. The British Museum thought so well of it that they had made an offer for it on account of its unique workmanship; but we must suppose, since the box still belonged to Mr. Embling, that he had rejected the offer because it had associations for him. And here comes the part of the story that will cause surprise to some people: the box had been given to the missioner by the Pasha "in recognition of his efforts in staying the massacre of Turks by Greek soldiers."

***

A correspondent forwards two newspaper cuttings, neatly pasted on a sheet and headed: "A Chapter in the History of Human Error." The first cutting is from the *Pioneer Mail* of November 19. It gives a report of the sighting of a capsized Arab sailing boat in the Indian Ocean by a steamer, and is entitled, "A Buggalow at Sea." Curiously enough, the description of the unfortunate craft being thus correctly given in the heading, in the message itself we read that the steamer's captain reported that he "observed *bungalow* floating bottom up," etc. That is the first stage in the "History of Human Error." The second is given in the other cutting, which is from the *Daily Express* of December 12, and is headed: "Bungalow's Ocean Trip." In the text, which is sent by the *Express's* Bombay correspondent, the same mistake occurs in substituting the familiar word for the unfamiliar; so that the London sub-editor may very easily be forgiven, but it looks as if the Bombay correspondent had been caught napping. For the benefit of readers unacquainted with the fact, I may add that a *buggalow* is a largish sailing boat of top-heavy appearance, not unlike the drawings of small ships of the time of Columbus. Some of them can, nevertheless, sail remarkably fast, as some of our gunboats engaged in suppressing slave-running in the Persian Gulf would very readily testify.

***

I am glad to see that a writer in the *Morning Post* has been putting in a good word for the Camel. That much-derided beast, says the writer, is a grumbler, but he *does* work, and he has pluck; and comparisons which a mule would doubtless regard as odious, if only he could read the article, are drawn between the two animals. It seems to me that the *Post's* correspondent has hit off the camel's weakness, as well as his good points, to a nicety. Who has not heard the Camel's hubbly-bubbley protests when he is loaded, when he is made to lie down to unload, when he is told to hurry up, when he is halted, when—well, when he is asked to do anything at all, in fact, or when anything at all is done to him? And I am bound to admit that he is not above taking a sly nip out of you, if he gets the chance. But he *is* a worker; and as workers are becoming increasingly rare, I think we should try to forget his grumblings.

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### "BALKAN RUMOURS."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I am grateful to you for the space accorded to my letter under the above heading in your issue of November 18. I shall be further grateful if you will allow me to add a few more words on the subject.

The facts as regards the statement made by your Athens Correspondent, which I quoted in my earlier letter, are these:—

In Kirk-klisse there were, on the arrival of the Greek authorities, three Bulgarian priests and one Bulgarian church. The church was closed, and two of the priests, S. Shivaroff and S. Pavloff, were expelled, and are now in Bulgaria, refugees, in destitution.

The right to belong to one's church, to belong to one's nation, the protection of the minorities *sanctified* by the treaty of peace is of no avail in such cases where the Greek rules the Bulgárian

The third Bulgarian priest of the town was Dimiter Prodanoff, aged 85 years, more or less bedridden. Rather than go into exile, to suffer and perish on the road and see his family destroyed, he consented to be considered henceforward as belonging to the Greek Church.—I am, etc.,

P. M. MATTHEEFF.

Sofia, November 29, 1920.

### FRIENDS OR FOES?

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In *The Times* of December 1 we learn from the Lucerne correspondent that in 1918, when the Greek Army was holding a very important position on the Salonika front, treacherous negotiations were commenced with the Bulgarian staff. In fact, if we are to believe the correspondent, it was owing only to an unforeseen movement of troops that a considerable portion of the Greek Army did not go over to the enemy. *The Times* publishes this information without comment, and strange to say, this "incident" has received no special notice from the Press. But surely it is of interest to the public to know if this premeditated treachery was communicated to the Allies when the Treaty of Sèvres was under consideration? It seems hardly credible that the Bulgarians should have kept silent when a treaty so detrimental to their aspirations was being drafted. Yet it is equally incomprehensible that the Allies knowing of this further act of treachery should have gone out of their way to reward Greece at the expense of both Turkey and Bulgaria. Is it that the Greeks as a nation are, like King Constantine, misunderstood by all who are not intimate friends? Perhaps THE NEAR EAST can throw some light on the subject.—I am, etc.,

COLES PASHA.

Biarritz, December 11.

### THE ARABS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—For many years I have sustained in the British Press the cause of the Arabs against their Turkish masters, and their claim to national rehabilitation.

Thanks to British intervention and help in the late war, they are now free from their oppressors, and measures are being considered for their organisation into a self-governed community, even where France is concerned.

Those of them who were most imbued with the national sentiment, and co-operated with the Allies, were promised by the British representative the fruit of their labour, and I consider that all such promises are being scrupulously carried out, as far, and as fast, as circumstances allow. The conditions made in this bargain were not of the best, but it is not true to say that Great Britain has failed to redeem its word.

British statesmen viewed at one time, I believe, with all sincerity and pleasure, the possible restoration of an all-embracing Arabian kingdom, but that depended on the agreement of the Arabs between themselves, and their ability to secure it, and not on British view or dictation. So far all tendency among them is towards decentralisation, and here the matter must rest. Those who wish Great Britain to use coercion on their behalf, and try to make us and make the Arabs believe that they have a grievance against Great Britain, are enemies of their own people.—I am, etc.,

A SYRIAN.

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# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

## Changing Baghdad.

The *Basrah Times* (October 30) contained an article, "Baghdad To-day," written by a native of the city, who was on a visit to the southern town. The following extracts will be of interest to all who knew either Baghdad or Irak el-Arabi before the war.

The demand for buildings and houses far exceeds the supply, and rents have soared. The city is a regular beehive now, and with everybody working and building, one cannot but be an optimist regarding the future of the metropolis of Mesopotamia.

The old social entrenched prejudices among the elements composing the population are breaking down gradually. Some of these prejudices are the greatest hindrances to advancement. The people have just begun to see the disease, and willingly or not, they are beginning to apply the remedy. There is a continual increase in the attendance at the schools. There are two Arabic daily papers and one English. There are also two weekly journals.

The political change, more than any other, has aroused the people from a long sleep. Who ever mentioned "Our Country" before? Nobody cared; nobody dared. Now "Al 'Iraq" is on the lips of the humblest. They are talking of citizenship, of an independent and prosperous Mesopotamia. The Baghdadi deplores the unsettled conditions created by the tribesmen, and longs for peace and political rest. Even the Muhammadan would not welcome the entry of tribesmen into his city, first because he believes he is the better man, and second, because he knows he would not be spared in the event of any pillaging taking place.

An industrial change was bound to follow from these events. It is true that the prices have gone up, but where in the world have they not gone up? Baghdad has never been more prosperous and alive commercially for the last 500 years than it is now. The railways between Basrah, Baghdad, and Mosul, and the increased number of river boats, are largely responsible for the present position of commerce. Unfortunately, every time there is an uprising, when the railway lines are damaged, and when caravans are attacked, there is a set-back to the flow of commerce; but no sooner is order established than business is restored. . . . When affairs are more settled and a purely civil administration is established, when the railway is again working efficiently, and the road to Aleppo and the Levant is permanently opened; when the caravans from and to Persia go about unmolested, and when irrigation and agriculture are developed, and cotton and other things are grown—who can foretell the prosperity that will come to the city?

## Greece.

Under the heading "The Price of Constantine," the *Manchester Guardian*, of December 9, has the following remarks:—

The Greeks can, of course, have Constantine for king if they so decide, as they have for the present decided—not, perhaps, without judicious pressure—but they will have to pay for him. What are the factors that should determine the attitude of the Western Powers towards the accomplished fact? Having but little confidence in the new order, we are fully justified in taking some necessary precautions. We are justified, in the first place, in withdrawing the assistance which we were prepared to give to a friend whom we trusted, but are not prepared to give to a successor whom we have no reason to trust. That, in fact, is the meaning of the decision of the Allies misleadingly described as a "financial blockade." France and Great Britain had placed at the disposal of the late Greek Government certain credits in Paris and in London. The unused remainder of those credits has now been cancelled. It is common sense not to lend money to a creditor whom we have no longer reason to trust. But that is not the only matter in which we are interested. There is the vital question of the Straits. At the conclusion of the war it was proposed that the Straits, together with Eastern Thrace, should be internationalised under the control of the League of Nations. But the confidence inspired by M. Venizelos induced the Allies to hand over Eastern Thrace to Greece, thus bringing her territory to the gates of Constantinople and the shores of the Sea of Marmora. It was then a risky arrangement. It is now an impossible one. The original plan of internationalising the Straits and the Thracian territory which dominate them was the sound one, and should be revived.

## The French View of Greece.

The Paris Correspondent of the *Birmingham Post*, writing in the issue for December 7, concisely sums up the French attitude towards the return of Constantine.

In the French policy there are two very definite and well-accounted-for motives. The first is disgust at the possibility of the return of Constantine to the throne of Greece. They would, if they could, do anything to prevent that, for the memory of the massacre of the French sailors on December 1, 1916, is still very bitter. In that there is the first difference of opinion between the French and our own Government. The reluctance in Britain, on personal grounds, to accept Constantine is not by any means so strong in their opinion as it is here. Had it been so, they feel that the warning conveyed in the Note of Friday would have been much stronger, and instead of containing a threat of possible penalties later would have conveyed a flat statement of the penalties that would be incurred if Constantine were elected. The second motive is the French wish to have done with the Treaty of Sevres. Article after article is appearing in the Press arguing or pleading for better relations with Turkey and the withdrawal, or at least amendment, of the treaty. In this the French show themselves realists. They argue, and with every appearance of right, that the Nationalist Government of Mustapha Kemal is the *de facto* Government of Turkey, and that it is with it that the Allies should deal. There are, of course, wheels within wheels in the matter, and not the least important is the cost without reward which the holding of Cilicia has been to the French.

He continues with an historical sketch of Allied policy:—

What the French are asking themselves is always: "What will Constantine's return mean?" He has already declared that he will continue the policy of Venizelos and maintain the Greek troops in Asia Minor in order to secure the enforcement of the Treaty of Sevres. Now the French never liked the Venizelos policy at all. At San Remo Foch told the Premiers that it would take 300,000 troops to maintain the Treaty, and M. Millerand tried then to get it discarded. At Boulogne, however, M. Venizelos outwitted him, and turned up with the offer of the Greek army to enforce the Treaty and push back Mustapha Kemal. Mr. Lloyd George eagerly accepted, and M. Millerand was forced to agree, without any enthusiasm. It was, therefore, not entirely with regret that many people here regarded the fall of the great Greek Minister. They felt that the chance had come to get rid of the burdensome Turkish Treaty, and to make a new deal with Mustapha as well as with the Constantinople Government. But now Constantine has, it is believed, given a definite promise to the British Government to carry on the Venizelist policy with regard to the Treaty and to enforce it. Whether he can is a matter of opinion. Evidently our Foreign Office believes in his power, but the French mistrust with possibly equal reason, the will and ability of the Greek people to sustain a long and tedious occupation of Asia Minor. To them the ideal settlement would be the election of the Crown Prince George to the throne. They believe he would never be strong enough even to attempt the continuance of the Venizelist policy, and so very soon the Allies would have to face the fact that the Turkish Treaty must be revised. As it is, it is highly doubtful whether the Chamber will ever ratify the Treaty, and even with the election of one king or the other we are not at the end of the business. In it all there is a curious contrast between the policies in Britain and France towards Russia and towards the Turks. Towards Russia the British Government's policy of seeking some way of living amicably together has every appearance of having more sense in it than that of France, who, while powerless to upset the Soviet regime, yet supports every reaction. But in the case of Turkey the position seems reversed. Is it in our interest to try to make a big Greek Empire which the Greeks will hold together only by years of war? Would it not be better to scrap the Treaty of Sevres, which no one likes, and make a deal with Mustapha Kemal? "Only time will show," one diplomat said to me when discussing the matter, and the French, with more insight because with less prejudice than they have in the matter of Russia, are convinced that time will show that they were right.

## Articles to Note.

"Alexander Stambolisky," by J. D. Bourchier in the *Contemporary Review* (December).

"On Tour in Eastern Darfur," by Major E. Keith-Roach (late Bimbashi, Egyptian Army), in the *Cornhill* (December).


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# MUSICAL NOTES.

**Singers.**

In a recital which Mme. Salteni-Mochi, an Italian soprano, gave at the Wigmore Hall, on November 30, there was much more of interest than of inspiration. For the programme, which consisted of songs by sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth century composers, contained some unusually lovely things. The names of Falconieri, De Luca, Marcello, and Legrenzi do not occur in recitals often enough to have become hackneyed; and the inclusion of works by them shows Mme. Mochi to be a singer of refined taste. Her voice itself is not a moving one; there is too much vibrato, there is too little tone-colour, and there is a lack of certainty and flexibility, as was proved in some coloratura in *aric* by Mozart She also sang two delightful songs by Rameau and Monsigny, but her Italian things were better than her French. Very evidently Mme. Mochi has a rare knowledge of what is good, and it is a great misfortune that her technical skill is not commensurate with it.

It was not a happy experience to be at the song recital which Mme. Pauline Theurer gave at the Æolian Hall on December 2. She has no claims on an artistic public, and on practically every detail of singing—interpretation, technique, choice of song, and so on—she must be counted out. One does not know quite what to call a vocalist who, beside the names of Schumann, Schubert, and Rubinstein can with sweet confidence place the names of Landon Ronald. David Dick Slater, and Woodforde-Finden—does one?

In the public display which Miss Margarita Mackerras gave of her singing at the Æolian Hall on December 9 it was evident that her ambition had over-leaped itself. To begin a programme, however excellent (and hers was excellent) with things as difficult as the Polonaise from Bizet's "Fair Maid of Perth," Purcell's "O Lead Me to Some Peaceful Gloom," and an air from a Bach cantata, means that in addition to skill you must have much confidence. Skill undoubtedly Miss Mackerras has, but her unfortunate nervousness played unhappy pranks with it; it made her seem technically unequal (especially in flexibility) to what she had gallantly undertaken; it made her indulge in *tremolo*; and it made her intonation very uncertain. In such circumstances it was hard to appreciate her accurately; with more assurance one can remark the fine taste and discrimination shown in her choice of songs.

Of all sins with which singers can most certainly be charged, bad intonation is probably the most common. However, it is one from which Miss A. D. Fletcher, who gave a recital at the Wigmore Hall on December 10, is almost entirely free. Her mezzo-soprano voice has some splendidly true and rich notes, particularly in the middle and lower registers, and she aroused in one those hopes for the bearing out of which one often sighs. Her Scarlatti and Pergolesi songs were beautifully done; such refinement and restraint as she showed in "Se tu m'ami" are seldom seen in a first recital. But later things brought disappointment: some Scotch traditional songs were but moderately done; Vaughan-Williams' "The Roadside Fire" was poor; the inclusion of Walter Rummel's "Ecstasy" was a strange error. Nevertheless, Miss Fletcher showed sufficient intelligence and independent thought to be remembered. She was assisted by Mr. John Pauer, a quite promising pianist, whose chief merits are, like hers, restraint and independence. Both in Bach's "Italian" concerto, and in Schumann's "Toccata" there were signs that his mind is as yet in advance of his technique, and that when the one is brought up to the standard of the other he will be a fine player.

**The Strolling Players.**

The society which goes under this name has, I believe, the largest amateur orchestra in existence. One had doubts at the concert which it gave at the Queen's Hall on December 9 whether it was not too large, for most of the fun seemed to be enjoyed by the players themselves. Although its conductor (Mr. Joseph Ivimey) is a very sincere man, he must have felt its unwieldiness in Stanford's "Irish" Symphony (the only item I was able to hear), for the independence of some of the stringed instruments made one suspicious of some of the blessings of liberty. But in truth the Symphony itself is a dull, dull work; as it went on one grew even so heretical as to say that nothing great could be maintained out of folk-tunes, and that to construct whole movements from them was at best ingenious. Stanford can do the small things excellently; he has, for example, written some exquisite songs; but his *magna opera* I do not think immortal.

**A Violinist.**

In Miss Grey-Handcock's playing there is much merit. At her recital at the Wigmore Hall on November 23 she was bold enough to tackle César Franck's Sonata and the "Devil's Trill" of Tartini. She really felt and communicated the beauties of the Franck, though in strenuous passages her intonation wandered, and she was not strict enough in the canonical movement (the last). Her technique is not sufficiently advanced for the "Devil's Trill"; and her playing of this was brave, but a mistake. But Kreisler's "Recitativo and Scherzo-Caprice" was inside her powers, and she played it splendidly. This piece alone was enough to show that she has a future; and in Friedmann Bach's "Grave" and in a Dvorak dance she gave supplementary evidence of the fact.

**Mr. Arthur Rubinstein.**

It was worth sitting through M. Rubinstein's recital at Wigmore Hall on December 7 for the sake of the last quarter of an hour. From the point of convenience his programme, chronologically arranged, should have been reversed, for in the first part (Beethoven's Sonata in E flat, Op. 31) it was a player we heard; in the second (Liszt's Sonata in B minor) it was a pianist; in the third (a group of Debussy) a potential artist; and not until the last (a Spanish group, consisting of Ravel's "Alborado del Gracioso," and "Rondena" and "Navarra" of Albeniz) did we hear the complete poet. It seems clear now that M. Rubinstein cannot interpret classical music; his Beethoven was at times maddening in its alternate wilfulness, affectedness, and impurity of tone, while a remarkably poor use of the pedal made his technical efficiency a pathetic affair. In Liszt's ostentatious sonata there is but one thing that makes it worth the tremendous trouble of playing—the extraction of eloquence from its false rhetoric; and why so accomplished a pianist as M. Rubinstein could not achieve it I don't know, but he didn't. We drew perceptibly nearer to the heart of the matter in Debussy, for in "Ondine" and in "L'Isle Joyeuse" particularly the core was reached and opened to us; so that it was on an easy flood of conviction that M. Rubinstein swept us along in his Spanish pieces. It may be a facile thing, and it is, I suspect, a rather tiring thing, this Spanish rhythm, but it is truly invigorating. There was no doubt about M. Rubinstein's capture of the essence of Albeniz: it was really great playing that was heard in "Rondena."

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## TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

*The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—*

TURKEY: Emir Faisal. MONTENEGRO. (December 6.)

MESOPOTAMIA. PERSIA. PALESTINE (KEREN HAYESOD). GREECE (December 7.)

INDIA: Government Servants' Conduct Rules.—Auxiliary Force Act.—Election Rules (Burma). MALTA (BRITISH EMPIRE GOODS). INDIA: Mesopotamian Railways (Wages).—Shwe Dagon Pagoda Hill.—Burma (Reforms).—Government of India (Resolution).—Burma Rice Crop (Control). (December 8.)

PALESTINE. PEACE TREATIES: Turkey. GREECE. MESOPOTAMIA AND PERSIA (INDIAN TROOPS). INDIA: Ecclesiastical Establishments (Chaplain's Pay).—Village Education.—Burma (Publicity Bureau).—Regimental Bands. ALBANIA. (December 9.)

Reuter's Cairo correspondent reports:—Lord Milner's preface to the new edition of his book has created an extremely favourable impression. Leading statesmen have expressed to Reuter's correspondent their great appreciation of the straightforward pronouncement, which they regard as calculated to dissipate doubts and inspire confidence in the ultimate intentions of Great Britain.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"COLLECTED PROSE OF JAMES ELROY FLECKER." (London: Bell and Sons. 7s. 6d. net.)

II.—"THE MYSTERY OF MONTENEGRO." By Alex. Devine. (London: Richard Clay and Sons, Ltd. 2d.)

## I.—THE PARNASSIAN OF THE EAST.

That the Near East exercises a fanciful spell upon almost all Englishmen who visit it is merely to state a fact, but it is not always realised that most of them are impotent before that spell. The amount of good literature inspired by these regions is comparatively small; the quantity of good verse and of prose that is not mainly descriptive is incredibly meagre. But it is not simply because of his relative greatness in this matter that Flecker as an artist stands apart, for of him, as easily as of any one of his contemporaries, one can prophesy immortality. To his most exquisite art the East brought that colour and impulse which make a reading of his "Golden Journey to Samarkand" so rare a delight, which make of even so slender achievements as his a unique thing in modern literature.

Beside his verse, and that delicious romance called "The King of Alsander," Flecker did not write much. The shortness of his life indeed did not permit of much (he was only thirty when he died in Switzerland in 1915); and it is a book of fewer than 300 pages that contains all the prose that he would probably have wished reprinted. There are in this book only a few things that would intimately concern the reader of this journal, its main contents being "The Last Generation," a very amusing fantasy, "The Grecians: A Dialogue on Education," which cleverly sets out Flecker's conception of an English schoolmaster's duties, and some critical studies of tendencies and personalities in modern literature. But between these there are some slight yet memorable sketches of the Near East, sketches which show especially the intensity of the poet's sense of colour, and his delight in the semi-humorous wisdom of the East. There is the story of Mansur, who started from Stamboul bearing presents from the Sultan to the Sultan of China, but was intercepted by the King of India, of his consequent adventures and end; there is the priceless picture of Candilli, with words so lovely that to give an extract from it would equal Lord Leverhulme's recent act; there is the nostalgic sequence of paragraphs in "The 'Bus in Stamboul"; there is the sketch of a battle near Beyrouth—"Forgotten Warfare," which even now conserves an extraordinary vividness; and last and greatest there are the seven "Translations from the Gulistan," one at least of which may be quoted:—

One of the Saintly saw a big man wild with passion and foaming at the mouth, and asked what was the matter. Someone replied, "He is suffering from an opprobrious epithet." "Why," rejoined the Saint, "he could carry a ton of bricks; can't he bear a mocking word?"

Weak of will and intellect,
Do you think that men who place
Fists in their opponent's face
Win approval or respect?

said the Saint, and, after a pause, he continued:—

Though their arms be adamant,
Though they scalp an elephant,
Men without humanity
Seem contemptible to me.

In Flecker's life there were two consuming passions, England and Greece. It is said that, apart from Greece, he did not really love the East—perhaps because he was so practical a poet—and one writer states that "his intercourse with Mohammedans had led him to find more good in Christianity than he had previously expected." However this may be, it is very certain that the beauties of other lands made him but love his own country more dearly still; the prompting is evident many times in this book. When, for example, he recognises the motor-bus in Stamboul as a Cricklewood bus, he "could weep for the bitterness of my exile and my great desire for London town and English faces; for the thunder of Charing Cross and the cries of Oxford Circus, for the sweep of Regent Street, and the motors of Piccadilly, for the glory of a great Empire and the fellowship of men." Even the utter loveliness of Candilli makes him "long for a slag-heap or a gasworks, or any strong, bold, ugly thing to break the spell of this terrible and malignant beauty that saps body and soul."

To say that this volume does not show Flecker at his best would be petty, for it was in verse that his ambitions lay and that his achievements, in spite of the brevity of his career, lie; in the prose here collected there is rather the promise than the attainment of great writing and sustained thought. What style of prose writing he would have cultivated, or rather upon what subjects he would have written, it is impossible to say, for he followed no school, he indulged in no discernible tendencies. With his verse, of course, it is quite different; here, though he stood apart, he had definite aims and definite means. That this volume will be bought by all lovers of his verse (which means practically all lovers of English verse) we do not doubt, and this not so much for their actual contents as for the fact that where words are few they are doubly precious. It may not increase the reputation of his poetry, but it certainly helps to explain and to confirm it.

## II.—THE TREATMENT OF MONTENEGRO.

"The Mystery of Montenegro," which is the title given by Mr. Devine to his masterly pamphlet, consists in the fact that whereas something like a dozen explicit pledges have been given at various times by different Allied statesmen regarding the independence of Montenegro, not a single attempt has been made to give effect either to the letter or to the spirit of any one of these pledges. It would have been thought that concern for their individual reputation would have prompted the members of the Supreme Council to see that, whatever the fate of Montenegro, it should have been brought about by the free choice of the Montenegrin people. The Roumanians have been compelled to withdraw from Hungary and part of the Banat, the Yugoslavs from the Klagenfurt plebiscite area, but no attempt has been made to require the Serbians to leave Montenegro free for the space of time necessary for the exercise of an unfettered popular vote. Yet, in spite of the protestations of the Serbian authorities that the so-called Podgoritza National Assembly was a legally constituted body, the Allied Governments have had the courage to reject the contention and to refuse to accept the decision of that packed assembly. The mere fact that resort was made to such advice on the part of the Serbians to bolster up their cause in Montenegro is sufficient to condemn every claim of theirs in regard to the country and every action committed in it. But the Allies pay no heed, and from all accounts the last situation in the unhapy land is worse than the first.

Such are the bald facts. No explanation can be offered, except that the Allied statesmen have bandied and broken so many pledges that they have become callous: Turks, Arabs, Montenegrins, all are quoting chapter and verse of the most formal pledges, but no one in authority pays any heed.

Mr. Devine has marshalled the most definite of the promises given to the Montenegrins, and then proceeds to discuss the legal status of Montenegro. Now that Italy has withdrawn her support, there would seem to be little chance of the miracle happening—the granting of fair play to a much-tried people. The line of least resistance is apparently to be followed to the end, and the Allied Governments, if they spare a thought to the subject, will hug to themselves the belief that the recent elections gave the Montenegrins the opportunity they required for self-determination. Mr. Devine's latest pamphlet is a pungent summary of the manner in which justice has been denied to the Montenegrins.

## BOOK RECEIVED.

"A Dweller in Mesopotamia: Being the Adventures of an Official Artist in the Garden of Eden." By Donald Maxwell. With sketches in colour, monochrome and line by the Author. (London: The Bodley Head. 25s. net.)

A DWELLER IN MESOPOTAMIA

By DONALD MAXWELL. Author of "Adventures with a Sketch-Book," "The Last Crusade," etc. Crown 4to. 25s. net.

To draw the East nearer to view and reproduce something of its burning colour has been left largely to Mr. Donald Maxwell, and his new book is full of beautiful drawings in colour, monochrome and line of Baghdad, Amara, Babylon, and the neighbouring country. It makes an ideal gift book.

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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**TO-DAY.**
December 16 (New Style).
December 3 (Old Style).
Rabia II., 6. 1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tebet 5, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Aga Khan has left Paris for the Riviera.

Mr. J. D. Bourchier arrived in Sofia at the beginning of this month.

Mr. T. B. Hohler, British High Commissioner in Hungary, left London last week for Budapest.

Lady Dering has been spending a few days in Paris before joining Sir Herbert Dering at Bucharest.

Sir Horace Rumbold, the British High Commissioner at Constantinople, was received by the Sultan last week.

The Belgian Ambassador was visited last week by M. Boeresco, Minister Plenipotentiary and Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires.

The Gaekwar of Baroda left London last week for Paris, on his way to Switzerland. He will proceed to India in the early part of the New Year.

The Earl of Cromer, Chief of the Staff accompanying the Duke of Connaught to India, leaves London to-day with other members of the Staff.

Mlle. Olga Masaryk, daughter of Dr. Masaryk, President of the Czecho-Slovakia Republic, was married at Prague on Thursday last to Dr. Revilliod.

The Bulgarian Minister returned to London on December 12 from Brussels, where he has been visiting M. Stambolisky, the Bulgarian Premier.

Last month Marquis Garroni, the first European Ambassador to be appointed to Turkey since the war, took up his post at Constantinople. He was Italian Ambassador there before the war.

At a meeting of the Central Asian Society this afternoon (December 16), at 4.30, Major-General L. C. Dunsterville, C.B., will lecture on "The Military Mission to North-West Persia, 1918." Lord Carnock will preside.

The Central Council of the Overseas Club and Patriotic League is entertaining at their monthly lunch, on December 21, at the Connaught Rooms, Mr. Ronald Storrs, Governor of Jerusalem. Viscount Northcliffe will preside.

Our Liverpool Correspondent writes:—Mr. B. A. Malandrinos, Consul-General for Greece at Liverpool, who has been seriously ill, is now on a fair way to recovery. It will, however, be several weeks before he is able to leave his room.

Colonel Arion, who accompanied the Crown Prince of Roumania on his recent tour, left London last week for Lucerne to meet his Royal Highness and accompany him to Bucharest. Colonel Arion will, however, return to London shortly.

Mr. Robert Theodore Gunter May, F.R.G.S., F.L.S., was last week elected, by special election, Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, with a view to his carrying on his researches into the changes of level in the Mediterranean basin.

Lord Carmichael presided at a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute, held at the Edward VII. Rooms, Hotel Victoria, on December 14, when Sir Francis Younghusband read a paper on "India and England: The True Tie Between Them."

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (November 16):—
The Principal Forest Officer, Mr. A. K. Bovill, is returning to duty in Cyprus, under the rule which admits of extension of service beyond the age at which an official can, should he desire, retire on pension.

News of the death in England, through a motor accident, of Dr. R. Cleveland, who was for many years Chief Medical Officer in Cyprus, has been received with feelings of much regret. Dr. Cleveland had recently inherited a fortune from his mother.

The Maharaj-Rana of Jhalawar gave a farewell reception to a large number of friends in the Eastern galleries of the Imperial Institute last week. He left this country on December 10 for a tour in Europe and Egypt, and will return to his State near the end of January.

Twenty of the drawings made by Mr. James McBey as official artist to the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, between May, 1917, and January, 1919, are now exhibited at the British Museum. The selection at present on view illustrates scenes in Egypt and the Desert of Sinai, and events on the advance into Palestine on the way to Jerusalem. These will be replaced later by sketches illustrating the campaign in Palestine and Syria.

Sir Ernest Birch left Portsmouth last week in H.M.S. Malaya for Marseilles, India, and the Malay Peninsula, where the Sultans, Chiefs, and people of the four Federated Malay States, who presented H.M.S. Malaya to the British Navy, will have an opportunity of seeing her. The Duke of Connaught and his staff will join the ship at Marseilles on December 18 for Madras. Sir Ernest Birch returns to England in March in H.M.S. Malaya.

The Royal Asiatic Society, which celebrates its centenary in 1923, has an interesting programme for the first half of next year. On January 18 Miss H. C. Bowser will give a lantern lecture on the Buddhist temples of the Diamond Mountain, Korea; on February 8 Miss Houston will relate her experiences in Russian Turkestan; on March 8 Mr. Lane (late South Persia Rifles) will describe "Modern Fars"; Mr. Levy will lecture on "Baghdad to Teheran" on April 12, and Mr. Grant Brown on Burma on June 14. The three last-named lectures are with lantern slides.

The wedding of Mr. Edwin Samuel, son of Sir Herbert Samuel, the High Commissioner, and Miss Hadassa Grasowsky, of Jaffa, was solemnised on December 6. The ceremony was held in the Assembly Room of the ex-Kaiser's Palace at Jerusalem, and was attended by 900 guests. The Rabbis of Salonika, Jerusalem, and Jaffa officiated. The gathering was of the most cosmopolitan character, and a variety of costumes was to be seen distinguishing the three faiths represented. After the ceremony the Sheikh Abu Midden clothed the bridegroom in Arab garb and initiated him as a Sheikh of Beersheba.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

General Pellé has been appointed French High Commissioner in Constantinople.

M. Petroff-Tchomakoff has been appointed First Secretary to the Bulgarian Legation in London.

Dr. Yovan Yovanovitch has been appointed Consul-General in London of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

Colonel J. G. Grieg, the well-known Hampshire and Army cricketer, at present Military Secretary to the Governor-General of Bombay, has been appointed secretary to the Hampshire County Cricket Club. He will not, however, be able to take up the post until 1922.

The following appointments were announced at the Admiralty last week:—
Rear-Admiral Henry B. Pelly, to be Senior Naval Officer, Gibraltar, in succession to Rear-Admiral Tyrwhitt, to date January 17, 1921
Rear-Admiral Sir Reginald Y. Tyrwhitt, to be Rear-Admiral Commanding, 3rd Light Cruiser Squadron (Mediterranean), in succession to Vice-Admiral Sir George P. W. Hope, to date January 17, 1921.

## MISSION TO KABUL.

The following announcement has been published by the Government of India:—
"As is known, the recent conversations at Mussooree were intended to clear the ground for final negotiations between the British and Afghan Governments for a permanent Treaty of Friendship. The Afghan delegates returned to Kabul at the end of July to lay the results of these discussions before the Ameer. Recently the Ameer, after full consideration of the reports of his delegates, wrote to the Viceroy in most friendly terms inviting a British Mission to Kabul for the conclusion of a Treaty, and His Majesty's Government have now authorised the Government of India to accept this invitation. The Mission will consist of Mr. Dobbs, Nawab Sir Shams Shah, Mr. Pears, Lieut.-Colonel Muspratt, and Mr. Acheson. It is hoped that the Mission will be able to cross the frontier in the last week of December."

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## NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Milner Mission's Report on Egypt is likely to be submitted to the Foreign Office very shortly.

Twenty-five villages are reported to have been destroyed by an earthquake in the Tepeleni district of Albania.

A Paris message states that Czecho-Slovakia will probably succeed Greece on the Council of the League of Nations.

The representatives of the Porte were enthusiastically welcomed by Mustapha Kemal Pasha on their arrival at Angora.

A Delhi message states that about ten Indian cavalry regiments and some thirty infantry regiments will be gradually disbanded.

M. Clemenceau has arrived in Calcutta, and was accorded an enthusiastic reception by French, British, and Indian residents.

Fighting between the Dir and Swat Lashkars has begun, as the Nawab of Dir is anxious to recover territory captured from him last year.

The Executive Committee of the American Near East Relief Committee has given £612,000 for the immediate relief of distress in Armenia.

*Al Mokattam* reports that the Syrian Cabinet, formed after the assassination of Ala-ed-Din er Rubi at Khirbet Shazaleh on August 20, has been dismissed.

Shevket Bey, former Director-General of the Administrative Section of the Foreign Office in Constantinople, has been appointed Turkish Minister to Sweden.

No rain has fallen in Algeria for twelve months, and M. Abel, the Governor-General, has arrived in France to take part in a debate in the Chamber on the threatened famine.

A train going from Suk Ahras to Tebessa, Algeria, has been derailed and attacked by a gang of 30 bandits, who wounded seriously the conductor, a brakesman, and a gendarme.

President Wilson has appealed to Americans to contribute "out of their abundance" to help stricken Armenia as being again overrun by Turkish Nationalists, Kurds, and Bolshevists.

The Orthodox Archbishop of Cyprus announces that the Greek members of the Cyprus Legislative Council have tendered the resignation of their seats owing to the refusal of the British Government to give the island to Greece.

A claim for £30,000 for war damages in the East, especially in Palestine, has been made by the London Jews' Society, but nothing has been received from the Government, nor does there appear to be any likelihood of payment in the near future, if at all.

The Viceroy of India has placed an appeal received from the British Famine Relief Committee in Peking before the Princes and people of India, and has expressed confidence that their knowledge of the calamity in North China will result in their making a generous response.

The India Office has issued through the Stationery Office a Review of the Civil Administration of Mesopotamia during the British military occupation; that is, down to the summer of the present year. The report has been prepared for the Acting Civil Commissioner by Miss Gertrude Lowthian Bell, C.B.E.

Officers of the Indian Army, Indian Army Reserve of Officers, and of the Royal Indian Marine who have become permanently incapacitated by active service in the war, or subsequent military operations, should apply for help, if required, to the Officers' Families Fund, which is acting as almoner on behalf of the Imperial Indian Relief Fund in respect to such cases. The address of the secretary is: The Officers' Families Fund, 1, Chesterfield Gardens, Mayfair, W.1.

It is officially stated that it has been decided by the Georgian Government at Tiflis to reorganise the diplomatic representation of the Republic in foreign countries. In consequence of this decision all Diplomatic Missions and Legations have been abolished until this reorganisation is completed. The Georgian Republic will now have one central representative organisation, which is to be in Paris, and which will have agents in other countries. At the head of the Central Body will be M. E. Gueguetchkori, the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Georgia.

## DEATH.

GOURLAY.—At Coniston, Milngavie, on December 6, Helen Mary, the beloved wife of Professor Charles Gourlay, and daughter of the late Alexander Ramsay, Constantinople; deeply regretted. (The only intimation. No mourning, by request.)

## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

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**(The visitor's name and place of residence abroad to be added),"**

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# THE NEAR EAST.

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*Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON."*
*Telephone No.: 618 London Wall.*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1920.


## ARABIA: THE NEED FOR A CONFERENCE.

The importance of Arabia both for France and for Great Britain is generally recognised by those who have followed recent developments in the Near and Middle East. Cradle of Islam, and containing within its borders the birthplace and the tomb of Mohammed and the chief centre of Moslem pilgrimage, it naturally looms large in the eyes of all good Moslems. It may be true that little love is lost between Indians and Arabs, and that the liking of the people of Syria for the natives of North Africa is not marked; but neither France nor Britain can ignore the fact that Arabic is the language of the Koran, and that it is towards Mecca that all good Moslems turn when they pray. Neither of them is in fact likely to ignore it, but there have been times during the past year when we have been tempted to wonder whether they were not undervaluing the Arabs and Arabian influence in mapping out their policy for the Near East. It would be futile to pretend that the Arabs regard us now with as much favour as they did in the days of the war; our troubles in Mesopotamia are sufficient evidence to the contrary, and though we know little of what the Hejaz is really thinking, we have heard enough to warn us of a change there also; while the fact that we have had to intervene between the Sheikh of Koweit and the followers of Ibn Saud suggests unpleasant possibilities in the Nejd and El Hasa. And if we are less in favour with the Arabs now than we were a year ago, what can be said regarding the French? We prefer not to give the answer to that question, France having shown herself even more sensitive than usual on the subject. But it is safe to say that in Paris, as well as in London, those whose duty it is to observe these things are fain to admit that the skies which looked so clear over Arabia and the adjacent lands only a little while ago are to-day obscured by ominous sand-clouds. The storm may affect the desert alone, or it may burst over the lands bordering the desert. In any case Eastern travellers tell us that it is always advisable to take precautions when such phenomena are observed. If some powerful and unfriendly Jinnee guides the storm, so much the worse for the traveller. To abandon metaphor: the unrest now noticeable in the Arab world may work itself out without spreading beyond the Arab lands, but it may take a form that would seriously inconvenience France and Great Britain, and the chances of its doing so would be greatly increased if the Wahhabi spirit—of which a correspondent gives an account on another page—should spread to-day as it did on the former occasion of its manifestation.

The Turkish method of ruling the Arabs was extremely simple, consisting of a faithful application of the principle *divide et impera*. In Irak and in Western Arabia the same policy was steadfastly pursued: tribe was set against tribe, emir against emir, sheikh against sheikh, with results well known to the world. Unfortunately, it has to be acknowledged that the Arab character and the ideals of the Desert tended to make the task of the Turks an easy one; and it is to be feared that, until the Desert is conquered, it will always be a nursery for the Ishmaelite spirit and a stronghold for the man who respects not Law and has no love for Order. It is not that the Arab is incapable of steady work or of acquiring settled habits, as the industrious agriculturist of the Yemen and the law-abiding citizen of Baghdad or Damascus serve to show; but sometimes he declines most obstinately to recognise that the ways of agriculture and of commerce are the only right ways to follow in these days. At the present time the *Akhwan* afford an illustration of the restlessness that sweeps over Central Arabia from time to time, often taking the form of a religious upheaval. The conflict between Ibn Saud and King Hussein in the early part of this year was probably due to other causes, but it affords another example of the lack of unity among the Arabs; and the rivalries of Shammar and Anazeh and of numerous smaller tribes all serve to show where the weakness of the Arab character lies. Again, the failure of Irak to unite in choosing a ruler immediately after the Armistice makes us wonder whether the old spirit of intrigue which made Kufa notorious is still alive in the land. But it would be unwise to jump to any conclusion. We must remember that the consciousness of nationality has only been quickened in the Arab mind quite recently, after lying numbed for a very long period. It is true that many Arabs were working for their freedom before the outbreak of the war gave them their chance, but the movement was still very young, and had hardly extended beyond the large towns when the storm burst. As far as the Arabs were concerned, the surprise of the war was not that they did not work together better, but that they worked together as well as they actually did.

Now, Arab rivalries are, naturally, the concern principally of the Arabs themselves, but, for the reasons given above, Great Britain and France must be and are interested in every phase of the Arab problem as it has developed since the war. It would certainly be to their interests that the Arab unrest should be calmed and that peace should reign in the Arabian peninsula and the adjacent Arab lands. But that desirable state of affairs can only be brought about if the causes of unrest are frankly recognised and removed, and if the Arab leaders can be induced to discuss their differences in a spirit of give and take and with the object of arriving at some kind of federation, however loose it may have to be in its early stages. Some time ago THE NEAR EAST suggested that if these leaders would meet and endeavour to come to an understanding on some such lines the first great step towards a really united Arabia would be taken. To-day, having regard to events of the past twelve months, it seems that the most profitable conference would be one in which Great Britain and France, as well as Arabia, should be represented. Irak-el-Arabi, Syria, and Palestine should also send representatives, freely chosen by the Arabs, and the utmost freedom in discussion should be encouraged. By such means there would be some hope of reaching a general settlement, and certainly France and Great Britain would be afforded an opportunity of learning how to give effect to the promises they made in the statement which they issued jointly in November, 1918. That statement declared categorically that the two Governments aimed at "encouraging and assisting the establishment of indigenous governments and administrations in Syria and Mesopotamia," at "inspiring and encouraging local initiative," and at putting an end to dissensions that had been too long turned to advantage by Turkish policy. A conference such as we suggest would surely go far towards securing the fulfilment of the purposes thus eloquently expressed. Incidentally, it might also put an end to other discussions than those fostered—in the past—by the Turks. What we should hope for most from it would be that it would remove from the minds of the Arabs misunderstandings such as those referred to in the recently issued "Review of the Civil Administration of Mesopotamia," and that it would give to France and Britain an opportunity of reconsidering their Arab policies, and, if necessary, of revising them.

## "THE NEAR EAST."

***As "The Near East" to be published on December 23 will be the 52nd issue for the current year, there will be no issue of the paper on December 30.***

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# "BRETHREN" OF THE DESERT.

**By Edwin E. Calverley.**

There is war in Arabia. It is a war of Arabs against Arabs now. There is no telling what it may become in the not distant future.

The Arabs of Central Arabia have formed a brotherhood. They call themselves the *Akhwan*, the "Brethren." It is a religious brotherhood. When they command anyone to join them they say: "Become religious!" and the convert says: "I have become religious!"

The *Akhwan* are not a new sect in Islam: they are Islam. They are the only true Moslems; all others, whether they call themselves Moslems or not, are *kafirs*, unbelievers. All who do not join them are to be put to the sword, or to pay the *juzia*, the poll tax of subject peoples. The *jihad*, or holy war, is an accepted obligation. The "holy war" of the Turks was a failure: the "holy war" of the Arabs is succeeding. It is a genuine holy war on the part of the fighters, at least, for they fight from religious motives and for religious results; for them it is a war of the true Moslems against the rest of the world to make it Moslem, or subject to Islam.

All this, of course, has its parallel in original Mohammedanism; and, indeed, the movement may be understood to have for its watch-cry: "Back to the Koran!" Just a century and a-half ago a similar movement began, in the same region, under the patronage of the same ruling family, ran its strong and destructive course for several generations, and was finally brought to nought by Mohammed Ali and Ibrahim Pasha of Egypt, and the Ibn Rashid dynasty of Hail, in North Arabia. Mohammed Abd al-Wahhab was the founder of the movement in those days, and Muhammad bin Saud was its political and military chieftain. The Wahhabis, as their followers were called, spread terror before them, and devastation marked their trail.

The present brotherhood of *Akhwan* is Wahhabism revived and redoubled. Its characteristics are the same, but intensified; the transcendence of the Deity, the exclusive claims of the Other World, and the death-deserving sinfulness of smoking are the outstanding features of their faith and practice. Palgrave described the conception of the Deity in the Koran as a "Pantheism of Force," and there is much to justify the phrase; Allah to the *Akhwan* is the Oriental Despot, infinite in power, absolute in will, and all-embracing in activity. The present-day *Akhwan* are reported to leave to his fate a person who has fallen into a well, and is unable to get out again without help. His fate was "written upon him" by Allah, and far be it from them to interfere with Allah's plans and works.

Palgrave's observations of the zeal of the Wahhabis for other-worldly ideals and interests led him to consider them Puritans. The *Akhwan* are also Puritans. All must attend all the prayers, or suffer beating, banishment, or the burning of one's house; all must learn the prayers and the fundamentals of the faith—a new and formidable task for the untutored Bedoo of the desert; all must wear the *amama*, the white head-band of the faithful; all must abjure wine, strange women and song, and apparel of silk and gold. All women must dress in black and attend only their special bazaars. Men must keep their sleeves and their moustaches short and wear their beards and cloaks long. They must not sacrifice on feast days, or assign the merit of their complete recital of the Koran, or say prayers for the benefit of their parents or other forebears unless they have died in the true *din*, or religion. Money of the same metal must be exchanged by weight, a weight of rupees for an equal weight of *rials* or Maria Theresa dollars. Profit may be made in the buying or selling of money of different metals. Fellowship with unbelievers must be replaced by separation or treatment with contempt. None but true followers may exchange the greetings, "*Salaam alaykum*," and "Upon you be peace." Modern inventions and modern conveniences are innovations, and must be dispensed with as far as possible. People returning from contaminated cities, like Koweit, Bahrain, and Busreh, where infidels and tobacco are tolerated, must not be given the Moslem greeting for three days.

The *Akhwan* are zealots. Gibbon describes the Arabs of another century—the Karmatians, another brand of Moslem extremists. Five hundred of them appeared under Abu Tahir before Baghdad, which had 30,000 defenders. A messenger warned the Karmatian of his danger. Abu Tahir turned "to three of his companions; he commanded the first to plunge a dagger into his breast, the second to leap into the Tigris, and the third to cast himself headlong down a precipice. They obeyed without a murmur. . . . 'Before the evening your general shall be chained among my dogs,' he said to the messenger, and before the evening the menace was executed."

The *Akhwan* appeared before Jahira, an outpost of Koweit, on the third Saturday of October of 1920. Those who had swords and rifles fought with them; those who had not rushed with their comrades up to the wall and gate of the castle, where the Sheikh of Koweit and his soldiers were besieged; they bared their breasts, stretched out their arms, and shouted: "Here am I! I am one of the Brethren! Who will kill me? Who will send me to heaven? Here am I! Kill me!" Every man that fell, fell forward on his face, if he could. Others were helped to fall forward. To do so meant to take the attitude of prostration in prayer, when, says a tradition, one is nearest Allah, and is sure to have his petitions heard. Zealots they are. War is a duty. The one who kills is sure of heaven. Death is welcome; anyone of them who is killed goes straight to heaven. Battle is a pleasure. Their battle-cries are their only songs.

*Ya Ikhwani! Ya ahl al-din!*
*Ya Ikhwani! Ya ahl al-din!*
*Iyaka nabud wa iyaka nastain!*
O Brethren! O faith men!
O Brethren! O faith men!
Thee (Allah) we adore!
Thine aid we implore!

When an *akhu*, a "brother," dies in battle, his comrades shout to him: "Remember me to your Lord!" When they kill a *kafir*, others collect his blood in the cup of their hands and smear it on their faces and chests, to share in the merit of the deed. They kill the wounded when they can, and women and children are also slaughtered. The only casualties that returned to Koweit from the attack on Hamd in May of this year were walking cases. On that occasion the *Akhwan* remained on the field. The more recent battle at Jahira lasted two days, and the soldiers of Koweit could see the "Brethren" go among the fallen and kill those who moved. At this battle the *Akhwan* ran out of ammunition. They asked for a truce, which Sheikh Salim granted before he saw his reinforcements coming to him by boat from Kowait.

The political significance of this new movement in Arabia may be briefly sketched. The Wahhabi movement died down with the destruction of the power of Ibn Saud, first by the Egyptians, under the orders of Turkey, and later by the Ibn Rashid dynasty at Hail. Indeed, the present Ibn Saud, whose given name is Abdulaziz, was in his youth an exile in Koweit, under the protection of the great Mubarak. It was Sheikh Mubarak who enabled Abdulaziz to make a surprise

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

KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN.

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attack upon the small garrison of Ibn Rashid at Riadh and regain his throne and the leadership of his people. With the increase of his power came the revival of the peculiar religious convictions of his people. Descendants of the original Wahhabi still lived in Riadh. As always, they were welcome under the Ibn Saud régime to teach their tenets. They gained adherents, who called themselves "Brethren." They became separatists, and founded a town of their own, called Irtawiya. Meanwhile, Ibn Saud had taken Al-Ahsa (Al-Hasa) from the Turks. Then the Great War came. Ibn Saud became an ally of the British. He drew a large subsidy, and he distributed it among the *Akhwan*. The "Brethren" propagated their faith among the Bedouin. Their numbers had grown; they had founded other towns; and by the time the Great War was over, practically all the desert tribes, except the Shammar in the north, had joined the *Akhwan*, for might was now on their side.

Early in 1920 Ibn Saud's forces attacked and defeated an army of the Shereef of Mecca. This gave him arms and ammunition and encouragement, and early in the summer he turned to Eastern Arabia. He took the wells of Jaria (Quria), within the borders of the Sheikh of Kuwait, and began building a mosque and forty dwellings to make a town, such as Moslem tradition requires so that the special Friday worship may be valid there. The Battle of Hamd followed and secured the place for him. Ibn Saud now controls the road from Kowait to Al-Ahsa. During the summer engagements, unimportant, save to the killed and wounded and their families, have occurred whenever parties of the *Akhwan* met tribesmen belonging to the Koweit or Shammar sheikhs. The American Mission hospital at Koweit has had a constant stream of gunshot patients all the summer.

But why should the Emir of Central Arabia seek to absorb the territory of the Sheikh of Koweit? The claim of the Wahhabi made half a century ago to be king of the whole gulf country had never been admitted by the British nor justified by the event. It may be that the present Emir believes that an accomplished fact will become an accepted arrangement; and Koweit would certainly be invaluable to him. He has the coast province of Al-Ahsa, with the port of Katif and Ujair as a customs point; but the hundreds of thousands of bags of rice and piece goods that are imported into Nejd every year through these places are landed at Bahrain and pay customs duties to the Sheikh of the Bahrain Islands, and are then shipped in country craft to Ujair. The customs and other expenses are a tax that Ibn Saud naturally wants to avoid for his people. To get goods through Koweit means paying customs duties to another sheikh. This sheikh is not the Mubarak to whom he was under obligations. It is Mubarak's second son, Salim, who now rules the town, and there are no bonds of gratitude or friendship between the two men. The enthusiasm of the *Akhwan* is a tremendous military asset. Koweit is a town of *kafirs;* the "Brethren" want to convert it. It has the finest harbour in the Gulf, and would be an immeasurable advantage to him.

Sheikh Salim knows the value of Koweit to the Emir of Central Arabia, and he knows something of his ambitions. After the attack on Hamd he began building a clay wall around his town. Koweit lies like a broken triangle, with one side along the bay and the opposite angle pointing into the desert. The new wall makes a circle of five or six miles from sea to sea. It is about six feet thick at the base and eleven or twelve feet high, with the upper part thinner, leaving standing room for the defenders. At intervals there are some two dozen towers, extending beyond and above the wall. Frequent loop-holes mark the whole length of the wall, and four gates with extra large towers allow egress and ingress.

There have been recent efforts to establish peace between Ibn Saud and Ibn Subah of Koweit on the basis of the territorial terms which the British Government have guaranteed to the "trucial chiefs" of the Persian Gulf. Sheikh Salim bin Mubarak bin Subah was willing, and went to Jahira, fifteen miles away at the head of the Bay of Koweit, to withdraw the force that he had stationed there. While he was there the *Akhwan* came. They took the village of 100 houses, but could not capture the castle, which the sheikh and his 800 soldiers had occupied. His food and water supplies were naturally small, for he was not expecting further fighting, and they were almost exhausted when the ammunition of the "Brethren" was finished. The *Akhwan* offered him a truce; which he would not renounce when his reinforcements arrived shortly afterwards. He permitted them to retain the loot they had taken and himself returned to Koweit, leaving only a small garrison on the spot. His losses were under a hundred killed and several hundred wounded, some of whom are women. These casualties are being cared for at the American Mission Hospitals for men and women at Koweit, in charge of the only doctors in that part of the country. The *Akhwan* are reported to have lost 800 killed and as many more wounded, bringing their casualties up to nearly half their force of 4,000 men. Of the wounded there is no doubt that many have died, for they had no medical aid with them.

Fresh negotiations for peace are under way. The *Akhwan* general, Duwaish, sent a delegation of two, and later of seven, "Brethren" to announce his terms. Sheikh Salim refused acceptance, and has finally requested British aid It has come: two armed ships are in the harbour, and an aeroplane arrived the day this was written. The town is relieved, and cordiality toward the British was never so great as now.

## CHESS.

Surrey and Lancashire met on December 11 at the Imperial Chess Club in the final of the county championship. The match was left undecided, Surrey leading at the close by five to three, four games being left for adjudication. The positions in the unfinished games did not suggest much prospect of Lancashire gaining the necessary points, and it may be taken almost for granted that the championship will go to Surrey.

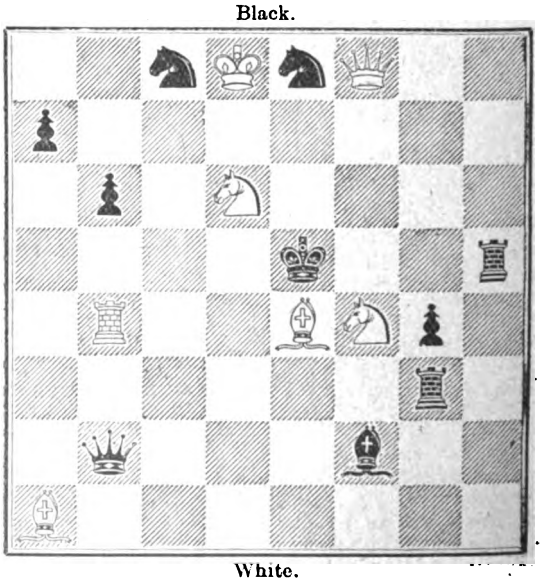
The preliminary heats of the City of London championship should be finished this week. Already a number of the principal competitors have finished their games. Mr. H. Jacobs has won Section A with 7½, while Mr. R. P. Michell has scored 6 with one to play. In Section B, in which there are nine games to be played, Sir G. A. Thomas is first with 8 and one to play, while Mr. J. H. Blake has 5, with one to play. In Section C, Mr. Ross and Mr. Barlow stand equal first with 5½, each having one game to play. Mr. R. H. V. Scott, who is in this section, has not been doing so well as in the recent championship, and his appearance in the final will depend on the result of his last game.

Four rounds have so far been played in the Metropolitan Championship, and in this competition Mr. Scott is leading, having won all his games.

The really interesting part of the season will only commence after Christmas, when we shall have the final of the City Championship, and the various other tournaments will begin to reach interesting stages. In a few weeks, too, the Murton Cup handicap will be starting, and I anticipate a record entry for this ever-popular event.

PROBLEM No. 28.

Black.



White.

White to mate in two.

The above problem, by M. J. J. Rietfeld, of Holland, took the second prize for two movers in the Victory Tournament of the British Chess Problem Society. CAPO-KANN.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

***Egypt's Commercial Position.***

For some months now the commercial position in Egypt has been increasingly unsatisfactory, and at the present time the indications are that the country is in for a somewhat anxious period. Various factors are responsible for the prevailing depression. For one thing Egypt has been affected to some extent by the conditions that have developed in the world's markets since the commencement of the year. Another and very important factor has been the overloading of the market, which has been carried on to such an extent that it is estimated that Egypt has now almost a year's stocks of certain classes of goods over and above her immediate requirements, largely the result, of course, of the congestion in neighbouring markets. But the most important factor of all has been the fall in the price of cotton, which is now quoted at roughly one-fourth of the rate that obtained early in the year. Cotton is the basis of Egypt's prosperity, and the country's purchasing power depends on the price obtained for the crop. The present slump in this commodity means an enormous decrease in the potential purchasing power of the country, and while it is maintained the development of business cannot fail to be restricted.

***The Outlook.***

Difficult as the position undoubtedly is, there is no reason for taking a pessimistic view of the outlook. It is as certain as anything that the price of cotton will not remain at its present low level, while all the indications are that the prevailing trade depression throughout the world's markets has reached its culminating point, and an improvement at no very distant date may not unreasonably be anticipated. No doubt it will take time before matters adjust themselves in the Egyptian market; fortunately, however, the country is well equipped as the result of the prosperity of the last few years to meet a crisis such as that which has arisen. The importance of that factor must not be overlooked. In previous crises the country was more or less unprepared, but even then the recuperative process was not protracted. This time, recovery when it comes should be rapid. In the meantime, it need scarcely be urged that British manufacturers and exporters should exercise great care in dealing with this market. There are now, and will be during the next few months, important openings for enterprise, especially in connection with works of development; but, apart from this, merchants would be well advised to walk warily.

***Restriction of Cotton Area.***

For some time it has been expected that Egypt would meet the fall in cotton by again restricting the area under cotton cultivation, and the announcement last week of this step will, therefore, have occasioned no surprise. Artificial expedients of this nature are always open to a certain amount of objection, but it is easy to understand that the authorities in Egypt—apart from wishing to increase local food production—have come to the conclusion that in the circumstances it was the best means of safeguarding the country's interests. Naturally the policy is unacceptable to Lancashire, for it means that the cotton centre may possibly have to go short of cotton at a time when demand is again brisk; but it is the growers whom the officials have had to consider in the first place; and their lot, as Professor Todd showed in a lecture at Manchester last week, is just now anything but an enviable one. It may be hoped that the temporary restriction of the area under cotton in Egypt will give an impetus to the movement to develop cotton cultivation in other centres, especially in the Sudan. But anything that may be done in the direction of promoting the growing of the crop elsewhere can, unfortunately, have no effect next year, when it would seem that the world will be faced with a reduced yield of cotton both in Egypt and America.

***The P. and O. Meeting.***

The annual meeting of the P. and O. has come to be regarded as an event of outstanding importance in financial and commercial circles, because of the practice of the chairman to devote a considerable portion of his speech on that occasion to a critical analysis of the situation in general, and in particular, of course, of the position of the shipping industry. This time, as usual, Lord Inchcape's address contained much of interest. As was to be expected, he devoted considerable attention to the question of the increased cost of passages. "We have, to our great regret, been compelled," he said, "to raise our rates of passage money in all directions to keep pace to some extent with the great advance in the cost of coal, wages, stores, operating expenses generally, the increase in dock charges, dock labour, and costs of overhaul; and even with the higher rates now being charged it is difficult to make both ends meet, and in many cases it is an impossibility. It is hard on our passengers to have to pay higher rates of passage money, but it is not our fault. As soon as we can reduce rates to an economic level we will do so. At present we are carrying passengers at less than cost." Lord Inchcape went on to refer to the heavy cost of the large passenger vessels now under construction, and stated that, "so far as we can judge, it will be impossible to run them profitably as separate units." As a result of the conservative policy that the company has pursued the P. and O. is, however, in a far stronger position than other companies, for the existing fleet stands in the company's books at a very moderate figure, so that when the new ships are added the company's fleet "will still stand at a low figure, and considerably under pre-war prices."

***Sales of Ex-enemy Ships.***

The disposal of the ex-enemy ships on behalf of the Government was dealt with by Lord Inchcape in the course of his speech. So far, ninety-three of these ships have been sold, and it is hoped before long to dispose of the balance. Lord Inchcape explained that when he was asked to undertake the sale of these ships he concluded that it was his duty to do what he could "to relieve the Government of the possible necessity of running them themselves, which would have been disastrous from every point of view." Proceeding to express his opinion of these vessels, he declared that while many of the more recently built cargo vessels were excellent, "the passenger steamers are, as a rule, not a patch upon ours in design, arrangement, comfort, ventilation, or deck space, and the accommodation provided for the officers, engineers, and crews is miles below our standard. In every case, large sums of money will have to be spent to bring the passenger ships up to anything approaching British ideas, and even then they will fall short of our own ships. The shipbuilders and shipowners of this country, so far as I can see, had nothing to learn from Germany in shipconstruction."

***Anglo-Persian Oil Report.***

A very satisfactory report is forthcoming from the Anglo-Persian Oil Company for the year ended March 31. The net profits increased from £2,011,000 to £2,611,000, and £275,528 was brought forward, the available total being thus £2,887,143. From this amount £233,302 has to be deducted for new issue expenses, and out of the balance it is proposed to allocate £80,000 to debenture stock redemption reserve, £50,000 to preference share reserve (in both cases the same as last year), £575,000 to the general reserve, as against £300,000, and £100,000 as before to the amortisation reserve. The preference shares have already received 6 per cent., absorbing £210,000, and it is proposed to bring this up 8 per cent. as last year, which will absorb a further £100,000, and to pay a dividend of 20 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary shares, as against 10 per cent., tax free, for 1919, absorbing £627,863, as against £300,000, leaving £910,978 to be carried forward.

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# Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

## GREECE.

ATHENS, November 27.

### Possibilities of Dedeagatch.

The *Economist of Athens*, commenting on the unexploited riches of Thrace, points out that Dedeagatch could easily become one of the most important ports in the Near East if only the Government would take immediate steps to improve agriculture in Thrace. During the period from 1888 to 1898 large exporting firms, such as Vallianos, Kanella, Savastopoulos, and the famous French firm of Dreyffus and Allatini, were established at Dedeagatch. At that time the Ottoman Government afforded many facilities to importing and exporting merchants, while the important traffic of the port was due to the reduction of freights by the Eastern railways, also by the Bulgarian railways as far as consignments from Eastern Roumelia were concerned. In 1899, however, when the Chir-Yampoli-Bourgas railway line was constructed, the Bulgarian Government concentrated all its attention on the port of Bourgas, as a result of which the traffic at Dedeagatch commenced to decrease. The director of the Chamber of Commerce at Salonika, M. Becris, states that the port of Dedeagatch can regain its former importance if the following measures are adopted:—1. Financial assistance to merchants and landowners transacting business dealings. 2. The immediate construction of warehouses similar to those existing prior to the bombardment. 3. The construction of a harbour or at least a breakwater. 4. Reduction of railway fares on the junction railway line. 5. Appropriation of the lands situated along the railway line, and the rebuilding of the warehouses which were burnt down. If the above suggestions are carried out by the Government, the port of Dedeagatch will occupy an important trade position in the Ægean Sea in view of the fact that the Bulgarian Government, in accordance with the convention of Neuilly, will use that port as a commercial outlet. Further, the Government must see that the Thracian Customs tariff is similar to that in force throughout Greece, as the present tariff in Thrace seriously impedes all business dealings.

### Olive Oil Production.

The new Minister of Foodstuffs, M. Calogeropoulos, has declared that, according to information already to hand, this year's olive oil production in Greece will exceed considerably that of last year. It is estimated that it will reach 140 million okes at the very least, and in view of this the Government has authorised the export of last year's stocks.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, November 27.

### The Trade Situation.

It was to be foreseen that as the winter advanced, and owing to the transport difficulties the prices of commodities would rise, despite the fact that, according to reports, American prices have decreased considerably. This rise has come quicker than was expected, and has been chiefly caused by the continual rise of the lei, which to-day stands at about 240-250 to the £. Merchants who did not cover their goods when they were ordered, or are not being granted credit, thereby having to cover at the present rate of exchange, will either have to increase their prices between 10 and 20 per cent.—which prices in many cases they will not be able to obtain—or stop their sales altogether, and if short of money will be obliged to sell under cost.

Despite this position, trade has not been lacking, as a good many people fear a further depreciation of the lei.

The State has received substantial quantities of goods through the Ministry of Reconstruction and the different co-operative societies, but is not in a position to alleviate the situation by distributing the goods to the different centres owing to transport difficulties, and they are still stored at the ports of arrival.

The depreciation of the lei and the transport difficulties have affected textiles more than any other commodity, as they are mostly imported from countries that have a high rate of exchange, such as England. Cotton yarn, which is the principal article of the season, was sold at the beginning of last week for 500 lei per bundle. This week it started at 550 lei and went up to even 620 lei for Clegg's brand, and even at this price it is very hard to find. American Cabot C went from 15.50 to 16 lei per yard. Cabot A went to 16.50 lei per yard Chiffon, the price of which has been stationary up to now, has risen to 17 lei per metre—0.80 m. wide. Cotton prints, narrow width, are bringing 15 lei per metre, and zephyr, middling quality, 22 lei per metre. The prices of flannelettes have not increased, the wholesalers having covered the cost at the old rate, and wish to get rid of it to provide themselves with funds to buy spring and summer goods. The prices are 22-25 lei per yard.

Stagnation continues in the iron trade. Many merchants have only just received their orders placed in February and March, and are not able to release their goods, as the banks demand immediate payment, and the merchants do not feel inclined to do so at the present rate of exchange. Merchants who have ventured on large business with little capital of their own are in a critical position.

Numerous offers are coming from Germany and Austria, but merchants cannot avail themselves of these offers, as they are short of funds and the banks will not advance any money. Offers include nails at 5.50 marks loco factory, tin-plate at 85 crowns, black sheets at 60 crowns, tin-pots at 22 lei per piece c.i.f. Galatz, iron blacks at 32 crowns, and iron rails at 3.60 marks.

Scythes have been sold at 14 lei per piece loco factory and 21 lei f.o.b. Galatz to arrive before the close of the Danube navigation. Ploughs ("Boar" make) are offered at 480 lei per plough delivered at Bucharest, for delivery next season. "Sack" ploughs are offered at 525 lei loco Bucharest. Merchants are still abstaining from buying agricultural machinery, owing to the high cost, and on account of the competition of the State through co-operative societies.

There is a sufficient stock of leather for soles, thanks to the important quantities which have been bought, especially from Italy. Sales are rather weak, and prices have been kept rather low. Home manufactured leather for soles can be bought at 70 lei per kilo; while better quality sole leather can be bought at 70 lei per kilo.

Local raw hides are excessively expensive, as 23 lei per kilo for crude and 27 lei for salted skins is being asked; therefore, factories are limiting their activity, awaiting cheaper supplies from Italy. Leather is sold at 140 lei per kilogram 8-9 cms. thick, 3-4 cms. thick at 160 lei, 2-3 cms. thick at 180 lei, 1-2 cms. thick at 230 lei. Coarse leather is sold at 50-60 lei per kilogram. Boots have gone up in price, owing to the high cost of labour, despite the great supplies of boots from Italy, Czecho-Slovakia, and Switzerland.

After the slump which lasted for six weeks the market in glassware and household goods has brightened up, and there has been a great demand for kitchen utensils, stoves, and cutlery. Glasses are 6-8 lei per piece, and china plates 12 lei, both wholesale. A table service of 24 pieces costs 800-1,600 lei, enamelled pots are 45-50 lei per piece wholesale, small oil-stoves are 300 lei retail, and coal stoves 2,500-3,000 lei per piece medium size.

### Miscellaneous.

A very promising measure has been introduced by the Ministry of Industry to increase the value of the lei. Permits of export will only be granted to those exporters or banks who can prove that they have bought lei on the markets abroad. The object of this is to reduce the stocks of lei existing abroad, which have mostly been used for speculation.

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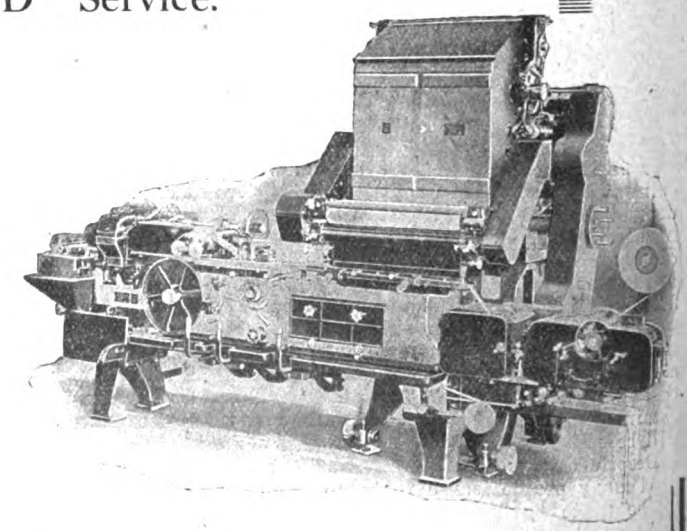

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From January 1 to September 1 Roumania exported goods to the value of more than one milliard lei. The exports included the following (in wagons of 10,000 kilograms):—Maize, 17,000; barley, 14,500; oats, 331; rye, 781; wheat, 1; wheat flour, 6½; refined paraffin, 8,694; petrol, 3,821; lubricating oils, 906; crude oil, 350.

## CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, November 16.

**Loss of a Prince Liner.**

While the s.s. Italian Prince was en route between Papho and Limassol, with a large cargo of carobs, fire broke out. Notwithstanding all the efforts of the crew, the flames could not be got under; and, after salving all that was possible, the vessel had to be abandoned to its fate, after the fire had been burning for many days.

## TURKISH FRUIT REPORT.

### The Situation: Effect on Markets.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows under date November 25:—Since our last issue of October 4, the following shipments have been made to the United Kingdom: To London, October 19, per s.s. Borodino, 18,858 boxes of sultanas, 44,698 bags of figs, 1,310 boxes and sk/ton cases of figs. November 3, per s.s. Sea Victory, 4,579 boxes of sultanas, 20,275 bags of figs, 709 boxes and sk/ton cases of figs. November 13, per s.s. Gourko, 44,707 boxes of sultanas, 31,529 bags of figs, and 413 boxes and sk/ton cases of figs. Shipments to Liverpool: October 12, per s.s. Serbino, 27,183 boxes of sultanas, 21,002 bags of figs, 460 boxes and sk/ton cases of figs. October 26, per s.s. Amasis, 11,427 boxes of sultanas, 19,728 bags of figs, 955 boxes and sk/ton cases of figs. November 12, per s.s. Belgravian, 14,758 boxes of sultanas, 3,071 bags of figs, 315 boxes and sk/ton cases of figs. The season can now be considered as practically closed, and there is small prospect of further shipments of importance or any resumption of business until the turn of the year, when the spring demand develops. The total shipments this season to the United Kingdom to this date are as follows:—To London: 268,581 boxes of sultanas, 263,217 bags of figs, 6,926 sk/ton cases and boxes of figs. To Liverpool:—184,399 bags of sultanas, 131,257 bags of figs, 4,391 sk/ton cases and boxes of figs. To Bristol: 23,157 boxes of sultanas, 11,740 bags of figs, 200 sk/ton cases and boxes of figs. To Glasgow: 18,906 boxes of sultanas, 15,130 bags of figs, 192 sk/ton cases and boxes of figs. The totals were: 495,043 boxes of sultanas, 421,344 bags of figs, 11,709 sk/ton cases and boxes of figs equal to about 6,500 net tons, 5,000 net tons, and 1,500 net tons respectively. The shipments to the United Kingdom to the same date in 1919 amounted to 14,500 tons sultanas and 3,000 tons figs. The total arrivals of sultanas to date are 86,055 bags against 158,200 bags in 1919: the sales to date are 76,500 bags against 151,000 bags in 1919; stock, 9,500 bags against 7,000 bags in 1919. These figures are exclusive of Vourla. The total shipments to date, including Vourla, amount to about 11,500 tons, distributed as follows:—To the United Kingdom, 6,500 tons; to the Continent, United States, Canada, etc., about 5,000 tons; total, 11,500 tons. Estimated stocks remaining in the country, about 25,000 bags, or, say, 3,500 tons; estimated probable result of the yield, say, maximum 15,000 tons.

Figs.—Total arrivals to date amount to 82,000 loads, or 18,000 tons, against 45,000 loads, or 10,000 tons in 1919. Stocks remaining amount to about 2,500 tons in Smyrna and about 3,000 tons in the interior, consisting mainly of inferior qualities fit for distillery purposes or for coffee adulteration on Continental markets.

A fair extent of business has been transacted in sultanas during the past few weeks, but demand latterly, as usual at this time of the year, is slackening, but some orders amounting to about 300 tons have these days been placed on the market for New York and Canadian account and are in course of shipment by the steamships Putnam and Jefferson County. There has been relatively less activity in figs. Prices both for sultanas and figs have been influenced in foreign parities by the steady rise in sterling and dollar exchange. Sterling rates in the early part of October averaged about piastres 430, whereas since the end of the month fluctuations have been pretty sharp and the rate has latterly been fairly steady about piastres 480, thus reducing the foreign equivalent of cost by fully 10 per cent. Dollar exchange has moved in sympathy.

Reference to political matters would hardly come within the scope of a report of this nature were it not for the very close bearing which things political have on matters commercial in this unsettled part of the world. The results of the recent elections in Greece, the Bolshevist successes in the South of Russia, and the Nationalist movement in the interior of Asia Minor are factors calculated to delay indefinitely a settlement or readjustment of the whole Turkish question. The uncertainty in the general situation and outlook, credit restrictions, suspension of trade relations with the interior of the country, etc., are tending to paralyse mercantile enterprise and activity. With reduced crops and prohibition on the exportation of several of the country's products, the volume of exports is being steadily reduced, thereby materially diminishing the buying power of the country. Large stocks of imported goods lying at Smyrna, Constantinople, etc., cannot be disposed of except at ruinous losses. The displacement also of the native population in various parts of the country is not only aggravating the outlook but is entailing untold misery and suffering on thousands. Every factor indeed is making for increasing instability and discontent. At no time since the Armistice has the whole situation appeared so uncertain and threatening. It is no surprise that uneasiness about the future is developing and fears are increasing that the conflict of International interests may finally cause a general upheaval throughout the whole country and still further postpone a settlement for which the whole population has vainly waited for two years.

## COTTON SPINNING IN 1920.

### Record Dividends.

Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall, of Manchester, has prepared his usual analysis of the reports of Lancashire cotton spinning companies for the twelve months ended November 30. The figures show that record dividends have been paid. In previous years it has been possible to give comparative figures relating to profits, but very few cotton companies in Lancashire now issue balance-sheets, and statistics of a reliable character are not available. Particulars have been obtained, however, of 100 companies, the average dividend being 29.47 per cent. on share capital. The payments have absorbed £2,263,899. It may also be said that thirteen companies during the year have made bonus calls amounting to £241,927 out of profits. From a dividend point of view 1920 has been the best year ever experienced in the Lancashire trade, the average dividend for 1919 being 21 per cent., whereas previous to that year the most prosperous period was 1907, when the average dividend was nearly 16 per cent. The 100 mills dealt with contain 3,021,034 mule spindles, 1,190,812 ring spindles, and 5,813,910 weft spindles. The past year opened with the trade boom at its height, but since the spring business has shown a decided decline. Spinners are now having much difficulty in clearing the production of yarn, and all mills, both American and Egyptian, are running short time. It is probable that the stocktaking announcements at the end of December will be less satisfactory than for some time back, and most companies will have to pay smaller dividends.

Roumania has signified her adherence to the International Trade Marks and Patents Convention.

The directors of the New Egyptian Company intend to redeem the whole of the five per cent. first mortgage debentures for £125,000 now outstanding on March 1 next at £102 10s. per £100 debenture, or £51 5s. per £50 debenture.

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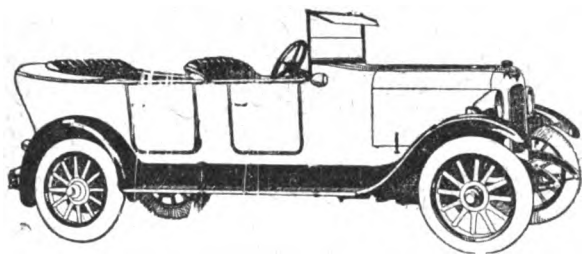

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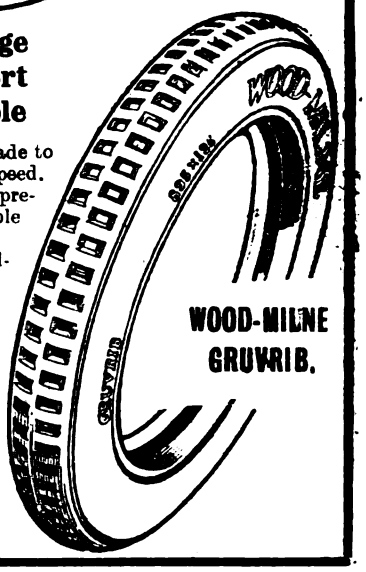


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# ENGINEERING.

## Iron and Steel Production.

The Statistical Bulletin of the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers contains some figures which should be brought to the notice of everyone engaged in this industry, as they show how serious an effect the coal strike had upon the production of iron and steel in this country. It may be said that, coming at the time when American and German ironmasters were arranging a pact likely to operate adversely to British trade, it was doubly serious. As to that, it is impossible to say anything definitely. The political harm done is not a thing that can be measured and expressed in concrete terms. When we deal with the actual tangible fact of output reduction we are in a position to support conclusions by actual figures.

For instance, analysis of the returns shows us that the production of pig-iron in September amounted to 741,000 tons. This was a little below that for August, which was 752,000 tons; but a moment's reflection will show that it was at a higher rate per day, viz.: 24,700 tons, as against 24,260 tons. In the three months ended September 30 the total production amounted to 2,244,000 tons, or an annual rate of nearly nine million tons, which is very little below the highest rate attained when filling the demands of the war.

It was at this time, when everything in the iron and steel trade was in an exceptionally good condition, that unintelligent brains prompted an aimless poking of fingers into the wheels of trade. The coal strike came and passed, but so severe was its effect that production during October fell to 533,200 tons, or 207,800 tons below the September output. It would, perhaps, be better to compare with August's figures, on account of the equal number of days, and to say that the October output was 218,800 tons below that of August. According to the highest authorities it is improbable that the September figures will be equalled for some time by reason of the tremendous setback the industry received through the strike.

The output of steel last September was 884,700 tons, the highest monthly total since the Armistice. This output was equal to an annual rate of 10,616,400 tons. Owing to the coal strike, production fell 330,000 tons to a total of only 554,300 during October, and the opinion is that it will take the industry months, if not years, to regain its lost position. No wonder there is unemployment in the engineering trades. With iron and steel production so seriously affected, so drastically reduced by hot-head action, the greatest difficulty is being experienced in keeping ordinary engineering works going, and here it may be said that should the Severn barrage scheme be put in hand in the near future, with the consequent withdrawal of raw materials from the engineering industry, it would in itself cause a vast volume of unemployment which might have disastrous and wide-reaching effects.

Figures show that the total output of steel for the ten months ended October 31 amounted to 7,805,100 tons, as against 6,507,000 tons for the same period in 1919. These figures should be read beside the returns from the U.S.A., from which we find that the United States output of steel was 3,524,000 tons in September and 3,543,000 tons in October. The production of pig iron in the States during September was 3,129,000, and during October amounted to 3,278,000 tons. Incidentally, the highest monthly output in the U.S.A. was during March, when it reached 3,376,000 tons. So far as American exports are concerned, the exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof in October represented 11.2 per cent. of the total, as compared with about 37 per cent. for textiles. This proportion of 11.2 per cent. compares with that of 7.7 per cent. last January, and it is interesting to note that every month's figures shows a slight improvement.

Exports of iron and steel from the United Kingdom amounted to 274,000 tons in October, as against a monthly average of 185,400 tons in 1919 and of 411,000 tons in 1913. Exports of iron and steel from the United States were 393,000 tons in August, as against a monthly average of 362,100 tons in 1919 and 241,000 tons in 1913.

## Earth Roads.

In view of the interest which is being taken at the present time in roads and roadmaking, whilst admitting the great superiority of concrete roads to all others, the next in the order of general suitability being those constructed of tar macadam covered with a bituminous coating, it must be pointed out that even to-day earth and gravel roads may and do give good service, and may be used with complete success in districts where the traffic is neither heavy nor frequent.

Roads of that type should be well drained and properly crowned. The maintenance of such a road is comparatively easy and far from expensive, even if the work is done with quite exceptional care. On the other hand, good drainage is not easy to secure except in very favourable situations, yet upon this drainage the life of the road actually depends. As a matter of fact, a road in order to be properly drained must have the proper longitudinal grade; a maximum grade of from 0.5 to 1.0 per cent., with a maximum grade generally of 5.0 per cent., according to Mr. R. G. Terrell, who supplied the writer with a good deal of information on the subject when Commissioner of the State Department of Public Roads in a southern American State. The minimum grade is necessary in order to give the side ditches the proper amount of fall to carry the water away from the road. Side ditches, further, should never be made deep and narrow, but, on the other hand, should have a high capacity. If extra drainage is necessary a good deal of tile may be used with advantage or a deep ditch with a sufficient fall and outlet may be excavated along the roadway and filled with tile or large stone. Where roads are placed alongside hills a ditch should be dug along the upper side, which should have sufficient capacity to take away all the water that would otherwise wash across or through the road.

If the road has been properly located and properly drained it should have a very long life; in fact, the writer knows of one British road in particular where this method of construction was carried out and which has lasted with comparatively few repairs for upwards of 3,000 years. As a matter of fact, it was in good condition when the Romans landed and has remained in good condition ever since.

## Tractors at Smithfield.

At the Smithfield Show the Austin Motor Company, Limited, exhibited the well-known Austin farm tractor with a plough. This light-weight machine is of straightforward, substantial design and very sturdy in construction. Its trunk chassis is carried at the front on a spring pivot, which allows the axle free movement to meet undulations of the ground, thus relieving the machine of all strain, and providing a true three-point suspension.

The Austin farm tractor has a four-cylinder engine with detachable head, and runs on paraffin. It has magneto ignition and thermo-syphon cooling. The gears run always in oil on roller bearings. Control of the machine is of the simplest character, and can be learned in a few minutes.

Ready for work, the tractor weighs about 28 cwt., and its power is ample for ploughing the most difficult land. It will plough 5 or 6 acres a day on average land, will thresh all day long on a consumption of 1½ gallons of paraffin per hour, and will reap at the rate of 6 acres in three hours. It will drive all kinds of machinery, such as chaff-cutters, mill grindstones, saws, cake-crushers, and so on, while it is capable of hauling a four-horse load on the road.

## A Licence Holder.

Under the new regulations, the special licence cards which are to be issued to motorists must be fitted in a waterproof metal case with glass front, and this case must be attached to some convenient part of the car, so that it will be clearly visible to anyone standing on the near side of the car. Messrs. S. Smith and Sons (M.A.), Ltd., of 179-185, Great Portland Street, London, W.1, have sent me a sample of a licence-holder which they have introduced, and which seems to me to be suitable for the purpose in every way. It is neat, strong, well finished, and inexpensive, and can be obtained in either brass or nickel. I understand Scotland Yard are using this holder for all their cars, cycles, and vans.

## Oil-Driven Vessels.

An interesting event took place a few days ago at Barrow shipyard, when the Semmiole, a motor-driven vessel belonging to the Anglo-American Oil Co., was launched. The vessel, which was built by Vickers, is the latest addition to the already large fleet of ships which have discarded the use of coal fuel for steam-raising purposes, and rely upon the internal combustion of oil to supply the necessary power. The opinion of Sir John Vickers, expressed on this occasion, is that the heavy oil engine is certain, sooner or later, to play a great part in developing the British mercantile marine.


## THE ALEXANDRIA WATER CO., LTD.

### Interim Dividend.

NOTICE is hereby given that an Interim Dividend of Four Shillings per £5 Share on Coupon No. 64 is payable on and after the 15th of December, 1920, at Messrs. Barclays Bank, Ltd., 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W., and 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., in Alexandria, upon the making of a declaration as to ownership in the form required by the above Banks, form of which will be supplied upon application.

Dated, Alexandria, 12th Nov., 1920.

By order of the Board,
K. B. WOODD-SMITH,
Manager.


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# BANCA NAȚIUNEI

**Capital and Reserve Fund: 85,000,000 LEI.**

**BUCHAREST: Calea Victoriei 98 (Piata Palatului Regal).**

Chairman:—N. D. GHIKA. Deputy-Chairman:—MIHAIL D. STURDZA. General Manager:—ION G. STOIAN.

**EVERY KIND OF BANKING AND FINANCIAL BUSINESS TRANSACTED.**

*The following Companies have been established by the BANCA NATIUNEI:—*

S.T.A.R. Societatea de Tractiune Automobila din Romania.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei
Gospodariile Taranesti.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei
S.R.C. Societatea Rom. de Combustibil.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei
Industria Forestiera din Transilvania.—Capital, 12,000,000 Lei
Industria Chimica Romana.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei
Tipografia Gutemberg.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei
Casele Populare.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei
Crucea Societate pentru comertul si industria de vestminte si odoare bisericesti.—Capital, 1,000,000 Lei
Minele de Aur din Romania.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei
S.A.R.D.A. Societate Anonima Romana de Aprovizionare—Capital, 2,000,000 Lei

# BANQUE MARMOROSCH, BLANK & CO.

(Joint Stock Company).

**HEAD OFFICE : BUCHAREST (Roumania).**

**Capital : 125,000,000 Lei. Reserves : 140,000,000 Lei.**

BUCHAREST, CONSTANTINOPLE, PARIS, NEW YORK
AND
Branches in all the Principal Towns of Great Roumania.

# ROUMANIA.

**AREA** (after Peace Treaties of 1919) **122,282 sq. miles.**

In 1914 the cultivated area was (according to an estimate of Dr. Colesco) 34,475,750 acres; of which 13,074,922 were ploughed lands, 468,670 were vineyards and orchards, 1,436,960 were meadows, 2,948,472 were pastures, and 5,705,750 were forests.

**POPULATION. About 17,400,000.**

**IMPORTS (1915). £8,533,234.**

United Kingdom, £848,997; Austria-Hungary, £3,718,182; Belgium, £43,230; Germany, £3,575,159; France, £660,287; Turkey, £558,238; Italy, £762,023.

**EXPORTS (1915). £21,742,379.**

United Kingdom, £2,238; Austria-Hungary, £13,576,255; Belgium, £2,343; Germany, £7,044,803; Turkey, £443,325; Italy, £37,838.

[NOTE.—In 1914 the Imports from the U.K. amounted to £2,231,773, and the Exports to it to £1,433,535.]

# BANQUE DE CREDIT ROUMAIN

(Joint Stock Company)

FULLY PAID-UP CAPITAL AND RESERVES:

**110,000,000 LEI.**

**BUCHAREST. BRAILA.**
**GALATZ. CONSTANZA**

The BANK opens current accounts, collects and discounts bills, &c., on Roumania and other countries. Collects dividends, makes advances on shares and other securities, and upon merchandise, and carries on all usual banking transactions. Receives cereals on consignment and undertakes their sale.

# BANCA ROMANEASCA. *Established 1911.*

**Authorised Capital, 160,000,000 Lei. Capital Paid Up, 100,000,000 Lei. Reserve Fund, 38,936,306 Lei.**

**Head Office in BUCAREST, 5, Strada Smardan.**

**Branches in BAZARGIC, BRAILA, CONSTANTZA, CZERNOWITZ (Bucovina), GALATZ, KISHINEFF (Bessarabia), SILISTRIA, TULCEA, TEMESVAR.**

**Council of Administration:**—*President*, G. N. BAGDAT, former President of the High Court of Justice and Cour de Cassation.
*Vice-President*, G. I. STOICESCO, former Vice-President of the Senate, Professor of the University.

**Board of Directors and Members:**—C. G. COCIASU, Barrister, former Vice-President of the Senate; V. BRATIANU, former Manager of the Banque Nationale de Roumanie, former Minister; D. D. BRAGADIRU, Merchant and Manufacturer; Al. F. BADESCU, Engineer, General Manager of the Société de Tramways de Bucarest; G. CORBESCO, Barrister; I. G. DUCA, former Minister; I. I. STANCULEANU, Barrister, former Member of Parliament; AL. N. STEFANESCU, former Manager of the Banque Nationale de Roumanie.

**Auditors:**—D. MATAK, Engineer, Manufacturer; H. FULGA, retired, former Bank Manager; V. V. STEFAN, former General Manager of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce; Em. DAN, former General Manager in the Ministry.

**General Manager:**—N. P. STEFANESCO, Engineer, Inspector-General, former General Manager of the Navigation Fluviale du Danube.

**Manager:**—I. SAVESCO. **Sub-Managers:**—N. BANULESCO, C. T. TEODORESCO, ION C. PILIDI, S. HENZEL, D. CONSTANTINESCO.

Banking transactions of every description. Deposits repayable on demand and with notice. Cheques and letters of credit issued on all countries. Stock Exchange orders executed in Roumania and abroad. Advances on securities, discounts and collections. Bonds, shares and objects of value received for safe keeping. Applications received for all issues without charge.

**Telegraphic Address: ROMANEASCA, BUCAREST.**

***LONDON AGENTS:*** **BARCLAYS BANK, LIMITED. COMPTOIR NATIONAL D'ESCOMPTE DE PARIS. BANQUE BELGE POUR L'ETRANGER.**


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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## LONDON MARKET REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—Business has been very restricted. Currants have been in poor request, especially the lower varieties, and it is obvious that consumers are holding aloof in the expectation of lower prices. There has been a negligible enquiry for sultanas, while dates and most varieties of figs have moved off slowly.

Coffee.—Prices have been easier. The futures market has been rather inactive. Quotations are:—December, 53s. 6d., a drop of 2s. 6d.; March has shed 6d. at 52s.; May is 6d. lower at 52s. 6d.; July is 1s. 6d. down at 53s.; and September is 1s. lower at 54s.

Sugar.—The free market has been steady. West Indian crystallised is the same at 72s., and American granulated has come to business at 80s. White Mauritius is unchanged at 79s. Home refined has met with a good demand at the official prices.

Oilcakes.—Linseed cake is 20s., a decline of 1s. 6d., while cottonseed has come to business at 11s., a drop of 1s. Other transactions include Arachis cake at 14s., and coconut cake at 14s.

Oilseeds.—Indian linseed has been steady at 27s., but rapeseed is lower with Toria at 24s., and bold Ferozepore at 23s., 2s. 6d. and 5s. 6d. down respectively.

Seed Oils.—There has been a steady decline in prices. Linseed oil has come to business at 45s. Turpentine is unchanged at 105s.

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon, 217s. 9d. cwt.; butter, 336s. cwt.; cheese, 158s. 6d. cwt.; chillies, 140s. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 4½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 132s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 113s. 6d. cwt.; East Indian bold, 117s. 6d. cwt.; Mocha (longberry), 140s. cwt.; eggs,, 44s. 2d. per 120; ginger (washed Cochin), 52s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 220s. cwt.; lard, 167s. 9d. cwt.; nutmegs, 1s. 1d. per 110's to 120's; pepper (Singapore, black), 4½d. lb.; and Muntok white, 11d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 142s. 6d. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 147s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 99s. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 80s. cwt.; No. 1 cubes, 84s. cwt.; Mauritius (free), 79s. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 26s. 6d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 167s. 9d. cwt.; bran (Rangoon), 31s. 9d. cwt.; tea (Indian), 6½d. lb.; Ceylon, 6¾d. lb.; Java, 4¾d. lb; wheat (Australian), 113s. 6d. qr.; English (white), 87s. 6d. qr.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £175 ton; bismuth, 12s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £77 ton; electro, wire bars, £86 15s. ton; gold bars, 117s. 4½d. oz; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 225s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 260s. a ton; lead (soft foreign), £26 17s. 6d. a ton; manganese Poti, 3s. 0½d. unit; molybdenite, 60s. unit; nickel, £220 ton; platinum, 520s. oz.; plumbago. £37 10s. ton; quicksilver, £15 2s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 44d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £30 5s. ton; tin (standard), £214 ton; wolfram, 20s. 6d. unit; tin plates (20 by 14), 38s. 6d. box; zinc sheets. £52 10s. ton.

*Chemicals.*—Acids:—Boric, 75s. cwt.; oxalic, 1s. 7d. lb.; citric, 3s. 1d. lb.; tartaric, 2s. 3½d. lb; ammonia (sulphate), £31 11s. 9d. ton; benzole (standard), 3s. 6½d. gallon; arsenic (white powdered), £75 10s. ton; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £22 10s. ton.; borax crystals, 41s. cwt.; cream of tartar, 212s. 6d. cwt.; potassium:—bi-chromate, 1s. 4½d. lb.; chlorate, 8½d. lb.; caustic, £85 ton; nitrate, £65 ton; permanganate, 3s. 1½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 8½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £28 10s. ton; sodium—crystals, 190s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 15s. ton; bi-chromate, 1s. 0½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £10 15s. ton; chlorate, 5d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £29 10s. ton; hyposulphate, £34 ton; prussiate, 1s. 1½d. lb.; nitrate, £23 7s. 5d. ton; sulphate copper, £41 ton; sulphate iron, 150s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £105 ton; industrial (1,250 per cent.), £155 ton; lead (red), £50 10s. ton; white dry, £56 5s. ton; white ground, £66 5s. ton.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton (American, fully good mid.), 12.70d. lb.; Egyptian, Sakellaridis, 12.15d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £23 5s. ton; rape (Toria), £30 ton; soya beans, £21 ton; palm kernels, £30 10s. ton; oils:—linseed, £48 10s. ton; soya, £51 ton; cotton (crude), £44 ton; olive, 21s. 6d. gallon; ground nut, £62 ton; palm, £48 15s. ton; rape (crude), £72 10s. ton; petroleum, 2s. 3d. gallon; turpentine (American), 109s. 6d. cwt.; rubber:—plantation No 1 crêpe, 1s. 1¾d. lb.; smoked sheet, 1s. 1½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 1s. 3d. lb.

## DRIED FRUIT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, report as follows under date December 7:—

Currants.—The situation has not materially altered during the week, and business is exceedingly flat, which is not surprising considering the general unsettled trade in all markets, and buyers continue their waiting policy, only operating for absolute requirements. Meanwhile a potential demand is accumulating, but when this will assert itself and to what extent is difficult to foresee. The only trade passing was in Pyrgos at 75s., Gulf at 86s. to 90s., and a further consignment of Vostizza shade dried in ¼ c/s met a ready sale at 100s. to 104s. Quotations are:—Pyrgos, 75s.; Amalias, 77s. to 80s.; Patras, 80s. to 82s.; Gulf and Panariti, 86s. to 92s.; Zante, 84s. to 88s.; Vostizza, 92s. to 104s. Total arrivals from commencement of season to date, 14,470 tons.

Valencia Raisins.—Sound quality per Santa Ana was easily disposed of: ½ boxes 130s. to 135s., and ¼ boxes 145s. to 155s., but unsound condition parcels difficult to move. Seedless slow, 124s.

Sultanas.—The sale has proved most disappointing, and although stocks are extremely light, progress is difficult even at concessions in value. Afghans, yellow variety, compare very favourably with Smyrna in quality and price at 120s. to 127s. 6d., but the red class are unsaleable. Quotations are: Smyrna, 135s. to 150s.; Greeks, 140s. to 150s.; Afghans, yellow, 120s. to 127s. 6d.; Afghans, red, 110s.

Figs.—Pending fresh supplies close at hand the market is bare of skeleton cases. Bags, Naturals, prices show a further decline, 56s. to 65s., without attracting buyers.

## LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson, in their report for the week ended December 10, state:—The feature in our market during the past week has been its steadiness. A few months ago, when prices were sliding downhill at an alarming rate, a frequent catchword in the mouths of optimists was that, given steady markets, the trade would come in and buy freely. It is perhaps unfair to take one week as a test, but certainly at the moment the trade appear as far off coming in as ever! American mills have now stopped down to 50 per cent. short time, thus, after some deliberation, coming into line with the Egyptian section. Doubtless, in time, this measure will have a certain effect, but for the moment a feeling almost of apathy seems to have settled on Liverpool and Manchester, and reports from the latter centre are uniformly bad. Reports from Egypt are to the effect that the Government have ordered a reduction of one-third in the acreage to be planted; but this has failed to arouse any excitement here and the effect on this season's crop will be negligible.

Following on a meeting of protest held in Liverpool last July, efforts are now being made by the Department of Agriculture at Cairo to prohibit the further cultivation of Pilion cotton. The high yield per acre makes the cultivation of this cotton attractive to the grower, and it is reported that a large quantity has been produced this year. As far as Lancashire is concerned, it is still a very doubtful commodity and has not yet got beyond the experimental stage. The few small lots of Pilion cotton that we have seen so far this season have little to recommend them, for they do not possess either the silkiness or the length and strength of the genuine Sakellaridis, which this growth is expected, in some quarters, to supplant. With the continued absence of trade support it would appear likely that the price of Sakellaridis will drop somewhat from its present level, but for the present Uppers seem to be about right when viewed from the basis of American contract.

The small demand experienced this week has again been mainly for Uppers (types 1-4). A few bales of Sakellaridis (good and above) were sold, but white, brown and Sudan cotton were all neglected. Quotations show a decline of 50 points for good fair to good Sakellaridis, whilst fine Uppers are exceptionally raised 50 points. Fully good fair Sakel to-day is quoted at 28.00d. Total sales 700 bales.

**W. MORPHY & SON,**
*Steamship Agents and*
*Commercial Representatives,*
ATHENS PIRÆUS, PATRAS,
SALONICA.

**CROWE & STEVENS,**
*Steamship Agents and . . .*
*Commercial Representatives,*
PATRAS, PIRÆUS, ATHENS,
SALONICA.

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# COMPANY MEETING.

## P. AND O.

### Lord Inchcape on the Outlook.

Presiding at the annual general meeting of the P. and O. stockholders on December 8, Lord Inchcape expressed regret that, in view of the none too rosy future of shipping, they were unable to propose a more generous dividend on the company's deferred stock.

Although they had had, much to their regret, to raise passenger rates in all directions, they were, owing to the high level of operating expenses, carrying passengers at less than cost. The cost of compliance with demands by the stewards' and other unions for increased living space had necessarily to be passed on to the public. While it would appear to be impossible profitably to run, as separate units, the large passenger vessels now building, the value at which their fleet stood as a whole would bring the average value of these costly vessels considerably under pre-war prices. The satisfactory operation of the underwriting account had enabled them to increase the insurance fund by half a million to £2,500,000. He could only add to the report that while they—and not they alone—had difficulties to face, they would, with the economic recovery which must arrive, be able to overcome them.

Alluding to his purchase and re-sale of the Government standard ships, he had, he said, been asked by the Government to dispose also of the ex-German steamers, and had considered it his duty to do so, in order to relieve the Government of the possible necessity of running them themselves. He had sold ninety-three of the ex-enemy vessels, and hoped soon to dispose of the balance. While many of the more recently built cargo vessels were excellent in every way, the German passenger ships were far below the British standard. His experience had led him to the conclusion that the shipbuilders of this country had nothing to learn from Germany in ship construction.

#### Fallacy of "Key" Industries.

He could not understand why shipping, so far from being regarded as a key industry, was especially penalised under the excess profits duty, nor why the manufacture of magnetos should be regarded as a key industry, and agriculture, the only indispensable industry, should not. The war had revealed them as dependent on Germany for synthetic dyes, magnetos, drugs, chemicals, and many other articles and materials; it also showed that Germany was even more dependent upon them. Their war-time improvisations were probably inferior, but they served the emergency. To make them now the foundation of our fiscal policy was a counsel of suicide. If it was necessary to foster any industry, they had better have subsidies than licences, prohibition, and their attendant establishments. The truth of the matter lay in the paradox that it was just as accurate to say there were no key industries as to say that every industry was a key industry. From the many processes and materials and forms of human skill that went to the making of the products of modern manufacturing, it was absurd to select one and declare it to be more essential than the rest, where all were equally essential. The logical outcome of the agitation over key industries was, he said, that Great Britain should only manufacture goods, all the raw materials and ingredients of which were to be found within the British Isles, or, at any rate, within the British Empire, for to that fantastic conclusion the key industry argument inevitably led. The only real service which the Government could render would be to leave the weather-beaten strength of British trade to fight its own battles in its own way.

#### Need for Industrial Peace.

There was a good deal of nonsense spoken about employers and employed. They were, he continued, all employers of each other. The dustman employed the bootmaker, the 'bus driver the tailor, and so on, and these in turn employed others. They employed him, the speaker, to look after the P. and O., and he employed others to help him. The nation employed His Majesty the King to reign over them—which he did uncommonly well—and he in turn employed Ministers to assist—or perhaps to hinder—him. In fact, they were, he said, already communists in the best sense of the term. Unique among the nations of the world, they had freedom, social happiness and equality of opportunity, and, losing these precious legacies, they would lose everything. They had just weathered a strike in the coal industry which, had it continued, would have paralysed the life of the country. National prosperity was impossible when exposed to such recurrent menaces to basic industries. If this country was not to become a second Holland, they must have industrial peace. The British workman was more advantageously placed than any other body of workmen on earth, but his benefits would be worth nothing if he did not pull his weight, and restrain the wild men who were striving to wreck him. With the unions restricting output to the level of the least efficient worker, and controlled by advocates of continuous war between employer and employed, the industrial outlook was as grave as it could be. It was in such conditions impossible for a British manufacturer to quote terms and a delivery date. As a consequence orders were going abroad and unemployment increasing. Industrial peace was becoming for them a question of national ruin or national salvation. Without harder work and a durable concordat between labour and capital they would never be able to break the hopeless chase of wages after prices, which made it impossible for their would-be customers to buy their goods. A year of stabilised wages would recover in trade all that they yielded up during the war. Without that truce, the days of their commercial and financial supremacy were numbered.

#### Anti-Dumping Legislation Condemned.

He was, he continued, an unrepentant Free Trader; and he was convinced that the country's need was, more than ever, commercial liberty, without the obstruction of tariffs or bureaucratic meddling—even so stalwart a Protectionist as Professor Hewins had declared that the whole conception of key industries was academic and impracticable. He had listened the other night to a moving speech by the Prime Minister which was absolutely sound, economically, until he came to dumping, as to which, he said, the Government were pledged to take action. There had been no such dumpers as British manufacturers; and to embark on an anti-dumping campaign would be setting an example to which they could take no exception in others. Carried to its logical conclusion this would mean a total cessation of international trade, and they would be reduced to taking in one another's washing. Economic laws must assert themselves. Foreign nations might be able to supply them more cheaply than they could supply themselves. France might, and Germany, with her low mark value, would, certainly, be a competitor. Protection as a remedy would be worse than the disease. They had to get back to sound economics and to their gold standard if these islands were to maintain their position in the world. The Government could greatly help the nation to get once more on the straight and narrow path of sound economics by refusing to have anything to do with protection; by freeing industry from control; and by abolishing the Excess Profits Tax, which was exhausting all reserves and preventing fresh developments, and by balancing its expenditure and income. The "New World," of which they heard so much, would, if based on bankruptcy, not be much of a success.

#### Excess Profits Duty.

The E.P.D. had proved unfair and pernicious. People with a favourable datum line were sure of their untaxed pre-war profits; others with a datum line which was unfavourable were mulcted in from 40 to 60 per cent. of anything extra they made. The duty, through private and business extravagance, through inflated wages and consequent inflation of prices and of paper currency, was leading the country to financial chaos. Relied upon during the current year for a large portion of the revenue, the E.P.D. showed a serious decrease, with enormous reclamations against the Treasury. Nobody more condemned it than the Chancellor, who was its author, now that he had some years of practical business experience. It was not the Government alone which was to blame, but the members who, representing the people in Parliament, seemed unconscious of the threat of bank-


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ruptcy latent in all sorts of schemes for which money was voted and for which they could not afford to pay. The Prime Minister had intimated that drastic economies were to be instituted. It was to be hoped he would in this respect show the same courage which he displayed during the war. Economy did not consist in dismissing a few Whitehall messengers and typists. As an example there were crowds of functionaries on the Tigris fattening on Government pay, doing work which the commercial community there could do better at less cost, who ought to be wiped out.

### Trade Depression.

Before the war 40 per cent. of their exports went to Europe, and neither they nor any of the Allies, nor any of the States that their joint victory had brought into precarious existence would be prosperous and stable until the economic recovery was general, and included both the vanquished and the victors. One and all would revive from the war in proportion as Germany and Austria and Russia and Hungary revived. One reason for the depression of British industry was the absence of continental demand. It was something to the good that they were at last making a beginning towards the resumption of trade with Russia, but much more would have to be done if Europe was to find its feet. For five years Europe produced merely to destroy. As a consequence Europe and the world were poorer. The wealth so destroyed was now represented by paper obligations from the various Governments, which meant from the people themselves. Interest on this debt could only be paid by taxation, and taxation could only be paid by production, failing which there must ensue bankruptcy or, partly or wholly, repudiation.

They had, he went on, got into this position :—Higher wages and shorter hours were everywhere demanded, yet unemployment was increasing and the Government were starting relief works at the expense of the taxpayer. Men who were not allowed by the unions to take employment at a world-economic wage the Government proposed to support out of the Consolidated Fund. The whole system was wrong, and was bound to end in disaster. He hoped they would forgive him for expressing his views at length. Nothing which those who had charge of great undertakings could do would achieve success if cardinal principles were disregarded, and their financial, industrial, and labour difficulties would be surmounted only if they steered a safe and prudent course.

### The Company's Position.

As for the P. and O. Company, if it were broken up to-morrow —which it would not be—and its assets sold below market value, its preference stock paid in full, its debentures redeemed at par, its employees pensioned off, and the directors compensated for loss of office, sufficient would remain to give the deferred stockholders to-day's market price for their holdings—and possibly more.

In conclusion, he referred with regret to the loss they had sustained by the death of their former colleagues, Mr. Williams and Lord Cunliffe, and expressed his gratitude to commanders, officers, engineers and their subordinates, and to the company's employees all over the world for their loyal and fraternal co-operation in carrying on the work of the company.

## COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

### Anglo-Persian Oil.

The report of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company for the year ended March 31 states that the profit for the year, after allowing for depreciation, debenture interest, home charges, and royalty, amounts to £2,611,615 4s. 5d., to which has to be added the balance brought forward from 1919, £275,527 19s. 8d., making a total of £2,887,143 4s. 1d., from which falls to be deducted : stamp duty, registration fees, etc., on increased capital and debenture stock, and expenses of issue, £233,302 1s. 3d.—£2,653,841 2s. 10d. ; and the following appropriations have been made :—Debenture stock redemption reserve £80,000, preference share reserve £50,000, general reserve £575,000, amortisation reserve £100,000 (£805,000)—£1,848,841 2s. 10d. From this the following dividends, less income tax, have already been paid on the preference shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum :—For half-year ended September 30, 1919, £60,000 ; for half-year ended March 31, 1920, £150,000 ; and the directors now recommend the payment of the following further dividends, less income tax :—20 per cent. per annum on the amounts paid up on the ordinary shares £627,863 0s. 2d., 2 per cent. per annum additional on the preference shares, making 8 per cent. for the year £100,000 (£937,863 0s. 2d.), leaving a balance of £910,978 2s. 8d. to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty and corporation profits tax for the year ended March 31, 1920. In December last year an issue was made of 3,000,000 participating preference shares of £1 each at a premium of 3s. per share. 4,500,000 ordinary shares of £1 each (of which 3,000,000 are fully paid and 1,500,000 are called up to the extent of 1s. per share) at par, and £2,600,000 5 per cent. debenture stock at £85 per cent.

The refinery in Persia has worked satisfactorily during the period covered by the accounts and the throughput has been further considerably increased. The extensions referred to in previous reports are making good progress, and are being brought into operation as completed. The completion of the refinery at Swansea has been delayed by labour troubles and by the prevailing slowness of building operations, but it is expected that it will be ready to start working during the first half of next year. The oil wells in Persia continue to maintain their satisfactory rate of output. The additional pumping stations referred to in the last report will soon be finished, and arrangements have been made for a further increase in the pipe line capacity to carry the additional quantities of crude that will be required for the extended refineries in Persia, the refinery at Swansea, and also to provide supplies for the affiliated companies in Scotland, France, Australia, and elsewhere. The company, through its subsidiary, the British Tanker Co., Ltd., and other associated companies, has placed orders for a further large number of tankers, in order to meet the increasing transport requirements. The company, through its subsidiary the D'Arcy Exploration Co., Ltd., is prospecting in various parts of the world, and wherever geological conditions are reported to be favourable for obtaining oil in commercial quantities drilling is being carried out. The other various subsidiary companies carrying on different branches of the company's business have all had a successful year, and arrangements are being made for largely extending their operations.

The company has acquired an interest in the Scottish American Oil and Transport Co., Ltd., and has undertaken its technical and commercial management, and also that of its subsidiary, Tankers, Ltd. An agreement has been entered into with the Commonwealth Government whereby a company entitled "The Commonwealth Oil Refineries, Ltd.," has been formed with a capital of £500,000, for the purpose of refining in Australia. The capital is being subscribed for jointly by the Commonwealth Government and the company. Arrangements have been completed for the formation of a French company with a capital of 100,000,000 francs, to undertake the refining and distribution of oil, and the development of the indigenous oil resources, in France and the French colonies. The capital will be subscribed for jointly by French interests and the company. A large interest has been taken in a new company which has been registered under the title of "The British Oil Bunkering Company, Ltd.," with a capital of £1,200,000 for the purpose of carrying on a bunkering business in liquid fuel. As the company's insurance business is now so large as to justify the company carrying a large proportion of its own risks, a subsidiary company for this purpose has been formed under the title of "The Tanker Insurance Company, Ltd.," with a capital of £100,000, all of which has been subscribed for by the company and its subsidiaries.

Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., December 20, noon.

### British India Steam Navigation.

The accounts for the year to September 30 last show, after providing for depreciation, an available balance (including £22,188 brought in) of £184,898, which the directors recommend should be distributed (less interim dividends paid in May last) as follows : Dividend of 5 per cent. on preference stock, £35,000 ; dividend of 8 per cent., free of tax, on shares, £76,576 ; special bonus of 5 per cent., free of tax, on shares, £47,860 ; carried forward, £25,462. The steamers were fully employed during the year, excepting those which were for certain periods laid up for reconditioning, after long employment in Government service. Five steamers are still running under requisition by Government at Blue Book rates, which are not remunerative. Five old steamers were sold for breaking up, viz. : Booldana, Dumra, Dwarka, Palamcotta, and Ramapoora, and two steamers were lost during the year, viz. ; the Fazilka, which was wrecked on Nicobar Island, and the Erinpura, which grounded on the Mushejera Reef, Great Hanish Island, and which has, since closing accounts, been abandoned to the underwriters as a constructive total loss. Both steamers were insured, and the insurance money has been recovered from the underwriters.

The Secretary of State for India announces that Mr. B. A. White, senior resident partner of Messrs. Bird and Co., Calcutta, has been appointed a member of the Committee of Inquiry into Indian Railways, as the representative of European commercial interests in India, instead of Mr. C. F. Beadel, of Calcutta, who is unable to act.


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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

JAFFA.

The report for October states:—As a result of large arrivals of cereals during the month, especially wheat, barley, and millet, a considerable decline has occurred in the prices of these products, notably as regards those of which the export is still prohibited. The prices of wheat and barley have also been affected by the unfavourable position with regard to the wheat crop, as a result of the heavy rains of the previous year. The market for manufactured goods is completely inactive in consequence of the uncertainty of the European market position.

HAIFA.

The report for October states:—As a result of the prohibition of the export of cereals from Palestine, the market is quiet, and under the influence of that measure and the financial stringency prices have undergone a considerable decline. The Government estimates that this year's crop will suffice for the needs of the country, and does not anticipate for the time being a surplus that will permit of exports. Prices (per 100 kilos) are as follows:—Wheat, 54s.; lentils, 45s.; sorghum, 30s.; sesame, 90s. These prices are nominal, and holders cannot find openings for the disposal of their stocks, and are contenting themselves with selling in small quantities to the retailers.

The crop of olive oil is large and of excellent quality. It is estimated that it will amount to 1,200 tons, two-thirds of which will be available for export, one-third being needed for internal consumption. Prices vary according to the quality of the oil between £E100 and £E125 per French ton. The export of this commodity, which was prohibited last year, is now permitted as regards the stock of the old crop, estimated at between 350 and 400 tons.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended October 27:—This week's sales amount to 67 cases from 14s. 10d. to 16s. 6d. for current qualities of 9 per cent. to 10 per cent., and from 17s. to 19s. 6d. per lb.. for Carahissar as to quality. The arrivals are 700 cases against 1,050 at same date last year, and our available stock is to-day about 745 cases. The exchange for cheque on London is 483 piastres per pound sterling, and 0.71 dollars for one Turkish paper pound.


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Messrs. P. REDON, B. KERESTEDJIAN, J. UNGAR — Directors. — DJEVAD BEY, HAMID BEY, NOURY BEY.

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

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## ON 'CHANGE.

### Further General Decline.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Monday night.

It was hoped that the worst had been seen of the depression that has been overhanging all markets for some weeks, but the past few days proved this expectation to be unjustified. While there have been no specially unfavourable developments abroad, there has, all the same, been a strong outburst of Continental liquidation, and this, combined with continued offerings from London and the provinces, has resulted in a further general decline.

Gilt-edged securities have shared in the prevailing weakness and there have been fractional declines in a number of directions. Foreign bonds have been a specially weak feature, Greeks in particular suffering losses.

In regard to other markets, there is an invariable tale of depression to be told. Industrials have been markedly dull, owing to heavy liquidation and the lack of support, it being a case, for the most part, of all sellers and no buyers, and, as a result, there has been a fairly general shrinkage of values. Oils have participated in the general weakness, while rubbers—need it be said?—have readily joined in the downward march.

Near Eastern securities have drooped somewhat. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per Cent. are ½ down at 59, while Turkish Guaranteed 4 per Cent. have shed 1½ at 66. Greek Guaranteed 2½ per Cent., 1898, have fallen 5½ to 54, while Turkish 3½ per Cent. Egyptian Tribute Bonds are ¼ lower at 52¾.

Greek securities have declined almost all along the line. The 5 per Cent. 1881 Loan is 3½ down at 37½, and the 5 per Cent. 1884 issue has shed an equal amount at 37½. The 5 per Cent. 1890 Loan is 3 points down at 38, while Fundings at 38 have fallen 2 points, and the 1910 and 1914 Loans are quoted at 30 and 37½, a drop of 2 and 3½ points respectively. The 1902 Loan is exceptionally 3½ up at 34½.

Banks have been weak. Agricultural 3½ per Cent. Bonds have remained unchanged at 55, but the 3½ per Cent. Guaranteed Bonds are three points down at 57. Imperial Ottoman Banks have declined a ¼ to 7¾, and National Bank of Egypts have shed 5/16 at 16½. Land Banks are a shade stronger at 4½, at which level there are unsatisfied buyers.

There have been a number of fluctuations in Land shares. Beheras are ½ point lower at 9½, while the Preference shares remain the same at 2¾. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments are unaltered at 3½, while Egyptian Consolidated Lands are 1d. lower at 1s. 3d. Delta Lands are 10s., a drop of 6d., while Gharbieh Lands are unchanged at 2. New Egyptians are 1s. 6d. down at 23s. 6d., while Union Foncieres are exceptionally 1/8 up at 3½. Sudan Plantations have been a rather weak spot, and are closing 3/16 down at 4¼.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions Abyssinian Corporations are unchanged at ¼. Alexandria Waters have firmed up ¼ to 6¾, at which there are buyers. Morums are 9d. down at 12s. 3d., while Egyptian Salts and Sodas are unchanged at 35s.

Oils have been weak. Anglo-Egyptians have fallen ¾ to 2½. Phœnix are 2s. 6d. down at 10s., Roumanian Consolidated are 3s. 3d. down at 17s. 6d., but Steaua Romana are unchanged at 18s.

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The Indian Trade Commissioner has received the following cable from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated December 2, 1920:—An all-round increase in coal-miners' wages averaging from 15 to 25 per cent. has been granted with effect from November 29. Bombay cotton trade has reopened. Forward business and contracts for 1920-1921 crops are now proceeding.

## LANCASHIRE COTTON.

### The Egyptian Decision.

(From Our Own Correspondent.).

Manchester, Monday.

Trading conditions in the market have not improved since a week ago. The amount of inquiry, if anything, has been smaller than ever. Merchants are disposed to adopt a waiting policy until the prospects are clearer. In connection with Egyptian cotton the feature of interest has been the decision of the Government to restrict the acreage by one-third. The matter has been considered by the Manchester Cotton Association and the Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. E. F. Stockton, the president of the latter organisation, has sent a letter of protest to Lord Milner, the Colonial Secretary. The situation is serious for spinners of fine yarns in Lancashire, and if there is to be a decline in the output of Egyptian cotton of about 2,000,000 kantars there may be a distinct shortage of supplies next year, especially should there be a revival of trade. In the circumstances prices have been rather steadier, but users have not been stimulated to buy more freely. A quiet, unimportant turnover has taken place in Egyptian yarns. Many producers are pressing sellers, and open to accept very low rates. In piece goods for the Near Eastern outlets inquiry has been within a small compass. According to cable advices, however, clearances in some quarters are improving, and if prices could be stabilised there seems to be a possibility of more buying before very long. Operations for India and China have been checked to a greater extent by the fall in silver and the consequent drop in the value of the rupee to practically the pre-war level. In most weaving districts of Lancashire there is a tendency for more looms to stand idle for want of work. American yarns have again moved off slowly, and prices remain very irregular. Some special transactions have been put through in coarse counts and extra hard descriptions for the Levant.

## TENDERS INVITED.

### Egypt.

Photographic Material.—The Egyptian Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply of photographic apparatus and materials (chemical, etc.) required for the year 1921-2. Tenders, which must be submitted by persons or firms residing or having a representative in Egypt, should be marked "Tender for the supply of Photographic Material," and addressed to The Director, Personnel and Equipment Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, Egypt. January 31, 1921 (L.).

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97 7/16 |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 45·00-46·00 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 125 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·4¾-1 5/8 |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 250-257 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·4¾-1·5⅛ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 480-500 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅜ | 3·45-3·46 |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 59·00-59·40 |
| Prague | Kronen to £ | 24·02 | 295-307 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 247½ |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 34 |
| Vienna | Kronen to £ | 24·02 | 1,200-1,300 |
| Warsaw | Marks to £ | 20·43 | 2,000-2,100 |


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## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

### German Ships for Greece.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, November 27.

The Greek Government has been notified that twenty-nine German steamers have been allotted to Greece to replace those lost during the war through enemy action. Of these twenty-nine steamers, the approximate tonnage of which is 86,000, twelve, representing about 44,000 tons, will be handed over to Greece immediately. It is estimated that these steamers will make up for one-fifth of the total loss incurred by Greek shipping.

### Forthcoming Sailings.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parenthesis:—

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Olympia, for Bombay (Liverpool, December 28).

*Anchor-Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Maimyo, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 18); s.s. Blackwell, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London December 24); s.s. Mathura, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 29); s.s. Malakuta, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 29); s.s. Imani, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London January 7).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Derbyshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Liverpool, December 29).

*Byron Steamship Line.*—S.s. Lord Broughton, for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna and Constantza (Liverpool, December 23).

*Clan Line.*—S.s. Clan Macindoe, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 30).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Phrygia, for Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, December 18); s.s. Sea Serpent, for Patras and Venice (Liverpool, December 30).

*Ellerman's City Line.*—S.s. City of Manchester, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 20); s.s. Crosby Hall for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, December 22); s.s. City of Pekin, for Karachi and Bombay (Birkenhead, December 22); s.s. City of Lucknow, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 31).

*Ellerman's Hall Line.*—S.s. Merton Hall, for Karachi (Liverpool, December 17); s.s. City of Alexandria, for Bombay (Liverpool, December 31).

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Glensanda, for Port Said, etc. (London, December 23); s.s. Glenapp, for Port Said, etc. (London, January 6); s.s. Carnarvonshire, for Port Said, etc. (London, January 20); s.s. Pembrokeshire, for Port Said, etc. (London, February 3).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Architect, for Calcutta (Liverpool, December 22); s.s. Inventor, for Calcutta (Liverpool, December 28); s.s. Orator, for Calcutta (Liverpool, January 12).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Chindwin, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 22).

*Holt Line.*—S.s. Stentor, for Port Said, etc. (Swansea, December 21); s.s. Helenus, for Port Said, etc. (Birkenhead, December 23); s.s. Eurypylus, for Port Said, etc. (Birkenhead, December 23); s.s. Titan, for Port Said, etc. (Glasgow, December 30); s.s. Knight of the Garter, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, December 30); s.s. Teiresias, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, December 30).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Cundall, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 24). A steamer will sail on December 24 for Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople.

*Moss Line.*—S.s. Sitra, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Alexandria (with through transhipment to Moroccan, Algerian, Cyprus, and Syrian coast ports), (Liverpool, December 21); s.s. Karnak, for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, January 8).

*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Maronian, for Malta and Alexandria, also taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Jaffa, Haifa, Mersina, Port Said, and Cyprus, etc. (Liverpool, January 1).

*Power Line.*—S.s. Petworth, for Rabat, Laraiche, Tangier, Casablanca, etc. (London, middle of December); s.s. Pangbourne, for Rabat, Laraiche, Tangier, Casablanca, etc. (London, early in January).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Karmala, for Bombay (London, December 17); s.s. Nore, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta, also taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden (London, December 17); s.s. Kashgar, for Bombay, also taking cargo for Gibraltar, Port Said, and Aden, with transhipment for Indian coast and Persian Gulf ports (London, December 24); s.s. Syria, for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta, also taking cargo for Malta, Port Said and Aden (London, December 31); s.s. Kaisar-i-Hind, for Bombay (London, December 31).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. Nerbudda, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 24); s.s. Chakrata, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, end of December); s.s. Neuralia, for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 7); s.s. Chyebassa, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 15).

*Westcott and Laurance Line.*—S.s. Claro, for Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (London, December 19).


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## LEVANT MARKET REVIEW.

We give the following extracts from the market review of the National Bank of Turkey for October:—

Trade in Constantinople has not improved as every one hoped, and unfortunately it is not even possible to say that at the present moment there is an optimistic feeling about. The recent news from South Russia is not at all bright and the existing state of the European markets, especially Manchester and Bradford, has had an adverse effect on our position here, which was showing signs of resurrection in view of the recent revival of trade relations with certain of the Black Sea ports. Under existing conditions, it follows as a natural consequence that many of the foreign banks have found themselves compelled to restrict their accommodation to merchants in certain branches of commerce; the depreciation of Turkish currency which has taken place in the past few days, adds yet a further obstacle to the resumption of normal conditions of trade.

With the advent of the new Turkish Cabinet of experienced ministers, much is hoped for towards a settlement of the deplorable state of affairs at present existing in the interior. In these days of restricted trade the attention of merchants is ever turned towards Asia Minor and great hopes are centred on the re-establishment of commercial relations with what is, after all, the corner stone of the trade of Constantinople, for it is realised that the economic crisis here would be considerably ameliorated were the agricultural supplies, which have been accumulating in Asia Minor during the past year, freed for our markets.

It is officially stated with regard to concessions granted by the Government for the working of forest and mining undertakings that the war years shall not be considered as part of the duration of concessions. The Minister of Commerce is taking the necessary steps to modify the Acts dealing with this subject.

The Turkish exchange during the greater part of the month followed the course of the French franc in London, but during the last few days of October the lira depreciated. Some improvement was expected during the month owing to the export season in Smyrna being in full swing, but the almost total lack of exports from Constantinople resulted in a shortage of sterling and U.S. dollars which were in demand to meet imports. The rate for sterling rose from piastres 430 to piastres 450 between October 25 and 28, and revealed the very weak position of the Turkish currency when not backed up by exports. This depreciation may be expected to continue so long as Anatolia remains closed to trade and exportable goods are held up in the interior. The principal business done was in sterling, francs and U.S. dollars with some demand for cheques on Bucharest. A fairly large business was done in foreign money on the Bourse, although the course of the exchanges was unfavourable to local speculators who are generally on the "bull" side. The depreciation of the Turkish currency was unfavourable to the collection of bills drawn on Constantinople in sterling and dollars as many drawees endeavour to delay payments until rates are more favourable to them.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 503.—Vol. XVIII. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1920.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *King Constantine in Greece.*

King Constantine has returned to Greece. On the day of his arrival Athens gave itself up to the wildest transports of rejoicing. The demonstrations had nothing to do with international politics, and only the captious critic would have asked the Athenians to moderate their enthusiasm because behind the return of the popular hero lurked the shadow of the Allies' displeasure. In the King's message to his people, as reported, there is nothing to which exception can be taken. He was reminded, he said, of his father's motto, "My strength is in the love of the people," the truth of which King Constantine has a better opportunity of proving than ever was offered to King George of Greece, and somewhat courageously he added: "I shall devote all my efforts to tightening our very good relations with the great Allied Powers, and to consolidating our bonds with our gallant Ally, Serbia."

### *The Allied Attitude—*

At the moment, however, the great Allied Powers to whom King Constantine referred will have nothing to do with him. The more egregious blunder of recalling their representatives from Athens was not committed; but the British and French Ministers, as well as the various missions at work in Greece, have received official orders to sulk. Only the men who have blundered in practically every single decision taken in regard to the Near East over a period of five or six years could have hit upon such a plan, and fortunately for the reputation of Great Britain it is not necessary to regard it as representing the considered wisdom of the British Foreign Office. Like every other step taken of recent years in the East, it stands divorced from any far-sighted policy, and is merely the act of a man groping in the dark, or following the lead of another without understanding his movements or knowing his purpose. But even in the nursery a sulk has to come to an end sooner or later, and presumably the same fate awaits it when it bears the hall-mark of British and French statesmanship.

### *—and the Way Out.*

The Allied sulk in Athens was prompted by the desire to gloss over the conflict of views between the British and French Governments in regard to the Near East; but as only definite action can bring the Allies' divergent policies into harmony, we need not be over tender towards the negative course of trying to penalise Greece for the Allies' faults. The situation is as follows: France is hostile to Greece, wishes to curry favour with the Turks, and is working to have the Treaty of Sèvres revised in Turkey's favour. The British Government, which has had opportunity to realise the prejudice caused to British interests by the terms imposed upon the Turks, is opposed to any modification of the Treaty, but wants Greece to maintain her hold in Asia Minor, in spite of being deprived of Allied support as a result of France's insistence upon reprisals for the electoral defeat of M. Venizelos. By boycotting King Constantine the two Allies effectually stalemate themselves. The Greek Army will now take its orders only from the King; but if it is neither paid nor fed, it will take orders from no one, for it will cease to exist. If it is still wanted to do the Allies' work of coercing the Turkish Nationalists, it must be paid and adequately equipped. The British policy of "the Treaty and nothing but the Treaty," in spite of its having proved unworkable and harmful to British interests, we do not pretend to understand. On the other hand we would strongly oppose the boorish methods that have, quite justifiably, brought France into disrepute and hatred throughout the East. If the French contention that a mistake has been made in the terms of the Turkish Treaty is right—and it is impossible to dispute the fact—then the only honourable course for the Allies, as we have stated before, is to admit their error and to revise the Treaty in consultation with both the Greeks and the Turks. So obvious and just is this course that there can only be one thing to prevent its being adopted, and that is the personal vanity of those responsible for the Treaty, who shrink from admitting, what is patent to the whole world, that they have piled mistake upon mistake in their handling of the Near Eastern question.

### *A Reformed Greece.*

If King Constantine wishes to extend to the Allies in their dilemma the consideration which he holds was denied him in a similar predicament during the war, he will know what steps to avoid. In the first place, in spite of any powers that may be conferred upon him by the Greek Constitution, he will conform to what is generally regarded as constitutional usage and allow his Government alone to declare the will of Greece. The Greek Government will be able to state whether Greece is able single-handed to support the imperialistic designs mapped out for her by M. Venizelos, and if she is not, will signify its readiness to see those designs modified. Further, it can justify its claim to being based broadly on the people's will by showing that it represents the Greek people and not merely a political faction, eager to enjoy the spoils of office before it is remove

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from power. The dismissal of University professors as a result of the change of Government, we need hardly say, is not understood in the West, and can only create a bad impression, unless a very strong case can be made out in its favour. No doubt it has been the custom in the Balkans in the past; but it will be idle to claim that the Greek people are engaged upon any "secular work for civilisation," if they perpetuate such petty-minded practices.

### *Bulgaria and the League of Nations.*

The admission of Bulgaria into the League of Nations is an act of common justice, but it is also a personal triumph for M. Stambolisky, the Prime Minister. It will not be enough, however, for Bulgaria merely to be a member of the League; her first care should be to see that she is ably represented at the League's discussions. In this connection we regret to think that a number of her most experienced citizens have dissociated themselves from the Government of the day, and are seemingly watching for an opportunity to make political capital out of mistakes made by the inexperienced Agrarian Party, instead of sinking party differences and lending their aid to the State. If they have Bulgaria's interests at heart, they will be pleased with the rapidity with which she has recovered the good opinion of the world, and will give the credit due to their Prime Minister. M. Stambolisky, on the other hand, can hardly fail to have realised as a result of his European tour the necessity of having around him and using in the service of the State the best brains of the nation. It would surely, therefore, strengthen his position in his own country as well as in Europe, if he signalised Bulgaria's entry into the League of Nations by a complete amnesty for the political errors of the war and removed from his administration the reproach of perpetuating political imprisonment as an adjunct of party government.

### *Albania as Member of the League.*

Another new member of the League of Nations is Albania, and in view of the fact that the League pledges itself to defend the territorial integrity of its members, we can only conclude that Albania's frontiers are regarded as fixed and will leave no room for irredentist unrest in the future. But unless steps are promptly taken to satisfy the world that this is actually the case, and unless all cause for complaint against her neighbours for encroaching upon her territory is taken away from Albania, the action of the League will be cited as proof of its uselessness and failure to correspond with the realities of everyday life.

### *The Roumanian Outrage.*

The dastardly crime in the Roumanian Senate has claimed another victim in M. Grecianu, Minister of Justice, who has succumbed to his injuries. His country loses a keen politician of conspicuous ability and great personal charm, whose influence was always in the direction of moderation, however high party feeling might run. It can but be hoped that the anarchical outrage, which has profoundly shocked Roumanian public opinion, will have a steadying effect on the political situation. It would if it brought about a general realisation that when politicians become too engrossed in their parliamentary conflicts an opening is left to the worst influences from which any country can suffer.

### *Holland and Yugoslavia.*

A Serbo-Dutch incident, unpleasant but not, it is to be hoped, likely to lead to very serious consequences, has to be recorded. During the war, it may be remembered, the Serbian Government imprisoned the Netherlands Consul, M. Rappaport, who is said to be of Austrian nationality, and who was accused of espionage. More recently, it is stated, a letter from him, containing uncomplimentary references to Serbians, came into the possession of the Belgrade Government, who a short time ago ordered him to leave the country within two days. According to Dutch reports, conversations were in progress, and an understanding was all but reached at the time when Yugoslavia issued the order for M. Rappaport's withdrawal. That step and the refusal of the Serbian Government to accept a note of protest in the name of his Government made it, in the opinion of the Dutch Government, impossible to maintain good relations with Yugoslavia, whose Chargé d'Affaires at The Hague was accordingly notified that his presence was no longer desired in Holland. At the same time it is announced, apparently with some authority, that the removal of the two representatives is not to be regarded as severing diplomatic relations between the two countries. That is as may be; and we shall hope that normal relations will be speedily restored. But the situation is too unpleasant to be ignored or allowed to persist.

### *Armenia and the League.*

Unlike Albania and Bulgaria, Armenia has failed to secure admission to the League of Nations, and Georgia has shared a similar fate. In the case of Armenia the Assembly's decision was due to the unsettled state of the country, the fear that it may fall entirely under the control of "enemies"—that is to say, it is to be supposed, of enemies of the League, in the form of Anarchy and Bolshevism—and the lack of stability of the present Government. In the circumstances the decision will be understood by all Armenians, and approved by very many of them. Moreover, the blow was softened by a motion expressing the "earnest hope" of the Assembly that "it may be possible to admit Armenia into full membership of the League at its next meeting." The hope is based on the efforts to be made by "the President of the United States, supported by the Governments of Spain and Brazil and by the Council of the League," on behalf of the Armenians, to secure them a settled government, within "the boundaries . . . . finally settled under the Treaty of Sèvres." We should like to think that this motion amounted to something more than a pious aspiration; but we find it difficult to believe that Spain, Brazil, and the Council of the League, even allied with President Wilson, will be able to get the Bolshevists or the Turkish Nationalists to respect frontiers marked out for Armenia, unless they can be defended by forces capable of inspiring a respect which has hitherto been sadly lacking on the part of these strangely-paired partners. If Armenia and Georgia are to be saved from the Bolshevist hordes it will have to be done quickly—and by weapons other than words.

### *The Government and the Near East.*

The Near East and our policy in Mesopotamia and in Persia were discussed at some length in the House of Commons on December 15. Mr. Churchill defended the expenditure on Mesopotamia and Persia, and, thanks to the many openings given him by his critics, came through the ordeal remarkably well. General Townshend made an interesting and picturesque maiden speech, in the course of which he declared that with a force of 70,000 troops he could conquer half Asia, and that if he had had that number instead of his little force of 13,000 men, only the Black Sea would have stopped them. Sir Park Goff indulged in some extraordinarily outspoken remarks regarding the Armenians—remarks which drew from "Tay Pay" an exclamation of horror—and Mr. Ormsby Gore renewed his plea for a new department to deal with the Middle East. The last speaker elicited from the Prime Minister the announcement that the Government had decided that instead of the War Office, the India Office, and the Foreign Office all having a voice in the direction of our Near Eastern policy, entire responsibility is to be made over to one of those departments—but which one the speaker did not specify. Perhaps the most important thing in the debate was Mr. Lloyd George's categorical statement that "It is part of our definite policy to clear out of Persia." He also declared that the Government is "determined to proceed with the redemption of the pledges made to the Arabs as to the setting up of an Arab State" in Mesopotamia; and he drove home the point that since those who criticised the Government about Mesopotamia had not the courage to say that we should clear out of it altogether, they had no right to say constantly that money was being squandered there.

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# THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

**The Week in Parliament.**

The Government have had both good and bad fortune at Westminster. Home Rule is passed by both Houses; but the Lords have thrown out the Health Bill and amended Lord Lee's Agriculture Bill. On Home Rule the Peers simply did as they were told—since the Budget of 1909 and the Parliament Act the Upper House is chary of touching first-class Government measures. On Health they acted as an ordinary Conservative body; on Agriculture they merely thought of their own interests.

As a matter of fact, the Government simply asked for trouble on the Health Bill. It was an omnibus Bill, a sort of dustbin of the Ministry of Health; it contained provisions about convalescent soldiers, which are a matter of conscience to the community; provisions about financing the new housing schemes, which will have to be redeemed early next year, because the houses are already building and the builders are looking for their subsidy; and anything else that came into Dr. Addison's head.

The real trouble is that Dr. Addison's Bill is like the curate's egg of the story. Parts are reasonably good, but the other parts . . . And it is very natural that there is a noise about the less palatable parts of the egg; the Health Ministry at present is neither a fresh medical egg of the familiar variety, nor yet a properly hatched bureaucratic chicken, but something betwixt and between, a fearful and evil-smelling mystery. The House of Commons swallowed it, after one or two gulps; but it was too much for the Lords. One sniff at the unsavoury morsel, and there was no further pretence about it. They picked it up gingerly and threw it in the ashpit.

It is really a pity that Dr. Addison does not resign. Perhaps Mr. Lloyd George keeps him as a proof of the strength of the Government; for a Ministry that can contain Dr. Addison and not be seriously weakened has all the appearance of immortality. Personally he is a charming little man, with a good bedside manner; but I would sooner trust his medical than his political skill.

The action of the Peers on the Agriculture Bill was frankly selfish. It is necessary for this country to grow more food, and for that reason it is necessary to lay down a definite policy, to penalise the bad landlord and farmer and to reward the good one. But the Peers dislike being interfered with in the matter of land, and emasculated the Bill. There should logically be a great outcry among the Radicals against class-selfishness, but the Radicals, as Free Traders, were for once in league with the Peers, and it is rather difficult for the first assassin to denounce the second while burying the corpse.

**The End of the Session.**

The session is now practically over, and the Government is getting ready for 1921. It is admitted on all hands that it is distinctly stronger than a year ago; it has shaken down and got its second wind, and at by-elections it can hardly do wrong. The wicked—that is to say, the Opposition—continually imagine vain things, but they can do nothing against the solid Coalition phalanx. The Independent Liberals are split from top to bottom, with Mr. Asquith as Nestor murmuring wise saws, and the new Manchester school telling modern instances. Feeble as they are, they cut more ice in Parliament than Labour, mainly because they attend the House of Commons regularly; the younger men are pertinacious in criticism, and two of them are doing fairly well. Commander Kenworthy has often been rather a nuisance, and sometimes he has bored the House, but he is beginning to shape well as a politician. And Mr. Wedgwood Benn will one day be a force in Liberalism; he is plucky, persistent, and good-tempered, and consequently popular. The rest do not count.

The failure of Labour is difficult to explain. Apart from Messrs. Thomas and Clynes, who are something more than House of Commons men, the eighty odd Labour members are seldom heard. Old-fashioned people still survive who think of a Labour member as a soap-box agitator, but anything less like an agitator than the ordinary Labour member one has seldom seen. He is the very incarnation of silent respectability. He may possibly indulge in fiery denunciations of the existing order in Lancashire or Lanarkshire, but at Westminster he loses his tongue altogether, and the House of Commons, being a practical place, has no use for silent wisdom.

Nobody has yet made a great name in the Coalition ranks. The younger Tories have ideas, and speak well, and Mr. Ormsby-Gore begins to be heard with respect. Lord Wolmer, true to his ancestry, is too immersed in Church politics to take his proper place in what he considers the less important affairs of the State, Lord Hugh Cecil is Lord Wolmer on a larger scale, and Lord Robert Cecil is so engrossed with the League of Nations that he has forgotten the existence of that insignificant institution, the House of Commons.

The Government has not changed. The Prime Minister plays on the House as on an old fiddle; his touch is always true and firm. Mr. Bonar Law still looks the incarnation of pessimism, but he leads the House well. Mr. Churchill's only regret is that nobody attacks him, and he is understood to lament the degeneracy of an Opposition which has not the pluck to stand up to him. Mr. Austen Chamberlain has been hotly criticised, but has stood fire well.

Two men in the Cabinet have increased their reputations. Sir Hamar Greenwood, a bluff Canadian, has proved a redoubtable Chief Secretary for Ireland; and Sir Robert Horne, who was unknown five years ago, is already spoken of as a possible Conservative Prime Minister. He is an easy and pleasant speaker, firm yet courteous in negotiation—the Coal Strike settlement largely increased his prestige—and in private life he has a fund of excellent stories.

**St. Paul's Chapter House.**

Some months ago Sir George Paish suggested that Westminster Abbey should be sold to pay part of the National Debt. Since then the revelations of the poverty of the Church have shown people that it is not so rich a corporation as some imagined, and a further indication has now been given of the straits to which it is reduced. The Chapter House of St. Paul's, which was built by Wren, has been leased to Lloyds Bank, and Dean Inge and his chapter will have to hold their sessions elsewhere. It would be a graceful act for the bank, which is now so closely connected with the Cathedral, to assist its restoration fund by a substantial donation, and I have little doubt that something of the kind will be done before long.

**The Naval Scare.**

People here refuse to get excited over the Americo-Japanese naval scare. England is in peaceful mood, and more interested in internal problems than foreign rivalries at the moment. There are rumours that the Board of Admiralty have put forward a stupendous constructive programme, but it is generally felt that the future of naval war is uncertain—a feeling which the publication of the Jutland correspondence this week has increased—and that at least a chance should be given to the disarmament policy.

On this matter one hears the League of Nations spoken of with more respect than a year ago, when it was simply regarded as a futility. Here I think people are judging it entirely on its merits. The propagandists of the League only did harm; they meant well, but the meetings and the speeches, and the people who listened

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and spoke, did not impress anybody. Now the League has really done something, both in Armenia and at Vilna, and consequently the public is watching its action. If it shows itself a growing force it will not lack support and sympathy.

**Riches and Poverty.**

London is a curious contrast just now. On the one hand, the shops are brilliant with Christmas presents, and thronged with purchasers; on the other hand, unemployment is increasing, and there is grave destitution and misery in the poorer quarters. The authorities are discussing remedial measures, but so far they have not been able to cope with the problem, and only a revival of trade can solve it. In many cases, I believe, lower wages are being offered and accepted by the unskilled workers, in whose ranks the situation is most acute.

There has been some talk of Christmas strikes by various bodies of employees in shops and theatres. It is doubtful whether these will be declared, and in any case it would be bad strategy from any point of view to declare a strike in any trade just now. It would merely widen the circle of unemployment and deplete charitable and trade union funds at the most difficult period. Those who are familiar with trade conditions say that there is some hope of an improvement early in the New Year.

**City Pessimism.**

The prevailing pessimism in the City was accentuated last week by the general fall of values, particularly on the Stock Exchange, and it was not relieved by the report that Farrow's Bank was in difficulties. This (Monday) morning the report proved to be well-founded, for the bank announced that it had suspended payment. Its failure will have little effect on the general financial position, for it was a small bank that had only small depositors, and it dates only from 1904. The stoppage, which comes at a particularly awkward time, will affect adversely a number of small tradesmen and others; there seems a fatality against this kind of institution, for the National Penny Bank and the Birkbeck Bank, its predecessors in kind, both failed. The two latter were, however, both considerably larger institutions; the current accounts of Farrow's Bank only totalled £2,180,000, and the total assets £3,986,865.

The stoppage will not, of course, affect in the least the stability of the great joint-stock institutions, which are well secured, but it will nevertheless tend to the spread of nervousness, which it would have been well on all grounds to avoid.

**The Week's Books.**

Mr. Belloc, in "The House of Commons and the Monarchy" (Allen and Unwin), announces that the elective system is degenerate and must be abolished, and that our only hope is in a restoration of the monarchical power. The author being who he is, the book is well written; but one sometimes wishes that Messrs. Belloc and Chesterton—for the reproach applies to both—would choose a theme worthy of their powers.

The "Autobiography of Andrew Carnegie" (Constable) is the usual rather dull record of a successful man's life. Carnegie convinced himself that war was no longer possible, and he never seems to have recovered from the outbreak of 1914.

Most essayists bore me to tears, and I will confess that I opened "The Sacred Wood" (Methuen), by Mr. T. S. Elliott, with a firm determination to put the book down if his estimates of literature showed any trace of preciosity. Although Mr. Elliott admits that he has written for the *Athenæum*, a paper which nobody but a librarian could even pretend to read, his literary criticism is reasonably human, particularly as regards the Elizabethans. On Dante, the supreme test of the critic, he fails. But then so did Macaulay. Those who like pleasant literary essays will like this little book.

"And Even Now" (Heinemann), by Max Beerbohm, needs no criticism. Max is just Max—unique.

Many will remember the notorious General Bernhardi, and his "World-Power or Downfall," which had a certain effect on German opinion before the war. He is now busy discussing the conditions of the next conflict, and a translation has been published in "The War of the Future" (Hutchinson). He does not expect to live to see the day dawn when Germany revenges herself for the past, but he is assured that the day will come, and insists that Germany "must be ruled by men who understand how to make war at the right moment," and that her military must "develop a proud feeling of detachment towards the civil population," and that when war comes "the politician must unconditionally submit to the will of the soldier." Clearly the General has learnt nothing.

OCELLUS.

## THE PERSIAN SITUATION.

At a meeting of the Central Asian Society, held at 74, Grosvenor Street, London, on December 16, Major-General L. C. Dunsterville, C.B., told again the remarkable story of his adventures with a small force in Persia and Baku during the later period of the war. Speaking of the present position in Persia, he said it was within the knowledge of all that the Treaty of 1907, dividing Persia into British, Russian, and neutral zones, had recently been annulled. Another Treaty had replaced it, drawn on August 9, 1919, but had not yet been ratified by the Mejliss. The few facts in the situation that remained unalterable were the enormous area of Persia, the large proportion of desert land, the small population, the small revenue, and the philosophic and unmilitary temper of the modern Persian. How could such a people, unimbued with any warlike feeling, defend an area of 630,000 square miles, and with frontiers aggregating 4,000 miles in length, against the powerful and ambitious neighbours who surrounded it? The revenue was totally inadequate; and there were no railways and scarcely any roads. An appeal had been made on sentimental grounds to the League of Nations, but, unfortunately, the League of Nations was itself little more than a sentimental idea. It behoved Britain to see Persia through her present difficulties.

Sir Hugh Barnes (chairman of the Imperial Bank of Persia) said that at the moment of speaking the Persian position was one of very serious crisis. Everything depended upon what would be the decision of the Mejliss as to the acceptance or otherwise of the Anglo-Persian agreement. Under the agreement the British Government had sent out certain officers some time ago to form the nucleus of a Persian army, together with Mr. Armitage Smith as financial adviser; but a new government had come into power in Persia, and the ministry there had decided that it could not confirm the agreement until it was approved by the Mejliss. There had since been very great delay in calling the Mejliss together, but information had now been received that it had met the previous Sunday, and we were all looking forward with great interest to see what would happen now.

## THE SHEREEF ALI HAIDAR.

Our Constantinople Correspondent informs us that his attention has been drawn to an erroneous statement in the article on "Turko-Arabian Relations," which he contributed to our issue of November 4. The Shereef Ali Haidar, he writes, was never at any time a member of the Committee of Union and Progress, and the phrase "a member of the Committee" should have been "a member of the Government."

## GREAT BRITAIN AND TURKEY.

The attention of his Majesty's Government has been drawn to a statement published in India that while France and Italy are pressing for the revision of the Turkish Treaty and for the restoration of Thrace and Smyrna to Turkey, Lord Curzon, on behalf of the British Government, is opposing their efforts "in the fanatical determination to destroy the Mohammedan Empire and nation." It is declared officially that there is not a word of truth in this statement, that it is grotesquely false in every particular, that it is clearly a malicious fabrication intended to make mischief, the fact being that the Allied Powers, Great Britain, France, and Italy, are acting together in absolute unison.

## TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

*The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:*—

LEAGUE OF NATIONS: Armenia.—Decisions, Publication.—Lithuania and Armenia. SUEZ CANAL. MESOPOTAMIA (OIL). MESOPOTAMIA. ARMENIA. EGYPT AND PALESTINE. INDIA: Pensions. (December 13.)

EGYPT (COTTON CROPS). MESOPOTAMIA. MONTENEGRO (ALLEGED ATROCITIES). INDIA: Exchange. (December 14.)

MESOPOTAMIA. INDIA: Rupee (Depreciation).—Bobbin Making.—Civil Service, Pensions.—New Council Elections.—Captured British Soldiers.—Kyber Railway. PEACE TREATIES: Turkey. INDIA: Dyer and Jallianwalla Bagh Memorial Funds. EAST PERSIA (WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS). (December 15.)

PEACE TREATIES: Turkey. PALESTINE. GREECE. EMIR FAISAL. TREATY OF SEVRES (CILICIA AND SYRIA). LEAGUE OF NATIONS: Albania. EAST PERSIA (CORDON FORCE). INDIA: Burma (Reforms).—Delhi (New Works).—Public Works Officers (Technical Allowance).—Seditious Speeches and Articles (Prosecutions). (December 16.)

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, November 29.

**Return of Adly Yeghen Pasha.**

The chief political event this week has been the return of Adly Yeghen Pasha, who arrived at Alexandria yesterday. He was met by members of the Cairo Committee and by a number of ex-Ministers, including Rushdi Pasha, Sarwat Pasha, and Abdul Rahim Sabri Pasha, and was given a really fine reception both on board and in the city. In the afternoon a *thé d'honneur* was offered by Ahmed Yehya Pasha; on this occasion, however, contrary to the usage, no speeches were delivered. Public curiosity is, of course, centred on what Adly Pasha will say or do now that he has returned, but it will surprise those who know him intimately if he takes any active part in local politics or makes any public statements on the situation for the time being.

**The Political Situation.**

The political discussions which but a fortnight ago filled the vernacular Press, and were the sole topic of conversation wherever one went, have now had to give way before the economic situation, and it is no exaggeration to say that the minds of the people, high and low, rich and poor, are now entirely concentrated on the position of cotton to the almost complete exclusion of any political topic. Even the recent resignations among the Provincial Governors, with the resultant creation of vacancies, aroused little comment; and the intrigues which usually occur on such occasions are not at all apparent.

**The Conspiracy Trial.**

No little curiosity has been aroused by the delay in promulgating the sentences in the "Conspiracy Trial," which came to an end on October 5, when twenty-four of the accused were found guilty. One of the latter has since been released, and the delay in pronouncing the penalty inflicted on the other twenty-three has not unnaturally given rise to comment. It appears that in the first place all the documents had to be gone through, first by the civil, and then by the military authorities, and as they were very voluminous this examination could not be done in a short space of time; and, secondly, that there is a clause in the Indemnity Act of August last under which all proceedings and decisions of Military Courts have to be referred to the Judge Advocate-General, and that in accordance with this provision all the papers have been sent home. Hence the delay; but by now sufficient time has surely elapsed for the papers to have been dealt with in London. Although this delay is regrettable from the point of view that it is eminently desirable that sentence should always follow rapidly on a conviction, nevertheless it is not unfavourable to the accused, since all the time they will have spent under detention since October 5 will be deducted from whatever period of imprisonment they may have to serve; and in the case of those sentenced to hard labour the delay is particularly favourable, seeing that they will have spent all this intervening period under much lighter conditions. At the same time there are indications that the Government is following up the information which was divulged in the course of the above trial. Various Egyptian notables have been summoned to appear before the Military Delegate, and it would cause no surprise if in the near future we had another conspiracy case.

**The Ex-Khedive's Property.**

A proclamation was published this week ordering the Public Custodian to sell by auction or by private treaty the property of the ex-Khedive, which had been vested in his hands since July, 1916, and to pay out of the proceeds his mortgage and other debts. Abbas Hilmi Pasha owns considerable property in this country. His agricultural estates comprise over 20,000 feddans of good land, and he possesses some very valuable building property, some of it situated in the centre of Cairo, and including the fine palaces at Koubbeh and Montazah. As is well known, his properties were heavily mortgaged to the Crédit Foncier Egyptien. Some say this was to defray the cost of developing his estate at Doloman, others that he raised the money for the purpose of depositing it in Europe against the inevitable day of his having to leave Egypt, which he foresaw was coming. The value of all this property more than covers the amount of his mortgage and other debts, and by the time everything is disposed of a fair balance should remain to his credit. It is believed that the Government intend to acquire his two palaces, and that the remainder of his town property will be bought by local syndicates, but the present is certainly not the best moment to sell, and the liquidation will very probably last some time.

**The Alexandria Murders.**

The investigation into the question of the murders of women discovered at Alexandria, and reported by me last week, continues. No more bodies have been found. There is a strong suspicion that the Alexandria murders may have been committed by some of the same people who were responsible for the death of the women whose bodies were found last spring near Tanta. The chief accused in the Tanta case, who was condemned to death, has confessed and given full information to the authorities with regard to his accomplices. This information is being closely followed up by the police, and at least one of the men implicated appears to have been present at both places at the times the murders are believed to have taken place.

**The Aswan Power Scheme.**

I gather that the scheme for the utilisation of power generation at the Aswan Dam has made considerable progress. Sir Murdoch MacDonald, during his stay in England, took up this question, and now that he has returned the issue of his report containing his recommendations is expected very shortly.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, December 1.

**The Political Position.**

The latest returns received at the Ministry of the Interior show that the Radicals have secured 101 seats, the Democrats 97, the Communists 54, and Raditch's Croatian Peasant Party 51 seats in the Constituent Assembly. Obviously, neither of the great parties can form a Cabinet without coalescing with some of the lesser groups, though it is confidently believed that the Radicals and the Democrats will work together in the essential constitution—building work. It is rumoured that the Radicals will join with Raditch's party; but in an interview with that politician he is credited with the statement that the Democratic programme approaches more closely to his views, while a prominent Democrat ridicules the idea, saying, "You do not know Raditch." Raditch himself appears to be an unstable demagogue, who has captured the confidence of the peasants by promising them a Republican Government, with autonomy and the usual programme of freedom from officials and taxation. Perhaps because he has been chastened by a prolonged sojourn in prison, but more probably because he feels the responsibility of forthcoming office, which is, after all, the best cure for Socialism, he has stated that he abandons any revolutionary ideas, and prefers to seek his object by constitutional means. He is a Republican on principle, because he maintains that a monarchy involves a crowd of courtiers, officials, and parasites, which the peasants have to pay for. He will join hands with the Serbian Peasants' Alliance, but reproaches them for their loyalty to the monarchical system. Anyhow, as he commands a quite formidable *bloc* he is sure to be offered a portfolio, and will be able to make his own terms, either with the Democrats or with the Radicals, and so hold the balance of power. The Radicals will endeavour to win the support of the Mohammedan element, an

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probably of the Peasant Parties in Bosnia. Both the great "bourgeois" parties will combine against the Communists, who include the rag and bobtail of the disruptive elements—that is, the few genuine Communists, the separationist Frankovists, and the *Bugarashi* and Albanians of Macedonia. Everybody seems pleased at the failure of the Clerical Slovenes in their own country. Dr. Koroshets' group can show only 14 out of a possible 40 seats, evidence that the Slovene peasant is less priest-ridden than when at the last election (for the Austrian Parliament) Dr. Koroshets and his group swept the board.

Of the outlines of the new Constitution, it is enough to say that the most striking innovation is the introduction of a Senate, and the granting of wide autonomy to the provinces, to which the Democrats are now reconciled. These provinces will be about thirty in number, with not less than 200,000 nor more than 600,000 inhabitants.

**The Narodny Club.**

The Narodny Club has received its death-knell, for it has outlived its usefulness. The only prominent member of the party who has been returned is Dr. Laginja, the leader, and Ban of Croatia. Dr. Lorkovitch, the leader in the Skupshtina, and many others have failed at the elections, including the two Ministers, Dr. Kovatchevitch, Minister of Mines, and M. Drinkovitch, Minister of Posts and Telegraphs. The party served one useful purpose: by its adhesion it helped to solve the last Cabinet crisis, and made the government of the country possible. Its members will probably be absorbed in the other parties.

**Statistics of the Parties.**

The following analysis, although based on incomplete returns, is interesting as showing the state of the parties in the different districts. The numbers refer to the seats in the Constituent Assembly.

Serbia (old frontiers).—Democrats, 31; Radicals, 42; Communists, 14; Liberals (M. Ribarats, the leader and only survivor of this once all-powertul party), 1; Republicans, 1.

Southern Serbia and Macedonia.—Democrats, 15; Radicals 5 (it was at Skoplje that M. Vesnitch, himself a native of Novi-Bazar, was rejected); Communists (chiefly Bulgarophils and Albanians), 17; Republicans, 2; Undefined, 3 (probably local magnates of no specific party).

Croatia.—Raditch's Peasant Party, 51; Democrats, 18; Narodny Club, 5; Communists, 5; the "Right Party" (the Frankovists, who want separation and return to the old conditions, reactionary), 2; Clericals, 3.

Slovenia.—Democrats, 3; Communists, 2; Socialists, 5; Clericals, 15; National Socialists, 2.

Bosnia.—Democrats, 2; Radicals, 12; Communists, 3; Mohammedans, 25; Croat Peasant Party, 6; Clericals, 3; Bosnian Agriculturists, 12.

Dalmatia.—Democrat, 1; Radical, 1; Narodny Club, 1; Communist, 1; Republican, 1; Non-party (Dr. Trumbitch), 1; Clerical, 1.

Voivodina.—Democrats, 10; Radicals, 22; Communists, 3; Agricultural Alliance, 2; Socialists, 3; Bunjevtsi (Roman Catholic Serbs from the Baranya), 4.

Montenegro.—Democrats, 4; Radical, 1; Communists (Nicholites, "*Zelenashi*"), 4; Republican, 1.

**General News.**

The Regent has proclaimed an amnesty for the chief prisoners condemned at the Salonika treason trial. The following colonels are included, and their forfeited rights are returned to them: Colonels Milan Gr. Milovanovitch, Cheda Popovitch, Radoje Lazitch, Milutin Lazarevitch, and Mita Markovitch. Three of the most important, however, are excepted from the amnesty, namely, General Damian Popovitch, Colonel Tutsovitch, and Major Vemitch.

The Serbian natives of that district of the Baranya which has been allotted to Hungary have decided to abandon their ancient homes and migrate to the south. They have requested the Government to appoint a special commission to superintend the emigration.

ZAGREB, December 12.

**Political Combinations.**

Yugoslavia is passing through a critical and extremely interesting phase in its history, and the best political judges are chary of prophesying how the next week or two will turn out. The result of the elections has been a great disappointment in one respect, that not one party has come out strong enough to form an independent Government. It was hoped that the days of chronic crisis were over, and that there would no longer be that balance of power in the House which is fatal to firm government, but that there would be a strong Cabinet, kept well up to the mark by a considerable Opposition. But as it is, since there are 420 seats, even the Radicals and Democrats combined cannot quite make half that number, and if they unite, as it appears certain that they will, if only for the purposes of the Constituent Assembly, they will require the adhesion of another group to give them a bare majority. It is thought likely that the Bosnian Peasant Party and the Mohammedans will join up with them, as all have common interests against the Communists, and the Narodny Club and Dr. Koroshets' Clerical Party are reduced to insignificant numbers. The latter appear to be giving more trouble than their numbers justify; for at a recent meeting of their club they decided not to accept the Draft Constitution, that the Assembly itself is not competent, that the Rules of Procedure are not legal, and that their leader, Dr. Koroshets, should at once resign from the Cabinet. This he has done.

**The Croat Peasants' Party.**

The chief interest is concentrated on the Croat Peasants' Party, led by Stjepan Raditch. This is a remarkable man. He is said to have great ability and to be an unusual linguist, and the foundation of his political principles is an unshaken belief in the virtues of the Croatian peasant. The Croatian peasant is a good fellow, but in the old days had no political existence, and now he finds himself in possession of a new and unfamiliar toy. He is, therefore, easily led by the demagogy of Raditch, and came into Zagreb in his thousands to attend a mass meeting on the 8th. Disturbances were anticipated, but everything was conducted in perfect order. The dull, depressing drizzle and slush may have damped the crowd's spirits, for the grand demonstration through the town was abandoned. Everything was so quiet that the prohibition on alcoholic drinks, proclaimed from the previous evening for three days, was suddenly withdrawn.

At the meeting Raditch declared that the Croatian Peasants' Party formed a Croatian Peasants' Republic, but this thunder produced little impression. The point is that Raditch has overrated his position. In the first place he controls fifty seats out of the ninety-three which represent Croatia and Slavonia, and so has a bare majority in the district; he has a big majority in four of the eight counties, but is hopelessly outvoted in the other four, including the town of Zagreb. Raditch is wrong in stating that the resolution of the Croatian Diet of October 29, 1918, proclaimed a free and independent Croatia. What it did was to proclaim its independence of Austria-Hungary, and to pass the sovereign powers to the National Council, on which basis the National Council of all the Yugoslavs voted for the union of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes with the kingdom of Serbia, and the new triune kingdom came into existence on December 1, 1918. His legal position is weak, too. He commands but fifty out of a Parliament of 417 His party were elected under the electoral law for the Constituent Assembly, and their duty is to proceed to Belgrade and take part in that Assembly. If they do not, the law provides for new elections within

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a month. It is generally believed that Raditch is clever enough to understand his position properly, that he is obliged to make "hot air" to please his misled constituents, and that he will go to Belgrade, where probably he will be offered a portfolio. The other two peasant parties—that is, the Bosnian and the Serbian—have many of the same ideals, and they will very likely join up with Raditch and form a *bloc*, if only he will quietly drop his idea of an independent and quite impossible republic of peasants of four of the counties of Croatia and Slavonia. The Serbian Peasants are monarchist, and the Bosnians are good Serbs. As well over 90 per cent. of the population are peasants, it is a very healthy thing for them to have a strong, combined, and organised party, which nobody can grudge them.

**The Cabinet and the Ban.**

As is natural, affairs in Croatia are arousing keen interest in Belgrade. The Cabinet sent for Dr. Laginja, the Ban, who is also leader of the Narodny Club, to give an explanation of his stewardship. The Ban, it may be remembered, scored a political success in getting himself nominated by the Prime Minister instead of being merely appointed by the Minister of the Interior. Now the Minister of the Interior, M. Drashkovitch, complained that the Ban failed to carry out his instructions. The Democrats roundly abuse the Ban, and throw upon him the responsibility for the success of the Peasants' Party for his favouring of Raditch, whom on one occasion he released from prison on his own authority. The Radicals themselves became somewhat alarmed. It is stated that M. Stoyan Protitch, who engineered the combine between the Radicals and the Narodny Club, now admits that he made the first political mistake of his life. M. Drashkovitch said he would resign unless the Ban were removed from his office forthwith. The upshot of all this was that Dr. Laginja was called upon to tender his resignation; which he did. As a temporary measure, his senior official will carry out the duties of Ban until the Constituent Assembly has done its work.

Meanwhile, the Democrats and Radicals are drawing nearer to each other. The Democrats have consented to the doyen of Serbian politicians, M. Nikola Pashitch, being head of the new Government, and now they are negotiating with Dr. Spaho and Hrasnitsa, leaders of the Bosnian Mohammedan Party. The remnants of the Narodny Club are also conferring with the Radicals, and it is expected that the Serbian and Bosnian Peasants will join them and form a solid black, while the Communists will be in opposition. And now the long-awaited Constituent Assembly has met and begun its labours.

**The Fiume Trouble.**

Affairs at Fiume are very naturally being followed with considerable interest in Yugoslavia. Hapsburg agents are said to be busy there under d'Annunzio's protection; they are probably the source of all anti-Yugoslav propaganda, and they realise that the Treaty of Rapallo is a very big nail in the Hapsburg coffin. Dr. Frank, who gave his name to the Frankovists, who are openly out for the break-up of Yugoslavia and the restoration of the Austrian Monarchy, and his helper Dr. Sachs, are reported to be now at Fiume, and in collaboration with a Dr. Shustershitch, who is conducting the propaganda of the party in Croatia.

**The Situation in Greece.**

Yugoslavia is also interested, deeply, in the Greek situation. Serbia has a treaty with Greece which expires early in the new year, and the impression is abroad that, as it was a treaty with M. Venizelos rather than with Greece, it may possibly not be renewed. A certain section of public opinion would not regard the non-renewal tragically. It argues that so long as Greece remains friendly, Yugoslavia cannot claim Salonika, but with Greece openly hostile, it is possible to look forward to the day when Serbia will have free access to the Ægean. An understanding with Bulgaria is by no means out of the question, and it would be a matter of arrangement for both States to have their own Ægean ports.

**General News.**

We have had a variety of postage stamps in Yugoslavia since the war. Serbia has used the issue prepared during the war and delivered at Corfu, with the portraits of King Peter and his grandfather Kara George Croatia, for a short time, had an issue of its own. Then there was the Yugoslav issue, with value in kronen, recently followed by a dinar issue for Yugoslavia. Soon all these will be withdrawn, as a new issue for the whole kingdom will be put into circulation early in the new year. These have been made in America, and the first portion already delivered.

In spite of many difficulties, both practical and political, the colonisation of the large estates in the Voivodina has had considerable success. Over five thousand colonists have been placed within a year, chiefly volunteers in the Serbian army from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and a substantial proportion of Lichane and Dalmatians. In the coming year the authorities hope to settle also a large number of refugees from the occupied parts of Istria, the Hungarian Baranya, and Roumanian Banat. The chief material difficulty has been the question of accommodation and buildings.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, December 5.

**Political.**

On the eve of the opening of Parliament the different political parties held meetings to inform their members of their respective political status. General Averescu, in addressing his party, said that with regard to the external situation the Government are still negotiating with the Russian Soviets, and he feels that Russia will have no further pretensions in Bessarabia. He further announced that Commissar Chicherin had intervened, requesting that Roumania should not allow General Wrangel's troops to cross the Roumanian frontier. With regard to the financial situation, since M. Titulescu has succeeded in obtaining a loan to pay off the interest on the public debts, the question will improve. Besides, the financial resources will be increased by the new fiscal measures which have been prepared for the coming session. He further expects an improvement in the transport situation, with the arrival of more new locomotives. Touching on the political side, he said that the rumours about a coalition between the Liberals and his party were not true, and it was not his fault if collaboration with the other parties of the Opposition could not be brought about. Other leaders of the People's Party spoke, assuring General Averescu of the support they would give him in the next session.

M. Take Jonescu, in addressing his party, after explaining the external and internal position, touched on the transport question, the disorganisation of which he put down to preceding Governments. The present Government had placed the necessary orders for railway material, so that by next spring he feels confident that the lack of means of transport will not be felt. He further hopes that negotiations between the Transylvanian National Party and the present Government will be successful, which will give the Cabinet the strength it requires.

**Opening of Parliament.**

The opening of Parliament took place on November 28 with the usual ceremonial. At 11 a.m. a Te Deum was sung at the Cathedral, in the presence of the Royal Family, the Ministers, Members of Parliament, and high officials of State. These then proceeded to Parliament, where the Foreign Diplomats were also present. The King and Queen were warmly cheered on entering Parliament.

The King read his speech, in which he expressed his satisfaction at the good relationship between the people and the dynasty, and said it was a great pleasure to announce the betrothals of his son, Prince Carol, to Princess Helena of Greece, and of his daughter, Princess Elizabeth, to Prince George of Greece. The Roumanian international situation, his Majesty continued, is no

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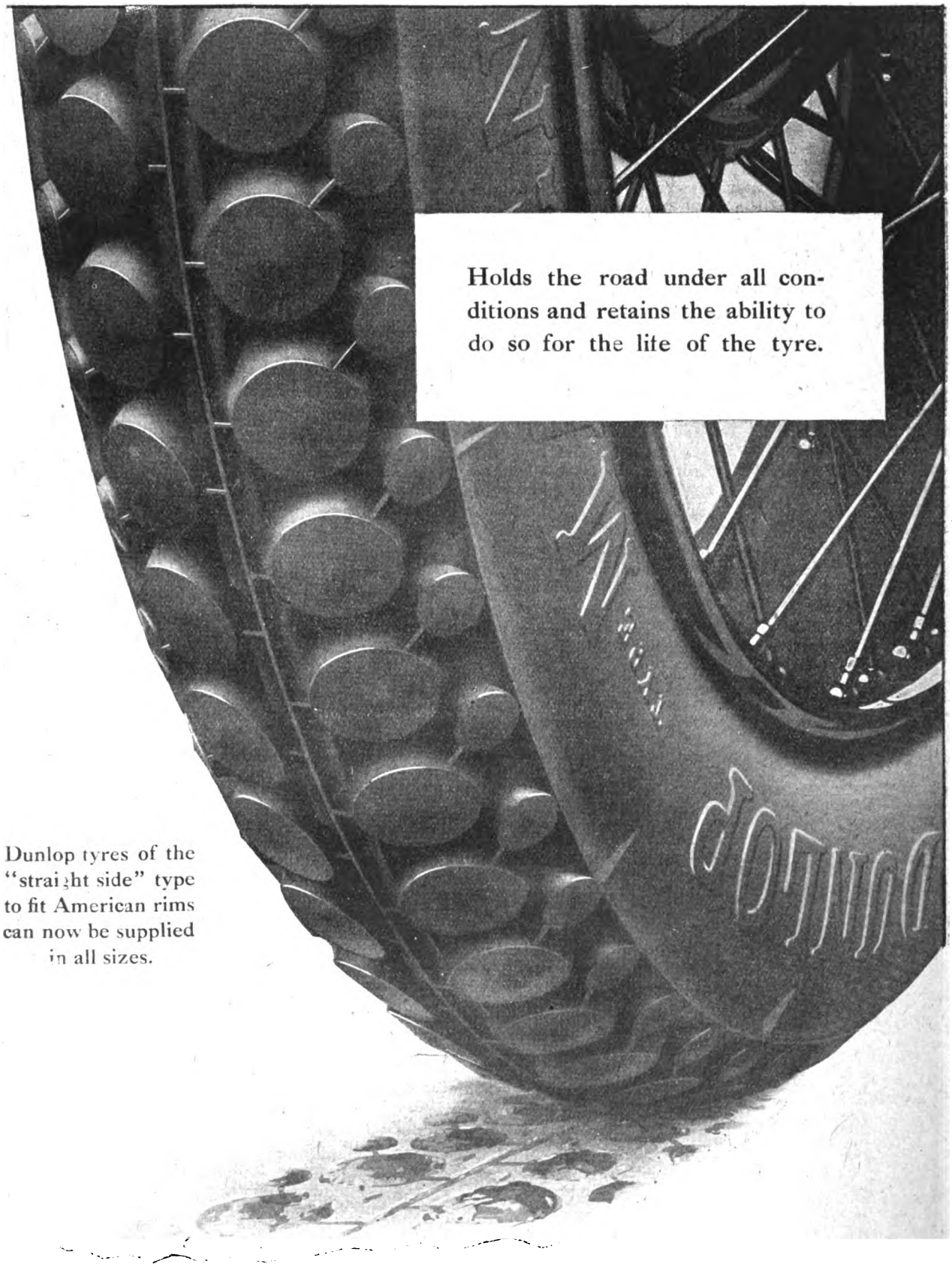


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definitely settled by the ratification of the Peace Treaties. He especially emphasised the fact that the Great Powers have recognised the union of Bessarabia, thereby settling the eastern boundary of the country. Roumania's relationship with the Allied Powers had grown stronger, which was specially proved by the reception which the Minister of Foreign Affairs received abroad. With regard to other neighbouring countries, normal relations have already been established. The Danube question, which is so important to Roumania, is on the way to a satisfactory settlement. For the first time in the history of the country diplomatic relations have been established with the Vatican.

The King also mentioned the journey of Prince Carol to the Far East, and the new connections opened up with Japan for the first time. He then enumerated the various new reforms which are urgently needed for the reconstruction of the country. Besides reorganisation of the army, the fulfilment of the agrarian reform, the necessary measures to increase agricultural production, and the realisation of the franchise reform, he announced entire changes in the finances of the country. With regard to social matters, he mentioned a reform for the purpose of harmonising capital and labour.

The King finished his speech by announcing a radical reorganisation of the railways and of administration, improving the general status of the State officials, and new Church and school reforms.

**Escape of Socialist Prisoners.**

On the night of December 2, eleven Socialists, who had been arrested for plotting against the State, escaped from the military prison at Jilava. According to information received from the authorities, the escape was accomplished in the following manner. The walls dividing were rather thin, and the prisoners managed to break through them into a room which had a window. By means of a file a bar of the window was cut through, and by bending the other bars they managed to creep through and get clear away in the fog and darkness. Up to now, no trace of them has been found, and it is thought that they have had time to escape across the Danube into Bulgaria. The authorities are trying to find out whether this escape was helped by the soldiers on guard or by the civil attendants of the prison.

**Railway Accident.**

A terrible railway accident took place on the main Bucharest-Verciorova line on Thursday night, at a station called Matasaru. A passenger train, in the act of entering the station, collided with a goods train which was shunting to make room for the passenger train to enter the station. The concussion was so strong that the engine and six wagons of the passenger train were knocked off the line and smashed, burying under the debris a great number of passengers. Four people were killed and eighty injured. According to reports, the accident was due to the gross negligence of the signalman at Matasuru and to the engine drivers.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, December 4.

**Princesses Alice and Anastasia.**

Princess Alice accompanied by her three daughters, and Princess Anastasia, arrived in Athens from Switzerland last Tuesday. They were received at Phaleron by the Dowager Queen Olga, Prince Andrew and Prince Christopher, and the Council of Ministers. Prince Nicholas and Princess Helena are expected here to-morrow.

**Requiem for the Late King.**

A service in memory of the late King Alexander was held yesterday morning at the church on the Royal estate at Tatoi. The Dowager Queen Olga, Princes Andrew and Christopher, Princesses Alice and Anastasia, and the Grand Duchess Marv attended the ceremony. After the service those present visited the late King's grave and covered it with wreaths of flowers.

**The Dynastic Question.**

The Note of the Great Powers in connection with King Constantine's return to Greece, was presented to M. Ralli by the British, French, and Italian Ambassadors at eight o'clock last night. A Council of Ministers was immediately held to discuss the contents of the Note, and prepare a reply. Government circles do not hide the fact that the wording of the Note is more severe than was generally expected, and everybody now begins to realise that the Great Powers mean business. The Venizelist morning paper, *Patris*, in a leading article points out that if in spite of the Powers' Note the Government still persist in carrying out the plebiscite, such an action would constitute nothing less than an open challenge to the Allies, resulting in extremely grave consequences for the country. The Government, however, has apparently made up its mind to brave the wrath of the Powers, and has declared that it sees no reason why the plebiscite should be either postponed or cancelled; so this is definitely taking place to-morrow. Furthermore, a demonstration is being organised for to-night by the "Popular Political Syllogues." The crowds bearing photographs of King Constantine and flags of the Allied nations will demonstrate in front of the Allied Legations, clamouring for the return of the King, and assuring the Powers of their everlasting pro-Entente sentiments. Speeches will subsequently be delivered from a balcony in Constitution Square—I believe it will be the very same balcony from which less than a month ago M. Venizelos spoke to thousands of Athenians—in order to explain the importance of to-morrow's plebiscite. The Liberals have definitely decided to abstain, and have communicated their decision to their absent leader. M. Venizelos replied that if the aim of the Government is to throw on the people the responsibility for the consequences arising as a result of King Constantine's restoration the Liberal Party is fully justified in abstaining from the plebiscite, thus leaving the sole responsibility to the Government, which is in the best position to realise what these consequences will be.

**A Sad Anniversary.**

On December 1, the fourth anniversary of that eventful day on which so many British and French sailors fell at the foot of the Acropolis, a memorial service was held by the French at the cemetery at Piræus. Among those who attended the sad ceremony were the French Minister, M. de Billy, with the staff of the French Legation, the Serbian Minister, the French Consul, the Chief of the French Military Mission to Greece, General Gramat, and the officers of the French cruiser Edgar Quinet, with a detachment of bluejackets. The Mayor of Piræus, M. Panayotopoulos, and the President of the Municipal Council of that town, were also present. Magnificent wreaths of flowers were placed at the foot of the monument, erected some time ago in honour of the glorious dead by the French sailors "to their comrades," by the French Chamber of Commerce, by the Municipality of Piræus "to the honoured French dead," and by the Franco-Hellenic League "to the French sailors who died for their country." A wreath was also sent by the Greek Government with the following inscription:—"The Hellenic Government to the victims of the regrettable incidents of December 18/1, 1916." The Prime Minister was represented by his chief of Cabinet, M. Vikelas.

When the ceremony was concluded many of those present paid a visit to the tombs of the British sailors who had fallen on the same day. No service was held in memory of these heroes of England peacefully sleeping in a foreign land; wreaths were nevertheless placed there by the Greek Government, the Municipality of Piræus, and the Mayor of Piræus.

**Papers Suspend their Publication.**

Two Liberal morning papers, the *Nea Hellas* and the *Kairi*, have been obliged to suspend their publication owing to lack of readers. The *Kairi* was the oldest daily paper in Greece.

## TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 6.

**The Negotiations with Angora.**

The official Government delegation left for Angora on the morning of the 3rd inst., and in those Turkish circles which are partisans of a peaceful understandin

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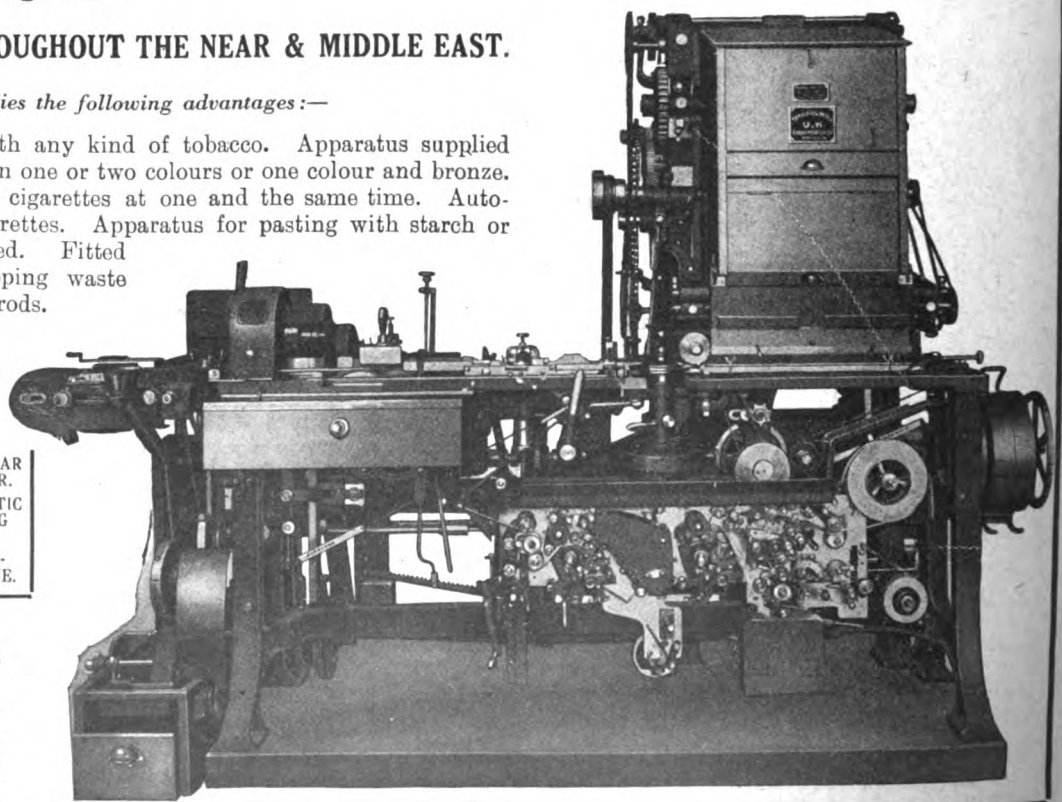

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between the Sublime Porte and Angora, it is hoped that the prestige of the persons of which the delegation is composed will be a decisive factor in the development of the negotiations. Izzet Pasha is exceedingly popular with the Army; Salih Pasha gained considerable credit for his successful conduct of negotiations with Mustapha Kemal when Ali Riza Pasha became Grand Vizier last year; Hoja Fatin Effendi, the Imperial Astronomer, was one of the original founders of the Committee of Union and Progress, as was also Hussein Kiazim Bey, who is generally regarded, rightly or wrongly, as the particular advocate of the Nationalists in the present Cabinet. As the Government can have had no special assurance from the Allies with regard to the modification of the Treaty of Sèvres, it can only be supposed that the delegation is counting upon some such advantage, for which the present moment is peculiarly propitious, and hopes to persuade Mustapha Kemal to relax his uncompromising attitude, and take the first step towards an entente with the Allies. The success of the Government delegation depends, therefore, upon the results of the Conference of London; for there is not the slightest indication that Mustapha Kemal has any intention of changing his attitude with regard to Smyrna, although it is quite possible that he would be more than willing to discuss other matters in dispute. At the same time, it must be borne in mind that Mustapha Kemal is not altogether his own master, and that there are powerful influences at work to prevent a peaceful settlement between the Allies and Turkey. In fact, it would not be going too far to say that the Nationalists are so deeply involved with the Bolshevists that an entente between Anatolia and the Allies would almost certainly mean war between Turkey and Russia. It is becoming clearer every day that distinctions between Bolshevists and Russians are becoming meaningless, and that we have before us a Russia militant and aggressive, and infinitely more dangerous than the old Tsarist Russia. Mustapha Kemal himself is no partisan of Bolshevism, and has bowed most unwillingly to the necessities that were pendent to the "alliance" with the Soviet Government; but it is doubtful whether he could carry the day against the extremists, even if the road to an understanding were made clear by a preliminary assurance that the Allies would consent to a revision of the Treaty. It was perhaps this consideration that induced him to receive the Government delegation without having previously received a definite promise with regard to Smyrna.

**Anatolia.**

The Nationalists have recently redoubled their precautions with regard to the leakage of information from the interior, and it has therefore become rather more difficult to obtain details of the situation. There would appear to be little doubt, however, that in spite of the manifest enmity of the Angora Press towards the Communist agitators in Anatolia, Bolshevist "consulates" have been established in various parts of the country, and Bolshevist officials are carrying off matters with a very high hand. Whether there has been a certain difference of opinion or not with regard to the Armenian campaign, the misunderstanding does not seem to have interfered with the military plans of the Nationalists; for there is good reason to believe that a considerable part of the Eastern Army is now to be transferred to the western front. The Press in general, in spite of professions of respect for the members of the present Cabinet, is showing hostility to the idea of negotiations with the Sublime Porte, on the ground that the real quarrel is with the Allies, especially Great Britain, so that negotiations with the Central Government would be simply a waste of time. It remains to be seen, however, what tone will be adopted when Izzet Pasha arrives in Angora.

**The Caucasus.**

It has now become possible to piece together some of the details of the conspiracy whereby Armenia has been eliminated. In the first place it would appear to be true that the Armenians denounced the first armistice concluded with the Turks because they had been secretly encouraged to resume hostilities by the Bolshevist envoy Legrand, who allowed it to be understood that the Bolshevists had no intention of attacking Armenia from the east, so that the Armenian forces could be safely withdrawn and concentrated against the Turks. The Armenians clutched at the straw thus held out to them, and denounced the armistice. On November 12, however, the Turks captured Aghin, a station about 15 miles south of Alexandropol, and at the same time forced the Armenians to withdraw from the Igdir region to the north of the Arax River. On the 15th the Turks took Amamli, about 25 miles east of Alexandropol, and on the 18th the Armenians, realising the absolute hopelessness of continuing, signed the second armistice at Alexandropol. Negotiations for the conclusion of peace were commenced on November 26, but with characteristic duplicity the Bolshevists then invaded Armenia from the east with an army that was supposed to be composed of Armenian Bolshevists. This force reached Erivan without meeting with any serious resistance, and on December 4 a regular Soviet administration was set up in the Armenian capital. This has doubtless saved Armenia from being overrun by the Turks, but it means the end of Armenia all the same; for although the Bolshevists will probably continue to talk of the Armenian "Republic," Armenia will be no more an independent State than the "Republic" of Azerbaijan. In view of these facts, it is adding insult to injury to suggest that Mr. Wilson should define the frontiers of Armenia.

**The Part Played by Georgia.**

Whether the Georgians realised or not that from the beginning the struggle was hopeless, the fact remains that they gave the Armenians no assistance worthy of mention. At first sight the policy of Georgia would hardly seem to be of the noble order, but in view of the attitude of Europe and America, was it not the wisest thing for them to do to make "friends of the mammon of unrighteousness"? Now that Azerbaijan and Armenia have once again fallen under the paw of the bear, the turn of Georgia must also be drawing near, and there was no need to make matters worse by fighting a battle that was hopelessly lost from the beginning on account of the complete indifference of the rest of the world. It is worthy of note, in these circumstances, that a new Cabinet has come into power in Tiflis, under the leadership of M. Chekengeli, the leader of the moderate section of the Social Democrats. M. Chekengeli was the president of the Transcaucasian delegation that negotiated with the Turks in 1918, and ceded to the latter the "three sanjaks" of Batum, Kars, and Ardahan. Prior to the advent to power of the new Cabinet in Tiflis, a Turkish delegation arrived, under the presidency of Colonel Kiazim Bey, formerly Enver's principal A.D.C. The Georgian representative here, in the course of an interview, expressed the opinion that the purpose of the delegation was to assure the Georgian Government of the pacific intentions of the Turks. It is practically certain, however, that the negotiations really concerned the establishment of a dummy "independent" or "autonomous" State comprising the Batum region. If the Georgians yield, it will only be as a result of the absence of support from the Bolshevists, and this will mean that the latter have still some use for the Turks before they call for the final reckoning.

## ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA, November 29.

**A Restaurant Incident.**

Last evening a serious disturbance took place in the principal Greek restaurant in Smyrna. It has been customary to play the Venizelos march at least once each evening. Greek Royalist officers ordered the band to play Constantine's hymn, "The Eagle's Son," instead of the Venizelos hymn, but it was received with angry protests from the audience, and was not applauded. This annoyed the officers, and they peremptorily ordered the band to repeat the Constantinist hymn. The owner of the restaurant, fearing trouble, refused to allow the band to play Constantine's hymn a second time, whereupon a Greek officer drew his revolver and began firing at random. A panic ensued and everybody fled: windows were smashed, tables overturned and nearly all the glasses broken on the tiled floor. The owner is

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claiming £T3,000 for damages to his premises from the Greek military. Many comments are being made in Smyrna that the disturbance closely resembles what German officers have done in Berlin restaurants.

**The Housing Question.**

Since the Armistice very few tenants have paid rent in Smyrna, and there are no means by which they can be compelled to pay or evacuate the premises they occupy. The Greeks have promulgated a law to remedy this unsatisfactory state of things, but have not yet put it in force, so that tenants who are anxious to pay their rent feel bound to await the publication of the rent law. An American citizen, finding it impossible to get rent for a house situated at the Bella Vista, and also failing to evict the tenant, has reached a novel if expensive solution by removing the roof. The house will, of course, be flooded the first time there is rain, and the tenant's furniture will be seriously damaged if he persists in remaining.

## CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, December 6.

**Proposed Greek School in London.**

A Greek Cypriot, Mr. C. S. Hourmouzios, who resides in London, and ably conducts the weekly review *Hesperia*, in a recent article, reproduced here, strongly advocates the establishment of a Greek school in London. It is strange, he says, that in the great metropolis of the British Empire, which contains so large an Hellenic community, there should not be a single school in which the Greek language and literature can be taught and the spirit of the nation kept alive. In many other capitals and large cities, colonies of European nations (some not nearly so wealthy as that of the Greeks in London) often found schools of their own. Past neglect tends to alienate young Greeks from cultivating an intimate knowledge of their own tongue, causing them to regard it as quite unimportant, as compared with those more widely in use. Greek, however, will be increasingly needed in business transactions with the Near East, and an enlarged Greece. The writer, who is well supported, hopes to push his proposal to a successful issue.

**Attitude of the Greek "Union" Party.**

The Greek-speaking members of the Legislative Council have followed up their tactics of obstruction by resigning their seats. They have since held a meeting to decide upon their course of action. They are, it seems, to seek re-election in the next campaign (which they regard as certain) and then again to resign, unless they alter their minds in the interval. It is difficult to see what advantage they anticipate from this policy of pique and petulance, or to believe that they regard it is either wise or dignified. It is condemned by many leading Greeks who have the courage of their opinions; and meanwhile the mass of the people, as already stated, are profoundly indifferent to the town effervescence, and are contentedly minding their own business. Island interests now clearly demand that a limit should be placed to the terrible waste of time and the mischievous opposition which have done so much to impede legislation and block the road to progress in late years.

Turning to another aspect of the situation, it must be candidly admitted that Cyprus has its full measure of grievances, and that there are many real needs which call for prompt and serious attention. The island is now a British possession, and the old excuses for inaction, such as "the anomaly of our tenure," "the terms of the Convention," etc., no longer hold good. Leading natives hold that there are various flaws in the machinery with which the Government works. They consider, with some justification, that the right men are often not put in the right places. Perhaps an overhauling is needed. But all will agree that expert knowledge as to what is required should now lead to more tangible results in this backward and impoverished island. The needs cannot be specified here, but a beginning should certainly be made in the field of agriculture. Expenditure is, of course, needed, and the finances of Cyprus now warrant a new and liberal departure. If British possession is to be justified, the investment of capital must be invited and encouraged. At the same time, the native element should wake up to a worthier spirit of enterprise and co-operation.

**General News.**

A company of the Punjabi Regiment, with three British officers, which has been at Polemidia Camp, is being moved to the depot at Limassol. Rumour has it that a new British detachment is to be sent to Polemidia.

The Armenian orphans are to leave the island next spring, and Miss Nixon, who is in charge of them, is leaving at the end of December.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

*The columns of* THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

### EGYPT, INDEPENDENCE, AND COTTON

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—It is, I believe, generally known that the Egyptian's idea of modern commerce is not always very clear. The present low price of cotton seems to have become the absorbing topic, even eclipsing at times Independence. Extreme Nationalists have made use of the fall in prices for propaganda, and it has become a widespread belief that it is due to the English that the present crisis has been brought about, because the Egyptian with a lot of money gives trouble, but without it gives none. But the best thought-out plans sometimes go wrong, for it is said that the inhabitants of Beni-Souef recently held a meeting and finally dispatched the following cable: "To the King of England.—We do not want independence; please put up the price of cotton."

The latest, however, is different. On November 29 the Government communicated to the Press a statement giving an explanation of the fall in values generally, and appointing a Commission to inquire into the crisis locally. But one unfortunate paragraph has heaped coals on the fire. It is: "The Government is taking measures to try to alter the situation, and at the same time urges landowners to forbear exacting the immediate payment of rent in excess of that which the tenant is reasonably able to bear." This has set landowners ablaze. Relations between them and tenants are not perfect, and now, they declare, direct encouragement has been given for Bolshevism; or at least it is a subtle plot to bring in discord and upset their dreams of independence.

—I am, etc.,
C. L. B.

Alexandria, December 1, 1920.

### THE EVOLUTION OF THE MOSQUE.

Lecturing before the Royal Institute of British Architects on December 13 on the Saracenic Architecture of Egypt and Palestine, Mr. Martin S. Briggs said that the earliest mosque was built by Mohammed at Medina in A.D. 622, and was a primitive enclosure or yard with low walls. A portion of the enclosure was covered with a roof of palm trees and mud to form a shelter from the fierce rays of the sun, and, finally, this feature was extended all round the four sides of the courtyard. Afterwards came the *kibla*, or point in the wall which worshippers faced when they prayed; the *mihrab*—a semi-circular niche in the *kibla* wall—and a sort of wooden pulpit. Simple though it was, this structure already contained the essential features of the mosque plan. But the most striking feature of the mosque, the minaret, was a later addition, and was introduced so as to allow the muezzin's call to prayer to be heard over a wide area. The golden age of Saracenic architecture in Egypt and Palestine was the period of the Mamelukes, and, perhaps the most beautiful building in all Cairo was the tomb-mosque of Sultan Qalaun, built 1284-1285 A.D. The chief feature in this, as in all tomb mosques, was the dome over the tomb itself. It was after its erection that the dome came to be the principal factor in Cairo architecture, often used in skilful contrast with the slender form of the minaret. Under the Mamelukes mosque-planning showed a progressive development, the later mosques displaying an increasing richness of craftmanship. They were always built of stone; the favourite form of arch was the pointed horseshoe, but this was never exaggerated. The characteristic Cairo dome was rarely of the bulbous type, frequently regarded as typical of Saracenic architecture, but really characteristic only of Persia and Mesopotamia. The Turkish conquest of Egypt in 1517 was followed by a decline in Egyptian architecture.

In the discussion that followed, Professor T. W. Arnold objected to the use of the term "Saracen," which, he said, was never used by Arabs or any Moslems. It was a term of great antiquity, met first in Europe in the writings of Byzantine historians, who used it to describe their Moslem enemies.

Mr. E. P. Warren said the bulbous dome was the almost invariable form in Mesopotamia, where it was very splendid, being usually covered with glazed tiles or small plates of copper gilt. The tiles were of various colours and arranged with extraordinary ingenuity; they were made at the mosque itself. He had seen the craftsman making and painting his tiles and setting out his pattern on a model dome of similar curvature. The great Samarra dome, surrounded with white minarets and seen against the blue sky, was a magnificent sight.

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# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

## Armenia.

From the recent fate of Armenia the *Morning Post* (of December 11) draws its customary moral: do not trade with Bolshevist Russia. It says:—

After Bokhara and Azerbaijan comes the turn of Armenia. That unhappy country apparently is not after all going to be massacred by the Turks, but, what is almost as bad, it is to be Sovietised by the Bolsheviks We do not suppose for a moment that the Armenians espoused in a frenzy of enthusiasm the creed of Moscow; indeed, we are certain that the same process of prolonged intrigue and sudden application of force which was so successful in Bokhara and Azerbaijan has been used in this case also. The *coup* of the Bolsheviks comes at an interesting moment when the Allies are talking about modifying the Treaty of Sèvres, when the League of Nations has been exercising itself at Geneva about the protecting of Armenia, and when President Wilson has been considering the use of moral influences for the same beneficent purpose. While other people have been talking the Bolsheviks have been acting. We expect that the "moral influences" will be demobilised again for the moment, and as for the League of Nations, its leaders, we hope, are duly grateful to Mr. Lloyd George, M. Leygues, and Count Sforza for their advice not to admit Armenia at present to the fold. Indeed, that long-suffering sheep has by the magic of Moscow now been transformed into a wolf, and will probably be forced to express the same contempt for the Capitalistic League as the leader of the pack at Moscow. And as for the Allies themselves, Armenia is recognised as an independent State in the Treaty of Sèvres and therefore it is unnecessary for them any longer to talk about the possibility of "modifying" the document, for already its revision is being taken in hand for them by the Bolsheviks. The surrender of Armenia carries Trotsky a good step further in his move to the south and his plan for joining up with the Turkish Nationalists. Azerbaijan has gone, and Georgia, which is fundamentally anti-Bolshevist, must, we are afraid, also come to terms. We hope, therefore, that the supporters of the British trading agreement with Moscow will carefully note the seriousness of the present situation.

## Persia and India.

Writing in the *Daily Telegraph* under the above heading, Major Cecil Battine has some strong words on British indifference to these places:—

The British people have not tried to face the tremendous Indian problem, which is growing daily more insistent, but is continuing to subsidise India with vast sums by paying for these expeditions, which could not be justified except in so far as they are involved in the general defence of the North-West Frontier. Nor is there the slightest prospect of even the correct military policy being adopted until a united command of all the British and Indian land forces is achieved. Whatever hope the Secretary of State for India and his friends may have of the success of his new scheme of Indian Government, they must know how little enthusiasm these so-called reforms have kindled in India. They must also know, for it is common knowledge, that an unholy alliance exists between the Babu orators, the politician party, the more virile Mohammedans of the Punjab. The loyalty of this community has been tampered with from within and without, and their attitude is surly and verging on disaffection. An attack upon India from the North-West border would tax the resources of the Indian Army and State, especially as to the incidence of a fresh important war would be most unwelcome to the English electors, still staggering under the burdens of the German struggle.

And he pleads for a clean-cut policy:—

If we really intend to preserve the British sovereignty in India we cannot afford to trifle with the situation any longer. Our Executive should decide on this question and take the measures required. All the tribes of Central Asia and Persia are closely watching and waiting, as are also the Princes and people of India itself. The great majority would very much prefer to see the British Raj maintained, and, indeed, would fight for it, but only on the condition that we keep up our standard of valour, decision, and good faith. Directly wavering is apparent these folk will with one accord turn against us with scorn and disgust. It is especially worth noticing that the strenuous efforts of the British Prime Minister to arrive at a working, not to say friendly, agreement with the Soviet Government have not prevented it from persistently striving to stir up war, and even to strike a deadly felon blow against our Indian dominions. Fortunately the bloodthirsty proceedings and anti-religious tenets of these miscreants alienate possible allies and make up for the somewhat half-hearted support accorded to the agents of the Empire by the Government. But whether the responsibility for failure rests at Simla or in London no one knows, or is meant to know. The cost, however, on the taxpayer is very heavy.

## The East and the European Powers.

In an article called "The Optimists" the *New Statesman* of December 11 deals with the policy pursued, or rather adumbrated, by Messrs. Lloyd George and Leygues and Count Sforza. Their attitude towards the Greek succession cannot, it says, be divorced from their general policy, and an attempt to deal with the problem of ex-King Constantine *per se* is impossible:—

The Greek question, in point of fact, cannot be isolated. The problems of Turkey, of the Arabs of Syria and the Arabs of Mesopotamia, the Jews of Palestine, the Armenians, the Russian Bolsheviks, are all closely connected, and they must be faced as a whole, and not separately and as the whim takes us, by France and ourselves. Critical as we may be of some of the ideas and actions of the French in Asia, we must at least concede that they show a better appreciation of the need for a comprehensive settlement than does our own Government. Their position, no doubt, has for some time past been profoundly uncomfortable. Their struggle to maintain themselves in Cilicia has been less successful than ours in Mesopotamia, and though they have not spent so much money on it, they have spent, and are spending, more than is to the taste of the French taxpayers. They have had greater difficulties in Syria than we have had in Palestine—and they are not yet out of the wood. They have been bitterly chagrined by the loss of the prestige and influence which they once had in the Ottoman Empire, and a genuine sympathy with the Turks has combined with a less creditable fear of what they have called the "Anglo-Greek hegemony" to make them eager to revise the Treaty of Sèvres. But all these things, it may be argued, affect the outlook of France; they do not affect us in the same way. Why should we necessarily frame our plans to suit the French? The answer is that we are not suggesting anything of the sort. We are suggesting that the French and the British Governments ought to discuss and agree upon a common policy from Athens to the Caspian, and from Constantinople to the Persian Gulf, precisely because there is no other way of guaranteeing either our own legitimate interests or the peace of the Middle East.

What sort of policy, then, do we desire? The first thing that is requisite is to be clear about what is important and what is not. From the point of view of a statesmanlike settlement, the question of whether Constantine shall sit on his throne in Athens is a comparative trifle. The question whether General Gouraud was right in evicting the Emir Feisul from Damascus is another trifle. Yet those disputes, so far as we can see, are exciting far more interest in Paris and London than the settlement of Turkey or the exact conditions on which France is to operate in Syria, which are not trifles. The second principle, on which it is necessary to agree before definite measures can be concerted, is whether the European Powers are going to redeem their honour by acting disinterestedly for the welfare of the peoples in the Middle East. Hitherto the behaviour of France, of ourselves and of Italy, as far as she has been able to get her fingers into the pie, has been generally cynical to the last degree. The peoples themselves have been left under no illusions. The Greeks are aware that we have made a pawn of them, even though they may have been largely a willing pawn. The Syrians have been bandied between France and the Hedjaz, much as though they were a set of "landlord's fixtures." The Arabs of Mesopotamia have expressed their views of us in a painfully disconcerting manner. The Armenians, having been grossly left in the lurch, have at last done the only thing that was open to them, and compounded with Moscow. Those of us in England and France—and they were not a few—who had designed Armenia as an anti-Bolshevik base are, indeed, neatly requited by the establishment of a Bolshevik Government in Erivan!

The article concludes by suggesting revisions of the Treaty of Sèvres. Among these are: British withdrawal from Mesopotamia; mandates to be drawn up without delay for Syria and Palestine; and the problem of Armenia and the Caucasian States to be solved "by the common-sense expedient of making peace with Soviet Russia."

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Maulo, an important position in the region of the River Kert, in Spanish Morocco, has been occupied by Spanish troops, who recovered a small cannon captured several years ago by the Moors when the gunboat Poncha was wrecked on the coast of the Riff.

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# MUSICAL NOTES.

### Pianists.

In nearly all Western attempts to write Eastern music there is something pathetically similar, and that similarity is the essentially counterfeit nature of the whole. But how well our ordinary public likes to be deceived by this sort of thing is shown by the success of "Chu Chin Chow," or "The Garden of Allah," and on another scale and by a different public the fact was demonstrated by the applause given to Mr. Vivian Langrish's playing of "Two Egyptian Sketches" at the Wigmore Hall on December 14. These two sketches, called, respectively, "Tanta" (In the Native Quarters) and "Zagazig," are the work of Mr. Leo Livens, who is fairly well known as an impressionist composer. But they are only echoes, clever echoes; the real East does not come through them to grip us. Mr. Langrish played them probably as well as they could be played, for he is without doubt a fine pianist in the making. There was, it is true, a certain absence of romantic warmth in his interpretation of Schumann's Fantaisie in C major (Op. 17), but he made B. J. Dale's Sonata in D minor sound far less dull than it really is. I should say that Mr. Langrish, unless he allows his judgment to become hopelessly sound, has a future.

How M. Vladimir Cernikoff, whose recital was at the Æolian Hall on December 16, can play as badly as at times he does is a mystery. To hear him in such things as a "Hornpipe" of Purcell or a "Gavotte" of Chanoine Ruick is to have one's æsthetic sense very sharply whetted, for he does these exquisitely well. But Beethoven's "Moonlight" was simply appalling; it was less than puerile in every way—rhythm, poetry, even accuracy. Matters did not improve, though a whole group of Chopin and pieces of Arthur Hervey and Albeniz were played, until he came to Liszt's "St. Francis Preaching to the Birds." And even this was followed with fond assurance by "La Campanella." Evidently M. Cernikoff does not know how well he can play: otherwise he would never perform anything later than the eighteenth century.

It is common wisdom now not to get to one of M. Arthur Rubinstein's recitals until he has finished with the classical pieces in his programme; for single pieces by such men as Scriabin, de Falla, and Albeniz are in his hands worth whole groups of Brahms and Chopin. On December 18, at the Wigmore Hall, I heard him in the "Vers la Flamme" of the Russian composer, and a "Fantasia" and the "Triana" of the two Spanish composers mentioned. His Scriabin started very promisingly, but as its luminosity grew more clangorous, so the pianist lost the control, not certainly of his hands, but of his head; the de Falla (dedicated to the pianist, by the way) was incredibly noisy, and not too cheerful; but his Albeniz was very beautiful indeed. M. Rubinstein most cunningly captures the curves and winding graces of Spanish rhythm; and he has what is most effective in contrast, a delightfully clear staccato. There is, in fact, no one I know who plays this kind of music as well as he. For encores he played, in addition to more Spanish music, a waltz of Chopin and "The Ruins of Athens" march, from the last two of which it was manifest that we have in him a potential Mark Hambourg. All efforts must be made to prevent his coming to this fate, for one capital surely cannot support two such dashing pianists.

### A Roumanian Sonata.

M. Zlatko Balokovitch included in his last recital at the Wigmore Hall, given on December 15, a sonata by Stan Golestan, a Roumanian composer, who is known to this country only through his two orchestral "Roumanian Rhapsodies." When this sonata was written I do not know, but its construction, which is far from being hodiernal, appears to resemble the César Franck type. There is no trace of modern, and little of national, idiom in it; the last movement (*allegro giocoso*) is the only one which, being a native dance, bears marks of the country of the composer. On the whole, it was a dull work to listen to, despite the fine tone with which it was played by the violinist. One hopes that in future recitals M. Balokovitch will find another accompanist than M. Ljudevit Kraus, whose insensitive methods do not suit those of this very capable Serbian fiddler.

### Singers.

If a choice had to be made between a good programme inadequately sung and a poor programme well sung, it would surely fall on the first. Now the programme of Mme. Salteni-Mochi's last recital at the Wigmore Hall on December 14 was a very beautiful one, but, as I have said before, her refined ambitions out-measure her achievements. Her flexibility and breath-control generally are insufficient for the *lieder* of Schubert, Schumann, and Brahms; but she certainly is worth hearing in atmospheric songs like those of Debussy. It was a pity that she sang her German songs in English, a tongue in which she is by no means infallible.

There are few English singers whose artistic aims are higher than those of Miss Dorothea Webb, who gave a recital of Foreign Songs at the Æolian Hall on December 18. Miss Webb is one of those rare, sincere singers who appeal only to the musical, who do not even try to please, but are content to let the music and their interpretation of it be judged wholly on their merits. In other words, she has no affectations; her ambitions are never less or more than musical in the strictest sense. This, of course, is extremely laudable, but for all but the maturest artists there is in it the danger, which Miss Webb has not completely overcome, of the partial elimination of personality; there is the risk of monotony. Now, Miss Webb is too fine an artist for any of her interpretations to be called invertebrate, but there are virtues which she sadly lacks, such as brightness and rhythmic gusto. In songs which are cast as it were in the half-light, where the tones are all shaded, and around every word shadows linger, or in songs where nearly everything depends on *legato* phrasing, she is practically perfect; but there were things that she sang on Saturday, such as Tacchinardi's "Notte di Natale," or Bruneau's "La Sarabande," which failed simply for lack of impulse. In other matters, however, her voice was very beautiful; there was very little wrong (and that little was due to insufficient breath-control to sustain a long *piano* phrase) with her two Brahms songs "Gestillte Sehnsucht" and "Geistliches Wiegenlied," with Mr. Frank Bridge accompanying impeccably on the viola; and her performance of Ravel's difficult "Asie" was a notable one—its quiet and magic reticence being splendidly reflected. It is worth remarking that Miss Ella Ivimey, who has long passed the stage of being merely capable, accompanies Miss Webb better than she does anyone else.

### The Bach Choir.

The Bach choir differs from nearly all other Southern choirs in that it is composed of people who treat choral singing first and last as music, not as a sport or a social entertainment. But for it and one or two other choirs a great deal of the splendid choral work that living British composers have done would have gone unperformed. On December 14, at the Queen's Hall, it gave, with the London Symphony Orchestra, under Sir Hugh Allen, Vaughan Williams' "Sea Symphony," and through all this extremely difficult work it sang very creditably, and often very finely. In this symphony, which is based on some lines from Walt Whitman, the best writing is for the orchestra; here are some great and beautiful thought and writing. Far more than the choral writing, some of which is not quite happily done, does the orchestra tell of the surge, the swell, and the flash of the waves. The impulse of the first three movements moves magnificently; but of the fourth, where the psychological nature of the symphony is more marked, I am not so certain. Sir Hugh Allen conducted the whole most invigoratingly, and if the first performance, ten years ago, were anything like this, it seems strange that its greatness can ever have been doubted.

Other things done at this concert were Armstrong Gibbs' "Crossings," a suite for orchestra, which certainly must have been charming for its original purpose of a school play, but does not stand when scored for a full orchestra. Gibbs is a composer for whom I have great respect, and on whom many hopes are being built, but at present his thought is too delicate and limited to resist much buffeting from brass and the heavier instruments of modern orchestration. Mr Adrian Boult, who conducted "Crossings" well, is not, I think, nearly as good in concerti as in other things, and the pianoforte concerto of Delius was not a perfect performance. Brilliantly played though it was by Mr. Aubyn Raymar (who hitherto had been known only as the excellent accompanist of Mr. Douglas Marshall), it had not the exquisite colourings distinctive of Delius, and appeared on this occasion to be more a *tour de force* than anything else. It was poor Smetana and his "Bartered Bride" overture which suffered by being the last piece at this concert, for the orchestra wished it over even more obviously than the audience.

ANDANTE.

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M. Pashitch is reported to have been entrusted by the Yugoslav Prince Regent with the formation of a new Cabinet.

Part of a building at Saseno Island, near Valona, Albania, used by the Italian Navy, was carried away on Thursday by a landslide, caused by continuous bad weather, and a lieutenant and his two daughters, two warrant officers, three petty officers and ten sailors lost their lives.

An official dispatch from the Viceroy states that the Zakka Khel Jirga, interviewed in Peshawar, has undertaken to endeavour to make the Utman Khel stop raiding and return Government rifles immediately. It remains to be seen whether they can force the younger members of the section to comply.

Sir Herbert Samuel has announced that the time, place, and purpose of public meetings in Palestine must be declared in advance the announcements being countersigned by at least two responsible persons. The penalty for non-observance of this regulation is a month's imprisonment and a fine of £15.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"Constantine I. and the Greek People." By Paxton Hibben. (New York: The Century Co. $3.50 net.)

II.—"LESSONS ON INDIAN AGRICULTURE." By D. Clouston. (London: Macmillan and Co.)

## I.—AUDI ET ALTERAM PARTEM.

Anyone who has experienced difficulty in understanding the recent course of events in Greece will find everything made plain to him on reading this book. He may refuse to be convinced that King Constantine was all along in the right and that M. Venizelos and the Allies were in the wrong; but he can no longer affect to be surprised that the Greeks should have recalled their former king. Mr. Hibben wrote his book in 1917, but in deference to the wishes expressed "in certain quarters," it was not published until this year. He describes the events in 1914-16 in Greece, as he saw them at the time, from the vantage point of a neutral. Even an ardent Venizelist, such as Major George Melas, has placed on record his "fixed belief that Constantine would have acted, if the Entente had handled him skilfully." Here we have a careful narrative which purports to give the steps actually taken by King Constantine to bring Greece in on the side of the Allies, and, at the same time, describes the amazing tactics adopted by the latter to frustrate his efforts. The whole story is too long and intricate to set out in the course of this review, even in brief. Everyone who wishes to understand Greece ought to read "Constantine I. and the Greek People"; certainly no Entente Government ought to take any further action in regard to Greece at the present time until the responsible head has studied its pages. Mr. Hibben's main contention is as follows:—King Constantine was concerned only with the military side of the Balkan question, and not with the political. When Greece refused to help Serbia in October, 1914, under the terms of the Alliance, both M. Venizelos and the King were at one in holding that the Greeks could not move so long as Bulgaria remained a menace on their flank. Afterwards M. Venizelos changed his opinion, and subordinated all other considerations to the view that "the present war was an opportunity for aggrandisement of Hellas such as would never come again."

He wanted to profit at once and to the utmost from the opportunity by throwing Greece unconditionally into the arms of the Entente Powers. He was impatient of any caution or of any well-considered plan of co-operation, consumed only by a fear lest the war should end before Greece, by her participation, should have gained vast territorial concessions in Asia Minor or elsewhere, a smaller dream of empire than that conceived by the German Kaiser, but not less imperialistic.

King Constantine, according to our author, was ready in the early days of 1915 to consider Greek support for the Allies, but it was to be on lines that satisfied military requirements, not a Dardanelles venture, and on terms that safeguarded Greece after the war. The Allies paid no heed to his overtures, having already made up their minds that M. Venizelos was their man, and not King Constantine. Gradually the King brought himself to abandon his conditions; but as he neared the point of unconditional co-operation, M. Venizelos and his followers saw that they would lose all political advantage if Greece entered the war behind the King, instead of behind M. Venizelos. Accordingly, resort was had to the revolutionary movement. (Here it may be mentioned that Mr. Hibben receives confirmation from Major Melas, who publishes a telegram sent to M. Venizelos at Canea, October, 1916, notifying him of the King's intention to declare war immediately on Bulgaria.) From this point everything went wrong. The Allies, who had never made any attempt to understand King Constantine's point of view, now became more than ever subservient to M. Venizelos's policy, and were encouraged by the latter in action that cut deeper and deeper into the Greek soul. Proof after proof, our author maintains, was afforded that M. Venizelos did not carry the Greek people with him in his attempt to split Greece in twain, but the Allies remained blind. Then came the demand for the surrender of rifles and guns. The French Admiral not only had the formal declaration of the Greek Government that it would not accede to the request, but also definite warning that the attempt to seize the arms would be resisted. Mr. Hibben holds that the Allied march on Athens was undertaken on the understanding that the Venezelists would simultaneously rise in the city itself. The plan miscarried; only a few shots were fired from Venezelist houses after the Allied forces had been surrounded. The Allies having held the capital for months with troops and police, on the ground that they were necessary to maintain order, chose this moment to withdraw both, leaving the Greeks to deal with the abortive revolution in their midst. "I do not know," writes Mr. Hibben, "how those who protested against its alleged cruelty would recommend that armed rebellion in the capital city of a country be handled—probably by putting salt on the tails of the revolutionists. The present war has given rise to many shining examples of hypocrisy; but I have yet to see the parallel of the self-righteousness with which the Greek Government has been criticised for its prompt, businesslike re-establishment of order in the Greek capital following the events of December 1." Mr. Hibben's narrative even renders the foolish act of anathematising M. Venizelos plausible. He takes leave of his readers with the account of a farewell interview with King Constantine in January, 1917, in which the latter delivers a very shrewd diagnosis of what subsequently happened under M. Venizelos's Government.

Reference may also be made to our author's reading of the Fort Rupel surrender. To what extent it may need to be modified in the light of telegrams published in the Greek White Book others will decide. The Greek Government of the day, it is pointed out, repeatedly asked the Allies to take over this portion of Macedonia to protect it against the Bulgarians. Not only did they refuse, but they also destroyed the bridge over which the provisioning and reinforcing of the Greek troops had previously been carried out, and, worse still, they had insisted upon the Greeks demobilising. Accordingly, the Greek Government decided that no resistance could be offered to the Bulgarians if they chose to advance. As to the surrender of the Fourth Army Corps, Mr. Hibben holds that the fault lay with the Allies in trying to coerce the Greek forces into joining General Sarrail's army.

As in the case of the surrender of Fort Rupel, the Allied military authorities seem to have taken the chance that when faced with the choice of joining General Sarrail's army or giving way before the Bulgars, the Greeks would choose the former. On every occasion, however, the Greeks have seen through this intention, and rather than be tricked into a course they have not deliberately chosen have chosen a course nullifying the Entente's calculations.

No one reading this book will feel called upon to fear lest Greek imperialism should prove more aggressive under King Constantine than under M. Venizelos. Moreover, if Mr. Hibben is right, the situation in Greece presents no difficulties to the Entente Powers, unless they persist in their former folly of never acknowledging that they had made a mistake.

## II.—INDIAN AGRICULTURE.

This is an elementary text-book of the subject, prepared by the Director of Agriculture in the Central Provinces. As with most books of the kind, its value will depend mainly on the quality of the oral instruction. In the hands of a good teacher, it should be a most useful aid: it might seem in other circumstances to give merely answers to certain types of examiners. The title is perhaps rather too wide for the scope: the differences of practice prevailing in India are probably too numerous and important to be generalised in a single volume, and we anticipate that students in the Punjab, for instance, or in Assam, would be more puzzled than helped by many of Mr. Clouston's illustrations. For the central parts of the country it should prove highly useful, provided always that the oral teaching is efficient.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Pilgrim in Jerusalem." By Rev. O. H. Parry, M.A. With numerous illustrations. (10s. net.)

"Four Pilgrims." By William Boulting. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner, and Co., Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Serbia and Europe, 1914-20." With a Preface by Dr. L. Marcovitch. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 16s. net.)


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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**TO-DAY.**

December 23 (New Style).
December 10 (Old Style).
Rabia II., 13, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tibet 12, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

M. Stambolisky, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, arrived at Prague last week.

Admiral Condouriotis, the former Greek Regent, arrived in Paris on December 19.

General Charpy has arrived in Constantinople to take over the command of the French troops there.

M. Fr. Borck-Dohalsky, First Secretary to the Czecho-Slovak Legation, left London last week for Prague.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Sligo have left 7, Upper Belgrave Street for Algeria, and will be away for two months.

The former Greek Commander-in-Chief, General Paraskevopoulos, and the ex-War Minister, M. Grivas, have left Athens for Nice.

Judge A. C. McBarnet, Counsellor of the Egyptian Native Court of Appeal, has been appointed Counsellor of the Mixed Court of Appeal.

The Danish Minister and Mme. de Grevenkop-Castenskiold left London last week for Tunis. They will be away for about two months.

The Hon. Mrs. Claude Rome, who accompanied Colonel Rome to Egypt last month, en route for India, has now returned to 33, Portland Place.

Lady Rumbold, wife of the British High Commissioner in Turkey, has become president of the Constantinople branch of the Women's Auxiliary of the Y.M.C.A.

Mrs. John Campbell has now recovered from her illness, and has, with her daughter, Miss Amy Campbell, left for Egypt, where they intend spending the winter.

M. Stancioff, the Bulgarian Minister to Great Britain, was received by the King at Buckingham Palace on December 17, and presented his credentials to his Majesty.

Mr. Peter Williams, a director of the P. and O. Steam Navigation Company and the British India Steam Navigation Co., left £168,256, of which he bequeathed about £20,000 to charity.

Sir Philip Gibbs has accepted the editorship of the *Review of Reviews*. His first number, which will include contributions by many well-known literary men, will appear on January 15.

President Wilson has selected Mr. Henry Morgenthau, the former United States Ambassador to Turkey, as his personal representative in the mediation between Armenia and the Turkish Nationalists.


**OUTFITS FOR EGYPT, INDIA, AND THE FAR EAST.**

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Prince Nicolas of Roumania arrived in London on Saturday from Eton, on his way to Bucharest, where he will spend Christmas and the New Year with his parents, the King and Queen of Roumania.

The Swedish Crown Prince, who has been away from Sweden for about ten weeks on a trip to Southern Europe, during which he visited Italy and Greece, returned to Stockholm on December 19.

Prince Paul of Serbia, having taken the shortened course in modern history at Oxford, was last week among the students who were reported as having satisfied the examiners. His College is Christ Church.

Brigadier-General Sir William H. Manning, Governor of Ceylon, was married at Colombo on December 11 to Olga Mary, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Sefton-Jones, of 74, Cadogan Place, London.

Sir Ralph Sillery Benson, of Roebuck Grove, Donnybrook, Dublin, Judge of the High Court of Madras from 1896 to 1913, who died on October 19, aged 69, has left personal estate of the value of £21,712.

An engagement is announced between Monsieur Gabriel Dichter, of Bucharest and Paris, and Edith Jane, youngest daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Barstow, Seaforth Highlanders, and Mrs. Barstow, Villa Louise, Bordighera.

Major-General Sir Fabian Ware, Vice-Chairman of the Imperial War Graves Commission, returned to London last week from a tour of inspection of the cemeteries and work of the Commission in Gallipoli, Macedonia, Ægean Islands, Palestine, Egypt, and Italy.

Mr. Ronald Storrs, Governor of Jerusalem, was the guest of the Overseas Club and Patriotic League at luncheon at the Connaught Rooms on December 21. In the absence of Lord Northcliffe, the chair was taken by Mr. Cecil Harmsworth, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

The marriage arranged between Vladimir I. Dushmanitch, LL.B., of Belgrade, Serbia, the Delegate of the Serbian Ministry of Finance in London, and Constance Jessie Millar, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Rowan, Dunskaig, Ayr, Scotland, will take place at the Old Parish Church, Ayr, on December 29.

Prince Bibesco, the newly-appointed Roumanian Minister to Washington, returned to London last week from Bucharest. He will leave for the United States early in the New Year. Prince and Princess Bibesco will spend Christmas and the New Year with Mr. and Mrs. Asquith at The Wharf, Sutton Courtney.

General Sir Robert Baden-Powell and Lady Baden-Powell will, it is stated, sail for India on January 7, the former having accepted an invitation from Lord Chelmsford, Viceroy of India, to reorganise the Boy Scout movement there. The Duke of Connaught is President of the movement, and it is anticipated that the Indian branches will receive considerable impetus from the forthcoming presence of his Royal Highness in the country.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. Radu Th. Djuwara has been appointed First Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in London.

The King has been pleased to approve of Colonel H. O. Parr, Indian Army, being appointed Aide-de-Camp to the King, Indian Establishment, vice Colonel F. M. Edwards, Indian Army, who has been placed on retired pay, with effect from April 1, 1919.

It is stated in the November *Bulletin* of the League of Red Cross Societies that Lieut.-Col. A. H. Hapgood, D.S.O., M.B., B.C., D.P.H., has been appointed to be Medical Director in charge of the League's Child Welfare work in Roumania. Dr. Hapgood has held appointments at the London Hospital and the Children's Hospital, Chelsea.

## OBITUARY.

The death has occurred at Nazareth, Palestine, of Miss Edith Johncock, Royal Red Cross, Matron of the British Hospital at Nazareth. Miss Johncock was a prisoner of the Turks for several years of the war, but remained in charge of the Nazareth Hospital for a great part of the time, attending on British and Turkish wounded prisoners of war. She was taken by the Turks to Damascus after the British advance, and was set free there. She had been

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in Dover recuperating, and only returned to Nazareth recently. Miss Johncock received the Royal Red Cross for her assistance to the British wounded in Palestine.

The death occurred last week of Sir Charles Bruce, G.C.M.G., the distinguished Orientalist. The son of an Indian civil servant, Sir Charles Bruce was born in India in 1836. He devoted himself, mainly in Germany, to the study of Oriental languages and literature, more particularly Sanskrit and Zend-Pahlavi. While in Germany, studying under Professor Roth, he was able to assist in preliminary work for the great Sanskrit dictionary of Böhtlingk and Roth, published by the Imperial Academy of St. Petersburg. It was through the recommendation of these savants that the Imperial Academy published his work, "Die Geschichte von Nala." This was an attempt to restore the original text of an episode in the great Indian epic, the Mahabharata, and came to be used as a text-book in many Germany universities, as well as in the United States of America. His Vedic studies included an effective translation from the Atharva Veda. While serving as an assistant librarian at the British Museum, Bruce was selected, in 1865, for the Chair of Sanskrit at King's College.

The death has occurred of Lieut.-Colonel John Muir Hunter, C.S.I., O.B.E., at the age of seventy-six. He was gazetted to the Royal Artillery in 1864; he went out to India at the end of the following year, and was soon transferred to the Bombay Staff Corps. For thirty years, from 1872, he served as a political officer in various native States of Western India, and chiefly in Kathiawar, where he was chief agent for Government for the last five years of his service. He was a man of tact and discretion, and won the confidence and esteem of the long succession of Ruling Princes with whom he was brought into association.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

A great congress of Eastern women will be held in Moscow on February 1, 1921.

All professors of the University of Athens appointed by M. Venizelos have been dismissed.

M. Advocaat, Dutch Minister in Serbia, is stated to have left Belgrade last week for Holland.

Nabi Bey, the Turkish peace delegate, was to leave Constantinople last week to resume his post in Paris.

Between 2,000 and 3,000 cases, each containing 1,440 eggs, are sent to England from Morocco every week.

The Greek destroyer Navkratousa has foundered near the Island of Milo, and is regarded as a total loss. The crew were saved.

The offices of the Military Attaché of the Roumanian Legation will be closed from to-morrow, the 24th instant, till next Wednesday.

A mail and goods train collided last week near Bommidi, on the South Indian Railway. Thirty Indians were killed and 35 injured.

Nine hundred wounded soldiers of General Wrangel's army have arrived at the Piræus, and are being distributed among the Greek hospitals in Athens.

M. Stanoievitch, the Serbian Chargé d'Affaires, left The Hague on December 16 as a result of the rupture of diplomatic relations between Yugoslavia and the Netherlands.

At a Cabinet meeting held at Belgrade on December 14 it was decided to grant an annual pension of 300,000 French francs to ex-King Nicholas of Montenegro and Queen Mylona.

M. Grecianu, the Roumanian Minister of Justice, died on December 12 as a result of injuries received in the bomb explosion in the Senate, reported in our columns last week.

Herr von Stockhammern, head of the Balkan Department at the German Foreign Office, has left for Belgrade to conduct negotiations for the resumption of economic relations with Yugoslavia.

India's central war memorial at Delhi will take the form of a memorial arch, of which the Duke of Connaught will lay the foundation-stone on February 10. Memorial tablets will also be set up in individual villages.

The French dispatch boat Bar-le-Duc, of the Eastern Mediterranean Squadron, has run aground on the Island of Eubœa (Negropont), near Cape Doro. The cruiser Ernest-Renan has been sent to her assistance.

By order of the Courts, Mme. Manos, the morganatic widow of King Alexander of Greece, is authorised to take immediate possession of her late husband's fortune, valued at 2,000,000 drachmae (£42,000) in specie and jewels.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* states that the misunderstanding with Holland over the appointment of Dutch Judges to the Mixed Tribunals is not yet officially settled, but it is understood that an arrangement satisfactory to both parties is imminent.

## APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Chaperons, Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Nurse Companions, Lady Nurses, etc.

# WHERE TO STAY.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1920.


## POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA.

The great experiment to which the Empire stands committed in India has now reached the stage where we may be confident that the main provinces will be equipped effectively with working legislatures, and it is time to attempt some estimate of the probable results of their labours. The new legislatures will not, of course, be perfect, but we know of none to which that epithet can justly be applied; the claim can fairly be made that the bulk of the members chosen have the approval of the majority of those electors who cared to record their votes, and the reputation of the House of Commons itself stands on no securer basis. Though full lists of the members have not yet been published in this country, it is already clear that a large proportion will be new to practical politics, and we must expect occasional outbursts of unreasoning idealism, some impatience of the necessary restraints of debate, determined efforts to spend more money than can be got; such features are likely to be prominent in the proceedings of the next few years, but assuming that the first Ministers are wisely chosen, they will gradually work their own cure, and the future of these institutions depends rather on the nature of the common mentality which will emerge. The members will meet with a preponderantly urban outlook, an outlook which is shared by less than a tenth of the population for whom they are to legislate, and almost the whole question of their efficiency turns on the extent to which they succeed in realising the needs and the aspirations of the countryside. In India nine people out of ten live in villages, and on the democratic theory which lies at the base of the whole experiment, the peasants' will must ultimately prevail; will the town-dwelling legislators accommodate themselves to this fundamental fact, or will they seek to perpetuate the old régime, under which the peasant toiled and the towns enjoyed the produce of his labour?

Those of our readers who are not familiar with Indian life may be surprised at the importance we attach to the existing divergence of opinion between the country and the town. Such conditions scarcely exist in the West, where, speaking broadly, town and country are mutually beneficial, and even in India, the great cities which have grown up as the result of British initiative already serve the country districts in many ways. But the typical Indian town is altogether different from such centres as Calcutta or Cawnpore. Its nucleus consists of a number of middle-class families, lineal representatives of the men who lived on the country for at least a thousand years, and still dominated more or less unconsciously by the ideals of the past. The bulk of its population is made up of men and women who serve the needs of these superiors, parasites upon parasites, and, taken in the mass, the least worthy section of Indian life. The town as a whole is, indeed, a parasitic growth, looking to the country for all its needs, and as yet scarcely beginning to be conscious of any resulting duty, whether in the social or the economic sphere; it has no moral claim to consideration, and its importance lies in the fact that the old-world ideas generated in its atmosphere dominate the great majority of the politicians of to-day, who talk glibly in the language of Mill and Bright, but have not yet learned to apply democratic doctrines to their own relations with the peasants. They have, indeed, made much progress under the teaching provided by the West: oppression is now far from their thoughts, and schemes for the benefit of the peasant win their ready approval; but the conception of the peasants as dominant in the State, and the ultimate masters of respectable people, is as yet utterly unfamiliar to those respectable people who have been masters for so long. For a practical illustration of the truth of this view, we need look no further than that topic of universal interest, the price of food. Nearly three Indians out of four live by agriculture, and, given good seasons, their well-being rises with the price of grain; yet in the last two years scarcely a single politician has uttered a word of protest against the action of the administration in controlling exports so as to ensure that food-grains shall be cheap. A genuine Indian democrat might have been expected to denounce such spoliation in unmeasured terms, as a boon to the idle rich, or a subsidy to capitalist employers, and all taken out of the pockets of poverty-stricken peasants, forming an immense majority of the people, but easily robbed because they have not yet grasped political power. In fact the politicians' theme has been just the opposite; their influence underlay the measures which were actually taken, and they would have welcomed even more drastic limitations than those which were enforced. We are not blaming the Government for what was done; we believe that their action was practically unavoidable in the topsy-turvy conditions of Indian political life; but we venture to prophesy that this is nearly the last occasion on which a British administration will be driven to expedients so familiar under the rule of Afghans or Moghuls. The fullest justification for constitutional change is to be found in the fact that the Indian peasant is beginning to wake up to some consciousness of his preponderant position in the commonwealth, and the same fact renders indispensable a complete readjustment of mental outlook on the part of the dwellers in the towns. They want, it is true, cheap food for themselves, and of late they have been able to impose their view on the Administration: they have now to realise that as time goes on their wishes will count for less and less, and that they must come to terms with the peasants before the wheel has swung full circle.

The question will perhaps be asked whether there is any prospect of the accomplishment of this readjustment in a peaceable and orderly manner, or whether the Indian peasant, like the peasants of so many other countries, will be driven to seize his rights by the strong hand. We believe the prospect to be hopeful. It is true that, as we have said, the politicians have so far tended to ignore the peasants' aspirations, but behind the politicians stand the men who think, and they are now beginning to realise something of the truth. As a single example, we quote a sentence from an Indian gentleman's letter which appeared last month: "Too long have we trumpeted our own middle-class cause as the cause of the whole nation without considering the interests of the masses. For our own interest, if we do not wish to be crushed, it behoves us to yield to the interests of others who form 70 per cent. of the nation, and who are beginning to be, though they are not yet, articulate." That candid statement might almost be taken as the motto of the new India. Such ideas are bound to spread from the thinkers to the schools, and from the schools to the politicians; their growth will be hastened by the fact that peasant-votes already control many of the seats in the legislatures, and if we make allowance for the remarkable adaptability of the Indian mind, we may look forward without undue optimism to a time when the outlook of the towns shall be radically changed, and the need for co-operation with the peasants shall dominate their political activity. The chief interest in the proceedings of the provincial legislatures during the next few years will lie in the progress made in this inevitable readjustment; there is time for it to be effected, but there is not much time to spare, and on its timely accomplishment depends the whole future of India.

## *"THE NEAR EAST."*

***As this week's issue of "The Near East" is the 52nd for the current year, there will be no issue of the paper on December 30.***

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# JEWISH TALES FROM JERUSALEM.

## I.—KING SOLOMON AND THE HOOPOOS.

The Hoopoo, you must know, is a little golden-brown bird, slender of body, swift and straight on the wing, and it wears a gay little crown of golden feathers on its head. This is the story of how the Hoopoo got its crown.

One day, King Solomon lay down to rest in his garden at Jerusalem, but as the sun mounted in the sky, its beams struck full upon the Wise One's face as he lay among the flowers, and so all comfort went from him. Not wishing to leave his soft and fragrant couch, he said aloud: "Would that some kindly cloud would come between my face and the sun, that I might have shade!"

Almost as the King spoke a shadow came between the sun's fierce rays and his face, and a little rustling wind that came with it caused the Wise One to open his eyes and look up. There he saw, not a mist passing across the face of the sky, but a cloud of little Hoopoos hovering over him, with their wings wide spread to shield the royal countenance from the sun.

The King was so much pleased with the kindness of the Hoopoos, and so grateful for their service, that to reward them he gave to each a little crown of gold, and commanded that from henceforward to the end of time the Hoopoos should be known thereby, and their good deed be thus held in everlasting remembrance.

But one day, as the Wise King sat upon the throne to do judgment, and to deal with the complaints and desires of his people, behold, there came again that soft rustling sound, and a cloud of Hoopoos flew in through the open window and sank like a shower of little brown leaves all round the throne.

"Justice and help, great King!" cried the little birds.

"What would you?" asked King Solomon. "Lo, whatsoever you desire, it is yours, for the service you once rendered me."

"Great King," said the Hoopoos, "you gave us crowns of gold because we gave you shelter from the sun, and we wore them proudly. But now men snare us for the sake of our crowns, and throw away our bodies after they have robbed us, and, in truth, we are near to perishing altogether out of the land. Therefore, take away our crowns of gold, we pray you, and then men will let us live, and we shall flourish and be happy once more."

So, to please the little birds, King Solomon took away the crowns of gold, and gave them crowns of feathers in their stead. And even to this day, in Palestine, the Hoopoos wear their crowns in happiness and safety.

## II.—AT RACHEL'S TOMB.

Tradition has it that those who go on a certain day in October to pray at Rachel's Tomb, which stands beside the highway from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, will surely have their prayers exactly answered.

On such a day, in a year long since past, three men met at the hallowed spot to pray. They had not come hither by agreement, and they were not too well pleased to see each the other there; for one was a Christian, one a Moslem, and the third a Jew. Each, however, made the best of the presence of the other two, and each, with due politeness, begged that the other two would pray before he did; surely their prayers must be of infinitely more importance in the sight of heaven than his own poor supplications could ever be!

In the end it was the Moslem who first uttered his prayer to heaven, for, his being the religion of the Government of Palestine, precedence here seemed his right.

"Allah!" he prayed aloud, "grant that in this coming year as many Christians may perish as there be sheep sacrificed upon Thy holy mountain of Arafat at the Feast of Bairam!"

Stung to anger by this unkindly utterance, the Christian fell upon his knees and also prayed aloud:

"Oh, God! grant that as many Moslems may die as there were Easter eggs eaten this year in the Holy City of Jerusalem!"

Lifting his eyes to heaven, the Jew prayed softly: "Grant Thou to each his prayer!"

## III.—THE TWO SHOEMAKERS.

Many, many years ago it happened that there was a Jewish shoemaker who lived in Jerusalem. He was very clever at his craft, and in time his fame spread through the Holy City, and even to other parts of Palestine, so that everyone hastened to bring his work to Moses the Jew; for there was no other shoemaker who could make old shoes into new, and new shoes out of little odd scraps of leather which anyone else would have scorned to use. Day and night work flowed into Moses' hands as he sat in the dim little room that was all the home he had; and, after the work, like a little trickle of water, came wealth. Moses dug a hole in a corner of his room under one of the rough stones that paved it, and here he hid his money in little bags—gold pieces and silver pieces, hundreds and hundreds of coins, which were dearer to him than son or daughter to another man.

Time passed, and Moses grew old and bent, but still he worked from dawn to dark, and still the secret store of wealth increased from day to day.

But about this time there came another Jewish shoemaker to Jerusalem, and he took a little shop exactly opposite to the room where Moses worked. The new shoemaker was young, and he had been trained in Europe. He made gay little shoes for women's feet—red and blue and yellow and green—and he set them in his window like a row of flowers. What young girl could pass that way without being tempted in to buy? And he made soft white shoes for baby feet and set them on a shelf above the coloured ones. What mother's heart could pass them by? Human nature is fickle. It was not long before all the custom that had belonged to Moses crowded in at the doors of Solomon, his rival.

Moses saw old friends and patrons deserting him day by day. Sometimes he sat alone, with little work to do, from the time he opened his shutters in the morning till he put them up again at night. When he went out to do his marketing, it seemed to him that he saw Solomon's shoes everywhere, and never his own. Worse than all, as his work grew less and less the stream of his wealth began to run dry; instead of adding to his store of gold, he had to draw from it to supply his daily needs. And every day he was caught closer in the toils of a terrible black hatred of all men, and especially of his enemy and successful rival, Solomon.

One night, as Moses crouched over his buried treasure, wrapped in the blackness of his hatred and disappointment, a hand was laid on his shoulder, and an unknown voice bade him look up.

Starting to his feet in terror, he lifted his eyes and beheld the Archangel Gabriel standing over him, taller than the sons of men, and radiant with unearthly glory.

"Moses, thou son of Israel," said the heavenly visitant, "I am come to test thee and, if thou wilt, to lift the burden of thy trouble from thee. Whatsoever is the greatest wish of thy heart it shall be granted thee, but on this one condition—a double portion of that thou choosest shall be given to thy neighbour Solomon, for he too is of the House of Israel. Choose, therefore, and let thy heart be clean that thou mayest choose aright."

Long and earnestly Moses thought, for at the Archangel's words a hundred wishes sprang to life in his heart, and he knew not what to ask. He was lonely; should he ask a son, to comfort his old age and to carry on his name after he was dead? But then Solomon would have two sons, and now he was shamed through being the father of many daughters. Should he ask for wealth? No, that would not do; why should Solomon be enriched? Should he ask for his youth to be restored to him, that he might be strong again, and able to outmatch Solomon at his work? That would not do, for in any case Solomon had the advantage of him by many years. So he tortured himself with such thoughts, while the Archangel watched him gravely and in silence.

At length he lifted his face to the Archangel, and the story of his life was graven on it—toil and avarice and hatred.

"I have chosen," he said, with dry lips that hardly moved. "Let me be blinded in one eye!"

ESTELLE BLYTH.

## THE NEW BISHOP OF EGYPT.

Bishop Gwynne, who has just been appointed Bishop of Egypt as well as the Sudan, is well known in his new diocese, where he took duty for Bishop Blyth on various occasions. The Bishop had worked for some years in the Sudan as a missionary to the pagan tribes far beyond Khartoum, and was also chaplain to the forces stationed at Khartoum, when Bishop Blyth appointed him first Archdeacon of the Sudan. He had at one time the reputation of being the best shot at Khartoum. In 1909 he was consecrated in Southwark Cathedral as first Bishop of Khartoum, the new Bishopric being suffragan to Jerusalem. For many years Bishop Blyth urged the necessity of a separate Bishopric to meet the growing need of Egypt, and this has at length been achieved; there is no doubt that the right man has been appointed to this great task. When war broke out the Bishop was on leave in England; he at once applied for leave to serve, and went over to France with the first contingent as a chaplain (4th class). He was mentioned in Sir John French's first despatches, October, 1914, and again in 1918 by Sir Douglas Haig; and received, also, the C.M.G. and O.B.E. (military division). In 1915 the Bishop was appointed Deputy Chaplain General to the Forces on the Western Fronts, with oversight and control of the military chaplains' service with the forces, taking rank as major-general at G.H.Q. In this capacity he served till the end of the war, being demobilised in May, 1919, when he returned to Khartoum.

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## THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

I am always very doubtful whether the late Marquess of Salisbury really made use of the expression attributed to him about having "backed the wrong horse," in lending our support to Turkey. But whether he did or whether he didn't, the phrase seems to have inspired the writer of a very vigorous letter to *The Times*, who declared in his opening sentence: "It is manifest to everybody that in backing Greece the Entente has put its money on a rogue"; and goes on to suggest that the "right animal" is "unquestionably Bulgaria." As to the accuracy, or otherwise, of the views expressed, it is not for a mere keeper of a khan, like myself, to comment. But I cannot help thinking that the loss of Venizelos's services is likely to cost the Greeks dear, and the return of "ex-King Constantine" to cost them still dearer. Before that "double event" no criticism of the Greek stable would have been tolerated in *The Times*, I fancy.

***

Two of a trade can never agree. I understand that certain Swiss "interests" have been very busy spreading alarming reports about the present state of Egypt, and the unfitness of the Nile as a playground for the wealthy tourist just now; and Egypt is retaliating. The *Egyptian Gazette* published some weeks ago an article headed: "Swiss Summer Season: Few Tourists but many Accidents." So far, I think, Egypt is ahead.

***

The Near East—the geographical one; not this everywhere-popular journal—is in bad odour just now in Paris, I see. The gay city, we are told, is "suffering from an unparalleled invasion of Jews and other refugees from Russia and the Near East"; and these undesirables are said to have carried with them, from the "overcrowded and filthy quarters" in which they lived, all manner of dreadful diseases. I am not responsible for the language or the alleged facts, which I take from two of our "leading dailies." Among the diseases which these people are said to have imported into Paris are plague and a "mysterious infectious complaint," which the doctors have named "Malady No. 9." Only "9"? But is Paris quite sure that the disease, whatever it be, has been imported from the Near East, or, indeed, imported at all?

***

Mr. P. M. Mattheeff, whose name is doubtless familiar to many readers of The Near East, sends the following note upon the origin of the name of Kirk-Klisse, an important town to the east of Adrianople:—"The explanation," he writes, "will demonstrate the changes which names of places sometimes undergo in cases where a name given in one language is afterwards wrongly rendered in another language, owing to a similarity between two words, and the wrong name is later adopted in the original language. The Turkish name is Kirk-Klisse, or 'Forty Churches,' being compounded of 'Kirk,' a Turkish word, meaning forty, and the Greek word 'eklissia,' church. The Greek name of the town is 'Saranda eklissia,' saranda meaning forty. Thus the name has the same meaning in both Turkish and Greek. The Bulgarian name is Losengrad, the 'Town of the grape vine,' a very appropriate name, the place being the centre of a very old wine-producing district. The origin of the name Forty Churches must be sought in the old Turkish form, Kir-Klisse. 'Kir' means 'country'; therefore, the name means 'The Country Church,' or 'Church-in-the-Country.' Tradition has it that the present town is some distance from the site of the older one. The church of the old town had been saved from destruction, and for some time continued to serve as church for the new settlement, which the Turks called 'The town with the church in the country,' or Kir-Klisse. In time, even vestiges of the church in the country disappeared, and the 'Kir' became Kirk (forty). Whence Kirk-Klisse. Here we have a curious change of name, due to the cause set out above."

***

Personally, I am both interested in and convinced by Mr. Mattheeff's argument. I shall not be a bit surprised, however, if some Scottish correspondent suggests that the "Kirk" really *was* a kirk, with manse and all complete, in some dim period of history, and that by rights Kirk-Klisse should belong to Bonnie Scotland. But for the purposes of that argument, it would be far better if "Losengrad" could be translated as, say, "Highland Dew," or something with a more Scottish flavour than Grape-vine-town; for, though Scots, I understand, do not taboo wine entirely, they much prefer something with a bit more bite in it.

Corsair.

## CHESS.

Good progress has been made with the London League competition, in which the Metropolitan Club now stands first with five clear wins.

The following game was played last week in the City of London Championship:—

SICILIAN DEFENCE.

| White. | Black. | White. | Black. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 P—K4 | P—K3 | 20 KR—K | Kt—R4 |
| 2 P—QB4 (1) | P—QB4 (2) | 21 R—Q4 | QR—Kt |
| 3 Kt—KB3 | P—KKt3 (3) | 22 KR—Q | KR—Q |
| 4 P—Q4 | P x P | 23 K—B2 (9) | B—Kt2 |
| 5 Kt x P | Kt—QB3 | 24 B x B | Kt x B |
| 6 Kt—B3 | B—Kt2 | 25 Kt x P (10) | K x Kt |
| 7 Kt—Kt5 | Kt—K2 (4) | 26 R x P (ch) | R x R |
| 8 Kt—Q6 (ch) | K—B | 27 R x R (ch) | K—Kt |
| 9 B—K2 (5) | Kt—Q5 | 28 R—K7 | Kt—B4 |
| 10 B—K3 | Kt (K2)—B3 | 29 R x RP | R—KB |
| 11 P—KB4 (6) | Q—Kt3 | 30 P—Kt3 | P—KKt4 |
| 12 Q—Q2 (7) | Kt—B7 (ch) | 31 P—RQ4 | P x P |
| 13 Q x Kt | Q x B | 32 P x P | R x P |
| 14 Q—Q2 | B x Kt | 33 P—R5 | P x P |
| 15 Q x B | Q x Q | 34 R x P | R x P |
| 16 P x Q | P—Kt3 | 35 R—R8 (ch) | K—Kt2 |
| 17 P—K5 | K—K2 | 36 R—QB8 | K—Kt3 |
| 18 O—O | B—R3 | 37 R—B7 | P—R3 |
| 19 B—B3 (8) | QR—K | 38 Resigns (11) | |

(1) An attempt to avoid the orthodox variations of the French. The move is not particularly good, but at the same time it does not create any definite weakness.

(2) Turning the game into a Sicilian defence. The usual move is P—Q4, followed by 3 P x P, P x P, 4 P x P, Q x P, 5 Kt—QB3, and White has gained a move at the expense of an isolated pawn.

(3) The King's Fianchetto development is at present the fashionable way of treating the Sicilian.

(4) Except by B—K4 Black could not avoid moving his K.

(5) It is very doubtful whether this was the best move at White's disposal. Possibly B—K3 at once would have been better.

(6) A most dangerous manœuvre; still it happened to turn out well.

(7) The only way to avoid loss.

(8) Very effectively defending the P at B4, and absolutely cramping Black.

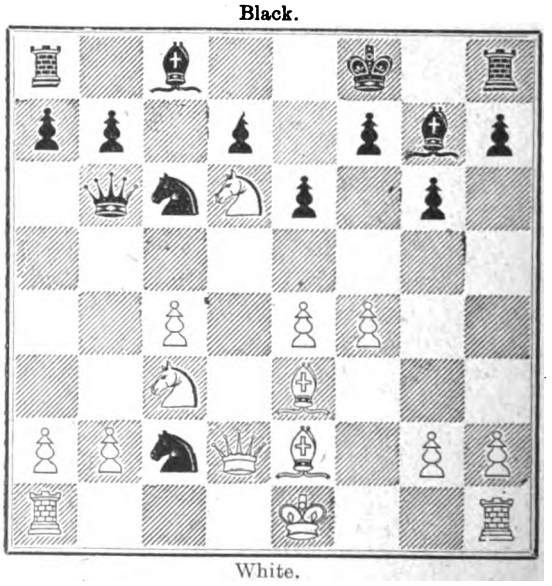
(9) As the game stands Black is lost. All White has to do is to wait to win, but that is just where he failed, and in trying to force the game lost.

(10) Ingenious, but it just fails.

(11) There was still much play left, but the end was inevitable.

Position after Black's 12th move—Kt-B7(ch).

Black.



White.

Caro-Kann.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

***Trade with Greece.***

From the business point of view recent developments in Greece could scarcely be more unsatisfactory. So long as a state of uncertainty prevails the progress of industry and commerce must be handicapped, and the rapid depreciation of the Greek exchange simply illustrates the repercussion on the Greek market position of the trend of events. As long as matters remain in an unsettled state trade is bound to be at a standstill. It is not in the interests of Greece any more than it is in the interests of the Allies, and in particular of Great Britain, whose commercial relations with Greece have shown signs of developing on a most promising scale, that there should be a continuance of unstable conditions. Stability is an essential for Greece at this period of reconstruction as it is for the rest of the world, and it may be hoped that a *modus vivendi* will be arrived at which will enable this end to be achieved.

***The Kantara Bridge Decision.***

After all, it would seem that the Kantara Bridge is to go. The proposal is to replace it by a train ferry, a change which can only be regarded as most regrettable, for, however efficient the service, it cannot be held to compensate for the lack of direct communication. The importance of the bridge is that it has enabled the linking up of the Palestine and Egyptian railway system by the desert railway constructed by the British Army during the war. In giving consent to its erection the Canal Company made the stipulation that it should be removed after the war, if they so desired. No one will wish to maintain that the company is not fully within its rights in demanding the fulfilment of this undertaking, and the authorities had obviously no alternative but to carry out their pledge, but one is at a loss to understand the motive of the company in desiring the removal of the bridge. It is only a swing bridge, and as such could not interfere with the traffic. Why, then, should objection be taken to it?

***A Temporary Expedient?***

It is difficult to regard the train ferry service as a permanent arrangement, and sooner or later it would seem certain that through communication will have to be re-established. As a temporary substitute a train ferry may be all very well, but it has serious disadvantages, for however excellent its organisation it is bound to entail a considerable waste of time, while the amount of rolling-stock that can be utilised must necessarily be limited. The importance of the latter factor will be realised when the constantly increasing commercial intercourse between Egypt and Palestine is borne in mind. Palestine draws most of its supplies through Egypt, and also exports most of its produce the same way. When the harbours of Palestine are developed the position will, of course, be different, though the attraction of trade to the coastal exits will not in any way diminish the necessity for adequate railway facilities, and the requirements now and in the future cannot be met by the arrangement contemplated.

***Mesopotamian Oil Rights.***

Sir Charles Greenway devoted considerable attention in his speech at the general meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company to the position taken up by the United States with regard to the Mesopotamian oilfields. He pointed out that it is a well-known doctrine of State succession that the Power which inherits alien territory must recognise previously acquired rights of private owners. "The Standard Oil Company, before the war," he continued, "claim to have acquired certain oil rights in Palestine, which may, for all anyone knows to-day, be just as valuable as the Mesopotamian oil rights. Similarly, we and other nationals, before the war, acquired rights in Mesopotamia and in other parts of the former Turkish Empire. All of these rights will necessarily have to be recognised, to the extent of the non-enemy interests in them, by the Administration, Arab or whatever else it may be, which eventually undertakes the Government of the mandated territories, unless, of course, the principles of Bolshevism are to be adopted in dealing with them."

***No "Closed Door" to U.S.***

Sir Charles emphasised the point that there is no question of the "closed door" to America, but quite the contrary. As he very justly pointed out, if the Standard Oil Company's rights in Palestine are to be recognised—and there is no indication that the company has any desire to abandon them—our rights and the rights of nationals other than enemy in the late Turkish Empire must equally be recognised. "To act otherwise," he went on, "would be to adopt the policy of the 'closed door' in favour of America and against British and other national interests. This object is, no doubt, the one that the supporters of the agitation have in view in the strong opposition which they have, in this and other directions, set up against the attempts of this country to make itself less dependent upon foreign controlled concerns for its supplies of oil. But it is difficult to believe that the monopolistic aims which are at the back of this opposition can receive support from the American nation as a whole, or that their aim should for a moment be allowed to disturb the friendly relations between the two countries." Sir Charles added that he had received an assurance from the head of the Standard Oil Company that he would make it his first duty on arrival in America to endeavour to clear up the misunderstanding that existed on the subject between the two countries.

***Foreign Samples Exhibition.***

The Foreign Samples Exhibition at 16, Old Bailey, affords a most commendable instance of the efforts that are being made by the authorities to assist the home manufacturer. The exhibits include samples from over twenty countries, and the undertaking should prove of the utmost value to the British trader, who will be enabled to see at a glance the kind of goods being produced by his competitors. I was not specially struck by the quality of the goods as a whole, and as a matter of fact many of the best samples emanated from British possessions, a pleasing and at the same time a consoling fact, for if we have to yield pride of place in some markets in the future, we may at least have the satisfaction of knowing that the trade is left "in the family," so to speak. The German productions on view were almost uniformly of indifferent quality, and an inspection of the weird and wonderful collection of Teutonic toys—notable among them being a monstrous dachshund—made one wonder however it was that our ex-enemy was so successful in this line before the war.

***Roumania's Agricultural Position.***

If the official statistics of the autumn sowings in Roumania, given this week by our Bucharest correspondent, disclose a rather more favourable position than might have been expected in view of the depressing report received recently, they show at the same time that there is a very great leeway to be made up before the country's crops are up to the normal level. The one satisfactory feature of the return is the extension in the area under wheat in the Old Kingdom, the figures being 250,000 hectares as against 190,000 hectares in a normal year. The other estimates for the Old Kingdom and Bessarabia make a very poor showing. Unfortunately, the prospect of any material improvement in the estimates when the final statistics are issued in January must be largely discounted, as during November the ground was frozen, and there were, consequently, no sowings

COMMENTATOR.

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# Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

## GREECE.

ATHENS, December 4.

**Customs Tariff for Thrace.**

At the proposal of the Minister of Finance the Council of Ministers have decided to apply the same Customs tariff in Thrace as that in force in the remainder of Greece, with effect from November 25 (O.S.). The importation into Thrace from Greece will be authorised of all goods except beer, spirits, tobacco, cigarettes, explosive materials, and flour.

**New Notes to be Destroyed?**

The Ministry of Finance has decided not to put into circulation the new five-drachmæ notes ordered recently in London, owing to the fact that these were issued without the authority of the International Commission of Financial Control being previously obtained. The notes, which represent a sum of twenty million drachmæ, will be destroyed if the Financial Commission definitely refuses to grant the necessary authority.

**Customs Receipts.**

The receipts of the Piræus Customs during the second ten days of November (O.S.) amounted to 2,159,003.80 drachmæ in paper and 132,711 drachmæ in gold. Compared with the receipts during the corresponding period last year there is an increase this year of 595,915.55 drachmæ in paper and a decrease of 33,764.60 drachmæ in gold.

**The Governor of the National Bank.**

In spite of various rumours to the contrary, M. Zaimis, the Governor of the National Bank of Greece, has apparently no intention of resigning his post. The board meeting, which will be held in the middle of December (O.S.), will decide whether the election of a new Governor is necessary. In accordance with the law the Government reserves the right to cancel the election of any Governor not meeting with its approval, in which case a new election would have to be held.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, December 5.

**The Autumn Sowings.**

According to the estimates of the Statistics Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, the sowings up to the end of October in the Old Kingdom and Bessarabia were as follows (the figures representing hectares):—Old Kingdom: wheat, 250,000; rye, 8,000; rapeseed, 6,500. Bessarabia: wheat, 150,000; rye, 49,000; barley, 1,700; rapeseed, 155. In normal years the average sowings in the Old Kingdom were: wheat 190,000, and rye 80,000. The sowings in Bessarabia in 1919 were: wheat, 360,000, and rye 130,000. During November no sowings could be made, as the ground was frozen. At the end of January a new estimate of the area under cultivation will be issued by the Statistics Department.

The Ministry of Industry has now decided to permit the export of maize, barley, and oats free of all restrictions with the exception of the duty tax.

**New Oil Company.**

A very important oil transaction was carried out a few days ago in Paris and London. The well-known oilfields belonging to the family of George Cantacuzino have been conceded to an Anglo-French company called "Pen." These oilfields were first given to the Roumanian company "Sospiro," the shares of which are almost entirely held by the Cantacuzino family. Now the company will increase its capital by ceding to the "Pen" company an important part of the "Sospiro" shares. It is understood that a part of these shares will be open for subscription to the Roumanian public.

**Miscellaneous.**

The Ministry of Reconstruction has contracted with an Italian firm for 500,000 kilos of sole leather of the first quality at 45 Italian lire per kilo, including duty, delivered at a Roumanian port, against Treasury Bonds payable in two years at 6 per cent. per annum.

According to the *Monitorul Official* of December 2, the Ministry of Communications has been authorised to sign a contract with several German locomotive firms for the repair of 300 locomotives. For this purpose, a credit of about 900 million lei has been opened.

The Ministers Council has approved of the negotiations which have been made between the Minister of War and a French Military Mission for the export of large quantities of petrol and lamp oil in exchange for aeroplanes and general material.

**A French Loan.**

M. Titulescu, the Minister of Finance, has succeeded in obtaining in Paris a loan of 200 million francs, which will be used to pay the coupons of the public debt, overdue for four years. It is reported that the French Government gave great assistance in the arranging of the loan.

## CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, December 6.

**Vine Disease.**

Active steps are being taken to deal with the vine disease (*Peronospora viticola*) which has appeared in the Papho district. A number of areas have been gazetted as infected. In these all vine owners are ordered to strip and burn all leaves between November and December 20. In February and March all vines must be pruned and branches burned. In the spring they must be sprayed with Bordeaux mixture, as may be directed by the Director of Agriculture.

**The Weather.**

Weather conditions are unfavourable. There has been severe cold with snow in the hills, but no rain. This is badly wanted, and there is considerable anxiety regarding crops, especially in the west of the island. The want of pasturage is telling upon flocks, particularly of sheep.

## CANCELLATION OF INDIAN ORDERS.

A widely attended meeting of firms interested in the Indian export trade was held at the London Chamber of Commerce on December 17 to discuss the cancellation of orders by Indian buyers.

A resolution was passed inviting the East Indian section of the Chamber to confer with a committee drawn from the meeting, with the object of ascertaining whether concerted action against Indian merchants cancelling or repudiating shipments against their contracts was possible.

Attention was also drawn to a circular of the Bombay Port Trust intimating that it was their intention to sell by auction goods that had remained more than two months in the Port warehouses. A small deputation was appointed to wait upon the Indian exchange banks to point out to them the disastrous results of such action, and to urge their co-operation.

Tribute was paid to the manner in which English manufacturers had often, at considerable loss to themselves cancelled orders, and so assisted the merchants to meet the difficulty caused by the heavy fall in exchange and consequent wholesale repudiation of drafts against shipments of goods to India.

The Banca Natiunei, of Roumania, has elected Major A. W. Barratt to a seat on the board of directors. Major Barratt served in Roumania during part of the war, and was Military Attaché at Jassy during 1917 and 1918; after the Armistice he served on a military mission at Bucharest. The Banca Natiunei, of which Prince Ghika is chairman, has just augmented its capital to 100,000,000 lei and the reserves stand at 71,800,000 lei.

A company has been established at Agram for the establishment of air services between that town, Belgrade, Budapest, and Vienna.


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# THE COTTON CRISIS IN EGYPT.

## A Serious Position.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 30.

During the past week or so the economic situation has become somewhat critical, and is having a disastrous effect on commerce. Cotton has been steadily falling throughout the year and to-day its price is half what it was at the beginning of the month. This naturally affects every element of the population, for in Egypt cotton is the controlling factor. The people suffering most are, of course, the agricultural classes who constitute the majority, and many who passed as wealthy cultivators a few weeks ago are to-day hard put to it for ready money. The trouble is that the demand from abroad is exceedingly slack, and that there are for all practical purposes no buyers in the interior, while the situation has been aggravated by the action of certain banks who have thrown substantial lots of cotton on to the market in order to cover themselves for their advances.

That there is certainly something abnormal in the local cotton situation is clearly indicated by the difference, even after allowing generously for freight and other shipping expenses, between spot prices in Alexandria and those in Liverpool. The situation is serious for the small cultivators, and in some instances even for the large landowners, none of whom can sell their crops, while the landlords are unable to obtain their rents from their tenants, who, agreeing to rentals fixed when the price of cotton was nearly three times the present figure, can certainly not pay what they owe in this respect.

Money is therefore tight, and is growing daily more so in every direction, and the country is faced with a crisis which might quite conceivably become serious. In view of the possible bad effect on the people and in order to counteract the political propaganda which interested parties are undoubtedly making, the Government has issued a communiqué explaining to the people that the present fall in the price of cotton is due to external economic causes, and calling upon landlords to be lenient with their tenants. At the same time, a strong Commission has been appointed to study the effect of the fall in cotton prices on the country, and to consider what measures of assistance can be rendered to the small cultivators and tenants who are undoubtedly sorely pressed and are likely to be more so in the near future.

There is, it is true, no doubt that as a result of the high prices obtained during the past year or so, the fellahin as a whole are relatively much better off than they have been for some time. Many of them have invested their profits in land—of this the land registration figures afford eloquent proof—and it is to be foreseen that the mortgage companies will become active again, but the depreciation has been so enormous and the cost of living and of cultivation remain so high that the larger portion of the rural population is bound to suffer severely.

It is, indeed, the fact that the fall in cotton has not been accompanied by a drop in the cost of living, which still remains very high. That makes the outlook so serious, and there is no knowing what the ultimate effect may be on the agricultural labour classes unless something occurs to relieve the situation.

Various schemes have been ventilated in the Press, such as limiting by law the cotton area in 1921, as was done in 1915, forming a syndicate to buy up cotton and hold it until a definite price has been reached, fixing a minimum price just as a maximum price was fixed in 1918, the purchase of cotton by the Government as in 1914, etc., and it is understood that these propositions are all being carefully studied by the Government and outside people interested in the economic situation; but something will have to be done without delay to prevent panic and to allay the anxiety and restlessness which are becoming daily more apparent amongst the agricultural classes.

The difficult position in which the agricultural masses now find themselves has naturally had its effect on commerce, and the drop in cotton prices coming on the top of over-speculation on the part of importers has considerably aggravated the situation. In cotton goods there is a slump, and, according to reliable estimates, it will take over a year for the country to absorb existing stocks. But in other directions also business is bad, and the tightness in the local money market is getting very intense. The banks are naturally, in the circumstances, extremely reluctant to grant advances or to renew credits, and importers, who, owing to the general tendency to retrench and economise, are finding it difficult to place their goods and obtain funds to meet their commitments, are being forced to realise their share holdings, with the result that even the best securities are far below their proper value.

We are undoubtedly in for a bad time, but I do not consider that an ultra pessimistic view of the situation and its consequences is warranted.

# EGYPT'S FINANCES IN 1919-20.

## Another Huge Surplus.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 1.

At its last sitting the Council of Ministers approved of the final account for the financial year 1919-1920. Revenue amounted to £E33,677,401 and expenditure to £E28,991,934, leaving a surplus of £E4,685,467. The Budget, it may be pointed out, was fixed at £E28,850,000, with a draft of £E1,550,000 on the reserve to balance the account, so that revenue has exceeded the estimates by £E6,377,401, and, although during the year supplementary credits of £E3,185,779 were approved, expenditure is only £E141,934 more than the original estimate.

The increase in revenue affects practically every head, and the following table indicates the expansion which has taken place since 1915:—

| | 1919-20 £E. | 1918-19 £E. | 1915-16 £E. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Direct Taxes | 5,624,260 | 5,612,291 | 5,594,314 |
| Customs | 6,627,536 | 4,189,168 | 1,839,270 |
| Tobacco dues | 3,327,325 | 2,156,523 | 1,990,868 |
| Excise | 499,979 | 580,398 | — |
| Port and Light dues | 179,185 | 91,428 | 150,175 |
| Fisheries | 71,316 | 58,422 | 34,214 |
| Stamp Duty | 76,102 | 51,234 | 40,130 |
| Assay dues | 37,130 | 31,720 | 3,502 |
| Mixed Courts | 1,412,618 | 1,056,809 | 747,037 |
| Native Courts | 509,196 | 430,922 | 427,876 |
| Mehkemehs and Courts of Wards | 145,132 | 119,208 | 62,618 |
| Railways | 7,135,030 | 6,991,105 | 3,724,348 |
| Telegraphs | 303,353 | 237,726 | 167,921 |
| Telephones | 196,098 | 251,005 | — |
| Post Office | 437,424 | 402,831 | 300,761 |
| State Domains | 1,272,955 | 989,288 | 810,848 |
| Military Exemption Fees | 476,580 | 191,340 | 86,210 |
| Ghafir cess | 1,048,656 | 833,634 | — |
| Pension contributions | 175 776 | 143,808 | 137,416 |
| Interest on Funds | 2,428,476 | 1,616,551 | 390,756 |
| Miscellaneous receipts and dues | 968,376 | 881,874 | 1,028,900 |
| Extraordinary receipts | 924,898 | 744,004 | 222,224 |
| Total | 33,677,401 | 27,661,289 | 17,759,418 |

From the above it can be seen that in the five years the revenue has almost doubled, and that, compared with last year, there is an increase of over £E6,000,000.

The increases in customs and tobacco dues are due, in the former case, to the rise in value of commodities and, in the latter, to the increase in the tariff. The expansion in Mixed Courts fees is the result of the greater activity in land sales owing to the profits made from the 1919 cotton crop. The same applies to the improvement in the military exemption fees and extraordinary receipts, of the latter of which over 90 per cent. represents proceeds of the sale of Government land.

On the expenditure side, the chief items have been Civil List, £E499,500; Survey Department, £E328,515; Education, £E628,689; Ministry of the Interior, £E637,932; Public Health, £E621,535; Prisons, £E310,530; Mixed Courts, £E317,168, Native Courts, £E519,183; Irrigation, £E1,655,909; State buildings, £E279,680; Cairo Municipal Department, £E309,032; Railways, £E5,516.354; Ghafirs, £E1,148,070; Police, £E711,338; Provincial Administrative Service, £E597,605; Egyptian Army, £E1,675,919; Pensions, £E779,406, Public Debt, £E4,594,917; War gratuities, £E2,546.750; extraordinary expenditure in connection with the war, £E508,260; purchase and distribution of articles of prime necessity, £E404,499 Practically every one of these headings shows an advance on the figures for 1918, the most notable increases being under Railways, £E1,783,619; and War Gratuities, £1,312,292.

The fact that the year's expenditure is £E3,043.845 less than the total budgetary credit is due to the difficulty in obtaining material, etc., and the economy is therefore merely a temporary one. The surplus realised on the financial year of £E4.596.994 has been transferred to the general reserve, which, as a result, stood on April 1, 1920, at £E15,576,832.

The position as regards the finances of the Government is, therefore, very satisfactory, but it must not be forgotten that there is an enormous amount of headway to be made up in the matter of maintenance and repair work neglected during the war, and that the country is faced with the prospect of considerable capital expenditure rendered necessary by the constant increase in the population and the consequent necessity for developing the productive resources of the country.

The reserve, as it now stands, is, of course, a guarantee in this respect, but the financial and economic situation has latterly undergone a very serious development, and, owing to the very marked fall in the price of cotton, it is quite possible that the Government may experience some difficulty in collecting the land tax and that other sources of revenue, such as customs, railways, land registration fees, and those directly dependent on the cotton position, will show a marked falling off, a falling off which apparent in the current financial year will very probably be more noticeable in the succeeding one.

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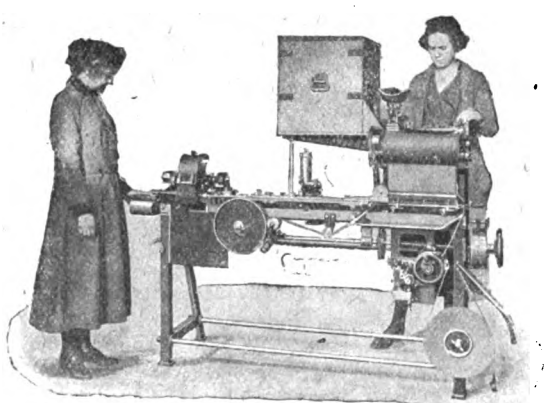

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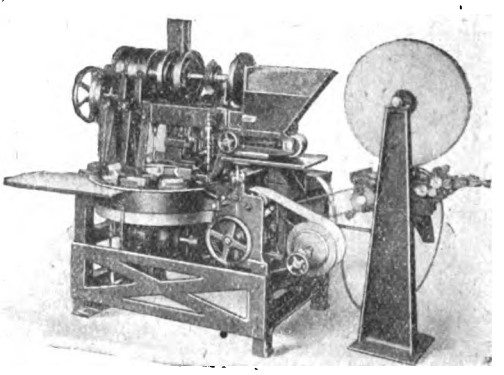

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## ENGINEERING.

### The Sunbeam Car.

I have just had an opportunity of examining as closely as I wished the two-standard Sunbeam chassis, and so far as I could see the general lay-out does not differ materially from that of the past season's models. Here and there I noticed minor improvements, but there has been no attempt to break away, for 1921, from the general lines of the chassis which did so well in 1920.

Personally speaking, I like the Sunbeam car as much as any on the market; I like the engine, the design of the chassis; everything, in short, connected with the car. I like it because first of all I am an engineer, and always admire a sound engineering job; secondly, as a motorist, I appreciate road comfort. Both the 16 and 24 h.p. Sunbeams are thoroughly good propositions, likely to give satisfaction to every user.

To take the 16 h.p. chassis first, the power unit consists of a four-cylinder monobloc engine having cylinders 80 by 150 millimetres bore and stroke, the water jacketing allowing for a specially large water circulation space.

Cast iron pistons are retained, it having been amply demonstrated that these are most generally satisfactory. The hollow crankshaft of ample diameter carried on five diecast white metal bearings, drives the camshaft direct through a silent chain. The valves are situated all on the near side of the cylinders, to which they are slightly inclined, and the whole of the valve mechanism is completely enclosed and extremely silent in operation. The engine has a very substantial aluminium crankcase, which is attached directly to the main frame.

Lubrication of the crankshaft bearings and of the big ends of the connecting-rods is of the forced type, being by means of a gear pump, which circulates the lubricating oil through the hollow crankshaft. For the camshaft bearings and various other parts splash lubrication has been found to be ample, and, so far as the forced portions of the lubrication is concerned, excess of oil pressure is guarded against by the fitting of an oil relief valve, designed to blow off at 12 lb. per square inch.

I was interested to note that the Sunbeam Co., like so many of our leading firms, have adopted the Autovac system of petrol feed, the fuel tank being fitted at the rear of the frame. I note also that the firm stick to the Claudel Hobson carburettor, which has proved so satisfactory in the past. The inlet pipe is water-jacketed, and the magneto and the centrifugal water pump are driven by a transverse shaft and skew gear. Incidentally, the magneto is situated on the "off" side of the engine, and the water pump on the opposite side.

I noticed that in the 1921 models the position of the starting motor is altered from the near to the off side, where it is fitted on a bracket attached to the crankcase at the side of the steering column instead of being attached to the frame, as in the 1920 models.

The clutch and gear-box are of the familiar Sunbeam pattern, the drive being taken to the rear axle by an open propeller shaft, both torque and drive being taken by the rear springs. All brakes are of the internal expanding type, the footbrake operating a drum at the rear of the gear-box, and the handbrake acting on the rear wheels. The springs, which are of very ample dimensions, are designed to be flat under normal load. The front springs are offset, and those at the rear underslung.

The frame has been considerably strengthened, and the rear wheel track has been widened to 4 ft. 9 in. The steering of the worm and sector type and the other controls are extremely easy in operation, the former in particular being very light and sensitive. The R.A.C. rating of this chassis is 15.9 h.p. The weight of the chassis is 18 cwt., and the length of the wheel base 10 ft. 4 in.

The 24 h.p. chassis is modelled on very similar lines, and with few exceptions the details are as described. The engine is of the 6-cylinder monobloc pattern, with a similar bore and stroke to that of the 16 h.p. engine, and the valves and reciprocating parts are practically identical with those of the similar model. The crankcase is mounted upon a subframe suspended at three points from the main frame. The drive to the magneto and the water pump are separate in this case, the former being by silent chain from the crankshaft and the latter by a similar chain from the camshaft. The magneto coupling in both models has a vernier adjusting flange, permitting extremely fine adjustments of the timing being made. An interesting feature of this model is the positive drive to the dynamo for the water pump spindle by means of a shaft through front and rear universal couplings.

### Aero Dynamics.

Rene Devillers' new book on the "Dynamics of the Aeroplane" is a striking and valuable contribution to the literature on the subject, and forms a fitting successor to his previous work on automobile and aeroplane engines. The circulation of this new book was prohibited during the war, but now that copies are available, Messrs. E. and F. N. Spon, the publishers, will probably be inundated by orders for copies. Every essential has been dealt with carefully and completely, and all current formulæ have been reduced to nomographic form, this being the first book in English in which this has been adopted. The book is to be recommended to all interested in aero-technics.

### Scottish Water Power.

An interesting reference was made a few days ago by Dr. T. Blackwood Murray to the possibility of utilising the vast amount of water-power which exists in the Scotch Highlands. Most of my engineering readers are aware that a very large works of the kind is, and has for some years been, in operation at Kinlochleven; but few probably are aware that this undertaking develops 40,000 h.p. continuously, day and night. A very different kind of undertaking, from the point of view of efficiency, from that foreshadowed in the gigantic but half-baked Severn barrage scheme, in which high expense and low efficiency seem the most outstanding features. With regard to Scotland, the total number of Board of Trade units generated by the steam power stations of Scotland for the year 1917-18 amounted to 537 millions, or less than half the possible output of the nine schemes suggested some little time ago by the Board of Trade Water-Power Resources Committee. It will be remembered that the Committee estimated that the average capital cost of their scheme would be £38 10s. per electrical horse-power developed, and that, even were the capital outlay as high as £60 per electrical horse-power, it would still be on an equality with a steam station working on coal costing 10s. per ton. With the present price of coal Dr. Murray estimated that the price of coal might be taken at £2 per ton delivered at the station, and at this price one electrical horse-power year would cost £10, so that in four years the fuel charges alone of the steam station would equal, and more than equal, the capital cost of the proposed water-power scheme. The depreciation allowance on water-power plant is extremely low, and it would seem unwise to delay pushing forward with these well-thought-out and important schemes which would not only effect such a saving in fuel, but result in an ample supply of cheap electrical power.

### Cold-working.

It would appear obvious that were it possible to cold-roll metal to any required degree the effect would be to increase its density, to make its particles more compact, and to increase its specific gravity. Indeed, the greater hardness of cold-worked metal is generally attributed to this increased compactness. Recently it was found that the density of mild steel is diminished if it be subjected to compressive stress which leads to distortion; it has also been shown that the density of steel and of platinum, when in wire form, was reduced by cold rolling, and it has been proved beyond all shadow of doubt that the density of cold-rolled wrought iron bars is less than that of the original metal, the reduction in diameter being more than compensated for by the increased length. This peculiarity is not readily noticeable as the first result of pressure is to close up all surface cracks, pores or imperfections, with the result that the bars appear to have actually gained in density. Hence, bars are usually more dense than the ingots from which they have been rolled, but the subsequent effect of cold working is slightly, but appreciably, to diminish the relative density of the worked material.

Textile mills in Yugoslavia have been working only 20 to 30 per cent. of their full capacity, owing to lack of fuel and raw cotton.

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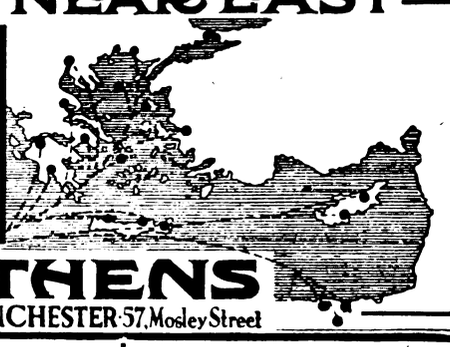

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Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

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

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

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# OIL NOTES AND NEWS.

## BOLSHEVIST OIL PRODUCTION.

### Failure of the Soviets.

(From a Correspondent.)

The shortage of fuel is one of the most crying evils in Soviet Russia. In towns the inhabitants are literally freezing in their unheated flats. The water-pipes in the houses are damaged, while almost all the town houses in Northern and Central Russia are in need of thorough repairs.

Railway traffic is gradually ceasing. On a journey the engine driver frequently finds no fuel at the station where the supply should be replenished. There have been cases when the sleepers from the adjacent track have had to be taken up for fuel, to enable the train to go on. The stoppage of factories and work has until lately been caused also by the want of fuel.

The forests of Russia have all the time been in the possession of the Bolshevists. The shortage of wood fuel in Petrograd and Moscow could never be explained away by the occupation of some other parts of the country by foreigners or anti-Bolshevists. On the other hand, until 1920, the collieries and oilfields of Russia had either never been in the power of the Bolshevists, or only for a very short time. The principal coalfields of Russia—those of the Donetz basin—lie to the South of Kharkov, extending almost to the Black Sea. This region was in the possession of the Bolshevists only during the first five months of 1919, and even then at intervals. Neither were the Bolshevists able to make use of the two principal oilfields—Grozny and Baku, as the former were hardly ever in their possession, while the latter could be worked by them only until May, 1919. When General Denikin occupied Tsaritsin, the Bolshevists were cut off from Baku.

By the beginning of 1920 the Bolshevists gained possession of all the south (the Crimea being of no economic importance whatever), and by the end of April, 1920, they had seized Baku. Since then all the coalfields and oilfields in European Russia have been in the possession of the Bolshevists, and the shortage of coal and oil in Soviet Russia must be attributed to some other causes.

At the present time it is possible to calculate the total deliveries of oil to Soviet Russia in 1920, i.e., the first year of Bolshevist rule in the oilfields. The richest Russian oilfields are in the Apsheron peninsula, with Baku as a centre. The Baku district produces three-quarters of all the oil in Russia. Thus in 1912 the Baku oilfields produced 465,000,000 poods* of the total output of 565,000,000 poods† for all Russia (of which about 42,000,000 poods were exported, and the remainder was absorbed by the home market).

According to the figures of the Soviet paper *Ekonomicheskaia Zhizn*, the Bolshevists reckoned on being able to obtain 150,000,000 poods of oil in this district from May (when they seized it) to January 1, 1921, but apparently even this "famine" estimate has not been justified. The following table shows the output of oil for the first 3½ months, which is not more than 57 per cent. of the estimated quantity.

| Months. | 1,000 Poods. | Months. | 1,000 Poods. |
|---|---|---|---|
| May ..... | 16,536 | August ..... | 12,163 |
| June ..... | 14,948 | September (15 days).. | 5,367 |
| July ..... | 13,201 | | |

The above table is taken from the *Ekonomicheskaia Zhizn* of October 13 (No. 228, October 13). The same paper likewise states that for the first eight months of 1920 the output averaged 15,500,000 poods per month. In 1919 the average was 19,000,000 poods, and in 1913 37,000,000 poods.

In July, 1920, the depth of wells bored was equal to 238 metres, while in the "unfavourable" year of 1919 (the expression used by the *Ekonomicheskaia Zhizn*) the average was 1,000 metres per month. At the beginning of 1920 there were 1,800 wells in the principal oilfields, in June there were 1,181, and in the end of August 845.

According to the Baku Soviet officials, this decline in production was due to the wholesale exodus of workmen, owing to food shortage. It is rather difficult to understand why food should be scarcer in Baku, under the Bolshevists, than under the Azerbaijan Government. The Bolshevists can bring as much corn as is wanted from the neighbouring Kuban and Terek territories, whereas the Azerbaijan Government was not allowed to import corn from these territories.

The usual method of transporting oil from Baku to Russia is by the Volga waterways. The oil is carried up the Volga as far as Ryninsk. Thus of the 4,500 kilometres over which Baku oil has to travel to Petrograd, only 450 kilometres are railways, the rest being waterways.

The Volga is already frozen over, and navigation was stopped in the middle of October. The railway joining Baku with Central Russia passed through Grozny, so that the transport of Grozny oil will practically hold up the Baku oil freights to Russia for an indefinite period. Thus Central Russia can get no more oil from Baku this year.

*(To be concluded.)*

* 1 pood = 36 lb.

† The figures are taken from Dmitriev's "Economic Geography of Russia."

## LEVANT MARKET REVIEW.

We give some further extracts from the market review of the National Bank of Turkey for October:—

*Grain.*—Not much of interest to chronicle in view of the fact that prices of grain are falling in Europe. In Roumania the price has risen somewhat, but this is principally due, it is said, to "shorts" being forced to cover. The month's arrivals of flour total about 6,000 tons, almost entirely from America, and principally of the following marks: Marlisco, Nelson, and Royal Seal. The market was, on the whole, fairly stable, with very little fluctuation. A few thousand sacks were transhipped from here mostly to Batoum.

Barley has risen to pts. 9¼ c.i.f. Smyrna on purchases for the Greek Intendance. Towards the end of the month considerable supplies from South Russia were unloaded at Sebastopol, and owing to the adverse reports received as to the conditions obtaining in South Russia it is more than probable that very small supplies will be coming down to Constantinople in the near future. Crimea has at the moment supplies sufficient to last about five months. On October 1 the s.s. Asturian sailed for Liverpool with about 3,000 tons of Crimean barley, which was realised eventually at prices ranging from 67s. down to 63s. per quarter. The s.s. Baffin also left Constantinople for the U.K. with about 3,000 tons of Crimean barley, which, after asking 68s., eventually realised 64s. 6d. per quarter. Since this shipments of Crimean barley to the U.K. have become impossible owing to the slump in the home markets to as low as 62s. 6d. per quarter. Strange to state, however, this slump was not felt on the local markets here. On the contrary, barley from the Crimea was firmly held, and whereas at the end of September the price was about 7¼ piastres per oke, it rose during the month of October to as much as 8½ and even 9 piastres per oke, at which price the chief buyers were the Greeks, destination being Smyrna. Arrivals during the month amounted in all to about 5,500 tons, of which none was shipped to the U.K. or Continent for the above reasons. In addition two steamers with about 1,500 tons each passed through from the Crimea to the Algerian coast.

*Sugar.*—About 2,500 tons arrived during September, mostly Java, transhipped from Port Said or New York. Prices have ranged round 80-85 pounds sterling per ton, the latter figure being about the highest touched during the month. As far as stocks held are concerned the market is not very well supplied with good quality sugar—by good is meant dry crystals—stocks are, in fact, small. The trouble which importers have had to contend with is that the general population in and around Constantinople will not take moist sugar, believing it to be sea-damaged; they are not accustomed to it. Many of the orders have been filled with part moist and part crystals. The result is that all new contracts entered into now provide for dry sugar only. The only people who have scored are confectioners and sweetmeat manufacturers, who have been able to pick up the moist, unsaleable elsewhere, down to as low as 70 pounds sterling per ton.

Some 800-1,000 tons were sent up to Roumania, who is still a buyer, and is nowadays going over our heads and buying direct in fairly large parcels. Closing price was 83-84 pounds sterling for dry per ton. For November shipment of Java the price is about 60 pounds sterling, and a fairly strong market.

*Rice.*—The market weakened considerably during the month, and towards the end prices slumped. About 1,000 to 1,500 tons arrived in port, principally from Port Said and Marseilles. Of this some small quantities were sold to Sebastopol and also Bulgaria. The highest price touched was about 28 pts. per oke, duty paid; but with the present exchange difficulties, and owing to the fact that the price in the U.S.A. has been falling considerably, the price on our market fell to 24-24½ pts. at the close of the month for Saigon I. and 24 for blue rose.

As to the future, lower prices are expected; in fact, offers have been received from place of origin at lower figures, and more business will probably ensue, as there is a very fair demand from Roumania. Dealers are fairly well stocked here with Saigon, except of the better qualities.

*Coffee.*—The market here is a very difficult one at the moment. Generally speaking, dealers are full of stock which was principally purchased some time ago at high prices, and they therefore display very little interest in fresh purchases. In consequence of this, any new dealings are of a somewhat speculative nature. Santos superior was dealt in up to 85s. per cwt. c.i.f., closing the month at 81s.

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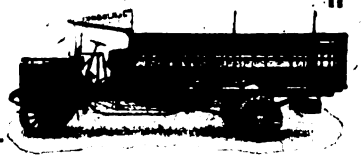

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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

### Prices Generally Lower.

Dried Fruit.—There is little of interest to report. Business has been very restricted except as regards the better grades of currants, which have been in fair request. Sultanas and figs have been more or less neglected.

Coffee.—A quiet tone has characterised the market. Costa Rica has been done at 115s.—150s., Indian at 118s.—120s., and Mocha at 140s.—170s. The futures market has been weak. Quotations:—December, 48s.; March, 47s. 6d.; July, 48s.; September, 49s.

Sugar.—The position is about the same, the free market remaining steady. West Indian crystallised is again lower at 66s.—71s., but white Mauritius is unchanged at 79s. Home refined continues in good demand at the official rates.

Oilcakes.—Prices are lower in most cases. Linseed cake has been done at 18s., a drop of 2s. Cottonseed cake is 1s. up at 12s.

Oilseeds.—The tone has generally been dull. Indian linseed is 3s. 6d. down at 23s. 6d., while La Plata is weak at 19s. 6d. Rapeseed has been inactive, with Toria 1s. 6d. lower at 22s. 6d., bold Ferozepore 1s. 6d. down at 21s. 6d., and brown Cawnpore at 29s. 6d.

Seed Oils.—Prices have continued to decline. Linseed oil has come to business at 42s., a decline of 3s., while turpentine is 5s. lower at 100s.

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon, 212s. 9d. cwt.; butter, 336s. cwt.; cheese, 161s. cwt.; chillies, 137s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 3½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 122s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 113s. 6d. cwt.; East Indian bold, 117s. 6d. cwt.; Mocha (longberry), 135s. cwt.; eggs, 44s. 2d. per 120; ginger (washed Cochin), 50s. cwt.; hams, 220s. cwt.; lard, 167s. 9d. cwt.; nutmegs, 1s. 1d. per 110's to 180's; pepper (Singapore, black), 4d. lb.; and Muntok white, 9½d. lb.; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. 8d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 152s. 6d. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 146s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 97s. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 30s. cwt.; No. 1 cubes, 84s. cwt.; Mauritius (free), 79s. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1⅞d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 24s. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 25s. 9d. cwt.; bran (Rangoon), £7 ton; tea (Indian), 6½d. lb.; Ceylon, 6⅞d. lb.; Java 4¾d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 113s. qr.; English (white), 87s. 6d. qr.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £165 ton; bismuth, 12s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £79 12s. 6d. ton; electro, wire bars, £90 15s. ton; gold bars, 118s. 7d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 225s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 260s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £26 2s. 6d. ton; manganese Poti, 3s. 0½d. unit; molybdenite, 60s. unit; nickel £217 10s. ton; platinum, 510s. oz.; plumbago, £37 10s. ton; quicksilver, £14 17s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 3s. 4½d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £31 7s. 6d. ton; tin (standard), £222 10s. ton; tin plates (20 x 14), 36s. box; wolfram, 20s. 6d. unit; zinc sheets, £49 10s. ton.

*Chemicals.*—Acids: Boric, 75s. cwt.; oxalic, 1s. 6½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 11½d. lb.; tartaric, 2s. 3½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £31 11s. 9d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £74 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 3s. 6½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £21 10s. ton; borax crystals, 41s. cwt.; cream of tartar, 207s. 6d. cwt.; potassium: bi-chromate, 1s. 3½d. lb.; chlorate, 8½d. lb.; caustic, £80 ton; nitrate, £62 10s. ton; permanganate, 3s. 1½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 8½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £28 10s. ton; sodium: crystals, 145s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 15s. ton; bi-chromate, 11½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £10 15s. ton; chlorate, 5d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £27 ton; hyposulphite, £24 10s. ton; prussiate, 1s. 1½d. lb.; nitrate, £23 7s. 6d. ton; sulphate of copper, £39 10s. ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £105 ton; industrial (1250 per cent.), £155 ton; lemon oil, 5s. 1½d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 11½d. oz.; red lead, £49 ton; white dry lead, £56 15s. ton; white ground lead, £66 5s. ton.

*Hides and Skins.*—London prices:—Ox and Heifer.—First, 90 lbs. and up, 7⅞d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 7⅞d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 7½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 7½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 7½d. lb. cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 7⅜d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 7d. lb.: cows (second), 60 lbs. and up, 6¼d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under 5d. lb.; bulls (first), 6¼d. lb.; second, 5⅛d. lb.; kips (first), 7¼d. lb.; (second), 5¾d. lb.; (third), 4¾d. lb. Calcutta prices:—Quotations show no change, and the market is very dull. Arsenic Cow Hides.—Agras, Rs.8.8 to 15.0 per 20 lbs.; Durbhangas, Rs.6.0 to 7.0 per 20 lbs.; Patnas, Rs.5.0 to 6.0 per 20 lbs.; salted cows, Rs.4.0 to 8.8 per 20 lbs.; Arsenic buffalo hides, Rs.2.8 to 6.0 per 20 lbs.; skins—calf, Rs.8.0 to 10.0 per 20 lbs.; goat, 140.0 to 160.0 per 100 pieces.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton (American, fully good mid), 12.12d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £22 2s. 6d.; rape (Toria), £24 ton; soya beans, £18 10s. ton; palm kernels, £30 7s. 6d.; Egyptian cotton, £13 17s. 6d. ton. Oils:—Linseed, £47 ton; soya, £54 10s. ton; cotton (crude), £46 ton; olive, 21s. 6d. gallon; ground nut, £60 ton; palm, £48 15s. ton; rape (crude), £72 10s. ton; petroleum, 2s. 3½d. gallon; turpentine, 105s. cwt. Rubber:—Plantation No. 1 crêpe, 1s. 0¾d. lb.; smoked sheet, 11½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 1s. 2d. lb.

## DRIED FRUIT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, report as follows under date December 14:—

Currants.—There has been no relief in the general slackness prevailing; in fact, the dullness has been accentuated by political developments in Greece, and by the severe depreciation of the Greek drachma. Business has been of the smallest possible dimensions, but no serious break in prices is recorded, holders on the whole being content to await the course of events, quietly confident that matters will right themselves in time, as the exportable quantity of fruit remaining in Greece is below the world's requirements. Elgen has arrived with about 500 tons for the market. Quotations are:—Pyrgos, 72s. to 75s.; Amalias, 75s. to 78s.; Patras, 78s. to 82s.; Gulf and Panariti, 82s. to 90s.; Zante, 82s. to 86s.; Vostizza, 90s. to 102s. Total arrivals from commencement of season to date, 15,000 tons.

Valencia Raisins.—Stocks are cleared, and no further shipments are expected before Christmas. Seedless lower at 120s.

Sultanas.—A further drop has occurred in values, and even at the decline sales are difficult to effect. Quotations are:—Smyrna, 130s. to 146s.; Greeks, 138s. to 142s.; Afghans red variety lower at 100s.

Figs.—Belgravian, with a small consignment, is discharging, but buyers appear indifferent, and the only sale reported shows a decline of 30s. per cwt.

## LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson, in their report for the week ended December 16, state:—Conditions governing the turnover in spot and forward cotton remain unchanged, and business has again been of a nominal character. The better demand that has been in evidence centred chiefly round Upper Egyptian, all other growths being neglected. The best quality Uppers are no longer as plentiful as they were a month ago, and prices in this section have hardened slightly; although both spot and futures have been showing distinct signs of steadiness of late, the trade still holds aloof, and advices from Manchester are more pessimistic than ever. We fail to see how any advance can be maintained unless backed by trade support, and the longer this support is withheld the more difficult will become the position of holders in face of the accumulation of cotton from crops which, even in normal times, would weigh heavily on the market. Nevertheless, the big downward movement of prices seems to have run its course for the time being at any rate, and it would not be illogical to expect a temporary reaction. Quotations for Sakellaridis are reduced 200 points, those of Brown 100 points, whilst Uppers are exceptionally raised 50 points. Sales, 750 bales, which includes 20 bales Sudan. Fully good fair Sakel 26.00d.

## OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended December 4:—The sales this week on our market amount to twenty cases, and at to-day's rate of exchange the piastre prices paid are equivalent to 19s. and 20s. per lb. for soft Yerli qualities, and 14s. to 17s. 6d. for manufacturing druggists qualities. The arrivals are 708 cases against 1,180 at same date last year, and our available stock is about 764 cases. The exchange to-day is piastres 498 per £ sterling for cheque, and 0.71 dollars for one Turkish paper £.

Yugoslavia has large reserves of timber of every kind, and especially of oak.

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# COMPANY MEETINGS.

## SUDAN PLANTATIONS SYNDICATE.

### A Satisfactory Year.

### Strong Financial Position.

The thirteenth ordinary general meeting of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Limited, was held on December 15 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, Mr. F. Eckstein (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The Acting-Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, once more I have the privilege of meeting you and of rendering you an account of our stewardship for the past year. The results of our undertaking have been, as you will have already seen from the published reports, very good indeed, due first and foremost to the amazingly high cotton prices, and, secondly, to exceptionally good crops at our two Gezireh stations. These results have been unusually good, and I feel compelled to ask you not to blame us if we cannot put before you a balance-sheet of equal excellence next year. Prices of cotton have receded very considerably, but against this our production of cotton ought to increase, not during this year, but in the year after. I make a point of mentioning this to prevent disappointment and possible reproaches at our next annual meeting. The profit for the year reaches the sum of £228,759 1s. 1d., against £59,000 in the previous year, and we propose to pay you the usual dividend of 25 per cent., as well as a bonus of 10 per cent. on our now doubled capital. This 35 per cent. will absorb £105,000.

### The Balance-Sheet.

I will now run shortly through the balance-sheet, in which you will find various changes. Our capital on June 30 was £297,790, but it stands to-day at £300,000. Out of the 150,000 shares offered to shareholders at the beginning of the year, 147,890 were taken up by the old shareholders. Of the remaining 2,110 shares we allowed our staff to take up 1,300, while we disposed of the remaining 810 shares in the open market through a well-known broker's firm at prices ranging between 90s. and 95s. From this you will see that the entire issue is disposed of. The Barakat reserve account—we formerly called it the Gezireh reserve account—has been increased from £26,000 to £32,409 16s. 5d., which completes the amortisation to be made under this heading. The share premium account, which figured in last year's balance-sheet at £110,000, has naturally been largely increased through our new issue. Creditors in the Sudan, about £271,000, largely represent our indebtedness to our tenants. Our indebtedness to the Sudan Government of £86,000 has since been paid. A further new item on the debit side of the balance-sheet is a loan account from the Sudan Government of £400,000, of which I gave you full details at our last annual meeting. On the credit side the only part which requires explanation is a new account under general development—viz., Gezireh Areas, about £82,000. All this expenditure has been incurred in connection with the new Hag Abdulla station, to which I will refer later on. The cotton account of £408,000 has been entirely liquidated since we closed our books, and we have received the corresponding sum in cash. Our financial position, as you can see, is very strong, but we shall have, in time to come, to spend large amounts and to make further issues.

### Profit and Loss Account.

Turning to the profit and loss account, our gross profits from all sources amount to £326,000, against £139,000 in the previous year. You will notice that we again ask you to agree to the payment of a well-earned bonus to our staff, and we also propose, subject to your approval, to set apart a sum of £5,000 for a staff provident fund, which I most strongly recommend to your acceptance. I need not tell you again that our staff has to work in a tropical climate, and it is really high time that we should start to make suitable provision for them. I earnestly beg of you, therefore, to allow us to add something every year to this fund. Our staff is necessarily getting larger in view of our greater activities, the growing importance of our work, and our increasing responsibilities. We carry forward, as already mentioned, £228,000. From this you have to deduct £105,000 for dividend, leaving £123,000, which seems a big sum, but unfortunately we have to set aside a very large amount for excess profits duty and corporation tax, so that when that is paid, as well as the directors' percentage, which comes to a modest figure, the real balance carried forward to the new year will be comparatively small. So much concerning last year's figures.

### Satisfactory Crops.

As already mentioned, our cotton crops in the Gezireh were extremely satisfactory. At Tayiba we produced 9,578 kantars, against 7,179 kantars, and at Barakat 10,294 kantars, against 8,079 kantars in the previous year. The Zeidab yield, however, was disappointing—namely, 7,700 kantars, against 8,495 kantars in the year before. On the other hand, the quality of this crop was very fine indeed, and so made up for the lower yield to some extent. For the coming year we have under cotton:—

| | |
|---|---|
| At Zeidab | 3,170 feddans |
| Barakat | 2,075 feddans |
| Tayiba | 1,700 feddans |
| in all | 6,945 feddans |

against 7,066 feddans in the past year. Picking at Zeidab commenced earlier this year than usual, and we have already 3,550 kantars in hand. The total crop should show slightly better results than last year. Concerning Barakat and Tayiba, our managing director informs us that the cotton looks well and healthy, though much later than usual. Under these circumstances we may look forward to a satisfactory return, provided the weather and other climatic conditions continue to be favourable.

### Gezireh Development.

Now a few words regarding our big scheme. We have started levelling on the southern end of the 300,000 feddans area where we are now erecting the new Hag Abdulla pumping station. Therefore the water supply from this station will be at once available and, later on, the first free flow of gravitation water will likewise be available as soon as the Sennar Dam is completed. Notwithstanding a quite unprecedented rise in the Blue Nile in April and May of this year, our managing director, Mr. Alexander MacIntyre, was able to build and complete the foundations of this new pumping station and to erect the walls of this installation to high flood level—a great work done under great difficulties in record time, as we had to battle for the supply of cement and other materials in the short time available.

Two 750 h.p. Diesel engines to drive the plant are delivered and on the ground. The pumps and auxiliary engines, etc., are not yet delivered, but are, I understand, well forward. So, if nothing unforeseen happens, we hope to have a first crop there in 1921-22. In connection with the Sudan Government's progress at the works of the Sennar Dam and Main Canal, I regret to say there has been some unavoidable delay. However, the work is once more in full swing, and we have every hope to see the first gravitation water flowing in 1924, in time for the 1924-25 crop. We certainly will do all we can to be ready by that time with an area of, say, 50,000 feddans, and in the following year with about 80,000 feddans.

### Syndicate's Policy.

To sum up, the Syndicate's policy is to synchronise—I cannot find a better word—the general development and expenditure of our Syndicate with the progress made by the Government on the Sennar Dam, main canals, and general works. Your board, some time ago, received with deep regret the news of the death of Sir William Mather, and I feel it is my duty to refer to this event at this meeting. Sir William took a sincere and entirely disinterested part in the building up of our Syndicate, and his help and advice in the early stages of our work was of the greatest possible assistance, so that we all owe him a debt of gratitude. At the beginning of this year we invited Brigadier-General Arthur Asquith to join our board. Mr. Asquith was, in former years, a resident of the Sudan, having been for a number of years a member of the Civil Service there. He knows the country well, and his experience, therefore, will be of great use to us. Unfortunately he is unable to be with us to-day, as he is at the moment inspecting our plantations in the Sudan. Our managing director, Mr. MacIntyre, has been over here for a few weeks to consult with us on some important matters. He has gone back again and is at his post in the Gezireh. I hope to pay a lengthy visit to the Sudan next month, as I have certain views regarding further extensions of our Syndicate's operations, which I am anxious to discuss with the authorities on the spot. This is all I think I can say to-day, and I should like to close my remarks with an expression of appreciation and of gratitude to our staff for their loyal and efficient services. I now beg to move:—"That the report of the directors and statement of accounts to June 30, 1920, now laid before the meeting, be and that the same hereby are received and adopted."

Lord Lovat, K.T., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved the declaration of the dividend and bonus recommended.

Mr. J. A. Hutton, in seconding the motion, said he would like to emphasise the warning of the chairman that shareholders must not expect such good results next year, because the company was not going to realise the same cotton prices.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

The retiring directors (Brigadier-General Arthur M. Asquith, D.S.O., Lord Lovat, K.T., and Sir Lionel Phillips, Bart.) were re-elected, and Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co. having been reappointed auditors, a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman and directors concluded the proceedings.


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## ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL.

### Largely Increased Production.

### Company's Extensive Interests.

The eleventh ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Limited, was held on December 20 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Sir Charles Greenway, Bart. (the Chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. Macindoe) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—With your permission we will, as usual, take the report as read. The statement you have before you is, I am pleased to say, again a most satisfactory one, and one which fully confirms the forecast which I made last year. Notwithstanding that the period covered by these accounts showed no very large increase in the throughput of our refinery, there is a substantial increase in profits, and for the current and succeeding years, as our various extensions come into operation, these will be largely augmented.

**Balance Sheet.**

Dealing with the accounts, you will see from the balance-sheet that our capital and debenture stock issues, particulars of which are given in the report, have during the twelve months under review been increased by £8,675,000. This amount is being expended in developments of one kind and another, which will in due course be reflected by increased credits in our profit and loss account.

The next item on the balance-sheet calling for remark is the amount due to the Persian Government in respect of royalties. I am pleased to say that, after very protracted negotiations, we have at last effected a settlement with the Persian Government in respect of our claim for losses sustained owing to the cutting of our pipeline in 1915 and other outstanding questions. This settlement, though not as satisfactory as we were entitled to expect, is a matter of congratulation, because it removes all ground for dispute, and therefore consolidates the friendly relations which have always been maintained between ourselves and the Persian Government.

The next item to which I will draw your attention is the amount at credit of the employees' provident pension and insurance fund. This shows the very substantial increase on the previous year of about £100,000, and as it is the intention of the board to continue to contribute to it out of profits on a liberal scale, this fund, in effect, constitutes a profit-sharing scheme of a very attractive character. That it is much appreciated by the employees of the company is demonstrated by the fact that the fund now comprises some 3,059 members.

The only other item calling for remark on the debit side of the balance-sheet is that of the reserves. As you will see, our total reserves, including the £185,000 at credit of share premium account, now amount to £2,000,000, which, I am sure, you will agree, is a very satisfactory amount considering the short period which has elapsed since we arrived at a profit-earning stage.

On the credit side of the account all I need call your attention to is the amount of our realisable assets. You will see, by adding the last four items together, that these total about £8,370,000, while on the other side of the account the off-setting liabilities only amount to about £2,500,000, showing that we had surplus assets at the end of the last financial year amounting to nearly £6,000,000. These are, of course, being drawn upon from time to time by the capital outlay which is being incurred in connection with the various extensions to which I have referred, but, on the other hand, this is being met to a substantial extent by surplus revenue.

**Profit and Loss Account.**

Dealing now with the profit and loss account, you will see that, although the gross profit amounted to £3,458,418 14s. 6d., as compared with £2,287,624 13s. 3d. in the previous year, or an increase of nearly £1,200,000, the net profit only showed an increase of a little over £600,000. This considerable variation is almost entirely due to large increased payments for income-tax and royalty. In the appropriation account you will see that after debiting stamp duty and other expenses connected with the last new issue of capital, and carrying a largely increased sum to the credit of general reserve, the net balance at the credit of the profit and loss account amounts to £1,848,841 1s. 10d., as compared with £735,527 19s. 8d. in the previous year. Out of this sum we have already paid the usual dividend of 6 per cent. per annum on the preference shares, and it is now proposed to declare a further participating dividend on the preference shares at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, and a dividend of 20 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, both less income-tax.

**Return on Government Capital.**

On previous occasions I have referred to the return which His Majesty's Government have been getting on the capital which they had invested in the company. I do not propose to go into figures, but I would like to point out that this return is not to be measured merely by the dividend which is now being declared on the ordinary shares. Directly and indirectly, their return on the capital, which up till a short time before the close of the financial year now under review, represented their interest in the company, was far more than cent. per cent., and the new capital subscribed by them at the end of last year will in due course no doubt yield a proportionate return.

**Extensions and Developments.**

One or two of the extensions and developments to which I drew attention last year are already beginning to show their results. Among these I may mention Scottish Oils, Ltd., which as a result of the economies effected by the amalgamation, and assisted also by the favourable markets which have obtained during the present year, is now making a fair profit, notwithstanding that since we took over the concerns the working expenses have in other directions been increased by no less than £700,000 per annum, owing to increased wages, shorter hours and dearer coal. This early fulfilment of the anticipations expressed by me when I last addressed you is extremely gratifying to the Board, and will, I am sure, be equally so to everyone interested in the preservation and development of our national industries. But it is doubtful if this favourable position can be long maintained, as there are already indications of a decline in the prices of sulphate of ammonia and of some of our other main products.

We are, however, in pursuance of what I indicated last year, arranging largely to extend the capacity of the Scottish refineries with a view to increasing as far as practicable the output of shale oil, and at the same time refining Persian crude to such an extent as shale oil may not be available, whereby the incidence of working costs will be largely reduced and the Scottish shale oil industry, we hope, be preserved from the extinction which otherwise would shortly inevitably overtake it.

The other extensions and developments then referred to are in due course of execution, and will in time contribute largely to the company's profits. Of these I should refer to the refinery at Swansea. The completion of this has been much retarded by the difficulties which are unfortunately now attendant upon all building and engineering operations in this country, but we hope to commence work there in the first half of next year. In this connection I should mention that we have made arrangements with the Asiatic Petroleum Company whereby the benzine and kerosene produced at this refinery and in Scotland from Persian crude will be outside the operation of our contract for these products with that company, so that we shall, I am pleased to say, before long be in a position to market, through our subsidiary the British Petroleum Company, and the Scottish Oil Agency, the whole of the products obtained from these refineries.

**Further Developments.**

In the report we have drawn attention to further developments of the company's business. The first of these requiring comment is the interest which we have arranged to take in a French company. Attempts have been made in Parliament to throw doubt upon our wisdom in undertaking this development. In reply to these I need only say that the quantity of petroleum products which we shall shortly be in a position to market will be far in excess of the quantity that we can possibly dispose of in the United Kingdom. This being the case, there were only two alternatives before us—either (1) to create our own distributing organisations outside the United Kingdom for the sale of these surplus products or (2) to sell them to one or the other of the only two companies which are in a position to handle them at such prices as they might be willing to pay. What this would mean is best gathered from the fact that were we now marketing ourselves the whole of our products our profits would be fully double what they are to-day.

Between these two alternatives there can be no question as to which was the proper course to pursue. And not only must we create our own distributing organisations in France, but also in such of the other Continental countries and elsewhere as are likely to offer satisfactory outlets for our surplus products.

The question of creating adequate distributing organisations is a matter which is engaging our constant attention. Producing and refining are only one side of the oil business. It is equally or even more important to make such arrangements as may be necessary to enable us to sell our products to the best advantage, and no one would, I think, be bold enough to say that we should be doing our duty if we did not look well ahead and take these and all other steps necessary to avoid being forced to sell our surplus products to other oil companies on their own terms.

I should like in this connection to point out to the members of Parliament who from time to time ask questions in connection with this company in the House of Commons that the commercial administration of the company is entirely a matter for the Board, and that if members would care to address their inquiries to us we shall always be pleased to give them any information in our power.

**Commonwealth Oil Refineries, Ltd.**

Another development of great importance is the interest we have acquired, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Government, in a company entitled the Commonwealth Oil Refineries, Ltd., which has been formed with a capital of £500,000 for the purpose of establishing a refinery in Australia. The choice of title is not a very happy one, because it is reminiscent of a


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former well-known company which was established for the purpose of dealing with Australian shale, but in view of the large interest which the Commonwealth Government has taken in the concern it was considered that a title indicative of their partnership in it was essential.

Until an internal supply of petroleum is available it is intended to import the crude oil required for the refinery, but it is hoped that the Dominions will, before long, be producing their own supplies of crude.

As you are probably aware, we have also undertaken, on behalf of the Commonwealth and British Governments, the examination and testing of the oil resources of New Guinea. The reports of our geologists on the area in Papua, on which for some years past the Commonwealth Government has been conducting test drilling, are, I am sorry to say, disappointing, but some other likely areas have been located, and test drilling on these will be started at once.

### British Oil Bunkering Company.

Another new departure requiring explanation is the interest we have acquired in a company we have established under the title of the British Oil Bunkering Co., Ltd. This, like the French company, is another necessary development of our business if it is to be carried on independently and our products be disposed of to the best advantage. In addition to the large quantity of fuel oil which we are now producing in Persia, and the still much larger quantity which we shall be producing in the near future, we are arranging for extensive supplies from various parts of the Western Hemisphere. To enable us to deal with these, we and our associated companies are arranging to establish bunkering installations in all the principal ports of the world. At the present time nineteen of such installations are erected and in operation, twenty-five more are either in course of erection, or sites and plant have been secured for them, and when our programme is completed the Bunkering Co. will be in a position to supply fuel oil in every part of the world.

### Oil Fuel Supplies.

Lord Pirrie, on his recent return from America, sounded notes of warning, first of all as to the wastefulness of burning liquid fuel under boilers for steam-raising, and, secondly, as to the danger to shipowners of building, or converting on a large scale, vessels to burn oil, whether under boilers or in internal combustion engines, without first making sure of their supplies of oil. I fully endorse what Lord Pirrie said on those two points. But I would point out that there is no ground for pessimism as to future supplies of liquid fuel. The difficulty is that new supplies of oil cannot be opened up as quickly as supplies of coal, or as quickly as vessels can be built or converted. In the case of oil not only have the fields to be located, but after they have been located a vast amount of work has to be done and a vast amount of material and labour has to be provided in the direction of drilling, laying pipe-lines, erection of storage tanks and refineries, and building of tankers to transport the oil to the points of consumption.

The world's production of liquid fuel, after deducting what is consumed internally by refineries and on railways, available for sale outside the countries of origin is to-day probably not more than 10,000,000 tons, but I see no reason to doubt that this will, in the course of a few years, even reckoning only supplies from already proved fields, amount to fully 50,000,000 tons, or the equivalent for burning in Diesel engines of 175,000,000 tons of coal. But this, for the reasons I have given, will require time to put on the market, and meanwhile shipowners should, as Lord Pirrie recommends, go slowly and make sure of their supplies in advance. Those who are first in the field for such oil as may be available will, however, have such an enormous advantage over those who remain dependent upon coal that there are already very evident indications of a "scramble" for the existing supplies.

As regards the future course of the market, it is difficult to prophesy, but so much of the price is made up of freight, which still for tankers stands at a very high level, that a decline on present prices may be regarded as a certainty whenever the supply of tanker tonnage approximates more nearly to the requirements of the trade. When this is likely to be shipowners themselves are able to judge as well as anyone.

### Quality of Petrol.

While on the subject of our products, I would like to say a few words about the quality of our petrol. It has been publicly stated by Sir Marcus Samuel that Persian petrol was almost useless for aviation purposes, while, on the other hand, the petrol of Sumatra and/or Borneo was an extraordinary spirit, possessing powers which no other petrol had. We have not considered it necessary to contradict this statement, or other misleading ones regarding the toluol contents of our oil, so long as our petrol was being marketed by Sir Marcus Samuel's companies, but now that we are about to market the Persian spirit under our own brands, the time has come to say that these statements are entirely without foundation, and to let it be known that the Air Ministry, after conducting exhaustive flight and chemical tests of our spirit, have submitted to us two long reports from the Air Research Department, in which the following conclusions are arrived at:—

"(1) Persian spirit No. 4 (Persian aviation spirit) is recommended for aeroplane engines, and it appears in all respects as satisfactory as Shell 'A' (Shell aviation spirit).

"(2) No alteration or adjustment to carburettors need be made when substituting one fuel for the other. It is considered that the fuel would be found quite satisfactory in service."

In view of the fact that we are now producing about 400,000 tons of Persian spirit per annum, and shall shortly be in a position to produce 700,000 to 800,000 tons per annum, this authoritative refutation of the misleading and damaging statements which have hitherto been made as to its quality is of great importance not only to the company, but to petrol consumers generally all over the world.

### Fields and Production.

As stated in the report, our fields in Persia still maintain their satisfactory rate of yield. The words "satisfactory rate" in the report should have been "extraordinarily high rate," as used by me on former occasions, for the wells from which we are producing continue to yield and maintain their pressure in a perfectly marvellous manner. For instance, well F7, to which I have frequently referred in former years, and which has been continuously flowing since November, 1911, is now giving a larger production than ever, maintaining a steady daily average of 11,000 barrels, with the well only partly opened and with very little diminution in pressure. We have many other equally good or better wells, but meantime these cannot be opened out until our pipeline capacity is further increased. We have been gradually extending the limits of the already proved areas, and the results are most gratifying, and I can now more than ever confirm the opinion I have frequently expressed on former occasions as to the great richness and potentialities of our fields.

We have still no new fields in Persia to report, as our operations have again been considerably interfered with during the past 12 months by transport and other difficulties, but the testing of the areas previously referred to, as well as others since selected, is being carried on as actively as possible, and there is every reason for anticipating favourable results. As mentioned in the report, we are also carrying out geological examinations in various other parts of the world, and on some of the areas selected we have already started test drilling operations.

### The Company's Fleet.

To meet our increasing transport requirements we have, since I last addressed you, arranged for further large additions to our fleet, and the total number of vessels which we and our associated companies now have afloat, building or on order, is 110, with a dead-weight capacity of over 1,000,000 tons—a fleet which is, I believe, not equalled by that of any other company. It is needless to say that we have only entered upon this big programme of tanker construction at a time when building costs are so high after the most serious consideration and in full confidence that the step will not only be justified pecuniarily, but is an absolutely necessary corollary of our other developments.

Tankers are an essential part of our business, just as much as wells, pipelines, refineries and distributing organisations. They have, indeed, been very aptly described by one of my colleagues as our "floating pipelines" to connect our fields and refineries with our distributing markets, and it would be folly for us to organise ourselves in the direction of production, refining, distribution, etc., for a trade of, say, 6,000,000 tons per annum if we are only provided with tankers capable of transporting, say, 1,000,000 tons per annum. The high cost of the tankers which we are now building will, however, be averaged down considerably by the low cost to which our present fleet has already been written down, and we also anticipate being able to write down the cost of the new boats very rapidly.

### Political Situation.

As indicated in the earlier part of my remarks, our relations with the Persian Government continue to be of a most cordial character. The disturbed conditions which have existed in Northern Persia and in Mesopotamia have in no way affected the work of our producing fields, which are, as you know, situated in Southern Persia, adjacent to the Persian Gulf, but they have to some extent interfered with the testing operations which we have been carrying on in the Persian territory bordering on Mesopotamia.

The situation in Northern Persia is, as you all know, extremely critical at the moment, but I have every confidence that the Mejliss will shortly ratify the Anglo-Persian Agreement, and thus place its Government in a position to ward off the dangers now threatening that part of Persia.

### America and Mesopotamia.

As to Mesopotamia, you will no doubt have seen from the Press the controversy which is going on in regard to the oil rights which were acquired before the war by us and others from the Turkish Government. The United States have, it is much to be regretted, made a diplomatic question of this matter on the ground that the recognition of these rights would be introducing the policy of the "closed door" in Mesopotamia in violation of the mandatory principle. The object of this agitation is apparent, but it is difficult for us in this country

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to conceive how such an obviously erroneous contention can receive the diplomatic support of the United States Government, and I feel that it is my duty, as well as that of every loyal British and American subject, to endeavour to dispel the cloud of misunderstanding which has been created around this subject by Press writers and others, in order that the people of the two nations may have no doubt as to the real point at issue. This point is a very simple one indeed.

It is a well-known doctrine of State succession that the Power which inherits alien territory must recognise previously acquired rights of private owners. The Standard Oil Company before the war claim to have acquired certain oil rights in Palestine, which may, for all anyone knows to-day, be just as valuable as the Mesopotamian oil rights. Similarly, we and other nationals before the war acquired rights in Mesopotamia and in other parts of the former Turkish Empire. All these rights will necessarily have to be recognised, to the extent of the non-enemy interests in them, by the Administration, Arab or whatever else it may be, which eventually undertakes the Government of the mandated territories, unless, of course, the principles of Bolshevism are to be adopted in dealing with them. There is no question here of the "closed door" to America, but quite the contrary. If the Standard Oil Company's rights in Palestine are to be recognised—and I have seen no indication that they have any desire to abandon them—our rights and the rights of other nationals other than enemy in the late Turkish Empire must equally be recognised.

### No "Closed Door."

To act otherwise would be to adopt the policy of the "closed door" in favour of America, and against British and other national interests. This object is no doubt the one that the supporters of the agitation have in view in the strong opposition which they have in this and other directions set up against the attempts of this country to make itself less dependent upon foreign-controlled concerns for its supplies of oil. But it is difficult to believe that the monopolistic aims which are at the back of this opposition can receive support from the American nation as a whole, or that these aims should for a moment be allowed to disturb the friendly relations between the two countries. I had a call from Mr. Bedford, the head of the Standard Oil Company, on this subject a short time ago, on the eve of his departure to the United States, and on my explaining to him the misapprehension which existed on the American side as to the alleged "closed door" policy in Mesopotamia. I am pleased to say that he appeared to be quite satisfied, and gave me an assurance that he would make it his first duty on arrival in America to endeavour to clear up the unfortunate misunderstanding which exists on this subject between the two countries—an assurance which I hope shortly to see fulfilled, because I am satisfied that Mr. Bedford, who is a large-minded man, is himself well disposed towards this country, and would not for a moment support any policy of selfishness likely to cause disagreement between the two nations.

I am very pleased to see that Mr. Powell—the head of the Anglo-American Oil Company, the English branch of the Standard—in a recent speech at Barrow also expressed the opinion that no one country could, of course, expect to monopolise the oil supplies of the world. With these authoritative expressions of opinion from two of the principal representatives of American oil interests, I think we may assume that the irritation which has, very regrettably, been aroused in America recently over this matter has no serious foundation and that it will—like many others slight misunderstandings between the two countries—soon sink into the oblivion which it deserves.

Before I leave this subject I would like to refer to the pathetic account which was given recently in the Press of the enormous sacrifice which the United States had made in depleting itself—not without valuable consideration, be it remembered—of its reserves of oil for the welfare of the rest of the world. This was made the basis for claiming that American producers are entitled to their share in future oilfields outside America as well as the enormous ones in the United States and elsewhere which they already hold.

I am now wondering when we shall see similar demands put forward by the Bolshevists in regard to the oil supplied to other countries from Baku during the past forty years, and from the gold producers in South Africa, and even from our own colliery proprietors, for the gold and coal of which they have depleted themselves—for the welfare of the rest of the world!

But I would like to point out that the drain on American reserves will be checked just as much, and, in fact, a great deal more, if those outside territories are worked by British, French, or other nationals than they would be if worked by Americans. The only difference is that in the latter case America would still command its 80 per cent. to 85 per cent. of the oil supplies of the world, and the rest of the world be still left almost entirely dependent upon the present monopoly.

No one can reasonably object to American producers claiming a fair share of the world's supplies. But every other country in the world is entitled to object to their demanding a permanent 80 to 85 per cent. of the world's supplies, and to resent most strongly their opposition to the attempts of Great Britain and other countries to secure their fair share of these supplies, and one more nearly corresponding to their own requirements. To bring forward the mandatory principle in support of monopoly and of confiscation of acquired rights is to travesty all that the mandatory principle means, and the principles which, through the League of Nations, the rest of the world is endeavouring to establish.

### The Staff.

Before concluding I would like you to join with me in again expressing our great appreciation of the services of our staff.

**As regards our staff in Persia and Mesopotamia,** I cannot do better than quote from a review recently presented to Parliament on the civil administration of Mesopotamia. The author, when writing of the services rendered by the company, adds that "the records of its (the company's) work is one of which all associated with it, as well as the distant oilfields on which it depends, may well be proud."

But our operations now are not, as you know, confined only to Persia, but extend to this country and to almost every other part of the world, and it gives me the greatest pleasure to say that in every direction our employees show the greatest possible loyalty and devotion to their duty. There is an intense feeling of pride among them all at being associated with a company which they know is carrying on a great national work, and which will one day be one of the greatest concerns in the British Empire. We have around us now, I can say without exaggeration, the finest band of workers—both in regard to scientific and technical knowledge and ability and in enthusiasm—possessed by any oil company in the world. The only trouble is that we cannot augment our staff of trained men as rapidly as we should like owing to the hitherto inadequate facilities in this country for technical training in oil, but this is a difficulty which, by the endowments we have given to the Cambridge and Birmingham Universities, and by training men in our own fields, works and laboratories, will, no doubt, in time be overcome. Oil, as you know, is practically a new industry for the British Empire, and it is necessarily difficult to create at once the great number of geologists, field and refinery technicians, chemists and other specialists required for the big developments which we and other British companies are now undertaking, particularly at a time when so much expansion in the oil industry is going on all over the world. But now that the matter of producing these specialists in adequate numbers has been taken energetically in hand, there is no doubt that this country will—as it has done in the past in every other branch of scientific and technical work—soon be able to hold its place against any other country in the world.

I now beg to move:—"That the report of the directors, balance-sheet and profit and loss account for the year ended March 31, 1920, be received, approved and adopted," and I will ask Lord Inchcape kindly to second that motion.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Inchcape formally seconded the motion.

The report after some discussion was carried, and the dividends recommended were unanimously agreed to, and the meeting closed with a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, moved by Sir J. D. Rees.

## TENDERS INVITED.

**Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned :—**

### Egypt.

(*The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked* (*L*) *are to be obtained.*)

Clothing.—The Director-General, Customs Administration, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of clothing required for the personnel of the Customs Administration for the year 1921. January 18.

Clothing.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of clothing, equipment, etc., required for the year 1921-1922. January 5.

The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of forage during one year from April 1, 1921, to March 31, 1922.

### Malta.

Mail Service.—Sealed tenders will be received at the Treasury Office, Malta, up to 10.30 a.m. on January 20, 1921, for the service of the conveyance of mails between Malta and a port in Sicily or in Italy.

Tenderers will give the following particulars:—(a) Number of weekly trips from and to Malta; (b) days of the week and hours of proposed arrivals and departures at Malta and at specified ports abroad; (c) gross and net tonnage of steamers, speed, passenger and other accommodation; (d) subsidy proposed to be demanded from the Government; (e) period of service for which the tender is made; (f) date of commencement of service.

Copies of conditions of contract may be obtained on application at the Treasury Office, Malta, or to the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has received the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated December 13, 1920:—During the week ending December 4 crop prospects generally fair, but rain urgently required in the Punjab, North-west Frontier Province, Central Provinces, Bombay, and parts of Central India, Hyderabad, and Bihar and Orissa. Bombay cotton market steady. M.G. fine Oomra March Rs. 268-8 As. Piece goods market depressed, with drop in rates, but continued retail inquiry. Bombay native piece goods association's resolution prohibits members from buying any foreign goods—ready or forward—from firms and auction rooms, with a view to stopping the unnecessary loading of the market by further commitments. Calcutta jute market very quiet with declining prices. Heavy goods—nothing doing. The preceding week's rate of 7 per cent. in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras remains unchanged.

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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

STAMBOUL, December 4.

Prices of manufactured goods continue to fall. The appreciation of the pound sterling, which now stands at over 500 piastres, increases the difficulties experienced by merchants in paying for goods from abroad.

**Colonial Produce.**

Sugar.—The fall continues in countries of production. The heavy decline this week is due to the arrival of large consignments. Prices have fallen this week from £76 to £58 per ton. Java sugar for quick shipment from America is offered at 15.50 dollars per 100 kilos, as against 17 for the last two weeks. American sugar is offered at 17 dollars. Sugar in cartons is quoted at £T42-43 per 100 kilos, as against £T51 the previous week.

Coffee.—There has been a marked increase in prices. Rio No. 1 is quoted Ps. 49-50 per oke, and second grades at Ps. 42-46 per oke, both in transit.

Rice.—Some orders for Roumania have kept prices up. Saigon is quoted at Ps. 25 per oke, and American "Blue Rose" at Ps. 26-32 per oke, both in transit.

Oil.—The demand is unceasing and prices have risen to Ps. 660-670 per case of two bidons.

Exports.—The rise in the exchange has not improved the export trade, with the exception of opium, for which there has been a special demand. Other commodities are entirely neglected, and their prices tend to fall continually.

Opium.—80 cases have been sold at £T10.80-10.90 per oke Druggist Carahissar, and £T11.20-11.50 per oke for fine.

Mohair.—The arrivals have amounted to 250 bales; there have been no sales. Prices are again lower at Ps. 80 for Extra, and Ps. 75 for first grades.

Wool.—There have been no arrivals or sales. Prices have fallen sharply to Ps. 40 per oke.

Cotton.—This commodity has been neglected. Prices are Ps. 65 per oke.

ADRIANOPLE, November 24.

The dry weather in September stopped the preparatory work for the autumn sowings. Under the new regime the agriculture of the country ought to develop on an important scale. The scientific agriculturists engaged by the Government are making investigations with a view to the introduction of agricultural machinery, which is the only way of bringing into cultivation the vast lands left fallow for years.

In October the villagers, profiting by some showers, devoted themselves feverishly to work in the fields. The work went on everywhere, despite the cold of the second half of the month.

Constantinople, from which this region draws its imports, supplied to this market during the months of September and October manufactures and other commodities of the value of more than £T120.000. Despite the Customs duty our merchants are endeavouring again to supply goods to Constantinople as well as Salonika. Permission for export has been limited to some wagons of Karakatcheu wool in transit for Serbia. The export of foodstuffs is prohibited; of 35,000 bidons of cheese only one thousand was allowed to be exported by virtue of a special permit.


# IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

**Capital - £10,000,000**
**Paid-up - £5,000,000**
**Reserve - £1,250,000**

**CONSTANTINOPLE.**

Messrs. L. STEEG, Director-General.
Lt.-Col. J. PROCTER, Director-General-Adjoint.

Messrs. P. REDON, B. KERESTEDJIAN, J. UNGAR } Directors. DJEVAD BEY. HAMID BEY. NOURY BEY.

## GENERAL COMMITTEE.

**LONDON.**

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN, C.B.E.
E. W. H. BARRY.
THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.M.G.
SIR W. GUY GRANET.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
General the HON. SIR HERBERT A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
Lieut.-Col. SIR ALBERT STERN, K.B.E., C.M.G.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

**PARIS.**

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE C.V.O.
ANDRÉ BERTHELOT.
JEAN BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
HORACE FINALY.
GEORGES HEINE.
ARSENE HENRY, G.C.V.O.
HENRI HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
FELIX VERNES.

## London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.
Assistant Manager: W. P. SHEPPARD.

**PARIS:**
**7, Rue Meyerbeer.**

**MANCHESTER:** 25, Pall Mall. | **MARSEILLES:** 41-43, Rue Grignan.

**CONSTANTINOPLE.**
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

**EGYPT.**
Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

**PALESTINE.**
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

**CYPRUS.**
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

**SYRIA.**
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. | Beyrout. Damascus. | Hamah. Homs. | Saida. Tripoli.

**MESOPOTAMIA.**
Ashar. Bassorah. Bagdad. Mossoul.

**SALONICA.** **TUNIS, AFRICA.**
(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

Exchange and Merchandise operations effected.


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## ON 'CHANGE.

### Prices Again Give Way.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Monday night.

It is not yet possible to record a cessation of the downward movement of prices. During the past week there has been a further outburst of liquidation from the Continent, while there have been continued offerings from London and the provinces, the result being that in most of the markets prices are the turn lower.

Government securities have been generally dull, but there have been no marked changes in quotations. Foreign bonds have, of course, reacted, and quotations are for the most part depressed.

There is little satisfactory to record with regard to other markets, which have all suffered as the result of the selling that has been going on. Industrials have been lifeless, and changes where made have been towards lower levels. Oils have been noticeably weak, and rubbers are again lower on a further decline in the raw material.

Near Eastern securities have, generally speaking, been firmer. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are a point down at 58. Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. are unchanged at 66, while Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1898 are ½ up at 54½. Turkish 3½ per cent. Egyptian Tribute Bonds are a point lower at 51¾.

Greek securities have recovered slightly from their depression. The 5 per cent. 1881 Loan is 2½ up at 40, and the 5 per cent. 1884 issue has risen an equal amount to 40. The 5 per cent. 1890 Loan has gained a point at 39, while Funding at 40 has advanced 2 points. The 1910 Loan remains unchanged at 30, whereas the 1914 Loan has gone up ½ point at 38. The 1902 Loan has also increased ½ point at 35.

Banks have been firm. Agricultural 3½ per cent. Bonds have remained unchanged at 55, and the 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are the same at 57. Imperial Ottoman Banks at 7¾ and National Bank of Egypts at 16½ are also unaltered. Land Banks are a shade lower at 4⅝.

There have been a number of changes in Land shares, for the most part in the upward direction. Beheras have risen ¼ to 9¾, while the preference shares are an equal amount up at 3. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments and Egyptian Consolidated Lands are unchanged at 3¼, and 1s. 3d. respectively. Delta Lands at 10s., and Gharbieh Lands at 2 are also unaltered. New Egyptians are 1s. up at 24s. 6d., while Union Foncieres have shed 1-16 at 3. Sudan Plantations have been weak, and have dropped ½ a point to 3¾.

Oils have been weak. Anglo-Egyptians have fallen ⅛ to 2⅜. Phœnix are 3d. down at 9s. 9d. Roumanian Consolidated are 5s. down at 12s. 6d., but Steaua Roumana are unchanged at 18s.

## NEW COMPANIES.

### Eirene Steamship.

The Eirene Steamship Co., Limited, was registered on December 8 as a private company with a capital of £100,000, in £10 shares. Agreement with E. M. Rodocanachi, P. J. Agelasto, and G. P. Sechiari, shipowners, shippers, insurance, passenger and general brokers, managers of shipping and other property, etc. The company is acquiring, through Messrs. Rodocanachi Sons and Co., from the Shipping Controller, the ex-enemy steamship Gudrun. Subscribers: J. E. Rodocanachi, 129, Palmerston House, Old Broad Street, E.C.2, shipowner; G. P. Sechiari, 129, Palmerston House, Old Broad Street, E.C.2, shipowner. Proposed directors: J. E. Rodocanachi, G. P. Sechiani, E. M. Rodocanachi, and P. J. Agelasto. Registered office, Palmerston House, Old Broad Street, E.C.

## LANCASHIRE COTTON.

### Dull Tone Prevails.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

It is not possible to record any change for the better in the conditions prevailing in the market, and a very dull state of affairs continues to exist. One day follows another without there being any indication of a revival of demand, and owing to the small turnover in yarn and cloth the situation from the point of view of spinners and manufacturers tends to become worse. The position of Egyptian cotton-growers with regard to next season is rather vague, and the official reply from the British Government to the representations from Manchester does not help matters very much. Unless there is a big improvement in demand, a smaller crop next season will be quite sufficient to meet the needs of users. Prices remain irregular, and many people do not believe that the bottom has yet been reached. In Egyptian yarn the offtake continues poor. Now and again spinners are compelled to sell at wretched figures. The inquiry in cloth for the Near Eastern outlets shows no particular alteration. Isolated transactions have been mentioned for Egypt in bleaching descriptions. Printing sorts have attracted very little attention for the Levant. Dealers in that part of the world will have to reduce dear stocks before fresh buying of weight can take place. Bids for India have been few and far between, but now and again local merchants purchase speculatively when very cheap lots are offering. A little more inquiry has come through from China, but dealers in Shanghai are not yet ready to place fresh orders with Lancashire manufacturers. In all weaving districts curtailment of production is on a big scale. American yarns remain irregular in price, and the short time movement has not brought any definite relief. Export bundles continue in request for the Levant, particularly in extra hard descriptions, and dyed yarns have been wanted in small lots for India.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97 7/16 |
| Athens | Drachmae to £ | 25·22½ | 47·00-49·00 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 125-128 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·5⅛-1·5⅝ |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 300-320 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·5⅛-1·5⅝ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 560 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅔ | 3·48½-3·50½ |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 59·30-59·95 |
| Prague | Kronen to £ | 24·02 | 300-320 |
| Rome | Lire to £ | 25·22½ | 102-104·75 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 310 |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 35 |
| Vienna | Kronen to £ | 24·02 | 1,450-1,550 |
| Warsaw | Marks to £ | 20·43 | 2,100-2,300 |

Credit Foncier Egyptien.—The ordinary general meeting will be held at Cairo on January 19.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Week ended December 12: Gemsah, 0; Hurgada, 3,229 tons, against 3,529 tons.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Limited, for the week ended November 20 amounted to £E16,678, making the total for the year £E323,137. For the corresponding period of 1919 the totals were £E17,922 and £E211,605.


# BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

Telegrams "TRABANQUE, LONDON."

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.)
13 AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telephones LONDON WALL, 2947-2948

**CAPITAL.**

**Authorised, £10,000,000. | Subscribed and Paid up, £2,000,000.**

*Governor*, The Lord Faringdon. *Deputy Governor*, Sir Henry Babington Smith, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.S.I.

*Manager*, A. G. M. Dickson.

*London Manager*, P. C. West. *Secretary*, G. de B. Brounlie.

The Corporation is prepared to assist in the development of the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and offers exceptional financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their export and import trade.

It has Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world, and transacts Banking business of every description.

It invites enquiries, and will endeavour, where necessary, to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

*Branches:* BATOUM. BELGRADE. DANZIG.

*Affiliated Companies:* THE NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY, Constantinople and Branches.

THE TRADE INDEMNITY CO., LTD. *(Established for the Assistance of British Trade by the Insurance of Accounts.)*


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## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

### Forthcoming Sailings.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Olympia, for Bombay (Liverpool, December 28); s.s. Castalia, for Bombay (Liverpool, January 8).

*Anchor-Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Blackwell, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London December 24); s.s. Malakuta, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 29); s.s. Imani, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London January 7); s.s. Mathura, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 7).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Derbyshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Liverpool, December 29); s.s. Warwickshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (London, December 29, and at Birkenhead, January 12).

*Byron Steamship Line.*—S.s. Maid of Athens, for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 24).

*Clan Line.*—S.s. Clan Macindoe, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 30); s.s. Clan Kenneth, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 30).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Sea Serpent, for Patras and Venice (Liverpool, December 30).

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. Bosnian, for Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, January 1); s.s. Destro, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, January 8).

*Ellerman's City Line.*—S.s. City of Lucknow, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 31).

*Ellerman's Hall Line.*—S.s. Merton Hall, for Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, December 29); s.s. City of Alexandria, for Bombay (Liverpool, December 31).

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Glenapp, for Port Said, etc. (London, January 6); s.s. Carnarvonshire, for Port Said, etc. (London, January 20); s.s. Pembrokeshire, for Port Said, etc. (London, February 3).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Inventor, for Calcutta (Liverpool, December 31); s.s. Craftsman, for Calcutta (Liverpool, January 18); s.s Orator, for Calcutta (Liverpool, January 31).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Burma, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, January 5).

*Holt Line.*—S.s. Titan, for Port Said, etc. (Glasgow, December 30); s.s. Knight of the Garter, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, December 30); s.s. Teiresias, for Port Said, Singapore, etc (Birkenhead, December 30); s.s. Stentor, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, December 30).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Cundall, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 24); s.s. Santeramo, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 24).

*Maindy Line.*—S.s. Maindy Tower, for Morocco (London, end of December); s.s. Maindy, for Morocco (London, early January).

*Moss Line.*—S.s. Karnak, for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, January 8).

*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Maronian, for Malta and Alexandria, also taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Jaffa, Haifa, Mersina, Port Said, and Cyprus, etc. (Liverpool, January 1); s.s. Asturian, for Algiers, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, January 15).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Kashgar, for Bombay, also taking cargo for Gibraltar, Port Said, and Aden, with transhipment for Indian coast and Persian Gulf ports (London, December 24); s.s. Syria, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta, also taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden (London, December 31); s.s. Kaisar-i-Hind, for Bombay (London, December 31).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. Nerbudda, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 24); s.s. Chakrata, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, end of December); s.s. Neuralia, for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 7); s.s. Chyebassa, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 15); s.s. Nowshera, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 15).

*Power Line.*—S.s. Petworth, for Rabat, Laraiche, Tangier, Casablanca, etc. (London, end of December); s.s. Pangbourne, for Rabat, Laraiche, Tangier, Casablanca, etc. (London, middle of January).

*Westcott and Laurance Line.*—S.s. Lisbon, for Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (London, January 7).

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The Bosphorus Light Vessel and the Life Saving Service in the Black Sea have been re-established.

In accordance with the decision of the Allied High Commissioners at their meeting, held on November 5, all vessels over five tons (net register) proceeding into the Black Sea will pay 100 paras (paper) per ton (net register) from November 5, 1920. The tax will be collected by the Receiver of Taxes at the Office of the Administration des Phares.

The Transmediterranean Company has established a regular service of boats between Melilla, Spanish Morocco, and Oran, in Algeria.

The Lloyd Triestino steamer service between Trieste and Alexandria, which has been running fortnightly, is now leaving every Thursday, calling at Brindisi on Friday.

According to an American consular report, a concession for a telephone exchange at Aleppo is to be arranged early next year.

A privileged Yugoslav commercial agency has been established in Antwerp for the development of commercial relations between Belgium and Yugoslavia.

The Royal Hellenic Agricultural Society is arranging for an exhibition of agricultural implements and produce to be held at Athens shortly.


# ANCHOR LINE

**FIRST-CLASS PASSENGERS ONLY.**

## LIVERPOOL to BOMBAY.

**KARACHI (via Bombay) calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.**

**LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.**
**FITTED WITH ELECTRIC FANS.**
**MARCONI WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.**
**RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.**

**PASSENGER SAILING DATES—**

**OLYMPIA ABOUT JAN. 4.**
**CASTALIA ABOUT JAN. 15.**
**ASSYRIA ABOUT FEB. 2.**

**ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LTD.,**
**16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.**


## NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

**Position at September 30, 1920, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.**

**Banking Department.**

| | £E. |
|---|---|
| Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each) | 2,925,000 |
| Reserve Fund: | |
| Statutory Reserve | 1,462,500 |
| Special Reserve | 487,500 |
| Current, Deposit and other Accounts | 16,549,397 |
| Mixed Tribunals | 2,218,243 |
| Egyptian Government | 1,375,919 |
| Bankers' Accounts | 1,122,811 |
| Cheques and Bills payable | 716,084 |
| Sundry other Accounts | 1,566,747 |
| | £E28,424,201 |

| | £E. |
|---|---|
| Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government | 10,428,486 |
| Sundry Securities | 227,748 |
| Advances on Merchandise | 1,114,457 |
| Advances on Securities | 2,168,352 |
| Advances otherwise Secured | 1,957,900 |
| Sundry other Advances | 929,427 |
| Bills of Exchange | 1,470,357 |
| Local Bills Discounted | 210,490 |
| Buildings and Furniture | 233,087 |
| Money at call and at short notice | 814,125 |
| Bankers' Accounts | 964,625 |
| Egyptian Government | 4,561,134 |
| Sudan Government | 271,609 |
| Sundry other Accounts | 602,698 |
| Cash:— | |
| Notes £E2,168,609 | |
| Gold 30,235 | |
| Silver, Nickel, etc. 270,862 | |
| | 2,469,706 |
| | £E28,424,201 |

**Issue Department.**

| | £E. |
|---|---|
| Notes Issued | 45,100,000 |
| | £E45,100,000 |

| | | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Gold | £E3,333,190 | |
| *British Treasury Bills | 19,216,810 | |
| | | 22,550,000 |
| Securities:— | | |
| Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government | £E432,447 | |
| British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds | 22,117,553 | |
| | | 22,550,000 |
| | | £E45,100,000 |

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of Gold. (See *Journal Officiel*, October 30, 1916.)

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